



Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

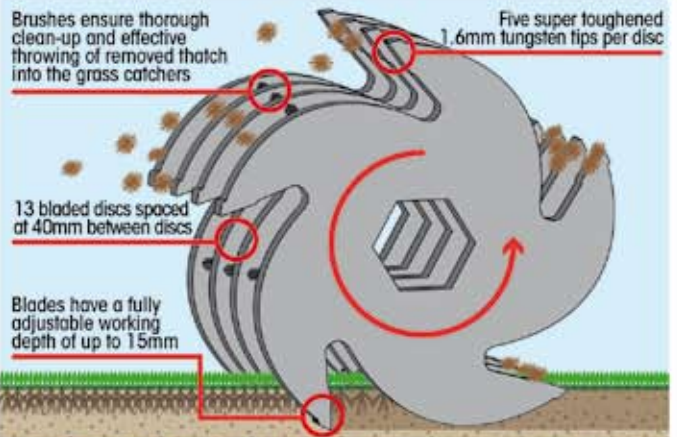
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- Royal Birkdale: Open Preview
- Pump Stations: Simple Job, Complex Technology
- Landscaping

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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

July 2008

Regulars



4-8

News

9

GTC

10-11

Industry Update

12

Membership

Tracey Maddison updates us on Membership matters

13

Education

Sami Collins updates us on Learning and Development matters

14-15

Learning & Development:
Seeding a North Cyprus course

By Arne van Amerongen



31

Health & Safety Tip

Hobbies



43

In the Shed

Greenkeeper International's puzzle page

46

New Products

48

News from the Chief Executive

48-56

Around the Green

57

Letters

58

What's Your Number

66

As I See It...

National Chairman Kenny Mackay's monthly column



Features

16-17

Pump Stations: Simple Job, Complex Technology
By Charles De Haan

19-21

Ride On Mower Units
By James de Havilland

23

Construction Diary: Guildford Golf Club
By Peter Jones

24-26

A Quiet Open ... Please!

Scott MacCallum travelled to Southport to meet Chris Whittle, a man preparing an Open course for the third time

28-30

The Contractor Factor

Appointing a contractor, particularly if it is one you haven't dealt with before, can be a stressful business. Will they deliver what they promise? Will the job be done to the standard expected? Will the costs be in line with the initial quote? GI asked three top Course Managers for their advice on the matter.



32-33

Red Diesel

By Mike Beardall

36-37

Landscaping

By James Lane

44-45

Syngenta Golden Key

By Scott MacCallum



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Cover photography by Alan Birch, courtesy of Royal Birkdale GC

Welcome



Miranda – The Truth Seeking Missile

What do, “The state of the planet”; “Boys with status dogs”; “Roadkill” and “Reality TV” have in common? Not an easy one, not for people who don’t read the Saturday Guardian magazine at any rate.

Well, they are four out of the five items which depress actress, Miranda Richardson – she of “Queenie” in Blackadder fame - as quoted in the regular Q&A feature. The other thing that gets Miranda depressed? “Golf Courses”!

Yes. Miranda has lumped golf courses in with four other items, which, if a little obscure, could easily be on the short list for Room 101.

Given that she has already expressed her concerns about the state of the planet I think we can safely assume that Miranda thinks golf courses are a haven for chemical abuse.

What we do learn is that her opinion must be formed from some sound investigation on her part because under the question “What is your most unappealing habit?” she told us that, “I am a truth-seeking missile. A lot of people find that unappealing.”

So I don’t know which courses Miranda must have visited to come to the conclusion that golf courses make her depressed but I’m fairly sure they wouldn’t have included many of our top ones. For example had she popped into Hollinwell, current holder of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, Scotts, Syngenta and Golf Monthly, she would have been elated, not depressed, to see some of the wonderful environmental work that has been, and is being, carried out.

The vision of golf courses as chemical dumps is one still accepted by a great many people, perhaps seduced by an ill informed and biased green lobby, without actually looking at the facts.

The truth is that the vast majority of golf courses are maintained by highly skilled professionals who genuinely care for the land in their custodianship. Also, who could possibly deny that some of the most beautiful spots in this country are found on golf courses? In itself that’s great, but the added bonus is that often the green belt created by golf courses is keeping developers away from building more flats and factory outlets.

I don’t doubt that, along with The Stage, Miranda is an avid reader of Greenkeeper International, so I would encourage her, as a genuine “truth seeking missile” to pop into her local golf club, with an open mind, take time to learn what goes on and witness the high level of responsible stewardship first hand. She was born in Southport so she could do worse than visit Royal Birkdale, which Chris Whittle and his team have in stunning condition for this month’s Open, Seeing how the golf course meanders through the dunes, and the flora and fauna it sustains, would gladden the heart of any blue thespian.

Before I finish I’ll tell you what depresses me. It’s all that bright light and neon in London’s theatre land, which leaves a much larger carbon footprint than you’ll find on any golf course.

But were it removed how would Miranda Richardson’s name stay up in lights?

Scott MacCallum
Editor

CELTIC MANOR RESORT UNVEILS TWENTY TEN COURSE

The only golf course in history to be purpose built for The Ryder Cup was officially opened on the eve of its first professional tournament recently.

The new Twenty Ten course and clubhouse were launched by the Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM,

First Minister for Wales, on Wednesday May 28 in the company of Sir Terry Matthews, Chairman of The Celtic Manor Resort, and George O’Grady, Chief Executive of The European Tour.

The Twenty Ten course, clubhouse and surrounding infrastructure have been built at a total cost of £16 million to meet commitments made by The Celtic Manor Resort as part of its successful bid to stage The Ryder Cup in 2010.

At a press conference prior to the plaque unveiling, Sir Terry Matthews said: “This is a very significant day in the history of The Celtic Manor Resort as we officially open this new golf course and clubhouse.

“We pledged to make the developments necessary to ensure we have the very best facilities for hosting The Ryder Cup in 2010 and we’re proud of what we have achieved with the Twenty Ten.”

The course has also been built with spectators in mind and the steep hillside which rises above the three closing holes offers unparalleled viewing of not only the decisive action at the end of the round, but also over many more holes in the valley below.



GOLDEN AND SILVER KEY SPONSORS

A recent meeting at BIGGA HOUSE gave BIGGA the opportunity to inform members of the Golden and Silver Key Supporters Programme what the Fund has enabled the Association to produce, on behalf of its membership.

Chief Executive, John Pemberton was also able to thank all the companies and present them with their annual badges for their Golden and Silver Key plaques and, in the case of newest Golden Key company, Syngenta, the plaque itself which John presented to Simon Elsworth, Head of Professional Products for UK and Ireland.



SUSTAINABLE GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT

High Post Golf Club near Salisbury in Wiltshire, has made a long-term commitment to sustainable golf course management and consequently the Environment Agency has put the club forward for a water conservation award.

The main objectives of the club's project are to make the golf course sustainable by reducing water consumption and spray irrigation, to reduce the use of non-environmentally friendly pesticides and fertilisers, to increase the use of the more drought resistant grasses on the golf course, and to save money.

The club is increasing the use of fine bents and fescue grasses on the greens, at present these cover 30 percent - it hopes to achieve 75 % coverage in the next five to 10 years. Such grasses are significantly more drought resistant, needing less water to keep them in good condition. In addition the club has introduced a £7,000 closed loop washdown system to clean machinery.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

After some time away, Karen Coombs has returned to work at Tower Sport Europe as Scotland Sales Manager. During her absence the range of Tower's surfactant and specialist products has almost quadrupled with many golf courses already seeing the benefit. Karen starts work immediately and is looking forward to re-newing old acquaintances as well as meeting many of the new customers Tower enjoy a professional relationship with.



BRITISH MASTERS 2008 TOURNAMENT SUPPORT

The Belfry requires volunteers for the Quinn Insurance British Masters, 21 - 28 September 2008.

Applicants should be qualified greenkeepers. Accommodation and food during your shift will be provided. Applicants must provide their own transport, boots and wet weather clothing. Applicants should possess a good knowledge of machinery and be willing to work long hours.

Please apply to: Kelly Dunkley, email: kelly.dunkley@thebelfry.com or tel: 01675 470301.

SPRING TOURNAMENT

On May 14, the North Wales Section played their Spring Tournament and National Qualifiers at Llanymynech Golf Club. During a glorious day at the Welsh/English border course, the eventual qualifiers where Paul Roberts of Baron Hill GC with 70 gross, and Andy Peel of Bull Bay GC with 39 points net, also a level par 70. Both players are pictured receiving congratulations from Section Secretary, Jeremy Hughes.

Paul Roberts (left) Jeremy Hughes centre and Andy Peel (right)



STUDENT BEGINS GROUNDS CARE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Rory Ferguson, 19, is the second student to take advantage of Ransomes Jacobsen's scholarship programme to help promote careers in the grounds care industry.

He is on a year's placement at the Ipswich-based turf equipment manufacturer and, under the watchful eye of Norman Fenwick, Course Manager at Ipswich Golf Club, he will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the company's three-hole golf course, which is nearing the end of its grow-in period.

In September he begins a day release programme studying at Writtle College near Chelmsford for his NVQ Level 3 qualification in Sportsturf Management. Together with his greenkeeping duties he will also be responsible for product demonstrations during customer visits at the company's European head office and manufacturing facility.

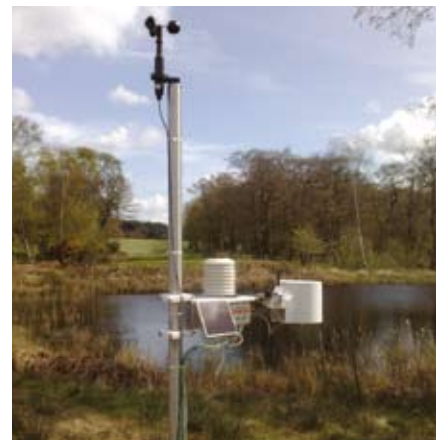
The previous beneficiary of the scholarship was Marcus Fuller, 18, who recently completed a year at Ipswich Town Football Club, under the tutelage of Grounds Manager Alan Ferguson as well as attending Otley College, where he studied for a diploma in Horticulture.

NEW WEATHER STATION

Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club, winners of last year's BIGGA Environment Competition - which provides the opportunity for the golfing community to show, and indeed be recognised for, its commitment to promoting a sustainable environment - have had their prize of a Scotts weather station installed. "It's proving very useful, we have identified that around 3am the wind usually dies down, we now set our auto irrigation for around this time. We can then check the next day, the actual wind speed to find out how effective our watering would have been. We have also used the soil temperatures recorded as evidence to support why the greens were slow to start growing this spring. I'm sure, as we get used to it, it will prove invaluable," said Course Manager, Phil Stain.

Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club, also received £2000 prize money.

For more information on BIGGA's Environment Competition, please email Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, on: sami@bigga.co.uk



DEBT INITIATIVE

An increase in the number of enquiries from horticulturists who are facing debt-related problems has prompted Perennial, the horticulturists' charity, to launch a new telephone Debt Advice Service. The charity provides help and support for all who work or have worked in the horticultural industry, and that includes grounds care staff and greenkeepers.

Staffed by the charity's Senior Debt Advisor, Sandra Owens, the telephone advice service is available on: 0800 2 944 244, or email: debtadvice@perennial.org.uk at any time. The service is available to anyone who is working or has worked in horticulture.

GRAHAM WOOD TESTIMONIAL: CELEBRITY PRO AM

Graham Wood, Dunbar's Head Greenkeeper for over 30 years, suffered a stroke over a year ago. Sadly, after 15 long months, Graham still remains in hospital severely disabled, and he will be unable to return to work. Hopefully he will be moving to a suitable house in the near future to cater for his disability, where his wife, Helen and his family, can look after him.

Graham joined Dunbar GC from Musselburgh in 1975, having already served his apprenticeship at Dunbar between 1966 and 1973, easily making him the longest serving greenkeeper in the Club's history.

It is the intention of the Club to raise money for Graham and his family through a Testimonial Pro-Celebrity-Am Event and an Auction on Friday, September 19.

For more information and for anyone wishing to make a donation or put up an auction lot please contact Stuart Greenwood, Course Manager at North Berwick GC Tel: 01620 893765.

NEW AREA MANAGER

Tacit has announced the appointment of Gordon Peebles as their new Area Manager for Scotland.

In his new position, Gordon will be responsible for the development and execution of Tacit's business strategy in Scotland and the provision of a range of quality products on a bespoke level, while tailoring the service to the individual needs of each golf course.

Before joining Tacit Gordon has worked in the golf and aligned industries for more than 30 years. A keen golfer, playing off 2 and a long-standing member of the Fereneze Golf Club, Gordon has a wealth of industry knowledge.



A FAMILY AFFAIR

Stephen Miller has been appointed Projects Manager for Cleveland Land Services Ltd. Stephen is the son of

Managing Director, John Miller and joined Cleveland as a site engineer last year. He qualified as a Civil Engineer from Teesside University in May 2006 and hopes to complete his Technician Membership of the Institute of Civil Engineers (TMICE) in May 2008.



BIGGA NEW RECRUIT



Sharon Price has joined the Sales Department at BIGGA HOUSE, taking on the role of Sales Executive.

Having previously worked as a Marketing Manager for Sudo Professional Beauty, Sharon spent some of her four years in their employment in the Middle East and Europe, promoting and testing beauty products for the company.

A fitness fanatic, when Sharon isn't attending a yoga or pilates class she can generally be found snuggled up with a good book, or creating tasty treats in the kitchen.

Sharon, who is married and has two daughters, is keen to develop and enhance her sales role within the Association: "I am keen to use my marketing and sales knowledge to generate many new contacts for the benefit of the Association."

UK FIRST FOR DISABLED GOLFERS

Pine Ridge Golf Club has become the first in the UK to offer disabled golfers the opportunity to experience the sport using specially-adapted clubs from America.

The leading Surrey complex has purchased two Adapta-Clubs from US company Golf Country, which are particularly effective for wheelchair users.

Adapta-Clubs feature a unique hinged hosel design which means they can be adjusted to lie flatter than conventional golf clubs. This helps disabled golfers to strike the ball effectively because the sole of the club always lies parallel to the ground.

Greg Brodie, the club's main teaching Professional, provides regular tuition for more than 20 clients from Camberley-based Disability Initiative, a charity which offers opportunities and support to disabled people to enable them to aspire to their chosen goals and release their potential.

Pine Ridge Golf Club, near Camberley, is home to one of eight Crown Golf Academies, the UK's largest network of golf coaching centres. The purchase of the Adapta-Clubs is part of the club's commitment to providing first-rate practice and teaching facilities for disabled golfers as well as more able-bodied players.

Anyone wanting to find out more about disabled golf tuition should contact Greg Brodie at Pine Ridge Golf Club on 01276 675444.

John Martin, a client and golfer from Camberley-based charity Disability Initiative, tries an Adapta-Club with assistance from Pine Ridge Golf Club Professional Greg Brodie.



DIGGERS DONATED TO AID CHINESE QUAKE REGION

JCB has donated a fleet of diggers worth \$600,000 and sent a team of drivers to help with relief efforts in the south west region of China devastated by an earthquake. The gift of six 3CX backhoe loader diggers was offered by JCB Chairman Sir Anthony Bamford as the full horror of the earthquake unfolded.

JCB China also sent six operators, including British JCB employee Joe Cook, aged 30, who works for the company in Shanghai as Product Promotions Manager.

Employees at JCB China gather outside JCB's factory in Shanghai as the donated machines prepare to leave for the earthquake zone.



BIGGA HQ TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS

As you should already be aware, BIGGA HQ recently had a new telephone system fitted and went open plan. When you phone the usual number: 01347 833800, it will ask if you know the extension of the person you would like to speak to. For reference, the extensions of BIGGA staff are printed below (you can also find these on our website – www.bigga.org.uk):

| | |
|--|-----|
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| Brad Anderson, <i>Membership Services Assistant</i> | 512 |
| Justine De Taure, <i>Membership Services Officer</i> | 511 |
| Pauline Thompson, <i>Exhibition Officer</i> | 514 |
| Sami Collins, <i>Head of Learning and Development</i> | 506 |
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| Sandra Raper, <i>Secretary/Administrative Assistant</i> | 509 |
| Stephen Coates, <i>Accountant</i> | 508 |
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sales@eagle.uk.com

COVETED QUEEN'S AWARD

Bernhard and Company proved to be a cut above the competition recently when it received The Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Innovation category. The Queen's Award is granted to the UK's business elite for outstanding or continuous achievement.

Bernhard and Company claim they are the only business of its type in the golf and turf amenity sector to have been granted a Queen's Award during the 43 year history of this prestigious Royal scheme. The Award success was based on the continuous innovation and development of their highly-regarded Express Dual and Anglemaster sharpening systems. Used by leading golf clubs and sports turf facilities worldwide, this equipment produces surgically sharp blades on lawnmowers, allowing sports providers to create first-class presentation standards.

Managing Director, Stephen Bernhard, with The Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Innovation category



BERNHARD AND COMPANY PARTNERS WITH GOLF ENVIRONMENT EUROPE

Bernhard and Company has become a Technical Supporter of Golf Environment Europe.

The partnership recognises the shared values that exist between the two organisations towards environmentally and socially responsible golf course management.

The funding support will enable Golf Environment Europe to:

- Undertake the late stage development and launch of the new web based Environmental Resource Centre for Golf, this is a collaboration between academic and research bodies (golf's Innovation and Technology Network) to collate and disseminate technical environmental information to practitioners;
- Continue to administer the European Forum for Golf and Environment, which regularly brings together stakeholders in the golfing and environmental sectors to discuss policy and strategic projects on environmental issues;
- Further contribute to, and improve, environmental communications and information exchange on golf environment issues.

WEARING TWO HATS

Alan Pooley, Assistant Greenkeeper at Cradoc Golf Club, was recently made Club Captain for the 2008-2009 season - a pretty unique situation to be in I think you'll agree.

It is tradition that the past Captains of Cradoc Golf Club nominate the new Vice Captain for the Club and when Alan was asked to see the Captain last year he had no idea what was in store.

"The situation was quite unusual in as much as the Vice Captain was unable to take on the Captaincy as he was to undergo heart surgery, so my nomination as Vice Captain effectively was straight in as Captain! - The first time in the Club's history," explained Alan.

"Conflict of interest is an issue, but with my integrity from working in Banking holds me in a good stead. The working relationship with the Head Greenkeeper is funny at times, but I simply discuss issues with the Chairman of Green outside of work hours and don't park my car in the Captains place during the weekdays. It's helped with team selection for Club matches as if I've had late cry offs I've been able to grab members on the course.

"The other staff have been great by dropping me from the weekend mowing rota as getting up at 5am and presenting prizes after medals at 9pm plus the various Club matches, would tire me out, although I still do a stint on the Driving Range every other weekend.

"There are times I think the members expect more from the course as the Captain is working on it, although it certainly helps the Committee members to better understand the Greens staff."

EDUCATION COURSES - PESTICIDES UPDATE TRAINING

BIGGA Midlands Section has joined forces with Jon Allbutt Associates to deliver a one day Pesticides Update course at Gay Hill Golf Club on Wednesday, September 10.

The training is essential for all NPTC qualified operators as it will bring users up to date with recent changes in legislation and provide useful spraying and maintenance techniques.

The practical workshop will allow delegates to refresh their calibration and spraying skills on a range of mounted and hand held sprayers. Delegates will also be provided with lunch and a free CD copy of the Pesticides Code of Practice.

There are only 10 delegate places available at a cost of £90. Delegates can reserve places by contacting Paul Woodham on: 07880 734197 or: paul@ghgc.org.uk

The programme for the day can be found on the Education pages of the BIGGA website: www.bigga.org.uk

IRRIGATION MASTERCLASS WORKSHOP

Following the great success of the previous irrigation training days, BIGGA Midlands Section are again joining forces with Evenproducts Ltd to present a one-day workshop focusing on irrigation performance at Gay Hill Golf Club on Monday, August 18.

The day will commence at 8.30am and end at 3pm with breaks for morning tea and lunch (after lunch will be divided between a course irrigation inspection and then more inside material).

Peter Robin, Evenproducts will deliver expert training in a comprehensive range of topics.

The programme for the day can be found on the Education pages of the BIGGA website: www.bigga.org.uk

The cost of the workshop is just £50 including lunch. Delegates can reserve their place by contacting Paul Woodham on 07880 734197 or email paul@ghgc.org.uk. Delegate places are limited to just 12 places.



MANAGER TRAINING

In this month's article, David Golding, GTC's Education Director, gives us his honest appraisal on the current situation within the profession of Golf Course Manager and Head Greenkeeper...

Regular readers will know of my passion and also that of the GTC, for professionalism within the ranks of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers and why so much focus has been put on the specialist training required to ensure that we can provide sufficient competent managers when golf club employers seek that leader to maintain and manage their prize asset, the golf course.

It has been said for many years that Head Greenkeepers have to be multi-talented with a range of skills within their portfolio and that is certainly true today as the demands on golf club management have never been greater.

We at the GTC have anticipated the change within golf clubs and the need for Course Managers to truly be competent MANAGERS and must not leave themselves vulnerable by not engaging in the types of training courses, workshops and conferences aimed at ensuring that they have the tools to carry out the work to maintain and manage the course.

There are clearly developments within many golf clubs where budgets are being tightened and this will put more pressure on all the managers within the facility, but we must rise to this challenge.

Any employer looking not only to survive this difficult period that more and more golf clubs are facing, but to have business growth, cannot avoid the simple fact it will be the skills of the staff that can raise the bar for the competition.

Golf clubs are currently trying a variety of options to attract members and visitors but in the majority of cases golfers whether they want to join a club or just be a nomadic golfer, regards the condition of the course as a major factor in their decision to return for another game or to consider joining.

I know there are other considerations including the off course facilities but again these often will be judged by the friendliness and competence of the staff. So often in everyday life, especially the High Street and Restaurants, you can tell where training is top of the employer's agenda.

Sadly, I have become a little paranoid about this subject and actually make a point of thanking a friendly, helpful member of staff for their assistance when really it should be the norm.

I actually remember these small but so important attributes and return to these establishments.

It is the same at golf clubs, the staff are so important in the marketing and promotion of the facility.

It is close on 20 years since the R&A circulated a discussion document of British Course Management, The Way Forward and even then one major

issue was that there should be advanced training in management skills as "many Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers feel this is the greatest deficiency in their training."

Since that day there has been a concerted effort to provide training opportunities for greenkeepers aspiring to be supervisors or future Course Managers and this has reflected in the development of sports turf qualifications, both vocational and the work related range of awards.

I see an ongoing success story with the informal type of management training courses often available at local level. They prove such a valuable opportunity to those Head Greenkeepers who never entered the profession to be involved in paperwork!

Add me to that list and while computers have thankfully taken some of the demands for paperwork away from the modern day manager, the advent of Information Technology (IT) has required us all to learn new skills if only to understand how important the delete button is on a computer keyboard.

At this stage I feel I can once again clarify that the GTC is not wanting to detract the sector priority for Course Managers to have the agronomic knowledge to carry out their job but merely to ensure that they have the skills base to not only carry out their current job successfully, but continue to develop and possibly develop their career opportunities.

The all-rounder is the future and while we hear that there are some very talented and skilful Course Managers out there we must also provide everybody, employer and learner alike, the opportunity to progress the business with competent managers at the helm.

We also have an increasing number of Course Managers moving into roles such as Directors of Golf and other such positions where management skills are so vital.

We will ensure our Training Provider network continue to provide the courses to ensure both the technical and management aspects of the job are available.

BIGGA, through its sections and regions, will continue to develop its provision and for all the skill sets as approved by the industry see the GTC website www.the-gtc.co.uk Careers in Greenkeeping link to Industry Skill Sets.

GTC is supported by:





Industry Update

WATER REMOVAL SOLUTION

They say travel broadens the mind, and a trip to America certainly paid dividends for Chris Brook, who is in charge of course maintenance at the prestigious Mentmore Golf & Country Club in rural Buckinghamshire.

While attending the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Chris discovered the perfect solution for removing water from bunkers and hollows on the Club's two championship courses. The TrunkPump, from Campey Turf Care Systems, attaches to a tractor for speedy and efficient pumping tasks.



MOWERS FOR PRESTIGIOUS PEBBLE BEACH

Ransomes Jacobsen mowers built in Ipswich are being used at the world renowned Pebble Beach Resort in California, following a new national supply agreement with Ransomes Jacobsen's sister company in the USA.

Pebble Beach Resorts has extended its relationship with Jacobsen, reappointing the Charlotte-based turf equipment manufacturer as their official supplier to the golf course complex for the next five years.



FIRST CLASS

New Holland tractors are achieving first-class results in maintaining facilities at Harper Adams University College in Shropshire.

Grounds Manager Mark Hall and his six staff care for many different facilities within the 27-acre University campus, located ten miles north west of Telford. They include three rugby pitches and two for football with another currently under construction, a cricket pitch and a bowling green, as well as woodland and open grassland, plus an artificial sports surface.

Three New Holland tractors are at the heart of Mark's equipment fleet, including a 12-year old 38p 1920 model still giving good-as-new performance, a 75hp TN75DA and a very recently acquired compact 24hp TC24D.

Apologies to New Holland for printing the wrong news item and picture in our June issue.



KEEPING BEECHGROVE GARDEN TRIM

Kawasaki Motors UK has provided the team at The Beechgrove Garden with a helping hand for this summer. A Kawasaki KHS750B Hedge trimmer has been given to the gardeners to help take care of the large hedges around the three-acre site in Scotland.

The garden features in the television programme of the same name and is a celebrity in the world of compost, cauliflowers and clematis. From April to September, it is a weekly date in the diaries of dedicated gardeners from Lerwick to Berwick. One of the main presenters, Carole Baxter, was pleased with the latest addition to their gardening tools. "With a number of large hedges at The Beechgrove Garden that need trimming every year, these clippers will be the ideal tool for the job."

CUSTOMER SUPPORT BUSINESSES HONOURED

Two JCB companies - one manufacturing the world's best-selling backhoe loader and the other providing aftermarket support to global customers - have been honoured with Queen's Awards for Enterprise.

The Rocoester-based Backhoe Loader business unit and Uttoxeter-based JCB Service each received an Award in the International Trade section. The double success, honouring a substantial growth in exports for the two companies between 2004 and 2006, means the JCB Group has now won 23 Queen's Awards since being presented with its first in 1969.

ATTILA TAKES ON HADRIANS WALL TRIAL

Attila the Hun at Hadrian's Wall? Sounds unlikely until you realise that the 'Attila' in question is Etesia's ride-on brushcutter.

Like its mighty warlord-namesake, this powerful machine ravages everything in its path! Tough undergrowth is reduced to mulch so it's not surprising that, new for this year at the historic Hadrian's Wall, two Attila brushcutters are now being used to maintain the National Trail that follows the line of this World Heritage Site.

Local dealer Terry Steele, from Lloyds of Carlisle, suggested they try Etesia's latest Attila AV98 ride-on brushcutter. Since purchasing two of these 98cm machines at the beginning of this season, Richard and Alan have used them non-stop and agree, "They are doing a cracking job in a smashing spot!"

Not surprisingly, each year, thousands of tourists pack their rucksacks and walk or cycle along the Hadrian's Wall route to amaze at the incredible construction of what is one of the world's best preserved ancient monuments, and enjoy the wondrous countryside.



NEW TERRITORY MANAGER

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd is delighted to announce the appointment of Grant Broderick as Territory Manager for the London Boroughs. Grant is Australian and has spent his whole working life in the Australian turf industry as a greenkeeper, landscape contractor and Sales Representative. He is a keen follower of all sports, has played Australian Rules football, and now golf.



RENOWNED TURF PROFESSOR TO OVERSEE

Floratine Products Group has announced its relationship with Dr. Tom Watschke, professor emeritus of turfgrass science at Penn State University.

Dr. Watschke will join Floratine as a consultant, specifically in the area of university research protocol.

Dr. Watschke is an expert in turf growth regulation and has spent much of his career studying and evaluating biostimulants and plant growth regulators and their effects on turfgrass development and management.

GROWING IN NUMBERS

Gloucestershire-based LED lighting provider, Greenled, has appointed four new sustainable lighting specialists to its expanding team – Ian Russell, Paul Stearman and Paul Haines join the sales force, and Nigel Thomas joins the technical team. Based in London, Ian Russell will manage key sales accounts in London and the South East, focusing on the new build and built environment sectors in particular.

Merseyside-based Paul Haines has been in sales for 15 years, and now heads up Greenled's Northern UK sales team. Nigel Thomas joins Greenled's technical team, having worked as a technical manager with Metropolis in Swansea for the last four years.

HELPING WITH OPEN PREPARATIONS

Fairway mowers supplied by Ransomes Jacobsen dealer, Burrows GM of Leyland, are being used by Chris Whittle and his greenkeeping team at Royal Birkdale as preparations for The Open gather pace.

Chris has been using the two-wheel drive version of the Jacobsen LF-3400 light fairway mower for the past few years and his current pair of machines will be supplemented by a further three from Ransomes Jacobsen's tournament support fleet as the prestigious event commences this month.

The R&A has stipulated that the fairways will be cut in one direction only, once every day from tee to green, with all clippings boxed off. The five machines will drive in staggered formation down each fairway to achieve the required finish.

Royal Birkdale has seen many alterations over the past couple of years with only holes 7 and 12 remaining in their original configuration. Bunkers have been removed, refurbished or moved with eight new ones created to bring the total up to 123.

"I won't be changing my maintenance regime, it will just become more intense in the final weeks leading up to The Open," said Chris. "I have 10 permanent staff and I will supplement those with 12 experienced greenkeepers from local clubs. We'll be working from 4am until 10pm and we're really looking forward to it with increasing anticipation."



HAMPTON COURT CHOOSES TORO

Hampton Court Palace Golf Club has become the latest golf club to invest in the new Toro Golf Decoder Controller (GDC) irrigation system.

Owned by Crown Golf, the 112-year-old parkland site in Kingston-upon-Thames is the only course in Britain where golfers can play in the grounds of a royal palace.

Though flanked by the River Thames, the club is all too aware that water is an increasingly valuable resource and so, when its old irrigation system became wasteful, General Manager, Guy Riggott, sought an efficient and cost-effective replacement.

Guy turned to irrigation specialist, Irritech, to manage the project and source the ideal system, and the installation contract was awarded to Lakes & Greens, from east Sussex, which began the work in September 2007 and completed just six weeks later.

Toro 834 and 835 sprinklers were used on the greens, tees and approaches and 2001s and 720s on tees. The PC-based SitePro controller operating the entire system enables the course manager to programme a precise watering plan and view the course layout on screen from the comfort of his office. He can also use a hand-held remote control to start the irrigation system when he is out on the course.

Membership



BACK TO THE FUTURE

Tracey Maddison has returned to BIGGA, after a six year absence, to manage the Membership Department.

Tracey originally joined the Association in 1998, taking on the role of Membership Services Officer. After four years in this post, she felt it was time for a new challenge and for her to gain more experience of professional bodies.

In 2002, Tracey took on the role of Membership & Training Manager for the Institute of Physics & Engineering in Medicine (IPEM). While in this post, Tracey completed an MSc in Management and built on her knowledge of membership workings and associations.

A keen golfer with a handicap of 16, Tracey feels she can relate to many of our studious members: "After studying part time while in a full time role, I now understand how hard it can be. It's hard work but well worth the effort."



**Over to the new
Membership Manager,
Tracey Maddison...**

It's lovely to be back at BIGGA and BIGGA House again. I can't believe how quickly the last six years have gone.

So what have I been doing and what's brought me back to BIGGA?

Well as you can see from my profile I have been working for a professional body called IPEM, their members are made up of clinical scientists, clinical technologists and clinical engineers who work in healthcare, mainly in hospitals and many work with cancer patients.

What's that got to do with greenkeeping I hear you ask, well nothing! But I have gained valuable experience and further knowledge of being involved in working among professional bodies and in particular membership strategies and issues.

I now have 10 years experience of working in a membership setting and six years in a training environment (and six years as a budding golfer!).

During my time at IPEM I completed an MSc in Management, studying part-time is not easy so I can empathise with those of you out there who are studying while working.

I also took the decision to join a professional body, which gave me the support and contacts to help me with my career.

Why become part of a professional body?

I became part of my professional body because I know that it provides me with recognition, credibility and the resources to help me maintain my professional competence through education, training and lifelong learning by undertaking CPD. It also gives me a valuable source of networking with people who have similar interests to me.

Why join BIGGA?

BIGGA is no different to my professional body in their support of you, whether you are still training to complete your minimum qualification or whether you are an established Course Manager, BIGGA is your professional body and can provide the resources to help you in your career as a greenkeeper, not to mention the fantastic range of personal benefits available to you.

So why have I returned to BIGGA? Because I enjoy working for, and being part of, a professional membership organisation. I enjoy working with members and being able to offer the support, through the range of membership services available, to help meet their day-to-day challenges.

Part of my brief is to develop the range of welfare services offered to members and put these on a much more formal basis. If you are prepared to help or have any comments on this please contact me.

I am looking forward to travelling out to the Sections and Regions to meet many of BIGGA's members in person.

CONTACT THE MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

If you have any issues at all regarding your membership please contact a member of the membership team Justine, Brad or myself, contact details below: -

By telephone - 01347 833800
option 1 for Membership.

By email

Tracey (traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk)
Justine (Justine@bigga.co.uk),
Brad (brad@bigga.co.uk)

Useful Telephone Numbers (for greenkeeper members)

Personal Accident Helpline – 02075 603013
Greenkeepers Legal Assistance – 0800 177 7891

The new members list can now be found in the members' section at www.bigga.org.uk

Learning & Development

Key Sponsorship:

UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL OF GREENKEEPERS

The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key Sponsors is used to produce training and career aids, DVDs, CD Roms, field guides and provide refunds for training fees and subsidised learning and development courses. The funding also helps support seminars, workshops, courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

Many young greenkeepers owe their career progression to the assistance they've had from the Learning and Development Fund. An equal number of established greenkeepers have also been able to access the fund to continue their professional development thanks to the donations of the Gold and Silver Key Sponsors.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING KEY SPONSORS



GOLDEN KEY



Golden Key Individual Members

JH Greasley; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG, Lee Strutt MG.



SILVER KEY



Silver Key Individual Members

Ade Archer; Steven Tierney; Paul Jenkins; Iain Barr; Richard McGlynn; Steve Dixon; Sam Langrick.



Gold and Silver Key Presentations Day

In late May, we hosted an event for those companies and individuals who support BIGGA by being a Gold or Silver Key member of BIGGA. The financial contributions we receive from these members are used to support the Learning and Development Fund.

The Learning and Development Fund is used to provide a variety of different schemes and projects, specifically for members, including Field Guides, subsidies for Section and Region events, library books, the CPD scheme and the Refund of Fees scheme to name a few.

Since the Gold and Silver Key Fund was established in 1992, we have spent in excess of £879,000 and we hope that total contributions to the fund will top the £1Million mark in 2009. We list the Gold and Silver Key members on this page every month, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank them on your behalf for the difference they have made to the Learning and Development of greenkeepers.

Funding Opportunities

Scotland - Individual Learning Accounts (ILA Scotland) is a Scottish Government scheme that helps you pay for learning that you can do at a time, place, pace and in a way to suit you. If you are over 18 and living in Scotland, you could get up to £200 towards the cost of learning new skills with an individual learning account from ILA Scotland. If you earn £18,000 a year or less, you could get £200 a year towards the cost of learning. If you earn more than £18,000 a year, you could get £100 a year.

For further details call 0808 100 1090 or visit www.ilascotland.org.uk

England - Train to Gain is a service provided by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to help businesses get the training they need to succeed. It aims to encourage all businesses and individuals to realise the benefits that learning and skills can bring. Funding is available to help adults to achieve a first full NVQ Level 2 qualification and to help improve basic literacy and numeracy skills.

For further details call 0800 015 55 45 or visit www.traintogain.gov.uk

Higher Education Scholarships Supported by



The most recent scholarship has been awarded to Lee Strutt MG – and it is for MSc Sports Turf Science.



After a few days of sunshine we've been fooled into thinking that summer is here – long may it continue! For those of us that are office bound we long for lunchtime to go outside and soak up some rays, for those of you who work outside, please make sure you're wearing suitable sun protection!

Toro Student of the Year 2008



Rachael and I have had a busy month during which we have been organising the Toro Student of the Year regional interviews. By the time you read this, I'll have done my whistle-stop tour of the country and will have been involved with interviewing 33 student greenkeepers from 17 colleges. The final of the competition will take place in September at BIGGA HOUSE for the eight finalists who have been selected following the interview process.

The BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System



The SMS is celebrating its first birthday and is about to undergo its first review to ensure that it is 'doing what it says on the tin'.

With the help of the Golf Club Managers' Association (GCMA), with whom we are partnered on this project, and our various Health and Safety Advisors we hope to develop this safety management system so that it will become the recognised industry standard.

If you are registered on the SMS you will have received a short questionnaire, via email, that will help us with the review process. Please do take the time to complete and return it to us as your input is invaluable.

Learning & Development

GRASS SEED SELECTION AND SEEDING PREPARATIONS FOR NEW CYPRUS COURSE

By Arne van Amerongen

In the first of two articles, Golf Project Manager, Arne van Amerongen, gives a fascinating and rare insight into the preparations that take place for the golf-build of a new course located in the hot, dry climates of the Mediterranean. The Korineum Golf & Country Club is the first 18-hole golf course in Turkish North Cyprus and the first seeded course in the world where the grass seed Paspalum was used from tee to green.

Which to choose: Cool or warm season grass?

This was a difficult question especially as this golf course – in Turkish North Cyprus – is in what is called the ‘transit zone’ area.

Here the summer months from June to September are very hot and therefore ideal for warm season grass, but the other eight months are good for cool season grass.

So it is risky during the hot summer months to try to sustain and maintain cool season grass. But if you do manage to succeed in this, it means no more over-seeding with ryegrasses – with savings in this area alone amounting to 40,000 euros for just the grass seed.

However, there were also several other factors that influenced this difficult choice at the Korineum Golf & Country Club:

The quality of the topsoil

- pH 7.9
- SAR: Sodium adsorption ratio from 1.6 to 5.3
- Topsoil texture: Sandy clay loam

The quality of the water

- We had the desalination plan from the sea
- 357 ppm, almost drinking water
- pH 7.2

The temperatures

- Summer temperatures ranging from 29degC at night to up to 45degC in the noon sun
- (as a general guide).
- Winter temperatures ranging from 5degC at night to 15degC during the day
- (as a general guide)

After taking all these factors into consideration, the decision was finally made to use cool season grass, with the species and cultivars for the golf course as follows:

Greens

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------|---------|------|
| Agrostis stolonifera | Cultivar | Penn G2 | 100% |
|----------------------|----------|---------|------|

Tees, fairways & semi-roughs

| | | | |
|----------------|----------|---------------|-----|
| Lolium Perenne | Cultivar | Citation Fore | 25% |
| Lolium Perenne | Cultivar | Vantage | 25% |

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------|----------|-----|
| Festuca rubra rubra | Cultivar | Aberdeen | 25% |
| Festuca arudence | Cultivar | Heel | 25% |

Seeding began in September 2005 and, with the grass germinating and growing, everything appeared to be going well.

Indeed, in the picture below of the 4th hole, the course is four months old and was playable. Seeding had begun on November 29, and the contours and definition of the cool season grass are clearly visible.



The 4th hole established with cool season grass.

Now, I've been in the golf course industry a long time and I thought that I was no longer surprised by anything – but in April 2006 I got a big surprise!

It was then that the investor came to me and, despite having already told him that the golf course was almost in play, he told me that we were going to have to reseed the whole golf course!

This after we had already used 13,000 kilos of grass seed and with the course was almost ready for play.

But the advisors were in charge – and so the entire golf course was to be sprayed.

It doesn't bear thinking about all those wasted hours of maintenance and hard work the greenkeeping team had put in to getting the golf course ready for the opening date.

But the decision had been made, and we duly sprayed the whole golf course with the total weedkiller Round-up, even spraying it twice in some areas because the grass was not completely dieing.

The pictures below show the 7th hole established with the cool season grass; and then three weeks after being sprayed.



The cool season grass on the 7th hole before and after being sprayed.

Meanwhile, Seaspray Seashore Paspalum was selected as the replacement warm season grass, and reseeding preparations were put in hand.

When complete, the Korineum Golf & Country Club would be the first seeded golf course in the world where this grass seed, Paspalum, was

used from tee to green. For me personally it was a great experience to be given the opportunity to work with the two different types of grasses in this way.

Seeding preparations for 'Seaspray' Seashore Paspalum

Seeding preparations for Seashore Paspalum were no easy task, especially as nobody was experienced in seeding with this particular grass seed type, added to the fact it was the first time anywhere that an entire course was being seeded entirely with Seashore Paspalum.

With the investor insisting on getting the golf course ready for play, there was no time to do any research. Basically, it was a case of experimenting by trial and error.

But it has to be accepted that this is normal because, for the investor, 'no play' means 'no income' and for every single day the golf course remains unopen for play he is losing money. Understandably the pressure was enormous, but the agronomy consultants decided to begin seeding on June 1 with the aim of finishing on June 6, 2006.

First, as stated earlier, the whole course was sprayed with Roundup 480g/l (37%W/W) 5.0 litre/he. Then, after three weeks, work started on the rest of the preparation process.

For the greens and tees, we started by Verti-cutting in two different directions to a depth of 1.5mm. Then we collected the dead grass clippings. The amount we collected was enormous, amounting to about 1m3 per green.



Verti-cutting one of the greens.

Enormous amounts of dead grass were collected from the greens.

Preparations for the fairways and semi-roughs consisted of spraying with Roundup and then cutting them down to 9mm and 15mm respectively

| LOCATION | Golf Course | Planting rate | Total grams | Total kgs | Total bags |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Total m2 | Grams/m2 | | | |
| Fairways & semi-roughs | 166,174 | 6 | 997,044 | 997.04 | 99.70 |
| Greens | 12,618 | 14 | 176,652 | 176.65 | 17.67 |
| Green surrounds | 37,044 | 6 | 222,264 | 222.26 | 22.23 |
| Tees | 10,974 | 6 | 65,844 | 65.84 | 6.58 |
| Tee surrounds | 39,282 | 6 | 235,92 | 235.69 | 23.57 |
| Roughs | 124,425 | 3 | 373,275 | 373.28 | 37.33 |
| Total: | 390,517 | 5.30 | 2,070,771 | 2,070.77 | 207.08 |

Table. Seeding quantities of Seaspray Seashore Paspalum and extent of seeded areas.



Cutting down fairways and roughs after spraying.

We also needed sand to cover the grass seed for the tees, fairways and semi-roughs. We got this from the beach and because we had to clean it we had a self-constructed shredder. The total amount of sand we needed for this work was approximately 1,200m3. The shredder could clean about 20 lorries a day, which amounted to a capacity of 300m3/day.



Cleaning beach sand.

The sand was driven to different locations on the golf course to get the job finished much quicker.

UK course managers and greenkeepers will, I'm sure, be interested in the quantities of seed used, and the extent of the areas covered, for all the

different parts of the course. Therefore I have given them in the table above.

Additionally, as part of preparations all the bunkers had to be covered with plastic to prevent grass seed or dirt contaminating the sand. The total area that needed covering was 7,532m2. The biggest bunker that required a cover was this 1,289m2 fairway example shown in the picture below.



Covering bunkers with plastic

In next month's issue:

At last, with all preparations completed, the staff are organised and more people employed, as a team of 40 makes ready for the incredible task of seeding the entire course in only one week. Establishment and initial maintenance of the turf follows, with special attention paid to cutting and watering in the lead-up to the course opening.

About the author

Arne van Amerongen is a golf project manager. He spent three years building the first 18-hole course in Turkish North Cyprus at the Korineum Golf & Country Club. He can now be contacted at arne-golf@spin.ch



Count on it.



PUMP STATIONS: SIMPLE JOB, COMPLEX TECHNOLOGY

By Charles De Haan

Ask any Course Manager what the most important elements of their golf course irrigation system were, and they would probably tell you it was the central control system and the rotors, closely followed by the pump station. But in fact the pump station is the heart of any irrigation system, and arguably the most critical part. After all, without water being delivered at the correct pressure for the rotors to do their job properly, any irrigation system is both inefficient and ineffective.

Two main types of pump sets are made for golf courses: the Vertical Centrifugal type, which are the most popular throughout the UK markets, and the Submersible type, typically used throughout courses in the Mediterranean and US regions where water drawn from bore holes is a more common practice.

Two major pump innovations

A number of important innovations have been made to pump stations and equipment, and for course managers and green keepers everywhere two in particular are worth knowing more about:

- Variable speed pump sets
- Real-time two-way communication between the central control system and pump station.

The experience of a large number of course managers using pump stations installed with these two relatively new technologies is completely

consistent: they are critical to an irrigation system's performance. Even the most economical pump set can still have an operating range based on a flow rate between 20-400m³/h, and pressure between 4-13 bar and 70-188 PSI, and when such systems have to work for literally years at peak efficiency, it's worth understanding why these two features are so significant.

Variable Speed Control technology

On the face of it, just like an irrigation system appears to do the simple job of watering the golf course, the pump station simply has to pump water from the reservoir to the rotors. But supplying that water requires a constant pressure to be maintained so that the rotors' capabilities – length of throw, arc, droplet size, water curtain and volume delivered - are fully exploited. Any loss of pressure means that the course doesn't get watered properly, so reaching and maintaining the ideal water pressure is paramount.

However, while few people would dream of driving a car by keeping the accelerator to the floor and using the brakes to control progress, this is exactly how many pump systems are still being made to work. But a pump set with Variable Speed Control technology will save energy, minimise wear and prevent water hammer.

An electronic or software-based technology, Variable Speed Control enables the pump sets to maintain a constant pressure against variable flow. Variable Speed Control is simply designed to provide a smooth automated start and stop of the

pump station, along with an extremely quiet low vibration operation. This has several other important operational benefits: much higher efficiencies, extremely low energy consumption and long term running costs. So it's a simple technology, but one with very desirable benefits.

Real-time communication

Real-time communication is another software-based technology, but does a very different sort of job. It manages the pump itself and enables remote control access from the central control system. The pump station is connected to the central control system by either hard-wired communication cable or wireless radio communication. This enables troubleshooting of the pump station from a remote location, a major benefit as more often or not, pump stations are not close to office areas and can easily be forgotten or simply overlooked, a case of 'out of sight, out of mind'.

But with pump management software that links the central control system to the pump station directly, it can both monitor and track both actual and controlled flow and direct or real-time communication between the pump station. In turn the irrigation's central control system optimises the required irrigation cycle by adjusting the flow demand according to actual field conditions. This pump management software can also be linked to the central control system to act as a 24-hour course supervisor. Because it is always watching the system, it can make constant minor adjustments so that the irrigation system runs much more efficiently.



In practice, what this means is that the pump management software will make active real-time decisions on your behalf, depending upon the parameters you have set. So when you've set a required programme of watering, and left for the evening, the upgraded system can automatically detect if there's a problem, such as a burst mains pipe where the demand is greater than the available capacity.

Usually what would happen with most pump stations is that the burst main pipe would cause the system pressure to drop and then cut out and close the pump down automatically on low pressure. Then the controller would continue to open and close valves over the golf course/turf area thus draining the system down of water, as there is no communication between them. So when the course manager returns in the morning there would be no idea of knowing this other than checking on the pump station specifically and then further investigation.

By contrast, the new pump management software would enable the central control system to make an active decision at the moment the main pipework burst. The system would notice the drop in operating pressure and it could decide to reduce the amount of stations it is trying to operate simultaneously, or even stop the watering cycle completely. It then would record what had and what had not been completed against the planned programme, so that on their return the following morning you as the Course Manager would be made aware of this problem - even if your pump station was in a remote location from your office.

The benefit of experience: Damon Kirk, PGA National Ireland

With over 15 years in the greenkeeping business, it's interesting to hear what Damon Kirk has to say about his new irrigation system at the new PGA National Ireland course. First, some statistics: Palmerstown's irrigation system can deliver on a daily/nightly basis:

| | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| Greens | 3.57 mm, or 25 mm per week |
| Tees | 2.86 mm, or 20 mm per week |
| Approaches | 2.86 mm, or 20 mm per week |
| Fairways | 2.14 mm, or 15 mm per week |

That adds up to a maximum application of 690 cubic metres a day or 151,800 gallons in old money. The pumping system that drives all that water to the course's 567 sprinkler heads is a Rain Bird V-3200 Series skid-mounted pump set, delivering 80 cubic metres an hour @ 9.0 bar.

But 9 bar of pressure is no use unless each and every sprinkler head can deliver a consistent amount of water over its designated area. The fairways are irrigated using Rain Bird pressure-regulated valve-in-head sprinklers, and set to operate at 5.5 bar, which is enough to provide an irrigated width of 33 metres. The area covered by the Palmerstown course - and thus its irrigation system - is 300 acres in all, so the water has to travel very significant distances to do its job. In fact there are over 30,000 metres of underground pipe work the water travels along before it can be sprayed from those 567 sprinklers.

Maximum efficiency, minimum effort

So what does Damon think about it in practice? "One of the most impressive things about the irrigation system is the sheer efficiency. We've had over four years to see the whole system in action, and although this course is one of the most spread out, there's no loss of pressure at the head end and a really good rate of water is delivered."

So what's the moral of this particular story? Water is rapidly becoming one of the most expensive overheads for every golf club, so it's essential that every drop is used as efficiently as possible. In turn, the pump sets used by clubs must be designed to be efficient as possible at delivering water at the correct pressure, and to keep doing that, day in and day out, for years.

To achieve that sort of level of pump efficiency over its lifetime, you need to be exploiting the latest electronic technology like Variable Speed Control, and real-time two-way communication between pump stations and the central control system. Anything else is inefficient, potentially risky, and will cost the club a lot more than planned to deliver expensive water to the course.

Rain Bird, contact details:
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BUNKER RAKES: THE RAKE'S PROGRESS

By James de Havilland

Based around a three-wheeled 'tractor unit', the most popular models of ride-on bunker rakes in the UK include the Jacobsen Groom Master II, John Deere 1200A and Toro Sand Pro 2020, 3040 and 5040. With entry level retail pricing starting at under £9,000, these diminutive machines need not be restricted to a life working in a bunker either.

With their light footprint, there is no reason why a ride-on bunker rake cannot be used as a light tractor unit. Example applications include pulling a small drag mat to knock off the dew ahead of early mowing through to applying light solid dressings

through a small trailed spreader to areas that are less accessible to larger or heavier kit.

In practice this sort of versatility is seldom exploited. Most users employ their machines for their primary role of keeping bunkers not just raked but conditioned to a greater depth to improve consistency. A good number of courses will have modified some bunkers to allow them to be accessed by a ride-on rake, so if you are not using one due to poor bunker access, this is a point to consider.

These tools can also be used for heavier 'landscaping' duties, their ability for light grading making them ideal when undertaking reconstruction work,

landscaping etc. There is no reason why a rake's skid unit cannot be exploited as a light 'tractor' unit to operate a brush or blower either.

So what is on offer? Starting with the John Deere 1200A bunker and field rake, this simple, robust tool can trace its roots back to 1995. Powered by a Kawasaki 10hp petrol engine, the 1200A has a rear axle differential lock. This helps boost traction when undertaking heavier work, freeing off the diff to allow the unit to turn pretty much within its own length.

Fitted with flotation tyres with an offset lug, the 1200A should actually grip well, a useful point to consider when trying to scale a bunker edge or grade heavier material. Sticking with



traction, the Deere is fitted with mechanical drive, a wet clutch and torque converter taking up drive. Two foot pedals on the left control the direction of travel, the right throttle pedal. Top travel speed is 18.

The 1200A is equipped with a three-section rake as standard, with a choice of serrated or optional smooth blades. Electric power lift is standard for the rear-mounted rake, and there is a fitted rear basket. The sections float and articulate to follow the bunker's contours.

A cultivator and front blade with spring-assisted lift are available as options. Dual headlights and/or rear work lights can also be specified.

Jacobsen offers its Groom Master II with a choice of Briggs and Stratton 18hp petrol or Kubota 19hp diesel power. Both versions have full hydrostatic drive to all three wheels with a variable speed range of between 0 and 15kph.

A driven front wheel is important as it not only improves traction but also helps to 'pull' the unit along as it is steered.

Running on three 10x11.00-10 tyres, these units again offer low ground bearing pressure with great manoeuvrability. Power steering helps in this respect, fast lock-to-lock turns really helping spin the machine round quickly.

The basic skid unit can be dealer specified to meet specific requirements, the essential choices including mechanical of hydraulic lift blades, cultivators and fan rakes. A drag mat and carrier, scarifier, box blade, can also be specified.

Joining the established Toro two-wheel drive and 16hp petrol powered Sand Pro 2020, the more recently introduced 3040 and 5040 have a three-wheel parallel drive system for optimum traction.

With respective 16hp and 18hp Briggs and Stratton power units, the 3040 and 5040 are designed for all sizes of bunkers, including those with steep faces and uneven contours.

Unlike the 2020, both models boast the added benefit of power steering, plus a slight increase in transport speed to 10mph. In addition, the tractor unit's ground clearance has been increased to 6in and 7.5in on the Sand Pro 3040 and 5040 respectively.

This essentially allows these machines to work over rougher terrain, a feature that is of value during course reconstruction and landscaping.

Sand Pro attachments for bunker repair and maintenance include a spring rake, tooth rake, spikers of various widths, a manual or hydraulic blade, a

variety of mats, a finish grader and levelling bar. Attachments for other landscaping tasks include a rear broom, utility box, debris blower and weeder/cultivator.

All models feature foot pedal controls, forward and reverse, a Quick-Attach System (QAS) for the front and rear hydraulics, mid-mount capability for several of the attachments and an optional light kit to help extend the working day.

As can be seen, these machines are actually more diverse than a casual glance may suggest. Several landscaping companies employ a 'bunker rake' for finishing work, grading slopes and levelling ground prior to seeding or turf laying. They are serious bits of kit and far more versatile than non-users may think.

Although all models are easy to operate, it does take practice to exploit what they have to offer. If arranging a demonstration, ensure you take in some of the tips and advice offered by the demonstrator before assuming you can rake your bunkers to perfection from day one.

Also ensure you get to try some alternative rakes, blades and attachments. It may be difficult to convince those controlling the purse strings that a bunker rake is justified, but showing a ride-on unit has other potential applications may help.



(Main image) With a choice of petrol or diesel power, the Jacobsen Groom Master II offers all-wheel drive and power steering plus a good choice of attachments.



(Above) Simple to use, economical to buy and easy to look after, the John Deere 1200A bunker rake is well established in the UK. With its locking rear differential, the two-wheel drive 1200A has decent traction when needed and great manoeuvrability for tight bunker corners.

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DIARY OF A GOLF COURSE: STONEY GROUND

As the new golf course at Clandon Park takes shape and is prepared for seeding, Peter Jones takes a look, this month, at the construction techniques, materials, and preparation of the rootzone materials to ensure that the course will get off to a flying start and be economical to maintain.

Soil structure (the way particles of soil are arranged together) is just as important as soil texture (the relative amounts of different sized particles) in governing how water and air move in soils.

Both structure and texture fundamentally influence the suitability of soils for growth of grass roots, and the construction methods and choice of materials used to build a new golf course are therefore of great importance to the successful establishment of the course.

In today's financial and environmental climate, a common sense approach and an understanding of practical realities is also required to achieve the required finish.

The topsoil at Clandon Park was stripped from the greens, tees and bunker sites, and put into storage mounds in February for re-spreading at a later date.

Frequent heavy rainfall during March, April, May and early June put paid to plans of screening the topsoil for re-use around the greens and tees, and hence an opportunity for an early seeding date was lost due to weather.

Mid June saw the topsoil screening underway using a 20mm screen to remove the flints from the soil.

Pipe installation

Prior to the re-spreading, the irrigation pipes were installed and water supply connections were made to two on-site boreholes, and a mains water top-up supply. A camouflaged water tank installed, part above and part below ground level.

Drainage pipes from greens and tees were then installed, discharging into deep, vented sump holes, allowing drainage water to find its way back into the chalk.

Deep sumps were also installed into the bunkers and grass hollows and protected from silt by polypropylene membranes. Where the drainage performance of certain bunkers/hollows was



noted to be slow, a discharge pipe was installed to an additional nearby sump hole, away from the playing area.

All irrigation and drainage information was then accurately plotted onto an As-built plan as a reference aid for the greenkeepers.

Tree pits

The locations of strategic new trees were marked, and tree pits of 1m x1m x 1m were dug out of the chalk and filled with topsoil during the respread, to save the disruption of coming back with heavy machinery during the winter months.

Topsoil Management on Fairways and Roughs

With fairways and rough areas constituting by far the biggest area of a golf course, the economic considerations for topsoil preparation can have a major financial bearing on the budget for a new project, especially where stones are a major problem.

Other new clubs around the London outskirts have tackled similar problems in various different ways. At the London Golf Club, all the topsoil was screened out of the topsoil and sand was added to bulk up the remaining soil. At The Grove, the fairways were toppedressed with over an inch of sand during the Grow-in period. Here at Clandon Park, a third method was used with environmental considerations in mind.

A tractor-mounted stone-crusher was to go up and down the fairways and roughs and physically crush the flints into smaller fragments of stone, thus retaining all the natural materials on site, and eliminating the need to import and spread expensive sand materials.

The Kirpy stone crusher required a 190HP tractor with creep gears to operate the machine efficiently, and was a slow, but worthwhile process.

Final cultivation and preparation of the seedbed was achieved by experienced and knowledgeable

operators using stone buriers, cultivators, and specialist compaction equipment. Finally the seed was sown at the recommended 25gms/m² using a drop seeder.

Tees

Preparation of the tees tops began in late June using 60% of screened topsoil and 40% of imported sand, carefully ameliorated so that the proportion (ratio) of soil was greater at the bottom of the profile, and the proportion of sand was higher near the surface of the profile - a system which works well on sports pitches. At 250mm deep, the rootzone profile can produce a sufficient hydraulic head to drain the surface well, yet have the benefit of retaining good soil strength, better water and nutrient retention, and a reduced need for irrigation and fertiliser applications during the summer when compared to a USGA rootzone. Tees were also graded with a 1% fall to aid surface run-off, and a 2m radius on each corner to create ease of maintenance with ride-on mowers.

Tees were sown with the same choice of seed as used on the fairways for ease of maintenance at a later date.

Greens

The use of a USGA rootzone was decided upon as a forgone conclusion to ensure good drainage and a resistance to compaction, albeit that the irrigation and nutrient requirements of a sand based USGA rootzone can leave a bit to be desired from time-to-time. An agronomy plan was proposed for suitable amendments to improve these characteristics prior to sowing the greens, along with the use of Mycorrhizal inoculants.

The proposed seed mixture for the greens was: 35% Chewings Fescue, 35% Slender Creeping Red Fescue, and 30% Brown top bent, by weight, with appropriate bent cultivars chosen for their colour and leaf blade characteristics to blend in with the inevitable invasion of *Poa annua* in five-10 years time.

The contours on the greens were designed and constructed to create interesting borrows and enjoyment for golfers at summer mowing heights of 4mm to 5mm by incorporating a 1% to 2% gradient through the backbone of the green, subtly rising into 4% to 6% slopes running into the surrounding mounds, with ease of maintenance being of utmost importance.

Next month's article will look at some of the Grow-In and Greenkeeping procedures.





A QUIET OPEN ... PLEASE!

Scott MacCallum travelled to Southport to meet Chris Whittle, a man preparing an Open course for the third time



If an Open Championship were measured by the drama produced on the 72nd hole, Carnoustie would be up there at the very top. Not only did last year's Open produce a stupendous finish with Pádraig Harrington and Sergio Garcia both contriving to make a pig's ear of Carnoustie's fabled 18th before the Irishman got his hands on the Claret Jug, but Jean Van de Velde has gone down in history for what happened to him back in 1999.

However, Royal Birkdale can also hold its hand up for what it produced in 1998 and, unlike Carnoustie, the memorable moments came in the shape of triumphs not disasters.

Three instances on that final afternoon stand out, all occurring before Mark O'Meara was crowned Champion. First off, O'Meara's great friend and protégé, Tiger Woods, at the time still without an Open to his name, holed a huge putt on the final green to give him a glimmer of a chance of winning the title. Then, Justin Rose, at the time a callow youth playing like a man possessed, chipped

in for a birdie from long rough well short of the green. It was his final shot as an amateur player and propelled him to a heady 4th place in the Championship. Then, under intense pressure, and with one foot in sand and the other out, overnight leader, Brian Watts, needing a par to make a play-off with O'Meara, played a bunker shot that had he gone on to win would have entered the annals of golfing history as one of the greatest bunkers shots ever played.

Great memories and it secured Royal Birkdale's place as one of the most exciting venues on the rota and one of the best courses in the country.

"I was standing by the 18th green in line with Justin Rose's chip and I remember it well as his parents were in the crowd close to me when it happened," said Course Manager, Chris Whittle, as we reminisced about that last Royal Birkdale Open.

When it comes to Opens Chris is one of the most experienced men in the business. This month's Open will be the second for which he has prepared Royal Birkdale but he was also Course Manager



at Muirfield when Nick Faldo won The Open in 1992 making him unique, among modern day greenkeepers at least, in being in charge of two different Open venues.

So does the experience gathered from twice preparing an Open venue make life easier for the third occasion?

“No, not particularly,” he laughed, after giving the question some thought.

“I suppose it must help a little bit because there is nothing unexpected. You know what’s coming and you just have to deal with it.”

With that in mind he is well placed to chart the progress experienced by the oldest championship in the world over the years.

“The whole infrastructure has become much more professional in recent years and the planning starts much earlier. For example, we started alterations aimed at The Open three and a half years ago and we have been having meetings directly related to The Open for the last 18 months,” explained Chris, as sat in his office in his maintenance facility hidden behind mounding half way down the 1st hole.

“They have already upgraded much of the permanent underground services and even at this stage they are talking about tarring the road from the 5th round to the 7th just to keep dust down for players and spectators.”

Security has increased markedly since 1998 with everyone who will be inside the ropes requiring photographic id.

In addition to his own team of 10, and the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team, Chris brings in another 15 volunteers to carry out preparation work.

“A lot of local greenkeepers help. Stuart Hogg, from St Annes Old Links, Peter McVicar from Hesketh and a couple of his lads; one of Craig’s Gilholm lads from Hoylake, while we also have a couple from Ipswich, where my Deputy, Paul (Laurence), used to work. My son, Jamie, who works at West Lancs, is also coming over to help. In addition I have a couple of our own artisans. I either know them or they have come recommended,” said Chris.

One thing is for sure, they will be kept busy.

“I’ll be getting them to cut greens for me but obviously cutting round bunker banks requires local knowledge for safety reasons and my team will do that,” said Chris, who will be providing some of the volunteers with hand mowers for a couple of weeks before The Open so they can familiarise themselves with them on their own courses before heading to Birkdale.

He is also installing a portacabin so that his team members can grab 40 winks when they get a chance, or sleep overnight if they’d rather be close to the job.

“It’s going in just at the back of our sheds and will just give the guys somewhere to crash when and if they feel the need,” said Chris.

Cutting is one of the issues where Chris has seen a change from his previous Opens.

“The R&A want one directional cutting of fairways and tees, with all clippings boxed off, which

immediately increases the length of time required to cut the course, In addition play now starts at 6.30am rather than 7am the last time The Open was here.”

“Instead of using two fairway mowers we’ll be using five and have them all go down one side of the fairway, come back up a spectator route and mow the other side of the fairway. It will be a little more complicated on tees as there is less room to play with.”

Greens will be mown at 3.2 mil twice in the morning and once again in the evening with tees and surrounds at 6.4 mil daily, fairways will be maintained at 10 mil with semi-rough at 30 mil.

Chris will also be making full use of the BIGGA Support team, which will be preparing bunkers as well as offering general assistance in the mornings and divoting in the evening, in addition to walking with each of the matches during play. The team is also available to assist with any other work, including squeegeeing, if the weather turns nasty.

Changes to the course see amends of varying degrees to 16 of the holes the most dramatic of which was the lengthening of the 17th with the addition of a new, tiered, green.

Other amends include 20 new bunkers being added and 14 removed, six new Championship tees, some mounding around greens and fairways extended.

“About three and a half years ago the club felt that some changes may be beneficial and asked



the R&A if they were in favour and they were keen for us to look into it. We didn't think there was anything wrong with the layout we just want to make sure that the course was up to the task of coping with modern equipment and that bunkers were in the correct place etc."

The club invited architects to submit ideas and Martin Hawtree, who has a long association with the club, was chosen.

"He submitted a presentation for the members and the R&A to vote on and this was approved unanimously without any amends or alterations to the plan," explained Chris.

Sol Golf were then appointed to undertake the work on the recommendation of Martin who said that they had been doing some great work in Ireland among other places.

"Fortunately they came in with a good quote and were available to do the work."

Work began in the winter of 2005 with the green work, which would take the longest time to settle in, being carried out first. Then it was the bunkering. At this stage the Birkdale's home team became involved in the construction.

"To give continuity on the style of the bunkers Sol Golf dug us the holes in the ground and we built and revetted them from there. We also built the new 6th and 10th tees," explained Chris.

The work was finished last winter and there has since been a considerable amount of hand watering and top dressing to ensure the new turf knitted in as well as possible.

"The members seem very happy with the changes, and are delighted to get the contractors off the course and to be playing a full course again.

"I reckon the changes will make the course one or two shots tougher for the members but during The Open the players are now so good at managing their games they can avoid hazards and the scores they shoot will be very much down to the weather and how much wind we have," said Chris.

Indeed any strengthening of the armoury need only be minimal if the scores from recent Opens are studied.

Only Carnoustie in '99 with 290 and Royal St George's in 2003 with 283 have higher winning

scores in recent times than Royal Birkdale's 280 in '98.

Looking forward to the event itself Chris has one wish, other than decent weather in the run-up.

"I want all the talk to be about the golf and the course to be well received. You want to remember the good shots that won the Championship, and that's how it should be. I'd love to be standing on the 18th green beside the new Champion feeling that we've had a quiet week with no hassle for us. I don't think it will happen though," smiled Chris - the smile of a man who has been there before.

Photographs by Alan C Birch, courtesy of Royal Birkdale Golf Club



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THE CONTRACTOR FACTOR

Appointing a contractor, particularly if it is one you haven't dealt with before, can be a stressful business. Will they deliver what they promise? Will the job be done to the standard expected? Will the costs be in line with the initial quote? GI asked three top Course Managers for their advice on the matter.



Laurence Pithie MG, Director of Maintenance for Crown Golf

Once a golf club has decided upon the project to be completed, made an estimation as to how much it will cost and be funded, the next stage in the process is to appoint a contractor who is capable of completing the work.

The use of contractors on golf courses can generally be broken down into the following categories:

- Irrigation
- Drainage
- Lakes & Ponds
- Landscaping
- Green, Tee, Bunker construction
- Arborist

Range work, including fencing as well as maintenance buildings, may also be considered but for the purposes of this exercise it is the above that are the most common.

Smaller project work is usually completed 'in-house', often with the hire of equipment being involved. This of course requires a competent user and one who has been trained in operating the said item of equipment. Tackling the larger projects involves hiring the specialist, so what are the key points that a club should consider before signing the agreement?



Trenching work on 12th underway, Merrist Wood.

Where an architect is involved, for example in the re-siting of a green, then the contractor would need to have the ability to interpret the architects drawing. A key point may then be to involve the architect in selecting a number of candidates that he or she has worked with and has performed such work to a satisfactory standard.

Where substantial irrigation work is required, such as a full installation, then it is worth appointing an irrigation consultant to design the required system and then to put out to tender the necessary documents. This ensures that each irrigation contractor is submitting a bid for the same system. The consultant also ensures that the submitted technical detail falls within the required specification. Few Course Managers would have this degree of knowledge on pumping capacity, flow rates and so on - these being essential in providing an efficient and reliable system that could cost in excess of £200,000. Contacting the irrigation supplier regarding the contractor may also be time well spent.

Procedures to follow on selecting a contractor would not only involve the cost, but also in viewing past projects that the contractor has completed. Were they completed on time? How were problems overcome? Was the equipment suitable? (e.g. tyres) Was the contractor flexible and was the work completed with minimal disruption? - These are some typical questions to raise. Looking at a method statement will prove useful in bunker

construction since there are differing views on this subject. The same would also apply for a major drainage project.

Other points to consider would be the experience of the people hired, including the site foreman who is the point of contact between the contractor and the client, Health & Safety Policy and CDM Regulations, storage of equipment and materials and the question of insurance and responsibility. The question of contingency or period of settlement should also be borne in mind, thus ensuring that no future problems exist.

It can be somewhat of a minefield but most of these aspects are ones of common sense and sound planning.

Paul Worster, Course Manager, Minchinhampton GC





Work to 5th bunker, St Mellion.

Perhaps an alternative title would be – How to get your preferred contractor to do what you want, when you want, and at the price you want. The rest is simple.

There are fairly straightforward, and rather more complex, rules of engagement, but a range of standard pre-written contracts such as Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) 3rd Edition Minor Works are widely available online at small cost, and easily tailored to your individual requirements.

Even if you have a preferred contractor in mind – it is sensible to secure at least three estimates for the required work. There must be a clear Specification Document and Bill of Quantities to ensure that each contractor is quoting like for like - “on a level playing field” – otherwise accurate comparison suffers.

At a formal interview with each, it should be possible to get a “feel” for the successful contractor. Your mind should have been laid to rest over a wide variety of issues, and you will feel confident to award the contract. This is often called the “courtship” - the marriage (and frequently the divorce) will follow!

A contract outlines responsibilities, work to be carried out, standards required, schedule of payments, completion dates and liquidated damages (cost penalty on completion over-run), a detailed breakdown of the costs, and a contingency which is

only spent at the customers’ approval. A retention sum - (usually 2.5%) will normally be held over for a year as a guarantee against defects.

In the case of the Minchinhampton lake construction – Hawtree Ltd – the clubs retained Architects, were engaged to produce a detailed drawing showing location, elevation, volume, and specification of materials. The Specification Document and Bill of Quantities were produced, which gave a unit cost per cubic metre of spoil dug and tipped elsewhere, and an additional figure for that spoil to be landscaped and top-soiled. The contractor had responsibility for checking the architects’ calculations to ensure that the proposed figures were accurate.

A square metre cost of lining and protective layers was required, as was a finishing cost. The contract required the main contractor to source a reputable sub-contractor to carry out the very specialised waterproof lining job, and this company was to be vetted and approved by the Architect.

As in most large contracts – the main contractor is required to engage, oversee, control, and take responsibility for a number of sub-contractors, including assembling a full Health & Safety File, in order to fulfil the terms of the contract.

The architect approved each payment on a quantified basis.

As in all things – unforeseen difficulties may arise, and it can be wise not to immediately bring the full letter of the law down upon a contractor at the first signs of trouble, but to try and work together to overcome any problem. This normally leads to a far better outcome.

Lee Strutt MG, Assistant Construction Manager at the GWest project, near Gleneagles in Perthshire.



Appointing a contractor

‘Everyone views things differently’ this is one of the key considerations when appointing a contractor. You must understand that your vision and



Dealing with mobilising, storing and security of major plant equipment during long contracts.

aspirations will need to be clearly communicated to any contractor, if you want the outcome to be successful. So an important start to appointing a contract is to set out a good clear framework.

There are five main check points that I use to appoint a contractor – Research, Discuss, Appoint, Arrival on site and Completion.

Research

Before giving any consideration to hiring a contractor, you need to set out a framework of your needs and what exactly you want to be ‘contracted out’. This is normally a bullet point document highlighting your needs and your overall idea of how, when, how long and what sort of standard you want achieved, are listed.

With a better breakdown of your needs you can identify what sort of skills you will need or in some cases two or three different specialist contractors to carry out the tasks. Sourcing a contractor can come from a number of different avenues – trade shows, trade magazine, the internet, personal recommendations, etc.

You will want to shortlist the contractors to three or four companies, which can supply you with the basic information for your needs. This should be previous client contract references, company setup including key staff, experience, machinery fleet (if applicable), expertise, financial standing and any others contracts that they currently working on.

Discuss

When you have decided on the three or four contractors that you wish to tender, you will need to draft a framework document into the specific needs and what you need the contractor to do. The discussions and or framework should include but not limited to:

- Headlining an overview of the task to be tackled and broken into sub groups on specific issues.

- Talk about your expectations and standard of finish that you require, do not assume any contractor will work to your standards.
- A method statement and time scale chart from the contractor on how they propose to conduct the task and what problems may arise.
- Discuss how and when progress site meetings should take place.
- A breakdown of proposed budget cost and talk about contingencies if something could go wrong.
- Discuss down time costs and what constitute standing down – i.e. weather, sickness or machine breakdowns.
- How will the contractor manage their:
 - Health and safety programme
 - Operational setup
 - Machine and material storage
 - On site office or central point contact
 - Snagging procedure
- The contractor’s staff profile, education, experience and any previous recommendations from previous clients with contact details.
- Use the same set of questions for each tender so as to have a like for like comparison.
- Inform contractors of your site restrictions and rules i.e. No drink or drugs, speed restrictions on site, sensitive areas, waste disposal etc.

Appointment

Choosing the right contractor from your tender list should now be easier as you will have all the information provided through your discussions and the contractor’s tender submission.

As with all tender prices, the lowest price is not always necessarily the cheapest.

You will need to assess and compare the costs put forward from each contractor; this can be partly checked using such reference books such as Spon’s Landscape & External Works Price Book. This should provide a rough framework to costing for most or specific areas of a project.

Before your final selection, request to meet and speak to the proposed site contact, quite often the contract will be dealt through a sales team, company management and not necessarily the supervisor who will implement the contract. Meet them and make sure you feel they can communicate and deliver what was agreed.

On site

Once the contractor has been selected and all contracts agreed, there will be the onsite formalities to be outlined to all contractor personnel. Details covered –

- Site inductions - making sure all contract personnel understand your existing onsite regulations i.e. speed restrictions, codes of conduct, Health & Safety, etc
- Contact details - covering emergency contact numbers for both yourself and the contractor.
- All contractor employees present all their necessary certified documents for referencing. i.e. certificate of competence for all relevant areas of the project (these should be photocopied for reference).
- Site office or central point of contact are clearly marked so all deliveries or contacts are directed to the right location.
- Request all delivery documentations to be submitted and copied. These will help prevent being billed for materials not delivered or double billed.

Completion

Hopefully the contract has gone to plan and if not, it should have been documented and discussed by both sides on the outstanding issues and a resolution plan agreed. Good regular snagging lists are always good tools to monitor costs, progress and quality standards.

Good clear communication and professionalism will always help make any contract a success.



Hobbies

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

Name: Jim Brown
Position: Course Manager
Club: Oulton Hall Golf Club (De Vere)
Hobby: Rock Band Photographer

How and when did you get into photography, and rock band photography in particular?

"I have been interested in photography since my 14th birthday (back in 1906) I bought myself one of those fantastic Practica packages that were going round. It was a great and affordable introduction to photography, the only real cost was that of developing the many spools of mistakes while learning. I have been regularly photographing bands for seven years – I am a huge fan of live music and it wasn't long before I started to take my camera along to gigs."

What is it about photography that appeals to you?

"While I have covered Weddings, Christenings and other celebratory shoots – I really prefer to do the low light live band scene. The excitement of capturing the best images in just a few short moments



in front of a full house of fans is quite brilliant. It is very satisfying when the bands or artists themselves want to use my photographs. Seeing my images in magazines and on the front covers of CD's and promotional work makes it all worthwhile."

What is your most memorable photo shoot?

"I have photographed GuilFest in Surrey for the past five years and if I had to choose one band from those festivals it would have to be The Pogues. The anticipation from the 20,000 plus crowd was electric and when Shane McGowan took the stage the whole festival erupted with people, beer and security guards all-flying over the top of the crowd – The Pogues didn't disappoint either. The great thing about photography is all shoots are memorable – there are always mementoes from the event."

"I present a lot of my photographs on my website www.digital-rpm.co.uk"



HOBBIES

HUMAN RESOURCES

BIGGA's Management Support series produced by Xact
www.xact.uk.com



TEMPORARY AND AGENCY WORKERS GET FULL TIME RIGHTS

The Government has announced proposals to give both temporary and agency workers the same employment rights as their permanent colleagues after 12 weeks employment.

At present, the UK has one of the more unregulated regimes in respect of temporary and agency workers. This, it is argued, assists with labour market flexibility which itself has led to the highest levels of employment in the UK since records began.

The counter argument is that temporary and agency workers rarely accrue employment rights and often receive far poorer pay and conditions than their permanent counterparts. This it is argued is unfair as it means that temps and agency staff receive poorer remuneration but do what is effectively the same job.

Under the proposal, which was agreed between the Government, the CBI and trade unions, after 12 weeks work temporary and agency workers will be entitled to the same pro-rata pay and conditions as full time workers. The proposal affects items such as pay, including holiday pay. The agreement specifically does not cover sick pay or pension contributions.

The proposal is likely to have a significant impact on golf clubs, many of whom utilise temporary staff in the busy summer months between April and October.

While a date for implementation has not been agreed, Course Managers, Chairmen of Green or Greens Convenors alike will require to look in some detail at their pay structures and, in particular, whether they are paying any temporary or agency staff on a like for like basis with their fulltime equivalents. Once the Bill has been passed, temporary and agency staff will be able to ask their managers for equivalent pay to their full time contemporaries.

Clubs will have to consider to either increase their employment budgets or employ proportionately lower numbers of temporary staff.

At present, there are estimated to be around 1.4 million agency workers in the UK.

Appropriate anti avoidance measures will be brought in. Therefore it will not be possible to make changes, such as altering job descriptions, in order to justify lower rates of pay.

We await with interest the precise details of the measures and a precise date for implantation.



DON'T SEE RED OVER DIESEL

Using cheaper red diesel on the golf course to save money is fine - but don't take it on the road, warns Mike Beardall

Red Diesel has been under the spotlight since changes in legislation tightened up the rules relating to use on the road.

This has created a grey area in the minds of many golf course managers who wonder if they can still drive their red diesel-fuelled vehicles on the road – even a short distance between courses.

The answer is “No”.

Only agricultural contractors and farmers moving between farms to carry out agricultural or horticultural work can use red diesel on the road.

Vehicles powered by red diesel on the golf course have to stay there. A trip between courses on a stretch of public highway in such a vehicle is no longer allowed for red diesel users.

What is Red Diesel? It's simply ordinary diesel that has been dyed red and has a chemical agent

added that can be detected by VOSA (Vehicle and Operator Services Agency) or HM Revenue and Customs inspectors who suspect it has been misused.

And it is much cheaper – about half the price of ordinary diesel, because the Government reduced tax on this fuel for those users deemed “essential” to producing food and working on land and building sites.

Red diesel has been a contentious issue among contractors – many working on golf courses.

“We can transport our diggers, dumpers and tractors by lorry and trailer to the site if they are to use red diesel,” said Barry Pace, Contracts Manager of Speedcut Contractors of Oxford.

“Taking those vehicles on the road, even between sites, is strictly not allowed any more.”

Agricultural contractors have had just as many questions because they assumed they were able to use red diesel for vehicles on the road if they were on their way to a farm to deliver supplies to carry out farm work. But again the answer is “No”.

“The Government has changed many of the rules regarding red diesel,” said Jill Hewitt, Chief Executive of NAAC (National Association of Agricultural Contractors).

“There was a lot of confusion when the new rules came into operation on April 1 – but a clear set of guidelines has now been issued.”

Fined after mowing rugby pitch

The IOG has issued a warning to members that the use of red diesel in tractors and certain ride-on equipment previously lawful on public highways while carrying out recreational or amenity grounds work, or landscaping, is now illegal.

It says: “Following changes to The Excepted Vehicles (Amendment of Schedule 1 to the Hydrocarbon Oils Duty Act 1979) Order 2007, vehicles not entitled to the use of red diesel on public roads include those involved with the maintenance of recreational facilities and landscaping. Offenders can be fined £250.

“The term ‘Recreation’ is not fully defined by the HM Revenue and Customs help desk - but a farmer using his tractor running on red diesel en route



Cal Callaby



Celtic Manor

from mowing a rugby pitch has been fined.”

The entitlement to the use of rebated gas oil (red diesel) is restricted to the use of agricultural vehicles engaged in agricultural, horticultural and forestry operations on the owner’s land or by his contractor when using the following vehicles on public roads: Agricultural tractors and agricultural materials-handling vehicles plus light agricultural vehicles (not exceeding 1,000 kgs and constructed to seat only the driver).

In addition, agricultural handlers may also use red diesel while cutting verges bordering public roads, and cutting trees and hedges bordering public roads.

But contractors looking after public amenity areas, including verges and roundabouts, cannot use red diesel.

Jill Hewitt said: “We are delighted it has been made clear that contractors are allowed to use red diesel to move between agricultural operations but we must not abuse our privilege and I would urge all operators to take note of the Memorandum of Agreement issued by the NAAC, NFU and Confederation of Forest Industries.”

Golf courses saving money

On golf courses the massive savings on fuel by using red diesel pays dividends – but Course Managers must be aware of the ban on using red diesel vehicles on the road.

“I would err on the side of caution with all vehicles running on red diesel,” said Cal Callaby, Workshop Manager at Celtic Manor in Newport, South Wales.

“Don’t gamble on taking a vehicle on a road at any time with red diesel in it. The rules are quite clear – no vehicle used on a golf course running on red diesel can be taken on the public highway.”

Celtic Manor, which opened its new £16million pound 2010 Ryder Cup course for the Wales Open in May, runs more than a 100 vehicles on red diesel on the course.

These include tractors, grass-cutting machinery, ride-ons and utility vehicles such as the Toro Workman. Cal keeps a list of which vehicles run on red diesel and which on white so there is no confusion.

CAN I APPEAL AGAINST PENALTIES IMPOSED?

HM Revenue and Customs say there is a formal two-stage process to deal with appeals against decisions.

Here is their statement:

If you disagree with any of the following:

- the terms offered for restoration of a vehicle (or engine) we have seized
- our refusal to restore any vehicle (or engine) we have seized
- the imposition of a civil penalty or civil evasion penalty or
- the assessment.

You may request a formal departmental review. Your request should set out the reasons for your disagreement and must be submitted in writing to your local officer, within 45 days of our original written decision.

The review will be undertaken by an independent Review Officer, who will not have been involved in the decision. The review will be completed within 45 days of your written request and the outcome will be notified to you in writing.

If you disagree with our review decision you will have a further 30 days to lodge your appeal with the VAT and duties tribunal. You may not lodge an appeal with that tribunal until our review decision is given.

Cases involving criminal proceedings are not subject to these appeal arrangements.

More info: www.hmrc.gov.uk

“We save a lot of money using red diesel because it is half the price of white diesel. In our case we get through 4,000 litres a month at this time of year – and in the winter this goes down to 4,000 litres in total between December and April.”

Red diesel on golf courses must be stored in clearly marked tanks that say: “Not for use on the road”.

And beware putting red diesel in your diesel car for road use.

Police who stop vehicles and call HM Revenue and Customs (or VOSA) officers to do a test which proves positive can impound the vehicle – and take it away to be destroyed.

Heavy penalties and a criminal record are the result.

USEFUL WEBSITES:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

www.naac.co.uk

www.dvla.gov.uk

www.vosa.gov.uk

HM Revenue and Customs helpline:

0845 010 9000

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...whatever the season...



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The Syngenta range of turf fungicides has been specifically developed to provide outstanding levels of disease control. Adopting a programmed approach - rotating **Heritage**, **Banner MAXX** and **Daconil Weather Stik** through the season - can deliver cost-effective,

reliable and sustainable turf disease control - now, and in the future. Combined with the independently proven advice from www.greencast.co.uk you can be confident of applying the right product, at the right time, to maintain the ultimate turf.

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Scotts Professional, Tel: 0871 220 5353, Email: prof.sales@scotts.com
DACONIL WEATHER STIK® contains chlorothalonil (MAPP 12636), BANNER MAXX® contains propiconazole (MAPP 13167), HERITAGE® contains azoxystrobin (MAPP 11383).
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Programmes to beat turf disease

Syngenta Technical Manager, Simon Barnaby, reports

Turf diseases are becoming more aggressive – hitting earlier and going on for longer. Yet players' demand is for ever higher quality turf, all year round. Both turf and turf managers are under increasing pressure to deliver.

Turf managers need to adopt new strategies to cope with disease, incorporating the latest new products and the most up to date technology to achieve the best possible results.

Fungicide selection

Turf fungicides work in a variety of ways; targeting disease at different points in their life cycle and with different modes of action. Syngenta fungicide programmes are designed to select the optimum choice for any disease, at any stage in the season.



| | Chlorothalonil | Azoxystrobin | Propiconazole |
|--------------------|--|--|---|
| Activity | Contact Preventative Curative Eradicant | Systemic Preventative Early Curative Anti-sporulant | Systemic Preventative Curative Eradicant |
| Diseases on label | Fusarium Patch Dollar Spot Anthracnose Red Thread | Fusarium Patch Take All Anthracnose Fairy Ring Leaf Spot Brown Patch Rusts | Fusarium Patch Dollar Spot Anthracnose Brown Patch |
| Additional effects | Leaf spot | | Leaf spot |

Preventative fungicides, such as Heritage and Banner MAXX, have proven most effective in maintaining turf quality when applied just after disease infection has taken place, but before any symptoms are visible.

Where disease symptoms are already present, a fungicide with a powerful curative and eradicator activity, such as Daconil Weather Stik, must be used.

Well-timed preventative fungicide applications, using risk forecasts on www.greencast.ie, can deliver the longest protection from effective products with a reduced number of applications and lower cost.

Fungicide programme facts:

- Select fungicides for appropriate disease activity
- Change modes of action for each application
- Develop a full ITM package
- Remember the rule: Rotation, Rotation, Rotation

Programme choice

Armed with the knowledge of how each fungicide works, the diseases it will effectively control and the optimum time for its use, turf managers can develop a comprehensive programme to counter disease risk when it arises.

| | Potential risk periods and example fungicide solutions | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| Fusarium Patch | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anthracnose | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dollar Spot | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brown Patch | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Take-All Patch | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leaf Spot | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fairy Ring | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rust | | | | | | | | | | | | |

HERITAGE BANNER MAXX DACONIL WEATHER STIK

All Syngenta fungicides control a broad spectrum of turf diseases. An application of Heritage to counter the threat of anthracnose in June, for example, will also control Fusarium Patch (Microdochium Patch), Brown Patch, Fairy Ring, Take-All patch and other diseases.

Fungicide rotation

Heritage
Fungicide
Mode of action: QOI

Daconil
Weather Stik®
Mode of action: Multi-site

Banner
MAXX®
Mode of action: DMI

The Syngenta range enables turf managers to effectively rotate fungicides with different modes of action throughout the season, to minimise risk of resistance and maintain the best long-term results.



- Up to the minute weather forecasting
- Advance warning of turf diseases
- Integrated turf management plans
- Independent advice from STRI

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THE LIE OF THE LAND

James Lane offers some helpful advice to improve the landscaping of your golf course.

The construction or renovation of a golf course is a major investment for any club or developer. Through thorough planning with the architect in the design phase, the owners of the new facility can end up with a truly sustainable course that has been built using the natural terrain and resources that already exist on site. Choosing a good construction company with a proven history of utilising these natural features and build to the design specification is a must.

Turning a 2D plan into a 3D course is a real art. Analysis and then implementation of plans drawn up by an architect is key to fulfilling the final specification and making the most of what already exists. Shipping in many tonnes of extra material to build a highly contoured course is not deemed as carbon friendly in this modern age of “being green”, nor is it cost effective and does not lend to being sustainable. The R&A themselves define the sustainability of golf courses in terms of development and management as “optimising the playing quality of the golf course in harmony with the conservation of its natural environment under economically sound and socially responsible management”. This seems logical, but how many courses built in boom years of the 1980s and 90s considered the environment and the effects of

this construction on the surrounding landscape? Very few, one would imagine.

Mark Dunning, of Essex-based construction company, Grassform, ensures that his company’s approach to golf course construction is the same as their approach to any project.

“We will always consider the environmental impact and work with the architect and/or engineers to provide solutions to this effect. Making use of natural landscapes is one way to reduce the need to unnecessarily move soil around in developing course shape and terrain,” said Mark.

“By carefully grading soils and using them for a variety of areas, a minimal amount of extra material is needed and as it’s on site, why not use it?” he added.

Trees also provide a convenient aspect with which to challenge a player, so removal should only be carried out unless ultimately necessary. The approach should be to use any natural resource to make the golf course aesthetically pleasing to the eye but also provide a stiff test of skill and power for a wide range of players.

A flat and lifeless course would be very boring to play on after all, and would generate little challenge for higher-level golfers.

The aim is always to leave a golf club with a course that is as interesting as possible, both in terms of its visual aspect and so too its playability. A prime example of their work can be seen at Luton Hoo’s recently opened 18 hole course where the company were contracted with construction within a Capability Brown-listed landscape.

Working for main contractor Cardy Construction, Grassform’s team were faced with building across a varied terrain, using their skills in landscaping to make use of natural materials and topography. The fact that within the Capability Brown areas minimal excavations and drainage were allowed (due to its historical significance) meant for some interesting shaping of banks and levels to increase the visual aspect while still providing suitable falls for water flow. The addition of wild flowering mixes around parts of the course gave a natural landscape feel to areas of the site that were previously barren land.

Identifying the needs of a course will ultimately depend on its location and type. A parkland course will benefit from multiple tree and shrub varieties to offer colour differences throughout the year, whereas a links course may utilise resources such as rocks or sand dunes to provide a more interesting aspect. The same can be said of heathland courses, where gorse can be used not only as the division between each hole, but



also as a nasty trap for the wayward ball, often providing interesting extraction techniques from frustrated golfers.

Although not always in the remit of the landscape contractor, exciting use of groundcover plants and shrubs can provide testing lies and angles of approach. If these resources are already in place, then a reduced environmental cost of introducing these can be achieved. Of course, design of a course should usually include this diversity where possible as it aids in the feeling that the golf course has always been there and is part of a natural landscape, when of course it is not and is there as a leisure facility.

The term landscaping does not just relate to “soft” aspects such as plants and soil. Hard landscaping is also a key ingredient to the feel of a course, and this can include areas such as tarmac, buildings or wooden structures such as steps or retaining walls. Building such hard landscape structures not only adds to the feel but also provides shelter and access near greens, fairways and paths.

The use of buggies can be a major concern for many courses come the winter months, when the condition of the ground often deteriorates to such an extent that these along with powered or even conventional trolley use is banned. Not only does this limit the potential use of the course for those who cannot haul a bag or trolley around,

but it is also irksome for members who often pay high membership fees for their golf.

Coombe Hill Golf Club experienced this problem. The undulating course had an existing soil base buggy path system but heavy rain had caused many parts to be washed away, resulting in a ban on buggy use. The club turned to Grassform to completely renew their path system by installing



a tarmac layout with a small stone top to ensure all round usage would be possible. The end result weaves between trees and follows the fairways as much as possible, allowing golfers as close to their shot but still providing a pleasing drive around the course between each stroke.

Lakes and ponds are other interesting aspects of any golf course. Courses featuring water are not only more risky to play given the penalty stroke that they attract, but they add to the natural

aspect of any course and offer potential for water storage and harvesting.

Indeed, the subject of water harvesting in golf courses is one that is sure to rear its head more with future designs given increasing water costs and the fear of global warming. It makes sense to fashion lakes and ponds that can store water for irrigation rather than pay for mains or the building of a massive out of sight storage reservoir. Utilising natural shapes in the course is the ideal way to create these storage areas, and when combined with drainage outfalls then this can lead to a good source of usable water. Being sustainable, this system will reduce costs and is something that Mark is keen to promote.

“Being green conscious is something that we are enthusiastic about and by implementing schemes such as water harvesting this will allow golf courses to be more self sufficient and sustainable.

We also tend to try and use materials from a renewable source where possible, reducing our impact within the construction phase of the build,” explained Mark.

Grassform Ltd specialise in the creation of golf courses, sportsfields and landscapes.

**Email: sales AT grassform.co.uk
Tel: 01277 355500.**

**Dunsteads Farm, Trueloves Lane,
Ingatstone, Essex, CM4 0NJ**

The Bigga Training & Development Manual, sponsored by John Deere, is an invaluable tool for everyone working within the greenkeeping industry.



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3. Enter your login details and select the BIGGA Training & Development Manual from the left hand menu.
4. The Training Manual will load and the user can click on Enter the Site to view a welcome video or can select 1-9 or 10-18 on the top menu bar.
5. You can progress through the manual hole by hole or go straight to the hole you wish to view. You can also skip to holes 10-18.
6. When you select a hole you will be presented with a window that explains what that hole is about. You can then select from the bottom tabs, video or sub-text (downloadable documents and links).
7. When clicking on a downloadable document it will automatically open in your default word processor. This can then be amended, updated and saved to your computer's hard disk or printed and filed in your personnel files.





GREENKEEPER TRAINING

BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins by selecting a training provider

that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

Sami Collins

Head of Learning & Development
British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Tel: 01347 833800

Email: sami@bigga.co.uk

Website: www.bigga.org.uk

SCOTLAND

ELMWOOD COLLEGE

Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB

Contact: Sam Letham

Tel: 01334 658842 **Fax:** 01334 658888

Email: sletham@elmwood.ac.uk

Web: www.elmwood.ac.uk



Information: Full Time National Certificate Greenkeeping; Block Release. SVQ Level II and III Block Release and Workbased options available. SVQ IV ILM Management, HNC & HND Golf Course Management available as Full time and Online Distance Learning. Golf Course Environmental Studies, Construction and Design Management Online Learning Courses. HNC & HND Golf Facility Management. PDA for Football, Cricket Management. SVQ Level II & III Landbased Service Engineers and Golf Course Mechanics Course. BTLIA Irrigation Management Block Course Various times throughout the year. FEPA and COSHH Health & Safety Courses Available. Chainsaw, tree climbing and Rescue Techniques.

LANGSIDE COLLEGE

Rutherglen Campus,
Buchanan Drive,
Rutherglen,
Glasgow, G73 3PF



Contact: William O'Neil

Tel: 0141 272 3823

Email: woneil@langside.ac.uk

Information: SVQ, SGA, HNC, HND. Full time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Pesticides.

GOSTA TRAINING LTD

50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB

Contact: Chris Bothwell

Tel: 0141 556 3999 **Fax:** 0141 556 4999

Email: learn@gostatraining.co.uk



Information: SVQ II, III and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Sportsturf including other options and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day release from November - March. Distance Learning also available. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abrasive Wheels, Full Range of Machinery Courses, Manual Handling and Fire Extinguisher training. Consultancy service for Health and Safety Policy development, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment.

OATRIDGE COLLEGE

Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn,
West Lothian, EH52 6NH



Contact: Steve Miller

Tel: 01506 864800 **Fax:** 01506 853373

Email: info@oatridge.ac.uk

Web: www.oatridge.ac.uk

Information: Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping: SVQ Level II and GTC Manual (Day and Block Release); SVQ Level 3 Sportsturf & SVQ Level 3 Fast Track (Day and Block Release) SVQ Level III in Service Engineering, full range of Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects at HND and HNC, National Certificate and SVQ Levels; Short Course - FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, First Aid.

WALES

PENCOED

Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff, CF35 5LG



Contact: John Sullivan
Tel: 01656 302671
Email: jsullivan@bridgend.ac.uk
Web: www.bridgend.ac.uk

Information: Courses offered at Pencoed include N.V.Q. Levels 2 & 3 Sports turf, National and Advanced National Certificates, NPTC and Lantra short courses and certification in a range of land based areas including Pesticide Application; PA1, PA2 and PA6. Tractor driving, hedge laying and dry stonewalling etc.

ENGLAND

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR



Contact: Central Admissions
Tel: 01904 772211
Email: enquires@askham-bryan.ac.uk
Web: www.askham-bryan.ac.uk

Information: First Diploma and National Diploma in Horticulture. Foundation & Extended Foundation Degrees in Horticulture, Landscape and Garden Management or Arboriculture. All available full or part-time. Block release courses: NVQ Levels 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.

**TRAINING PROVIDERS/
COURSES GUIDE**



A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC.

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk

BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR



Contact: Deborah Smirfitt
Tel: Freephone 0800 0711 666
Fax: 01628 824695
Email: enquiries@bca.ac.uk **Web:** www.bca.ac.uk

Information: Located in the heart of the Thames Valley, BCA has excellent resources for horticultural based training. Programmes include the First Diploma, National Certificate and National Diploma in Horticulture, plus Higher National Certificate and Foundation Degree programmes. Part-time programmes include the NVQ Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf. A wide transport network is provided as well as residential accommodation on-site.

**SPORTS TURF
Courses**



Picture shows Sports Turf Students on a visit to the Brit Oval - home to the Surrey County Cricket Club

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With the Olympic Games coming to London in 2012, well trained and highly skilled staff to manage sports turf and golf courses has become significantly greater in the past few years. Our nationally recognised course provides the practical and professional training necessary for those wishing to find work in this industry or, if they are already working in the sector would like a career progression through enhanced qualifications.

We are currently recruiting students for our one year part time course starting in September 2008.

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Popes Lane, Acton W3 8LQ

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 or our Student Registry on **08456 122 122**
www.capel.ac.uk/gunnersburypark



**BRIDGWATER COLLEGE CANNINGTON
CENTRE FOR LAND-BASED STUDIES**

Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS



Contact: George Pitts
Tel: 01278 441234 **Fax:** 01278 444363
Email: pittsg@bridgwater.ac.uk
Web: www.bridgwater.ac.uk

Information: National Certificate in Horticulture (Sportsturf), Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (Sports Turf), Certificate of Higher Education in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Golf Course Management, NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf, NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf, FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics. Note: The Certificate of Higher Education and the Foundation Degree are available as part-time options.

HADLOW COLLEGE

Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL



Contact: Mike Dodd
Tel: 01732 850551
Email: enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk
Website: www.hadlow.ac.uk

Information: NVQ's, Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning courses available in Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf), Amenity Horticulture (Landscape) and Production Horticulture. We also offer a range of short courses for example, Health and Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw use, Welding and Pesticide Applications. Additionally, full and part-time courses at different levels in Horticulture and a variety of other land-based subjects are available.

ENGLAND

MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE

Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE.

Contact: Learner Services
Tel: 01483 884040

Email: mwinfo@guildford.ac.uk **Web:** www.guildford.ac.uk

Information: Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, New Level 2 Sportsturf in conjunction with IOG / NPTC, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf on-line distance learning, Level 3 National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years, HND day release 1 extra year plus a Top-up BSc Degree for HND graduates part-time over 2 years, Foundation Degree in Sports Turf Science (subject to validation) plus various NPTC short courses including Irrigation Certificate Course, Turf Maintenance Equipment and Operation of Mowers throughout the year. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice. Open evenings are held regularly at the Campus.



PLUMPTON COLLEGE

Ditchling Road, Plumpton,
Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE

Contact: David Blackmur
Tel: 01273 890454 **Fax:** 01273 890071

Email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk **Web:** www.plumpton.ac.uk
Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE).



Information: Foundation degree in Horticulture and Garden Design, National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture.

Part time courses: NVQ Level 1. NVQ Level 2 in Landscaping, Decorative and Sportsturf, NVQ Level 3: Sportsturf. NVQ level 4. Also RHS Certificate and RHS Advanced; IOG National Technical and Intermediate National Diploma. Short courses available: FEPA spraying and chainsaw. Bespoke training following training needs analysis, (TNA).

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE

Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY

Contact: Stewart Brown
Tel: 01995 642305 **Web:** www.myerscough.ac.uk



Information: Myerscough College is a leading centre for Sportsturf education and training in Europe and has excellent facilities supported by industry. These include a golf course, winter games pitches, an artificial grass pitch, and extensive library, workshop and laboratory resources. Specialist machinery and equipment is used throughout the curriculum to support the development of student learning and understanding of the practical, technical and scientific aspects of their chosen course and career. Courses are available for all levels from National Certificate to an Honours Degree in Turfgrass Science. Courses are available for full-time attendance, part-time or on Online basis. Our FdSc Sportsturf and BSc Turfgrass Science courses are uniquely available ONLINE and have students enrolled throughout the UK, Europe and the American continent. Our Work based Training group offer NVQ's in the workplace from levels 2-4.

REASEHEATH COLLEGE

Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF

Contact: Gareth Phillips or Chard Spicer
Tel: 01270 613236 **Fax:** 01270 625665

Email: enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk **Web:** www.reaseheath.ac.uk



Information: Foundation Degree and Higher National Certificate in Golf and Sports Turf Management; National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture with Sports Turf; NVQ levels 2 & 3 in Sports Turf; Apprenticeships; NPTC Qualifications.

On-site facilities include a commercially operating golf course, football and rugby pitches, Crewe Alexandra training grounds

OAKLANDS COLLEGE

St Albans Smallford Campus,
Hatfield Road, St Albans,
Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA

Contact: Andrew Wight
Tel: 01727 737080
Email: andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk
Web: www.oaklands.ac.uk



Information: Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. HNC in Sportsturf. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping, Apprenticeship Training. Short NPTC Courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw.

WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE

Moreton Morrell Centre,
Warwick CV35 9BL

Contact: Pat Foster
Tel: 01926 318347 **Fax:** 01926 318300
Email: pfoster@warkscol.ac.uk



Information: Greenkeeping courses include: Foundation Degree Sports Turf Management (2 yrs full-time, 3 yrs part-time), NVQ Level 2 & 3 day release and work-based options, NPTC level 2 National Certificate Sports & Amenity Turf Management (1 yr full-time, 2 years part-time). A full list of horticulture, landscape design, arboriculture and floristry courses available at all levels. Short Courses include: Chainsaw Operation and Maintenance, Pesticide Application, Fences/Wooden Structures, Landscape Design, Tractor Driving, Hedgelaying and more. Warwickshire College also offer a range of land-based courses, areas include: Animal Welfare, Equine and Agriculture.

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE: BECOME A MEMBER OF BIGGA

Visit the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk and select "Join" from the menu or contact the Membership team on 01347 833800 option 1.

BIGGA Membership is about maximising resources for the benefit of members and ensuring that Golf Clubs recognise the importance and benefits of education within the profession.

WRITTLE COLLEGE

Chelmsford, Essex CMI 3RR

Tel: 01245 424200
Fax: 01245 420456
Email: info@writtle.ac.uk **Minicom:** 01245 424254
Web: www.writtle.ac.uk **Typetalk/TextDirect:** 18001 01245 424200



Information: BSc (Hons) Horticulture, FdSc Horticulture, BSc (Hons) Green Space Management FdSc Green Space Management, BSc (Hons) Social and Therapeutic Horticulture FdSc Social and Therapeutic Horticulture, FdSc Professional Floristry Professional Floristry Top-up Year to BSc (Hons) Certificate of Continuing Education Horticulture Higher Certificate in Horticulture

BIGGA MEMBERSHIP

Greenkeeping can offer you a career for life and a lifetime of learning



Student Membership of BIGGA (for those studying full-time)

Greenkeeping is a rewarding and challenging career choice for all ages and abilities from school leavers to those considering a career change, let BIGGA help you develop your career as a greenkeeper by becoming a Student Member.

Membership of BIGGA will provide you with: -

Greenkeeper International

The Association's much read magazine packed with up to the minute information and features providing you with valuable research and perhaps even helping you with your assignments. Delivered FREE to you door monthly.

Membership Handbook

Providing you with an extensive guide to the products and services relating to the fine turf industry and the contact details of the major companies supplying those products and services. The Handbook also includes a comprehensive greenkeeper membership section.

Harrogate Week



Entry to a world class trade event. The Trade Exhibition has over 200 exhibitors and 8,500 visitors. There can be no better place to 'Continue to Learn' than taking part in the education programme. Students will find much that will demand their attention including seminars of specific interest. On production of your Student membership card you can attend the seminars FREE of charge. Not to mention the fantastic networking opportunities available throughout the whole of this week, another valuable way of learning...from those already in the industry.

On Course Field Guides

To aid with your study further, Student members are entitled to receive a FREE copy of each of the field guides available in the series. Produced in a handy to use and read format. Thanks to the contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund there are five in the series: -

- Golf Course Grasses;
- Identification and uses of the main grasses found in golf course rough;
- Identification of trees and shrubs on the golf course;
- Identification of damage caused by mammals and birds;
- The major diseases and pests of fine turf.

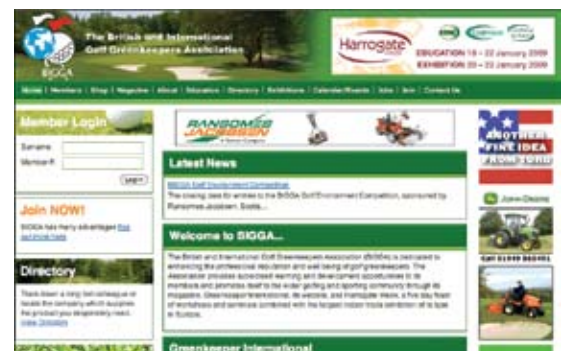
BIGGA Lending Library

Can't find the book you require in your local library or College Resource Centre? Why not check our library listing to see if the BIGGA lending library stocks the title for which you are looking? The lending library is available to all BIGGA members, allowing them to borrow up to two books for up six weeks, the only cost is return postage.

BIGGA Website

Check out the latest Jobs online by visiting www.bigga.org.uk

Application Form - for an application form either download a form from the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk/join/membership-forms/ or contact the membership team on 01347 833800 option 1 for membership.

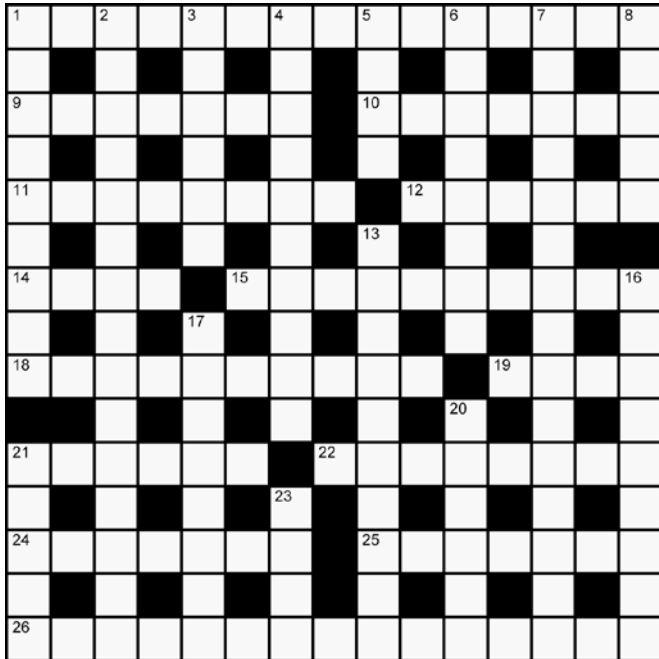




In the Shed

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

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 1953 Pulitzer Prize winner for *The Old Man and the Sea* (6,9)
- 9 1980 Winter Olympics figure skating gold medal winner (7)
Type of rope knot that uses friction (7)
- 11 Individually specified in a list (8)
- 12 Advantage, gain (6)
- 14 Shaft on which wheel rotates (4)
- 15 Lemon-scented oil often used to repel insects (10)
- 18 Discovers, confirms (10)
- 19 Type of cabbage; type of pastry (4)
- 21 Proper word for "Quaker" (6)
- 22 Pertaining to ancient Greek and Roman cultures (8)
- 24 Female fire-breathing monster of Greek myth (7)
- 25 Occurring at the beginning (7)
- 26 Nickname of *Oliver Twist* character Jack Dawkins (3,6,6)

Down

- 1 Type of Mexican tortilla dish (9)
- 2 Type of French cooking that relies on light sauces (8,7)
- 3 Liveliness; heart (6)
- 4 Excessively emotional (10)
- 5 To be gloomily apathetic (4)
- 6 Elementary particle which has no charge or mass (8)
- 7 Unrealistic hope about something which will not happen (7,8)
- 8 Cruising or racing vessel (5)
- 13 TV programme based on a school in Northam (6,4)
- 16 Fondly indulgent (9)
- 17 Magnificence (8)
- 20 Person with unpigmented eyes, skin and hair (6)

QUICK 'NINE-HOLE' QUIZ

1. With which famous horse race is the name of Red Rum associated?
2. Where were the first Winter Olympics held in 1924?
3. In football, which Brazilian was known as 'The Little Bird'?
4. Which bird gives Newcastle their nickname?
5. Who partnered Michael Schumacher at Ferrari in 1997?
6. Which West Ham player received FIFA's 'Fair Play Award for 2001'?
7. In sport, what would you be playing if you were using a shuttlecock?
8. With which sport was John Fashanu associated?
9. In football, who were the first team to win the Jules Rimet Trophy twice?

MONSTER SUDOKU

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

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | C | | | B | 6 | 3 | 8 | 5 | | |
| | | 7 | 4 | | 1 | | A | F | | |
| D | | A | | 5 | 0 | 7 | E | 4 | | |
| 0 | F | | | | D | 4 | 2 | | 1 | 8 |
| | 2 | 0 | | 3 | | F | A | | D | |
| 7 | | A | | 0 | F | 3 | 6 | | 9 | 2 |
| 1 | | 3 | | | 9 | B | C | | | E |
| | D | | 7 | 4 | E | 2 | | | 6 | A |
| 5 | | 4 | | | F | B | 2 | 1 | | D |
| | | 2 | | | 6 | 8 | A | | 7 | F |
| 6 | | | C | B | 7 | 9 | 0 | | 5 | 8 |
| B | | 8 | | 5 | 2 | | E | | A | 1 |
| C | D | B | | 6 | 7 | A | | | | 9 |
| | | 4 | 5 | | C | 8 | B | | E | 6 |
| | | 9 | 2 | | D | | | F | 7 | |
| | | 2 | B | 1 | 4 | 0 | | | F | D |

SUDOKU

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

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

ANSWERS ON PAGE 58



IN THE SHED



THE APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE

Scott MacCallum travelled to Syngenta's Research base in Switzerland to witness just what it takes to produce some of the products greenkeepers now have at their disposal



Many people take their chances on the lottery each week, all hoping for that life changing moment when the six drawn numbers match their chosen six, but at Syngenta, BIGGA's latest Golden Key Supporter, the research teams battle daily against lottery-sized odds to produce products which will enhance the working practices of the world's greenkeepers.

Sound a bit of an exaggeration? Well, each product which makes it to the shelves has been whittled down from 250,000 hopefuls to one or possibly two which go on to become a fully fledged member of Syngenta's product range.

"Whenever we have a big breakthrough we celebrate," explained Eva Haensel, Syngenta's Professional Products Turf Team Leader, based at the company's Research Station in Stein, in northern Switzerland, of occasions which perhaps only occur seven or eight times a year.

Syngenta has a large administrative Headquarters in Basel, but it is at Stein, around 20 miles away, where the exciting work is carried out. A vast complex, it contains laboratories covering chemistry and biology,

a vast acreage of greenhouses, specially conceived chambers which replicate different climates, not to mention breeding stations for laboratory pests and diseases so miniaturised testing can take place on site. The level of expertise drawn from all over the world working at Stein is such that a call of "Is there a Doctor in the house?" would be met by a veritable stampede such is the number of people with "PhD" after their name.

But the word stampede and Syngenta certainly don't go together. The overwhelming feeling is one of calm efficiency and a raised voice would only be likely to be heard if fire were to sweep the complex. A simple example of this quiet, understated organisation came while sitting in one of the conference rooms early in the afternoon while chatting with Simon Elsworth, Head of Professional Products for UK and Ireland, when the blinds quietly tilted and then lifted, letting sunshine into the room. The building doesn't have energy sapping air conditioning units but temperature is controlled automatically by the tilting and lifting of the blinds, thus providing the optimum temperature.

But it is what is going on in the laboratories that is really eye popping and a closer look at the process to becoming a product brings home just what it takes to producing the products the existence of which many customer might be forgiven for taking for granted.

Most of the 250,000 active ingredients which start the long arduous process of becoming the next Primo Maxx, Heritage, Banner Maxx or Daconil fall at the first hurdle following an assessment, with just 15,000 making it to the next stage. Then profiling, much more vicious than anything Simon Cowell produces, brings that figure down to a mere 30 hopefuls before, hopefully, a winner is finally identified.

Oh, and this whole process, involving Chemistry, Biology, Toxicology and Environmental Safety, can

take 10 years. And then there is only a limited amount of time when the product is licensed to maximise profit from it.

"And when it is all complete we've got to be sure that the product is going to make an impact as unless it is a market leader, or close to market leadership we wouldn't make a return on the investment," explained Simon.

It is when you see this whole process laid out before you that you can appreciate the investment that a company needs to put into any new product which is lucky enough to reach the market place. And this is all the more impressive when you delve further into each stage of the process.

The initial "Discovery" stage actually takes place in the UK, at Jealot's Hill, near Reading, where chemicals are tested to see if they contain properties which might ultimately prove valuable.

Millions of tests are carried out each year to give the best chance of uncovering something new. "Toxicology" takes place at Alderly Park, near Macclesfield, while "Optimisation" – where those active ingredients which showed potential are investigated further to reveal practical benefits which takes place in Stein.

Project teams work tirelessly on developing something from the active ingredients, with many more being eliminated at this stage than moving forward as a development candidate. Using cutting edge techniques the chemists aim to modify the structure of chemicals in order to bring about improvements in their biological, physical and environmental properties which will then lead to new or improved products.

In many cases special bespoke equipment and state-of-the-art robotics has to be developed at significant cost to ensure experiments are as accurate as possible, while the environment in which the work is carried out needs to be devoid





of any possible contamination which would distort findings.

They also have to breed their own bugs and diseases – Anthracnose, Pythium Blight, Brown Patch, Dollar Spot, Tall All Patch, Fusarium Patch and Gray Leaf Spot - so that chemicals can be tested on them.

At the Research Station in Stein there is a unit of around 30 chambers in which different climates from around the world can be replicated to ensure that it isn't just the northern Swiss conditions that are experienced. But tests are also carried out in the field all over the world to ensure that the results of theoretical testing at the research stations are replicated under field conditions.

Looking at what goes on and the added dimension offered by the equipment now available it is fair to ask how it was done in the old days.

"The level of testing that is carried out now wasn't possible before but the the equipment we have enables us to exceed what the increasingly rigorous regulations expected of us" said Dr Shoumo Mitra , Global Technical Manager for turf, who is based in Basel.

Once a potential product has been identified another set of hurdles lies in wait in the shape of the registration procedures are then undertaken with various tests in various parts of the country to ensure that nothing could be harmful to the environment – flora or fauna. A product must pass all of these tests, and do so in each country in which it is to be sold, before being licensed, and becoming available to the market.

"In total it costs around \$100,000,000 to achieve a registration for an active ingredient in Europe and that is before the costs of developing and registering the formulated products after which we only have the time available on the license to make that money back," explained Simon.

"The tougher the regulations are and the higher the bar is set the happier we are because that will penalise the less ethical companies," he added.

It's a massive operation and all geared to ensuring that Syngenta have the best chance of ensuring the most effective product reaches the market

place and gives customers the best ammunition for the problems they face.

In its current guise, Syngenta is a young company having been formed in the year 2000 but its origins can be traced back 250 years when JR Geigy Ltd began producing chemicals and dyes in Basel and some of its pre-Syngenta identities will be extremely well known to greenkeepers everywhere.

A succession of mergers, name changes and acquisitions led to what had been originally Geigy becoming Novartis which in 2000 merged with Astra Zeneca, which had been Zeneca and before that ICI, to become Syngenta.

One of the company's greatest successes has been Primo Maxx which is increasingly becoming an (essential or 'must have') tool for Course Managers.

"The product works on so many levels to make good turf great; turf quality improved with a Primo programme enhances the playing surface, turf stays looking greener and healthier during periods of stress and, with stronger plants and deeper rooting, makes more efficient use of increasingly costly irrigation and fertiliser. Course managers also appreciate the cost and labour saving benefits of Primo reducing mowing requirements." The reduction in cutting also has knock-on benefits to fuel use and the environment," explained Simon, adding that Syngenta is proud to be a sponsor of BIGGA's Golf Environment Competition.

Clubs which typically spend up to 40 man hours a week mowing fairways through the growing season can find that time halved following a Primo Maxx programme while it can result in over £4000 a year being saved from fuel, maintenance and repair bills.

But it's not just on chemical product that Syngenta offer support to its customers, the company

prides itself on a holistic approach, with technical newsletters and a fine website for customers and the weather forecasting service, Green Cast.

"Green Cast gives a full weather forecasting service for a golf club but more than that gives a risk forecast for disease from 'No Risk' through 'Some Risk', 'Medium Risk', 'Medium/High Risk' to 'High Risk' and this gives Course Managers the opportunity to carry out some pro-active turf disease control. Timing trials at the STRI show it can improve results and reduce the number of applications required to achieve both excellent disease control and turf quality."

A useful section of the Green Cast service can be accessed via the Homepage of the BIGGA website while the full service is available from Syngenta.

Looking forward to what may be in store from Syngenta Simon is sure that there will be some innovative and exciting new products set to his the market place in the years ahead.

"We are investing in developing a wide range of new technologies and will be launching new products and services over the next few years, always aiming to produce the highest levels of quality and performance," he revealed

In keeping with the company's strong environmental ethic Syngenta will continue to work closely with the STRI's Environmental Unit on the development of products and management techniques to prepare and maintain areas for conservation purposes, showing that good environmental stewardship and a controls company can work hand in hand.



New Products



NEW PRODUCTS



NEW COMPACT TRACTOR

Massey Ferguson has revised its 1500 Series compact tractor range with the introduction of the MF 1529M, a 28hp three-cylinder model with an eight forward, eight reverse Synchro-Shuttle transmission giving forward speeds from 2.3 - 27km/h.

Replacing the MF 1528 in the 1500 Series line-up, the new model joins the 32hp MF 1532M launched by the company at Harrogate Week 2008.

i www.masseyferguson.com



FUEL TANK SYSTEM OVERCOMES SAFETY FEARS

Storing or moving petrol or diesel, for small vehicles, or uses like generators or mowers is not always easy. Filling cans and carrying them in cars or vans is not a safe procedure and can invalidate insurance cover. The new Tuffa Petrol Buggy 200 litre steel bunded and fireproofed tank meets this problem. Transportable and easy to handle, the new tank is UN approved and can fit on to a pickup or other truck for site or other movements.

i 08707 567700
www.tuffa.co.uk

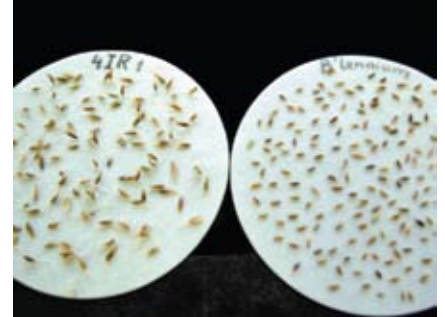


ORGANIC NUTRITIONAL ALGINATE RANGE

Sherriff Amenity have launched SeaVolution, a new organic nutritional algininate range, produced from the seaweed *Ascophyllum nodosum*, which is sourced from the unpolluted bays along the North West coast of Ireland.

There are four products in the Sea Volution range: SeaVolution Golf; SeaVolution Golf Plus; SeaVolution Sport and SeaVolution Sport Plus.

i 01638 721888
www.sherriffamenity.com



SAVING YOUR SURFACES

Brand new from Barenbrug is BAR 50 SOS, a unique ryegrass blend that's ideal for groundsmen and greenkeepers seeking a rapid solution to their turf repair needs.

i 01359 272000
www.barenbrug.co.uk



EFFICIENT YET SAFE ON YOUNG TURF

Cabadex, Headland's new selective herbicide, brings effective control of difficult weeds to both established and young turf.

Combined leaf and root uptake of the active ingredients Florasulam and Fluroxypyr, means that the product can be efficient and safe even on turf at, or after the second leaf stage, approximately eight weeks after sowing.

i 01223 597834
www.headlandamenity.com

INNOVATIVE NEW MARKING SYSTEM

With the introduction of the EasyMark System, Standard Golf Company brings ease and flexibility to placing a flagstick virtually anywhere on a golf course.

The system includes a Tap-In Flagstick Anchor and a 3" spotter ring which allows flagsticks to be placed virtually anywhere in a matter of seconds. The EasyMark System is especially useful for driving ranges and temporary greens, where flagsticks may be changed often in a variety of circumstances.

i 1-866-743-9773
www.standardgolf.com

NEW BOOKLET HELPS IRRIGATORS

The Environment Agency has published a guide for farmers, golf course managers and others who are considering building a storage reservoir for irrigation.

Careful planning when building a reservoir can reduce costs and maximise benefits.

The booklet provides a guide through the various stages from planning, design, construction through to commissioning. It includes case studies, information on costs and funding and incorporating environmental enhancements. This booklet can help make the process easier.

i 08708 506506
www.environment-agency.gov.uk



TRACK LOADER

New from Terex is the PT-30. The most compact Rubber Track Loader in the Terex range it gives a single person the productivity of an entire crew of hand labour. It has the manoeuvrability to work in confined or difficult-to-reach areas and very low ground pressure so it works over sensitive areas with minimal impact.

i www.terex.com



NEW LOOK MODELS

All new automotive styling and EPS (Electronic Power Steering) are among the changes Kawasaki has made to its new Mule 4010 Diesel 4x4 and four-seater Mule 4010 Trans 4x4 Diesel utility vehicles for the coming year. Retaining the proven liquid-cooled 953cc three-cylinder diesel engine and continuously variable transmission (CVT) of the existing Mule 3010 series, the new Mule 4010 offers enhanced operator comfort and increased on-board stowage space.

i www.kawasaki.co.uk

NEW TRACTORS FROM KUBOTA

Kubota has introduced the new M40 Series of next generation tractors – spanning 60 to 95hp – which succeeds the ME Series.

Re-engineered, restyled and powered by Kubota's Tier III compliant, low emission direct injection diesel engines, the lightweight, short-wheelbase M40 tractors will appeal to groundscape professionals and offer a choice of four Horsepower variants (60, 70, 85 & 95) with factory fitted cabs.

The tractors combine high power to weight ratio, a range of new features and class leading manoeuvrability. The simplicity of the M40 Series further enhances its appeal with Kubota successfully incorporating new innovations without compromising on ease of use.

All models feature Kubota's latest Tier III compliant, 4 cylinder E-CDIS (centre direct injection system) engines, with the two larger models – M8540 and M9540 – being turbo charged. Excellent fuel economy, and minimised noise and vibration levels, is matched with a 110 Litre capacity fuel tank many hours of work without refuelling.

The M40 Series is equipped with a Hydraulic Shuttle for smooth, progressive take up of the drive, and responsive, clutchless directional changes, ideal for front loader work in particular. With a 36F/36R speed range incorporating Dual Speed* – a half gear splitter also featured on the Kubota's larger M108S 108hp machine – changes on the move are quick and simple. They have a maximum speed of 40kph and Creep Speed is standard on all models.

i 0800 023 1111
www.kubota.co.uk



PNEUMATIC SEED DRILL

Rolawn has developed what it believes to be the most advanced pneumatic seed drill in the UK.

Designed and built in house by our experienced fabrication team, it drills at 9 metres wide and has three 3 metre independent seed drill units and a hopper that holds nearly 2 tonnes of seed enabling it to drill up to 100 acres per day.

i www.rolawn.co.uk or: www.topsoil.co.uk





News from the Chief Executive

July and the golf season is already half over, or so it seems to me. Because of injury I have not struck a ball in anger since January 3 and my wife is now wondering why I loyally paid my subscription earlier in the year. I too am calculating how many rounds I will need to get in before the end of the year to justify to her a renewal in 2009. The reality is that I will not be able, or allowed, to play the number of games now needed to bring the average cost per round down to an acceptable level. The more I talk to friends and other golfers and the more I communicate with other bodies within golf the more I realise that I am not alone.

The halcyon days of demand exceeding supply are over and will not return in my opinion. The golfer now has greater choice of venue, equipment, but less time to play and certainly an increasing demand on his financial resources. It is estimated that less than one in three golfers now pays a subscription, the preferred option being to adopt a 'Pay and Play' approach. Does that impact upon BIGGA? Yes, and in a big way.

We are all well aware of the financial constraints that many clubs are facing as they vie for members and visitors. The greenkeeping staff are all too often expected to produce better and better results with a budget that is at best, frozen. Greenkeepers become pressurised, stressed, disillusioned or perhaps in conflict with their employer and in extreme cases face legitimate, or fabricated, redundancy. The Association, which is after all your Association, is working with the other bodies in golf to resolve friction and wherever possible address issues before conflict arises. It is also in the process of putting in place a more effective and better publicised welfare and benevolent support system and I encourage any member who would be prepared to offer help to contact either myself or Tracey Maddison (Head of Membership Services at HQ). Our details are in the front of Greenkeeper International.

As less money changes hands in our part of the golf industry so companies spend less with BIGGA on advertising or the exhibition - an old chestnut that is not getting any better. None of us are exempt from the change in golf but the trick is to learn to adapt and develop wherever possible, in being prepared to take advantage of educational opportunities to develop one's ability to manage change and accept that change is inevitable. Greenkeepers often seem to be the sole victims of the changing face of golf but I assure you that they are not alone. Many golf club secretaries and managers are suffering the same pressures and gone is the day of it being a cushy second career, that's if it ever was in the first place!

Training and education is available through BIGGA and if you don't see what you want then contact your Section Secretary, your Regional Administrator or BIGGA HQ. Please view education as a lifelong experience and be proactive rather than reactive. We can help from basic literacy or numeric skills to perhaps higher education. There are grants and scholarships available and there is money in the industry sponsored BIGGA Learning and Development Fund but you, the member, need to take action.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive



SCOTTISH REGION - CENTRAL

As I sit and write this at the beginning of June, the weather appears to have taken a turn for the better and the growth looks to have arrived. How much longer before we hear the cries from our members "Aren't you going to cut that rough down!" Strange how they always want the rough cut but when it's gorse bushes or trees you cut back they hate it.

I'm sure everyone is busy at this time of year with the competition season in full swing but we have just had a hectic weekend in the St Andrews area with the Scottish Police Championships on the Devlin Course at St Andrews Fairmont Hotel, The Scottish Stroke Play Championships at the Dukes, a local Club's Championship qualifier on the New Course, an Open on the Jubilee Course and the Curtis Cup on the Old Course which attracted 4,000 spectators trampling over the Links.

Elmwood have just opened their full course after the alterations made there and the Castle Course opened on June 28. Now it is Fairmont's turn with the Torrance course closed for the rest of this year as it gets a complete revamp.

The Autumn Outing will be held at Dunblane New Golf Club on Thursday, September 4, when we have the tee from 1pm until 3pm. Entry forms will be emailed to those whose email address we have and they will be available to download from the website: www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Alternatively, if anyone requires an entry form sent to them by post, please contact the Secretary. By not doing a standard mailshot the Section will be saving close to £100.

Gordon Moir



EAST

I start this month's report with the news that Ian Kinley currently working at The Glen Golf Club in North Berwick has been appointed Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl in Wales. He commenced his career at Royal Birkdale working under the guidance of Chris Whittle, before moving to The Old Course at St Andrews and then to Lahinch as Deputy in 2002. In June 2004 he was appointed Head Man at The Glen where he has made many improvements during the past four years.

On taking up his new position on July 14, he will have achieved a quadruple by working in all four home countries. I am sure everybody in the section will join me in wishing him every success in the future.

The big event in The Borders in May was held at The Macdonald Cardrona Hotel with the marriage of Jane Anderson from Innerleithen to Robert Hogarth the former Head Man at Cardrona who is now at Remedy Oaks in Dorset. Many well known faces from the world of Greenkeeping were in attendance and included Ian Macleod from Tain, Paul Murphy from Downfield and the current Course Manager at Cardrona Donald Campbell.

Around the Green

At the time of writing the happy couple are spending their honeymoon in Mexico. N.B. I understand from a good source that football was not a topic for discussion during the day!

The new Head Greenkeeper at Kingsfield Golf Centre near Linlithgow is Lee Fraser who has worked previously at both Linlithgow and Aberdour Golf Clubs under the guidance of David Roy and Mark Laing respectively. On the move to Kingsfield as First Assistant is former Toro Student Finalist, Barrie Lewis who is currently employed as an assistant at Ratho Park. There is currently major improvements being carried out at Kingsfield with a new 9 hole course under construction.

On a personal note, I now realise that the old saying "lady's are better at multi tasking than men" is probably true, if my recent efforts of gardening, cooking and housekeeping are anything to go by. Yes you've guessed, Roz is on holiday yet again!

Until Next Month

Mike Dooner



NORTH

Hi guys, hope you are all well. We are now getting into the full swing of the season and trying to keep the other 100's of greenkeepers at your respective clubs happy - namely the members. The weather has been great for the most part of May, very little rain in fact, what was I speaking about just a couple of months ago. What snow?

We, down at Murcar Links, are already starting to hand water certain areas of the course - I don't think we're the only ones.

There are a few snippets of news this month ranging from babies being born, to people getting themselves a new job, to the greenkeepers getting beaten in the annual trades' competition.

Firstly congratulations are winging their way to young Davie Merchant, from Murcar Links, and his fiancée Stacey, on the safe arrival of little, Aiden. Next she'll be wanting to name a date mate. Don't do it! I hear his regular trips to the local have come to an abrupt end. Just think of all the nappies that money will buy. Congratulations go to Alistair Mathieson on his success in becoming the new Course Manager at Cruden Bay. Alistair has moved down from Royal Dornoch, nearer to the big city and I hope that people will make him feel welcome.

What happened to the greenkeepers teams in the Trades' Competition at Hazelhead? Greenkeepers made it through to the third round where they were soundly baton, sorry, beaten by the police. I think George must have been too busy thinking about all the five minute jobs he was preparing for the next day. Sadly two greenkeepers were beaten in the first round. Thanks lads as it has been a while since we have been able to put in two teams, so well done.

That's all for this month. If you have any news call me on: 07813889374.

Ben Brookes



NORTHERN REGION - NORTH EAST

Well what can we write about this month. I know what, I wonder how many golf clubs are spending lots of money on their course this year as we hear that golf clubs are all suffering with no waiting lists. Everyone seems to be trying to give the best deal for membership discounts here, there and everywhere but they still seem to find money for inside the club but one club here in the Section seem to be on the right track, Boldon Golf Club.

This year they have purchased quite a bit of new John Deere machinery. Not resting on their laurels they installed a full new irrigation system and furthermore they are investing in a verti-drain in October - now there's a club with ambition. I wish more clubs would do what Boldon have done, I hear it all the time they have no money but they still manage to find it somewhere and guess where its spent? You've guessed it, it's the clubhouse.

Rockcliffe Hall new staff appointments for the course are as follows: Pete Newton, previously at the Brabazon at the Belfry, is Head Greenkeeper; Jon Wyre, previously Forest of Arden, is First Assistant; both Gerry Glancy and James Bell, both who had worked at Slaley, and finally Adam McFarlane, fresh from doing HNC at Elmwood College, are all classed as Senior Greenkeepers. If anyone fancies working there they are still looking for one trainee this year.

Anyone who is looking forward to the John Deere Team Championship, this year hosted by Greenlay again, it will be played at Close House Golf and Country Club on July 17 - no doubt you will be notified in due course.

While I'm talking about this golf club if you have read Aprils issue of Golf North East you will notice that Course Manager Brian Clark had mentioned in the greenkeeper's diary column, laying 80 tonnes of tarmac on 13 new pathways - just think of all the manpower saved no weeding, no topping up and best of all nothing been washed away - my god somebody has got it right at last.

Jimmy Richardson



NORTH WEST

After a recent committee meeting it was decided that I would take over as North West Secretary. The job is very daunting but if I can do half as well as Bert did then I will be pleased. If you need any help or advice please contact me on: 0151 2894625 or you can email me at: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

By the time you read these notes The Open will be a few weeks away. Good luck to everyone at Birkdale, I am sure it will be a great Open and everyone will be praising the course and recognising all the hard work that goes into making The Open, in my opinion, the best golf tournament in the world.

Around the Green

Our next fixture in the Section is the Autumn Tournament which takes place at Davenport GC on September 4. Don't forget to put your name down as early as possible. I have recently spoke to Stuart Bridge who is making slow but good progress and he is hoping to come along to one of the fixtures and meet up with friends and colleagues.

Well that's all for now, if you have any news please don't hesitate to contact me.

Chris Sheehan



NORTHERN

As some of you will already know, former Northern Section Chairman, Andy Slingsby, has quit greenkeeping and resigned his position on the committee. Andy and his family have taken over as landlords of the Winterburn pub in Warley, on the outskirts of Halifax. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Andy and his family all the very best in their new careers, and thank him for all the hard work he has done for the Section.

April 30 was the date for this year's first golf day, and it was held at Filey Golf Club. A massive thank you and congratulations must go to Andy and his team, and everyone at Filey for producing such a fantastic course. The weather conditions in the run up to the day were horrendous, and the course was a credit to the hard work put in. Congratulations also to all the winners on the day, and a huge thank you to Sheriff Amenity for their sponsorship.

This year's match against the Sheffield Section will be held at Otley Golf Club on Wednesday, July 23. If anybody would like to play in the match and represent the Section then please get in touch as soon as possible.

I will finish off this month with a quick reminder that the 2008 Invitation Day will be held at Shipley Beckfoot Golf Club on Thursday, August 21 with the first tee off time at 1.30pm.

If anybody has any news they would like putting in the Section notes, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Adam Speight
Tel: 01274 638366
Mobile: 07739 319060



SHEFFIELD

On July 12 we held our Spring Tournament at Coxmoor Golf Club. I would like to thank the club for giving us courtesy of their course - it is much appreciated by us all. Thanks go to: Kevin Atherton for the excellent condition that Coxmoor was in, well done to Kevin and all his staff; Seymour Harris, from Pro Turf, for sponsoring the prize table - your continued support of the Section is very much appreciated, and last but not least to the catering staff who provided

us with a fantastic carvery which was enjoyed by us all!

The day was a fantastic day and there was some very good golf played on a great course which we had not played for over 14 years!

At the end of the days golf the eventual winner was Andy Unwin with 39pts well done Andy. Results: 1. A. Unwin, 39pts; 2. S. Currie, 37pts bb9; 3. S. Brown. 37pts.

Our next event is our Summer Tournament which is to be held at Grange Park Golf Club on July 7, after that, it will be us versus the Northern Section at Otley Golf Club on July 23.

I must also thank Peter Fell, from Aitkens, for producing the Section fixture list.

John Lax



NORTH WALES

July. Hopefully long hot days and warm balmy nights (hopefully!).

To start off with we have to thank Llanymynech Golf Club for their great hospitality, gorgeous course and lovely food at the Spring Tournament, their efforts where very much appreciated by all 53 players on the day.

The results are best gross Paul Roberts (with the aid of the A.A.), of Baron Hill, 70; 1. Andy Peel, Bull Bay GC, 39pts, also 70 gross; 2. Iwan Pugh, Eaton, GC, 36 pts; 3. Steve Roberts, Flint GC; 4. Johnny Evans, Carden Park; 5. Matt Lewis, Llanymynech GC.

Andy Peel and Paul Roberts, also as a result of their efforts, qualify for the BIGGA National Championship at East Sussex GC on October 8 this year, best of luck - I'm sure you'll do us proud!

On the day of the Spring Tournament a sand iron was found on the 17th hole. Anyone who lost it contact Andy Peel.

On June 10, the North Wales/North West took place at The Vale of Llangollen GC - full write up next month.

I know any greenkeepers from our Section who made it on to the Support Team for The Open at Royal Birkdale, will prove how professional and conscientious North Welsh greenkeepers are.

I'm sure you will all want to wish the family of Bert Cross our deepest sympathies after he passed away earlier this year.

I was asked to send sympathies for Derek Simpson, who worked for Fletcher Stewart, who also passed on earlier this year.

All the best until next month

Pete Maybury
Johnny Evans



MIDLAND REGION - EAST MIDLANDS

Just to remind everybody that this year's Summer Tournament takes place at Mickleover Golf Club, Derby, on Thursday, July 24. If you have not received an entry form please contact myself, Dan Rodgers.

Dan Rodgers, Secretary
07745227224
Shirland Golf Club
01773 834935
www.shirlandgolfclub.co.uk



MIDLAND

The annual BIGGA Midland Section's Match against the President's Team at Handsworth Golf Club was played on a lovely warm spring day – Tuesday, May 13. The teams this year have been reduced to 16 players/8 teams per side, and for once the Greenkeepers came out victorious winning five games to three.

As always the President's team were a joy to play and magnanimous in defeat. Congratulations to the 16 greenkeepers who took part and represented the Midland Section so admirably, as always. Thank you also to John Hughes and his team for the condition of the course during the busy spring growth period. By God, you can hear the grass growing!

For a number of years our old mate, Dave Gibbons, has served on committee and indeed represented the Section at regional level. However, due to a young family and work commitments, Dave has decided to step down from committee. I'm sure that you all shall join the committee in thanking him for his fine efforts while on committee. Cheers Rocky, and all the best mate.

I daren't ask Richard Beacham how many photos he has received for 2009's calendar! Come on now, get clicking, it's a lovely calendar; imagine the kudos and brownie points you will get from your Club if it is featured in such. Please send your photos to: rich71@btconnect.com This month's calendar page is kindly sponsored by our old friends Burrows Grass Machinery, our thanks to them.

And finally...thanks Billy for the picture, made me laugh mate. Imagine that on the calendar?

We all wish Andy Lane and Trevor Ward of Olton Golf Club speedy recoveries from their recent misfortunes. I'm sure you will both be back raking bunkers very soon. Something to look forward to!

Details of the forthcoming Pesticides Update Course and the latest Irrigation Masterclass Workshop are now available on the website.

For further details visit: www.biggamidlandsection.com or contact Paul Woodham on: 07880 734197 or: paul@ghgc.org.uk

Cheers until next month folks

Sean (the bard) McDade



EAST OF ENGLAND

Hello all.

Reading this will herald the arrival of July, half way through the year already. Where does it all go! July tends to be the busiest month with Club Championships, Captain's Days and Invitation Days all gracing the calendar.

Be careful what you wish for!

I began last month's column by saying hopefully everyone is out in the sunshine cutting grass. However it has been raining now all day and still doesn't look like stopping!

Last month I also wrote of the problems April brought with constant rainfall, someone must have listened because for the first three weeks of May we had a whole 2mm of rain. It dried the course out fantastically, however it went too far and began to dry out everything too much. This always leads to that fun time of year when the irrigation pumps and system have to hit the ground running. It doesn't matter how much you have checked the system and the pump beforehand there is no real way you can test eight hours of constant working. Last year my pump died on me, this year it decided to blow all its electrics, leaving me without water just when it was needed the most. Déjà vu!

However, spare a thought for Rob Welford, of Cleethorpes GC, who lost his entire irrigation control panel meaning he could not water automatically. Call it dedication or madness, but he decided the best way to go was to spend the entire night out on the golf course watering manually. Leaving a green on to water for half an hour he decided to visit Tesco at 4am, apparently it's an interesting experience.

If anyone else would like to share their early season problems with everyone else then let me know.

Our second golf day of the year was held at Burghley Park, on May 20. Family commitments again prevented my attendance, however a good turnout of nearly 30 players enjoyed fantastic greens and the best fairways some people had ever encountered.

The results were as follows: 1. Bruce Hicks, 39pts; 2. Brian Robinson, 36pts; 3. Graham MacDonald, 32pts; 4. Adi Kitchenon, 32pts; 5. Rob Welford, 31pts; Trade winner, Gary Cooper, 35pts; Nearest the Pin, Gavin Merrison; Longest Drive, Alan Walker (somehow!).

Many thanks go to the Burghley Park greenstaff for the condition of the



Around the Green

course, the bar and catering staff for looking after us so well and to Dave Smith, and Mansfield Sands, for sponsoring the day.

All the results and the latest Order of Merit standings can be found on our website.

Our next golf day is at Gainsborough on Tuesday, July 8, tee off is at 1pm and we are playing the Lakes course. Remember to arrive early for coffee and bacon rolls.

For any more information about this event or any others then contact Rob Welford at Cleethorpes GC.

www.eastofenglandbigga.com
steveimminham@aol.com

Many thanks

Steve Beverly



MID ANGLIA

The Spring Tournament was held at Bedfordshire Golf Club, on June 4, and was also the Qualifier for the National Championship to be held at the East Sussex National in October.

The weather did its best to put a dampener on the occasion and 18mm of rain overnight and 11mm the night before, along with heavy rain the previous week, had threatened to flood the greenkeepers sheds again. The clubhouse had been flooded the previous week and that is at the top of the hill! John and his team had had to move machinery out of the sheds in the middle of the night on several occasions, once at 3am, as a precautionary measure as the sheds are prone to flooding. Fortunately, if that is the right word, the water was only lapping at the shed doors this time.

A huge thank you to Bedfordshire Golf Club for hosting the event in such adverse conditions and an equally huge thank you to John and his team for their fantastic dedication to the job for even getting the course open, going far beyond what anybody could reasonably expect. Let's all hope the weather behaves and things can get back to normal. Thanks also to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day and to all the other trade members for their continued support.

1. Chris Garnett, Beds and County GC, 40 pts, also Longest Drive; 2. (on count back) M. Wood, Berkhamsted GC, 37 pts and also Nearest the Pin; 3. Steve Mason, Stocks GC, 37pts (on count back) and finally Clive Parnell scored 32pts to take the Trade Prize. First and second places go through to East Sussex National, good luck chaps. Clive, you're stopping at home.

Although it is some while ago now, congratulations to Mark Day and Geoff Fenn for running the London Marathon. Mark completed the course in 5hrs 57mins and raised over £1500 for his chosen charity Sense. Geoff finished in 3hrs 46mins and raised £1125 for the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home. Well done chaps, fantastic effort.

Welcome back to Matt Towler who rejoins the Section after a few years

away at Trent Park. Matt has taken over from James Camfield at Letchworth who in turn succeeds Jim Cassidy at Ashridge, good luck to you both in your new roles.

And finally, by the time you read this the US Open will have come and gone and focus will be on The Open, but here is a little teaser for you. The Head Greenkeeper at which golf club in the Section went on to win the US Open Championship and finish as runner up the following year? Well, you have to go back quite a way in the history books, as far as 1895, to Horace Rawlins who was once employed as both Professional and Head Greenkeeper at Mid-Herts Golf Club. After immigrating to the USA, Rawlins accepted a position as assistant professional at Newport Country Club, Rhode Island which hosted the inaugural US Open in 1895. Playing in just his third tournament, Rawlins was one of 11 participants invited to play and beat, among others, Willie Dunn by 2 strokes over 36 holes. If you're ever at Mid-Herts, there is a plaque on the Greenkeepers sheds commemorating his achievement.

Craig Spooner
craig.spooner@advanta-seeds.co.uk



SOUTH EAST REGION - SURREY

Friday, June 6. The rain has stopped and the weekend forecast has promised warm and dry so hopefully the Derby runners will not get wet. My tip is New Approach, so make sure you all have a few quid on it.

Looking over my many acres of garden, with the manor house behind me, I write next month's little epilogue with a contented heart knowing that the £5 worth of petrol in my car is just enough to get to the local pub. I'll walk home, then back in the morning with a full 5ltr can of distilled water and pray that what happened two millennia ago when water turned to wine, in my case, will be water into petroleum spirit. If not, it's the bicycle for me and goodbye to the combustion engine forever.

Mike Kirkham has much to be praised for as West Surrey Golf Club, the venue for the National Qualifier, was in magnificent condition and as always a pleasure to play. My playing partners, Tony Bremer and Adie Locke, for whom I have always had a deep regard, were rubbish and the least said about our ball the better.

Best Gross: 1. Kevin Boxall; 2. Jason Hunt; 3. Greta Ogilvie. Best Nett: 1. Darren Woodward; 2. Eddy Oliver. Nearest the Pin: James Lowe. Longest Drive: Tony Brennan.

Surrey Section will host a Health and Safety day at Foxhills Golf Club on October 27. Other Sections are invited together with club officials. For further details contact Mystic Meg or Ron Christie.

Congratulations to Anna Farley who gave birth to her daughter, Freya Lif, 7lbs 7ozs on April 17. Darren Farley, Deputy at the RAC Golf Club, wants his wife to know that he will move back as soon as Freya starts school.

Also wandering what has hit him is John Budd, Course Manager at Effingham



GC, for his wife, Helen, presented him with his firstborn, a son, Samuel Jack, 6lbs 7ozs on April 13, coincidentally the birth date of my eldest daughter. I've heard rumours that Samuel Jack has already packed his belongings into a large spotted handkerchief and will leave home if his dad persists in grinning madly at him and making burbling noises with his fingers and lips.

I must now confess to a severe attack of memory fatigue for I have been unable to remember who is the father of James Owen, the 9lb 1oz son of Jemma, born on March 15. Daddy please let me know who you are so that I can make amends next month and give little James his father back.

And so to football, sponsored by John Shaw Machinery, played at East Grinstead Sports Ground and featuring some 25-a-side teams from the South East area, who played in wet conditions on May 28. I fear I was not present so the following report is from a player I seconded and after much editing to remove very slanderous and highly contentious remarks "Ronaldo", my reporter's non de plume's communiqué, is as follows.

The tournaments favourite, the team with the very loud player/manager/coach did not even get past the group stages. Although the young Liphook team had much enthusiasm it was not matched by their durability for the most the Addington Palace keeper had to do was chat to Dave Murdoch, the afore mentioned player/manager/coach, who was on the bench that first game having put out his strongest team. Hard luck Liphook for coming up against a team of very older but wiser players.

Hindhead, another strong team, were beaten in the semi final but it was Addington Palace against Sunningdale in the final. Congratulations to Sunningdale for holding out for a 0-0 draw at full time but to the Addington Palace player who missed his penalty and lost the game, is a months strimming not a just reward? Well done Sunningdale.

John Humphries is retiring from Shanks Mowers of Thornton Heath, and he was only 81 in April.

Brian Willmott
Brian.willmott@hotmail



KENT

At last some sunshine to bless our courses! And the ubiquitous smart comment from a member telling us about how great it must be to be a greenkeeper as we're always out in the sunshine. He's obviously forgotten about the horrendous conditions we have had to contend with until very recently yet still produced a fine course for him and his ilk.

The warmer weather has certainly brought the golfers back out at Birchwood and, judging by their gleaming armoury in gleaming new bags, many of them have used the money they saved by not playing golf in the poor weather to invest in the latest clubs and accessories to improve their games. Golfers sure are suckers for new gear!

We've all been there though, buying new irons, drivers, putters and god knows what else thinking it will make us into something approaching semi-pro standard only for us to play half a dozen poor holes before the realisation

kicks in that the problem wasn't with the head of the club but, rather, what stands at the other end of it!

Who cares! As long as the company's right and the weather is half decent then surely the game itself is a mere bit part player in the full enjoyment of a few hours spent with friends admiring the skills of our colleagues in the great English countryside.

It's not a bad old life after all!

Congratulations to my old mate Dan Waghorn, from The London Club, and his far better half, Kimberley, on the birth of their first child at the start of June. At least you'll have a decent excuse for being late for work now mate!

The next event in your Kent Section year is the trip to Canterbury Golf Club on the July 10 (as shown on our calendar). Entry forms are available on the website as is all up to date information and past results.

Enjoy the summer while it lasts guys.

Best of British

Rob Holland



ESSEX

Things are moving fast and furious at the moment and grass leads the way, though it's quickly followed by the events in the Section.

Our spring event has past and by the time you read this so will the summer event. Entry forms are available for download from the website, it helps if you would print this off in the future, then let us know, so we can remove you from the mailing list. I feel this is the most economical way of sending out the entry forms. The rising cost of postage and the time and manpower to get them sent out, make forever-increasing pressure on the modern day Course Manager.

Upminster did us proud! The welcome on arrival, the course and the evening meal were all memorable. Dougie (Fernie) and his team had worked hard to get the course into pristine condition and then the heavens opened. I can just imagine what Dougie was saying and feeling early that morning. The course stood up to it well though and to be fair it was more a continued heavy drizzle than a full onslaught. All those that played in the damp conditions enjoyed their day's golf. The meal in the evening was a delight and although I missed it, reports of the evening were that it rounded the day with a flourish.

Thanks to all the trade who put prizes on the raffle table, and to this year's joint sponsors of the Section. Our thanks also go to the members, committee and staff of Upminster Golf Club, for the use of their course. To the reception we received from all and to Dougie and his team for arranging a really good test of golf.

Results of our first event of the season, Spring Stableford at Upminster Golf Club: Overall: Richard Linin, 38pts, Upminster Golf Club; 1.1 Adam Millward, Orsett Golf Club, 35pts; 2.1 Daniel Hughes, Forrester Park Golf & TC, 35pts; 3.1 Roland Hughes, Forrester Park Golf & TC, 34pts; 1.2 Dougie Fernie, Upminster

Around the Green

Golf Club, 34pts; 2.2 Ben Scrivener, Benton Hall Golf Club, 32pts; 3.2 Sam Cook, Colchester Golf Club, 30pts; Guest: Kevin Royan, 39pts; Trade: Mark Keysell, Rigby Taylor Ltd, 36pts; Longest Drive: Mark Keysell, Rigby Taylor; Nearest the Pin: Simon Barber, Benton Hall Golf Club. 43 played.

Long standing Essex member Alan Sharp, has spent the last two and a half years working on the wilds of the Scottish coastline at Open qualifying course, Scotsraig.

He now returns to Essex to take on the role of Course Manager at The Club Company's, Benton Hall Golf Club.

Course Manager at Chigwell Golf Club some years ago before spending a short period of time abroad, he returned to the UK and took up the position of Course Manager at Scotsraig. But now he has made his return to Essex. Alan will head a team of greenkeepers who have been at the club for a number of years. The Essex Section, wish him well in his new position and hopefully we will see him back at our golf days in the near future, after he has settled into his new position.

Banks Amenity Products Director, Simon Banks, along with his wife, Caroline, have just announced a new arrival to the family. Baby, Thomas, was born on Tuesday, May 6; he joins his sister in the Banks household. Well done, Caroline with a little help from Simon.

The second new arrival in the Essex Section is a second daughter to Richard (Tonto) Lewis, Blade Amenity, and his partner, Alex. Grace was born on Tuesday, May 20 weighing in at 6lbs 13ozs. She joins her sister, Honey, in the Lewis house. Well done, Alex.

It appears the only greenkeeper from our Section to join the BMW support team at Wentworth, was Andy Cracknell, Orsett GC. Well done Andy for your continued support of the event.

Details and links to all our sponsors can be found on the website along with links to other interesting sites, up to date information and other interesting things.

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer www.essexbigga.co.uk
essesbigga@talktalk.net 07764862337



SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION **- SOUTH WEST**

Writing this after yet another wild and wet May Bank Holiday Weekend with play and revenues well down. I was in for the "Dawn Chorus" on the Monday - a shotgun-start off 18 tees at 6.30am. Lovely - I did enjoy the 4.30am start to get the course ready. At least it hadn't started raining at that point, but it soon made up for it with gale force winds to boot.

Back at home - a nice breakfast was followed by an enjoyable but all too brief re-acquaintance with my bed before being summarily dragged off to look for hanging baskets at local garden centres. At one point, we were held up in a giant queue - which turned out to be spectators for the local "Cheese-

rolling" event. We found out later that 3000 people had turned out in the pouring rain - many walking several miles to spectate as around 60 madmen hurled themselves down Coopers Hill, just outside Gloucester, in pursuit of the cheeses. The local TV replays showed that cheese rollers can generally be considered complete lunatics, given the right circumstances, with some 19 competitors carted off to hospital on spinal boards. Several competitors and spectators had come from as far a field as Brazil, and incredibly, Japan. Some people will do anything for a slice of Double-Gloucester.

At Minch - we've "got the builders in". An ancient tin clad asbestos-roofed barn is being demolished to make way for a brand new storage facility for dry top-dressing, sand, chemicals, and machinery. To be as environmentally responsible as possible we set up metal recycling, asbestos sheets to go intact to a specialist contractor, concrete blocks to be crushed into ballast, and a little soil and old fertiliser into a large top-soil and compost stack. However, no sooner than we'd started knocking it down with a huge slew (how do they unerringly find the telephone cable with the first bucket?) than a member of the public pitched up on the nearby footpath and started berating anyone who'd listen. "That's a scandal" he screamed - "that barn's perfectly good, and you're just wantonly destroying it". Before anyone could answer he raved on - "you could've offered that to a poor Welsh farmer". By now the lads were sniggering in the background and he stormed off towards the clubhouse determined to cause trouble. As I looked up at the colander-like golf-ball holed asbestos roof, the rusting stanchions, and the dented tin cladding, I couldn't help musing that if many of these were inflicted on the Principality, most of the population would quickly decide that complete Devolution from the lousy English probably wasn't such a bad idea after all.

News from Cannington College;

Newly appointed trainer/assessor, Jake Waites, with 15 years experience in the greenkeeping sector at Goodwood Park, St. Pierre and the Celtic Manor, is now available to offer training in the workplace. This work based training and assessment will allow candidates to achieve NVQ awards with virtually no time away from the workplace and at a time scale to suit both them and the employer. While traditional methods of training (day release) are still available at Cannington, this new scheme may better suit the needs of some greenkeepers and their employers. The college continues to offer NVQ level 3 and full and part time courses at FE and HE level. Government funding is available for most awards especially NVQ level 2 which may be free to the employer through the "Train to Gain" initiative. So if you're an employee or an employer who has no previous NVQ qualification aged 18-64, contact Steve Hasell or Jake at Cannington on 01278 655144 as you may be eligible for a nationally recognised qualification at minimal cost.

Recently, I bumped into an old friend of mine - Trevor Hint - who was Captain at a nearby local golf club last year. He was telling me about how he put a lot of thought into his Captain's Day, and how he wanted to do something "a little different" during the evening party. Well he certainly managed that all right. Having a reputation of something of a hot-head - he came up with the brilliant idea of club-throwing competitions. To start with it was nearest the pin - into a soft bank, and that went well. Then came the longest throw. This started off in good humour, but rapidly developed into an alcohol and testosterone-fuelled war. Eventually, adopting the style made famous by female Russian Hammer-throwers and the like, and straining so hard that he nearly ground all the enamel off his teeth, Trev completely miss-timed the point of release, with the result that the club unexpectedly flew off at left angles and cart-wheeled end-over-end down a row of parked cars in the nearby car park. It broke four windscreens, and did £500's worth



of damage to the bonnet of a Mercedes before coming to rest. Nice idea Trev – talk your way out of that one! Oddly enough – the Merc was written off in the floods a few days later, so no one ever charged him for repairs. I suppose it's an ill wind.

Finally, there have been one or two thefts of red diesel in our area recently. This fuel which has always been traditionally cheap is now so expensive that it is highly attractive to criminals. At a club near to us, a four-wheel drive was actually used to push over a boundary stone wall to gain access to the course. It was reported to be fitted with a large tank in the rear probably with its' own electric pump. Diesel tanks are traditionally poorly protected with only flimsy locks. It's time to revise security. You have been warned!

Paul Worster
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paulw@mgcnew.co.uk



SOUTH COAST

As I put these words together, the weather is glorious and England has just beaten New Zealand in the Test Match at Trent Bridge. Happy days! By the time you read this who knows what the weather will be like and the consistence of the England Cricket Team - anyway on to imminent fixtures. The Summer Tournament will be held at Burley Golf Club on Thursday, July 10. If you've not booked already please contact our Tournament Organiser Kevan Glass at the following address: Apartment 1, Forge Side Court, Lepe Road, Langley, Southampton SO45 1SS mobile: 07859 053054 or email: glassy2003@hotmail.com.

The annual match between our Section and the Wessex Secretaries was held at Brockenhurst Golf Club on Wednesday, June 4. A very enjoyable day was had by all. The result was a 3:2 for the Secretaries. Congratulations to their Team. This year's match was the 12th year and the Secretaries win means it is now six wins for each team. To add to this excitement there is one engraved position left on the cup so one would think the winner of next year's match will keep the silverware. Many thanks to the sponsors, Course Care, and a huge thank you to the courtesy of Brockenhurst GC. The course was in excellent condition and we would like to thank Ed McCabe and his Team for the presentation and preparation of the Golf Course. Well done all!

Chris Bitten and I have been doing a bit of work in the background on the educational seminar for next year and things are going well. It goes without saying that if you have any ideas for subjects or speakers for future seminars or any news or information for Around The Green, especially with exam results for students etc coming up in the summer, then please let me know on the number below.

Ok that's that for this month. I'm now off to watch the football (not Big Brother). See you soon or speak to you next month.

Joe Crawley
Mobile: 0781 684 9942
Email: joe.crawley@vitax.co.uk

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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

THANK YOU

I attended Wentworth for the BMW PGA Championship, as a volunteer, via BIGGA, for the four days.

The first two days I was on standby for bad weather, and then on Saturday and Sunday I followed play, raking bunkers where necessary.

I am not a golfer, and in my day to day job do not have the time to observe the game. Attending Wentworth, following world-class players around the course, gave me a real opportunity to observe and appreciate the game for the first time.

The Wentworth West Course is always used for Championships as it is the most challenging. The course is very mature and undulating in places, with plenty of interest, and I felt privileged to be able to be there.

I found everyone I came into contact with very friendly, and helpful.

I would like to thank Clive Osgood for making my four days there possible, and wish the other greenkeepers I met all the best for the future, in particular Fred Deaman, for pointing me in the right direction.

Also thanks to Pike Hills GC for giving me the time off to attend Wentworth.

George Jones
Greenkeeper
Pike Hills GC
York

LEUKAEMIA CHARITY DAY

May 18 saw the Leukaemia Classic held at Rhuddlan Golf Club. The charity day competition saw 43 teams of 4 playing stableford, with the best two scores being recorded. A greenkeeping team entered the competition kindly sponsored by Major Owen Ltd. The inside knowledge of the course proved to be no help to the team recording a feeble 68pts - the winning score of 87pts taking the honours on a most enjoyable day.

Over £10,000 was taken on the day with further donations and raffle takings to be added. Rhuddlan Golf Club would like to thank Major Owen Ltd, Jason Moody of Seoul Nassau, Gerald of Farmura and Dave Austin of Rigby Taylor for their generosity.

Many thanks
John Morris
Course Manager
Rhuddlan Golf Club

Greenkeeping team from left to right, Jonathan Pritchard, Miles Johnson - Rhuddlan GC, Darren Anderson MG - Abergele GC, John Morris - Rhuddlan GC.



BMW SUPPORT TEAM WENTWORTH 2008

A team of volunteer Greenkeepers were on hand at The Wentworth Club for the BMW PGA Championship held at the end of May.

A small team were on stand-by duty on the Thursday and Friday of the event in case of bad weather. Fortunately the weather was kind on these two days and the monsoon threat predicted for the Saturday, and particularly for Sunday, did not materialise.

A full contingent of over 40 volunteers were available for the last two days of the Championship for what turned out to be routine bunker duties, although some were armed with squeegees just in case!

Welcome guests this year included Past Chairman, Billy McMillan and Vice Chairman, Peter Todd both enjoying the day's golf and hospitality.

Chris Kennedy and his team of Greenstaff presented the West Course as a great test of golf for the large early season field of contenders of this prestigious event.

The winner of this year's event was Miguel Angel Jimenez who beat Oliver

Wilson on the second extra hole of a sudden-death play-off after tying on 11 under par 277 in the regulation 72 holes.

Clive Osgood
S E Regional Administrator





Please email your letters to Scott MacCallum, scott@bigga.co.uk
 or Melissa Jones, melissa@bigga.co.uk
 or post to: BIGGA House, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York YO61 1UF

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

We recently bought a Kubota Utility vehicle for general greenkeeping duties at my home course of Eaglescliffe Golf Club.

Through the supplier – Lloyds – it was registered to go on the public roads necessary in order to maintain boundaries and distribute goods and equipment to different parts of the course etc, via any one of four different access points.

No problems were experienced relating to the registration - apart from one thing – it came back as “Private/Light Goods” or “PLG”. Thinking this was an over-sight I took all of the relevant paperwork down to our local DVLA office.

The assistant checked everything through but said she would need to confirm the change was OK. After some time she came back saying she had consulted the DVLA “hotline” and the information received said that golf course use was not considered agricultural. I asked why this was the case as the vehicle is fairly specialised and does not even have an enclosed cab. I asked why the use was different to say a dairy farmer who was maintaining grass; she said we are not classed as an agricultural producer. I informed her we already have two tractors which I have just re-taxed that have been on an agricultural classification for over ten years! She was unable to answer on this point, but advised me to contact DVLA in Swansea direct.

If the argument is that a tangible agri-product has to be produced, then vehicles associated with country parks and stately homes cannot tax vehicles as agricultural and I would question the bulk of the Forestry Commission’s fleet.

If maintaining hedges with a cutter attached to a vehicle is not agricultural then farmers are breaking the law, however if this is part of an agricultural spectrum of use then golf clubs surely qualify?

The official DVLA website states:
 “Vehicles used solely for the purpose of agriculture, horticulture and forestry are exempt from vehicle tax...”

So why do golf course vehicles not fall in to one of these categories?

Course work can fall into all three!

The DVLA site continues: Agricultural machines - The following vehicles can be taxed in the ‘agricultural machine’ tax class:

Agricultural tractor

A tractor used on the public roads only for purposes:

- relating to agriculture, horticulture, forestry
- activities falling within cutting verges bordering public roads
- cutting hedges or trees bordering public roads or bordering verges which border public roads

Off road tractor

A tractor which isn’t an agricultural tractor which is:

- designed and constructed mainly for use off road more than on roads
- is not capable due to its construction of going over a speed limit of 25 miles per hour on the level under its own power

Agricultural engine

A machine specially designed or permanently converted to perform an agricultural operation on the land (e.g. a combine harvester).

Light agricultural vehicle

A vehicle which:

- has a weight not exceeding 1,000kg
- is designed and constructed so as to seat only the driver
- is designed and constructed primarily for use other than on roads
- is used only for the purposes relating to agriculture, horticulture or forestry

Agricultural lift and loading vehicle

A vehicle which is:

- designed for off road use
- designed to lift and load
- and used only in agriculture, horticulture or forestry

There is no mention of golf courses being exempt from agricultural classification, infact it can be seen that virtually all golf clubs will own a machine which falls within it.

There is an odd point in the above regarding “Light Agricultural Machines” this stipulates “is designed and constructed so as to seat only the driver.” This is potentially a very unsafe situation given the nature of the activities undertaken by these machines. In an age when using a mobile phone while driving is considered unsafe are we really condoning the use of a hedge cutter at head height while driving a vehicle along a public highway or worse along the edge of a footpath?

Clearly this should not be the case and for safety reasons a second person should accompany the driver or was this overlooked? God forbid anyone should jump to the conclusion that the DVLA employee draughting the regulations did not know what he or she was talking about!

Golf has always been classed as a country pursuit and is closely linked to the maintenance of hedges, trees and scientific sites crucial to our indigenous wildlife. When these areas are on the periphery access has to be possible allowing machinery and operators to do their job. In the overall scheme of things this could be as infrequent as several times a year nevertheless there could be an impact on safety if work is not carried out in terms of highway visibility or fire risk.

There seems to be a lack of common sense on this issue, as the vehicles involved are all agricultural machines, doing agricultural duties and are on private land for 99.9% of the time.

If golf clubs are forced to re-tax their vehicles for the small amount of time they are on the road they will incur a big increase in their costs and I will predict they will not do it. Local councils will find they will need to contract out work which was formerly done by golf clubs on their boundaries.

We are supposed to be conserving fuel and working efficiently, when does the DVLA plan to start?

Information:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/OwningAVehicle/TaxationClasses

Brian G Ramsden
Green Committee Chairman
Eaglescliffe Golf Club



In the Shed

ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

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ANSWERS:

1. Grand National
2. Chamonix (Pronounced Sham-On-Knee), France
3. Garrincha (Real name Manoel Dos Santos Francisco)
4. Magpie
5. Eddie Irvine
6. Paulo Di Canio
7. Badminton
8. Soccer
9. Italy

MONSTER SUDOKO

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SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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| | | 2 | B | 1 | 4 | 0 | | | F | D | | | | |



Whats your Number?

Name: Ian Howard
Company: Dennis
Position: Managing Director



How long have you been in the industry?
 "Since 1986."

How did you get into it?
 "I was invited to join the family engineering business by my father. He had acquired Dennis from the administrators in 1981 and had moved it all up to our engineering works at Derby."

What other jobs have you done?
 "I graduated in Mining Engineering in 1981 from Camborne School of Mines and then went out to South Africa for three years working at Western Deep Levels Gold Mine as a graduate trainee. Working 10,000 feet underground in 50 degree heat and 100% humidity was a great experience I wouldn't have missed for the world."

What do you like about your current job?
 "Challenges, seeing the products on TV, the results and the great group of people in the industry."

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?
 "Lots of comings and goings. In 1986 we at Dennis were the new boys on the block. Since then so many manufacturing companies and dealers have been sold, taken over or closed down - the people remain in the groundscare business just in different seats. Engineering in the UK is a real challenge and the need to invest is huge. British Engineering is now on a much better footing and I am confident it has a strong future."

What do you like to do in your spare time?
 "Julia, my wife and I have a stock farm about five miles from work and keep around 400 sheep and meat goats. That keeps us pretty busy. I love dinghy sailing with my two kids, walking, cycling and the odd glass of good wine with good food. Holidays - we love exploring new places - our favourite is Namibia."

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?
 "I hope retired to the farm taking things a bit easier and having more holidays."

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?
 "This is a very friendly business. You get to meet all sorts in groundscare, customers, dealers and of course all of the other manufacturers. The Dennis workforce has a great team spirit. The shows such as BTME, Saltex and Scotsturf are great meeting places for everyone."

What do you consider to be your lucky number?
 "1."

Pick a number
 "Number 1."
Ian has picked Bernard Hedley from Rigby Taylor

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Last year's winning picture of The Duke's Course, Woburn taken by Michael Cunningham

SNAP HAPPY!

BIGGA's Golf Photography Competition is back

CALLING ALL BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Are you proud of your course? Do you catch yourself admiring it in a certain light?

The BIGGA Golf Photography Competition, back for its third year, creates an opportunity for greenkeepers to display their artistic flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.

The winner will receive a full course profile in Greenkeeper International, a trophy and a special prize, while the 12 best pictures will be selected for the 2009 BIGGA Calendar.

Photographs will be accepted in three forms. Prints (nine inch by seven inch), transparencies, or digitally (pictures MUST be at least 300 dpi and capable of being blown up to nine inches by seven inches in size).

Anyone wishing to enter should send their pictures to:
Scott MacCallum or Melissa Jones, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York, YO61 1UF by July 31, 2008.

Alternatively you can email them to scott@bigga.co.uk or melissa@bigga.co.uk

Entries will be judged by Alan Birch, whose inspiration the competition has been; Professional Golf Course Photographer, Eric Hepworth, Golf Photographer, Matthew Harris and Scott MacCallum, Editor of Greenkeeper International.

Only BIGGA members are eligible to enter.

So come on...strike a pose!



Second prize went to Marek Zubert last year for this picture of Mount Juliet, County Kilkenny



Chris Sherrington took third place last year with his shot of Sunningdale Old

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Head Greenkeeper

As the result of the promotion of our Head Greenkeeper to the role of Golf Course Manager through Troon Golf, we're now looking for a new expert to join our prestigious, award-winning Golf Resort, working alongside Troon Golf, the largest golf management company in the world.

You must be passionate about delivering the highest presentation standards to exceed guest expectations all year round. Highly motivated, inspirational and professional, you're an experienced people manager with passion as well as the ability to bring out the best in a team.

In recognition of your ability, we offer an excellent salary and benefits package, including childcare facilities as well as opportunities for professional development. If you are ready to rise to the challenge, please visit our [website www.thegrove.co.uk](http://www.thegrove.co.uk) or email recruitment@thegrove.co.uk for more information.

A Head Greenkeeper or Deputy Course Manager already, your experience is underpinned by qualifications in green keeping/sports turf management, in addition to relevant spraying certificates.

Your working life to date has given you expertise in fine turf maintenance practices including sand-based construction and Penn A4 Greens, modern irrigation systems, maintenance and water management, fertilisers and pesticides. You have a keen eye for detail, as well as a thorough understanding of Health & Safety.

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RECRUITMENT

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GREENKEEPER

We are currently looking for a Qualified Greenkeeper, a highly motivated person that will work well within our team of professionals.

Having your spraying PA1, 2 & 6 would be an advantage.

With this position we offer a good salary, and use of facilities.

TRAINEE GREENKEEPER

We are also looking for a Trainee Greenkeeper, a highly motivated person that will work well within our team of professionals.

With this position we offer a good salary, and use of facilities.

For full details on our benefits package and more information about Foxhills, visit our website at www.foxhills.co.uk

If you are interested in further details,
please email personnel@foxhills.co.uk or call 01932 704453
Ottershaw, Surrey, KT16 0EL



DUNBAR GOLF CLUB

VACANCIES FOR

QUALIFIED AND

TRAINEE GREENS STAFF

Dunbar Golf Club is an Open Championship Qualifying venue and we are currently recruiting a qualified and a trainee greenkeeper.

Located in East Lothian, Scotland, Dunbar is a traditional links golf course and experience in this type of course would be desirable but not essential.

Applications for both positions should be made in writing to:

**The Club Manager, Dunbar Golf Club, East Links,
DUNBAR EH42 1LL**



EAST HERTS GOLF CLUB

Buntingford, Herts
requires an

Assistant Greenkeeper

East Herts Golf Club is a private members Club set in one of the most pleasant parkland courses in the county.

All applicants should have a minimum of two years experience and ideally possess the normal qualifications associated with modern golf course maintenance.

The successful candidate will be expected to work as part of a hard working and dedicated team.

Please apply in writing to The Secretary/Manager, East Herts Golf Club,
Hamels Park, Buntingford, Herts SG9 9NA



**Tylney Park
HAMPSHIRE**

Tylney Park Golf Club
Invite applications for the position of

Qualified Greenkeeper

Re-opened in 2005 the challenging privately owned parkland course set in scenic Hampshire, offers a fantastic opportunity for the successful applicant

This post requires a well disciplined dedicated professional who possesses the following qualifications –

- NVQ 2 (or equivalent)
- Holds all relevant spraying certificates (Pa1, Pa2, & Pa6)
- Sound knowledge of machinery
- Good communication skills

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

Please send CV's to
Darren Woodward,

No later than August 11th 2008

**Tylney Park, Rotherwick, Hook,
Hampshire RG27 9AY.
Telephone 01256 762079.
E-mail contact@tylneypark.co.uk**

WILDERNESSE GOLF CLUB

REQUIRE A MECHANIC



The Wilderness Club currently has a vacancy for a suitably qualified Mechanic who has the skills to maintain a large fleet of modern Golf Course machinery.

Applicants should possess a sound knowledge of servicing, spin and relief grinding, record keeping, budgeting and H & S Regulations.

A well equipped workshop, excellent working conditions and an attractive salary is on offer to the successful candidate.

Please apply in writing to;

**Mark Todd – Course Manager – Wilderness Club, Seal,
Sevenoaks, Kent. TN15 0JE**



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Venue : Pinner Hill Golf Club

Pinner Hill Golf Club require – an Assistant Greenkeeper and a Mechanic/ Greenkeeper.

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Assistant Greenkeeper:

Minimum 2 years experience. Qualified to NVQ2 or equivalent, spraying certificates PA1-PA2 & 6 would be advantageous but not essential.

Mechanic / Greenkeeper

To work on and maintain our modern fleet of machinery. Experienced in the use of a Hunter Jupiter ATI Grinder would be advantageous but not essential, and to carry out tasks in the maintenance of the Golf

Course as required.
Accommodation may be available.

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Please apply in writing or via email including a full CV to:

**Darrin Urquhart
Course Manager
Pinner Hill Golf Club
South View Road
Pinner Hill
Middlesex HA5 3YA**

By email to : darrurquhart@aol.com

Phone 07775 523623



ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Rugby Golf Club require an Assistant Greenkeeper

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

Applicants should have a minimum of 2 years greenkeeping experience and ideally hold relevant qualifications.

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

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

Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER



The Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club invites applications for the position of Deputy Course Manager. The Club was founded in 1892 and has hosted many major tournaments including the Open Championship, Open Championship Qualifying, the Amateur Championship, the Brabazon and in August 2008 will host the British Seniors Championship.

This is a new position. The successful applicant will be required to work with the Course Manager to implement a long-term plan to develop the golf course and surrounding links areas. This plan will meet the Club's declared objective of producing a natural fast running links equal to any other in the British Isles, and take into account the links status as a SSSI site.

It is expected that the successful applicant will have had previous experience in a supervisory or management role and have a minimum qualification of NVQ Level 4 in Sports Turf Management. Candidates should have spraying certificates and a knowledge of modern irrigation systems. Previous experience of working on a links course would be an advantage.

An appropriate package including relocation expenses will be available.

Please apply in writing, including your CV, to the Secretary, Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, Golf Rd, Deal, Kent CT14 8JG or secretary @royalcinqueports.com

Greenkeeper

The Walsall Golf Club. Founded in 1907
has a vacancy for a Greenkeeper.

We are looking for an enthusiastic hardworking greenkeeper prepared to work flexible hours to include weekend work on a rota basis.

NVQ level 2 qualifications, spraying certificates PA1, PA2, PA6 and Chainsaw qualifications would be an advantage but not essential.

Please indicate salary expectations.

Apply in writing to :

**David Coutts, Course Manager,
The Walsall Golf Club, Broadway
Walsall, West Midlands WS1 3EY**



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Please address your application to
**Ms Ana Rawling, Vitax Limited, Owen Street, Coalville
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marketing@vitax.co.uk
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RECRUITMENT

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GREENKEEPERS

WENTWORTH CLUB,
VIRGINIA WATER, SURREY

Wentworth is an exclusive and long-established golf and country club, which has become familiar to millions worldwide through the televised championships we host. Our regular clientele includes senior executives of multi-national corporations, top professional sports-people and many media celebrities.

We are currently recruiting for experienced Greenkeepers to work on one of our three championship standard 18-hole golf courses. Working within a team you will ensure that the course is properly laid and prepared for members and visitors to the club. In addition, you will maintain the highest possible standards of presentation in readiness for tournaments.

Experienced and ideally qualified to NVQ 1 or 2 (although not essential), you will have a passion to learn and to exceed expectations. The positions are based on a 40-hour week (plus alternate weekends) however flexibility will be essential, particularly over the summer months and leading up to and during tournaments.

Benefits include free use of golf and fitness facilities, uniform and the opportunity to gain valuable tournament experience within a high quality establishment. Staff accommodation is available or live-out allowance paid. If this sounds like the opportunity for you, please send or email your CV to:

**Human Resources Department, Wentworth Club Ltd,
Wentworth Drive, Virginia Water, Surrey GU25 4LS
email: personnel@wentworthclub.com**

www.wentworthclub.com



Wentworth



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Peterborough Milton Golf Club

invites applications for the position of

Course Manager

Peterborough Milton is a Private Members Club founded in 1937. Designed by James Braid, the 18-hole course is on mature parkland and has a large practise area incorporating driving bays and a short game area.

Reporting to the Course Committee, the successful candidate will require the following skills and qualifications:

- Qualified to NVQ level 3 or equivalent and spraying certificates PA1/2/ 6
- Working knowledge of Health & Safety and Environmental legislation
- A comprehensive knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems
- The ability to work alongside, motivate and lead an established green-keeping team
- Experience of implementing and working to a budget and management plan
- A sound understanding of the needs and interests of Members and Visitors

Salary will be commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate

Please apply in writing no later than 30th June 2008 including a full C.V. and stating present salary and salary expectations to:-

The Secretary, Peterborough Milton Golf Club, Milton Ferry, Peterborough, PE6 7AG

SIX MONTHS TO GO! MAYBE SOME TIME OFF FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR?

As I pen this article we are in mid June and have had an early glimpse of summer, before it has been snatched back from us. At least it is not as wet as last June but we have had some harrowing days. I don't think we should be surprised to see much more rain again as it is now the Tennis Season and Wimbledon coming up. We seem to be in for the usual interruption to what is always a great event.

I look forward to our own big event in the golfing calendar – our Major, The Open. I don't know Chris Whittle and his team but wish them the very best for the event. I look forward to meeting them, and hope we have some dry, warm weather in the lead up to Royal Birkdale so that we can have a true links style test of golf. There is a lot of work at BIGGA HOUSE preparing for our Association to support Chris and his Royal Birkdale team and the R&A through the event. We take around 60 people for the week and if you are not on the team this year and are planning a visit, come into to our spot in the tented village and meet up with your fellow professionals. You'll find our exact location on the maps on site.

On that note, I would also like to wish David Cole and his team at Loch Lomond all the best for the Barclay's Scottish Open.

Keeping with that theme for the moment, I am myself looking for volunteers for this year's Quinn Insurance British Masters at The Belfry, 21-28 September.

Applicants should be qualified greenkeepers. Accommodation and food during your shift will be provided, and polo shirts given at the end of the tournament. Applicants must provide their own transport, boots and wet weather clothing. Applicants should possess a good knowledge of machinery and be willing to work long hours.

If anybody is interested please contact:
kelly.dunkley@thebelfry.com or tel:
01675 470301.

The BIGGA Golf Day at Aldwark Manor was held at the end of June, in memory of Neil Thomas and I am sure some other prominent Greenkeepers who have been in our thoughts over last couple of



years - Board Members, Ray Day and Bert Cross. I picked a charity from Leeds for the money to go to that helps young children with heart problems. The reason behind this is that I have a niece who has a serious heart condition and has had great support throughout her life, helping her survive. It was great to see many colleagues and people from the trade at the Golf Day, all for a good cause.

We have a Board of Management meeting at BIGGA HQ on July 1 and there are many subjects up for discussion. We also have a new sub-committee structure and I fully expect the new format to work well. It makes more use of board members' time while at Aldwark Manor. And we are all working hard on behalf of Association. It is interesting to see the new staff structure that John Pemberton has put in place at HQ. It was also interesting to see the developments that are being made in membership to see if we can start to encourage some of the bigger clubs into a group membership package.

It is also great to see the new refurbishment that has now being completed at BIGGA HOUSE, which will allow the staff to be more efficient in a more comfortable environment.

Finally, as a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, I would like to wish Mark Woodward, the Chief Executive Officer of GCSAA, a successful future in his new role. I hope he can take it forward from where Steve Mona, who did a fantastic job, finished. I know Mark is coming straight into the job from being Superintendent at another Major championship - the US Open at Torrey Pines - I am sure his staff will give him a great send off. What a fantastic way to finish his golf course management career.

Kenny Mackay
Chairman



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