



Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Supplement: Climate Change...A Closer Look

The summer of 2006 saw the UK experience some of
their highest temperatures on record and hosepipe
bans were put in place in many areas. Fast-forward a
year and the summer of 2007 was almost non-existent,
temperatures hit a low and many areas suffered greatly
due to flooding. Is climate change to blame? Melissa
Jones takes a look at the erratic changes in our weather
and finds out what measures greenkeepers can put in
place to prepare themselves for every eventuality.



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Welcome



Slow Boat To Golfing Stagnation

I attended the annual R&A Press Day held each year at the Open venue and much of the conference revolved around what is becoming increasingly regarded as golf's biggest problem – slow play.

Gone are the days when you can zip around a course on a Saturday morning with a couple of friends in three hours and be home in time for family duties before lunch. Now, best to set aside five hours. Oh and buy one of those golf bags with a drink holder and a cool pocket for much needed supplies... and make sure you have some money to buy a snack at the half way house. You don't want to go weak with hunger while you're out there.

It's putting people off the game and that's bad news because the more people who decide that golf is great, but too time consuming to play regularly, the fewer people we have joining clubs and that's solid income disappearing for golf clubs.

For a pay and play course the slow play disease can be even more startling. For example, if a course loses 10 tee times a day because play is backed up, and remember that can be fewer than one tee time an hour in the summer season, the costs can be staggering. Take it as £25 a green fee, it works out at £100 a tee time; £1,000 a day; £7,000 a week.

That works out at £364,000 a year! All because someone didn't watch where their ball landed in the rough; parked their cart on the wrong side of the green; stubbornly maintained the laborious pre-shot routine they'd copied from JB Holmes or thought the plumb bobbing method for reading greens actually worked.

What to do?

The R&A actually feels that the real slow coaches are the top amateurs, who have been coached to take their time and who often, would you believe, have to speed up when they joined the pro ranks. But let's face it there are more tortoises on the main Tours than hares and the odd fine doesn't spoil the day of many millionaire players. Shot penalties are a must because a player will never know when even a single shot would help him make a cut, or even win a tournament. What price can you place on that?

Another explanation for longer rounds is that we're all walking further. Tees have been pushed back; walks between green and tee seem to have grown - all because we're hitting the ball further. Let's face it even those of us who are getting older are hitting it further!

Knock 10% off the distance a ball travels and, by definition, 10% could be knocked off the length of a course without effecting scoring and we could end up walking/playing 600 yards less each round. That in itself could knock half an hour off a round.

Will it happen? Your guess is as good as mine but one thing is sure. Something has to be done or the game will continue down the slow road to stagnation.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

LIKE A PHOENIX FROM THE ASHES

In June 2007, Muswell Hill Golf Club was left devastated after a fire broke out in the club's machinery shed.

With the building housing a diesel tank recently topped up with some 5,000 litres of fuel as well as chemicals including fertiliser, the force of the inferno consumed the club and lit up the London skyline. It took six fire engines and 50 firefighters to bring the blaze – believed to have been started deliberately – under control.

Fast-forward one year, however, and the club has risen like a phoenix from the ashes. Arnid demoralised staff walk-outs, Matt Plested walked in as the club's new course manager and set about rebuilding the club and restoring staff confidence. One of his first tasks was replacing the £300,000-worth of grounds maintenance kit destroyed by the fire.

"The first thing I did was order new Toro kit," Matt recalls. Things are looking up now – we have an enthusiastic new greenkeeping team, the right machinery for the job and an excellent dealer in AT Oliver. It's an exciting time."



PRESENTATION DINNER

A presentation dinner was held at Ratho Park Golf Club on April 4. This was to honour the Club Professional, Alan Pate and Head Greenkeeper, Tom Murray. They both have clocked up 30 plus years service.



Left to right Alan and Susan Pate, Pat and Tom Murray

NEIL THOMAS MEMORIAL GOLF DAY

The BIGGA Golf Day is to be held again on June 30 at Aldwark Manor with profits going to the Child Heart Surgery Fund in Leeds. The day will be very informal, giving BIGGA the opportunity to promote a strong relationship between greenkeeper and trade members, while at the same time enabling everyone to enjoy a competitive, yet friendly, game of golf. The programme for the day will follow the successful format of previous years:

- Bacon sandwich, tea or coffee on arrival
- Tee times from 10.00am to 2.00pm
- Teams of four entered in competition over 18 holes, best 2 count on each hole
- Ploughman's Lunch
- Halfway House refreshments
- Buffet Meal
- Team prizes and longest drive individual prize

The entry fee per team is £250 + VAT. If you would like to participate please contact Sandra Raper on: 01347 833800 or: sandra@bigga.co.uk

GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS THREAT FROM ALIEN INVADERS

Visitors to the BBC's Garden Design Event in Norwich were greeted by the sight of a giant spaceship, which featured on the 'Alien Invaders' garden by British Wild Flower Plants (BWFPs).

Designed by the company's marketing manager Ian Forster, and situated at the entrance of The Forum, where the free, two day event was held, The Alien Invaders garden was conceived to highlight the threat of invasive foreign species, which according to BWFPs are invading our countryside. "People should be aware that plants like Japanese Knotweed and Pond Weed from Australia are threatening our own natural wild flower population and invading our ponds and waterways," says Forster. "We see ourselves as fighting the aliens and creating this garden gave us the ideal opportunity to warn people of this threat and encourage them to plant British wild flowers."

The BBC's Garden Design Event, now in its fifth year is organised by BBC Voices, the network's community wing, in conjunction with Radio Norfolk and BBC East. The brainchild of senior broadcast journalist Gary Standley it is the only regional event of its kind to be staged in a city centre, offering a free garden design service to shoppers, supplied by local horticultural students.

SIR IAN BOTHAM LAUNCHES POWERPLAY GOLF BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Cricket hero, Sir Ian Botham, recently launched the first PowerPlay Golf British Championship - a competition to find the nation's best exponent of the new game described as 'Twenty20 cricket for golf'.

More than 2,500 golf clubs in Britain have been invited to take part in the championship, which is endorsed by Botham and former football star, Les Ferdinand, and will culminate in a grand final at The Belfry this autumn.

Any golf club can stage a qualifying event, with its winner going through to play in one of nine regional finals. The top three golfers from each of those will fight to become the first ever PowerPlay Golf British Champion on the Belfry's famous Brabazon Course on October 14-15.

BIGGA SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION GOLF MANAGEMENT COMPETITIONS 2008

This year's Golf Management Competitions for the South West and South Wales Region will take place at the following venues: South Coast Section - Petersfield Golf Club on Friday, June 27; South Wales Section - Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club on Thursday, July 10; South West Section - Chipping Sodbury Golf Club on Wednesday, July 30.

This event is a team competition for amateurs only. Teams should comprise of four players one of which must be a Greenkeeper, the other players being either the Club Secretary, Captain, Chairman or any member of the Management or Club Committee.

The Scotts Company (UK) Limited is once again sponsoring the prizes for each individual winning team member for first, second and third places. The winning team's club this year will receive an AccuPro 2000 Spreader with a RRP of £487.48 plus VAT. The region would like to thank both The Scotts Company UK Ltd for sponsoring this event and the clubs for their support in agreeing to host the day.

Entry forms will be sent to each club in the region and any enquiries regarding these days can be made by contacting Jane Jones, BIGGA Regional Administrator on: 01454 270850 or: 07841948110.

NEW MANAGER

Phil Gates, MG, 38, is the new Course Manager at St Ives Golf Club and is busy getting the course ready for the grand opening next year.

The basic course is only a few months away from completion and work on the clubhouse is expected to start in the summer, but it will take until next summer for the grass on the fairways and greens to grow in full ready-for-use.

The course, due to open on June 1, 2009, will be the first club in the country to use a monoculture of velvet bent grass on the greens and the course is being built to top United States Golf Association specifications.



NEW LINE-UP

Vitax has appointed three new technical advisers to cover Scotland, South East England, the South West and Northern Ireland.

Douglas Hart, who takes on Scotland, studied at agricultural college before later becoming a greenkeeper at Gullane, where he worked for four years. Having gained diplomas in both agriculture and turf management, Douglas spent 18 years in New Zealand running his own sports ground contracting business, involved with cricket wicket, oval and race-course construction.

Stewart Jeffs, responsible for South East England, also started his career in agriculture but swiftly moved into Amenity Turf and brings over 25 years experience to the post. His aim is to support distributors and ensure that customers are familiar with the Vitax product range. Joe Crawley, returns to Vitax after nearly three years absence to accept a position with greater responsibility and a more specialised, scientific brief. "My area has increased to include not only the South West of England but also Northern Ireland," he said.

L to R - Stewart Jeffs, Douglas Hart and Joe Crawley



BIGGA NEW RECRUIT

Tom Campbell has joined BIGGA as our new Design and Production Editor. Tom replaces Marie Whyld, who worked for BIGGA for six years and left the Association after a period of maternity leave – BIGGA HOUSE send her their best wishes for the future.

Tom, a Liverpool FC season ticket holder, previously worked as a Creative Artworker for Arco and prior to that, a Mac Designer for the Yorkshire Post. He has worked on such publications as Farming in Yorkshire, and Fencing and Landscaping News.

Tom's main love is music. In the past he used to DJ retro electronic music in Hull on a regular basis. When he's not spinning some tunes on the decks, Tom likes to spend time with his cat Wendy.

"I have a passion for designing magazines and was keen to join BIGGA and work on an award-winning publication," said Tom.



RETIREMENT PRESENTATION

After the annual match between BIGGA Scottish East Section and the Golf Club Secretaries, held at West Linton Golf Club recently, a retirement presentation was made by Chairman, Stuart Ferguson, to Jimmy Coombe (ex Gifford Golf Club) and Mike Dennis current Sales Manager (Scotland) of Rigby Taylor.

They each received a pocket watch and a bottle of Whisky.

The absentee from this line-up was Robert T Bruce who is at present holidaying down under.



SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The 2008 Scottish National Tournament will be held at Irvine Golf Club, Irvine, Ayrshire, on Monday, June 23, by kind permission of the Captain and Committee. The cost of the event will be £21, which includes coffee/tea, filled roll, evening meal and prizes. (Apprentice fee will be £12). Entry forms will be available at all Section Spring outings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries with remittance to; Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Thursday 12 June, 2008.

Please make cheques payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

The draw will be posted on the BIGGA website.

Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WINS THROUGH TO TURNBERRY

The Buckinghamshire Golf Club, Denham, Bucks, has won the first regional qualifying tournament of the 2008 John Deere Team Championship golf competition, organised by dealer Golf & Turf Equipment of Wokingham in Berkshire. A total of 17 teams took part in the tournament, which was held in glorious May sunshine at Burnham Beeches Golf Club, near Slough.

"Course Manager, Lee Bishop, really put a lot of effort into the whole event," said organiser, Steve Coone of Golf & Turf. "This was his first big tournament there, and the whole Burnham Beeches team worked very hard to get it set up and running so well on the day."

Buckinghamshire's net score of 59 in the modified scramble event was two shots ahead of Roehampton Golf & Country Club, who took second place on countback. The winning team – made up of executive committee members David Collard and Phil Naylor, Course Manager Erik Kinlon will be travelling to Turnberry in August to play on the championship Ailsa course in the national tournament finals, together with a representative of the dealership, Golf & Turf.

NEW ASSOCIATION LAUNCHED

The newest greenkeeping association in Europe came into being last year with the founding of the Bulgarian Golfers Greenkeepers Association with the help and support of several greenkeepers well known in the UK.

The Chairman and Executive is Dutchman Arne Van Amerongen, who has worked on a great many golf projects all over the world over the last 25 years. Arne is currently the Golf Project Supervisor for the development of the Peter Harradine, Pravets Golf and Country Club, 55 kilometres north east of Sofia.

Vice Chairman is Mark Van Der Looy, who has worked for over 20 years in the golf industry and who is currently involved in two Bulgarian projects – the Black Sea Rama development on the Black Sea, designed by Gary Player, and another new project near to Sofia.

Association Secretary is Steve Wood, who relocated from the Midlands to Bulgaria several years ago to become Course Manager at St Sofia Golf Club and Spa, 10 kilometres outside Sofia.

The Association has received some outstanding support from the Kirov company, the biggest supplier of earthmoving machinery in Bulgaria, which has signed a three-year contract to sponsor the BGGGA.

Kremena Kaneva, Kirov Account and Sales Manager; Arne Van Amerongen; Julian Milev, Kirov Executive Sales Manager; Steve Wood; Mark Van Der Looy; Silvia Georgieva, Legal Advisor and Seth Underwood, Honorary Member.



R&A LAUNCH BENCHMARKING SERVICE

The R&A has launched a free web based service to registered users of bestcourseforgolf.org that provides a means of data capture, analysis and reporting which will enable golf courses to maintain a record of all their relevant information on playing quality, turf quality and course expenditure.

From this pool of information courses will be able to track their own progress from year-to-year and monitor trends and changes that occur. Each course will also be able to reference its own information against other similar golf courses using comparative statistics.

To take advantage of this service, courses should register at bestcourseforgolf.org



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CZECH GREENKEEPER EXCHANGE VISIT

Ransomes Jacobsen has supported an exchange visit of Czech greenkeepers organised and facilitated by The Club Company.

Six Course Managers from CZ Golf, a Golf Course Operator and Management company based in Prague, visited The Tytherington Club and spent a week working with Course Manager, Sandy Anderson and his team, looking at best practice on a UK golf course. Ransomes Jacobsen supported the visit helping with the logistics and general travel arrangements.

Nick Brown, Export Business Development Manager at Ransomes Jacobsen, introduced the two companies following the signing of an exclusive supplier contract with CZ Golf by their Czech distributor ITTEC spol. s.r.o.

Explaining the rationale behind the visit he said: "During the negotiations I was asked if we would consider arranging an exchange visit so that the CZ greenkeeping team could improve their understanding of best practice as it applies to the UK. The Club Company is a similar organization to CZ Golf, but on a much larger scale and they are also a Ransomes Jacobsen national account. We contacted Chris Brook, their senior Course Manager who is responsible for all 12 courses within the group, and he immediately got things moving."

"We were only too happy and willing to help," said Chris Brook. "The exchange worked so well that we are considering making it a permanent arrangement."



STIHL GETS ITS TEETH INTO BRITISH SUPERBIKES

Getting into the fast lane in 2008, outdoor power tool company STIHL GB has signed as an Official Sponsor of the 2008 Bennetts British Superbike Championship - setting two of the country's most popular outdoor brands together and on track for an exciting year. Its first move into major sports sponsorship, the STIHL deal reflects the growing breadth of its user audience, from professional foresters, groundsmen and builders to domestic gardeners and home owners.

British Superbikes currently enjoys the biggest level of support of any motor sport activity in the UK; the appeal of powerful, agile machines working in perfect harmony with man makes Superbikes an ideal fit for STIHL and its range of quality, high performance outdoor power tools.

The British Superbike Championship is Britain's most popular motor sport, attracting big crowds at the circuits and massive television audiences. The 2008 Championship series will see its high-powered teams and heroes competing at 12 events around the country this summer, and on world-renowned racetracks like Brands Hatch, Thruxton, Silverstone and Donington Park. Part of its sponsorship package, the STIHL brand will be prominent at every one of those events, with trackside hoardings and activities off track.

GREEN LIGHT TO PURE BIODIESEL

Provided the fuel meets the international EN 14214 standard or its equivalent, B100 (ie pure) biodiesel may now be used in machines fitted with John Deere PowerTech Plus or PowerTech E engines that comply with Tier 3 regulations, as well as in engines of earlier designs, said the Deere Power Systems Group recently.

However, a precondition for the use of B100 biodiesel in these engines is the application of the additive John Deere Biodiesel Protect 100, which is now available from John Deere dealers in the UK and Ireland.

To ensure fuel quality meets the requirements of advanced engine technology, B100 biodiesel - i.e. rapeseed oil that has been through an esterification process and not cold pressed rape oil - must be obtained from a certified supplier and stored appropriately. In addition, operators must follow the instructions provided in the service manual of the machine.

The company has been researching the use of native rapeseed oil in Tier 3 engines since 2006, together with the German Agency for Renewable Energy (FNR), the University of Rostock and VWP, a specialist vegetable oil technology business.



BITE SIZE LEARNING

As we move into the height of the growing season David Golding, GTC's Education Director, looks at the trend in training and asks if you do get a break from the hectic schedule of course presentation in the "busy season" to consider these options...

The GTC believes, after years of trying to get golf club employers and greenkeepers themselves to invest in education and training for its entire staff, it has now convinced the funding bodies, through its involvement with the Lantra Sector Skills Council (SSC) that funding should not be confined to full qualifications!

In trying to achieve its targets - showing more people are taking to skills training and HE programmes, the Government for many years has instructed its funding bodies to direct funding support to FULL qualifications e.g. N/SVQ Level 2, 3 - NC, HNC/D Foundation Degrees.

Having set the funding bodies targets to improve the statistics of people achieving full qualifications, it clearly hasn't listened to industries such as the land base sector. Many Government initiatives have come and gone and sadly, in the main, targets have not been met! So what do we have? A new report commissioned! The reports seem to be annual with the latest issued in 2007. The Leitch report once again looks at the Skills Agenda and how the UK can compete with other countries and bridge the skills gap - shortage. Simple Sir, listen to industries such as the small but perfectly formed Sports Turf sector!

While on this subject I hear there are calls for an umbrella organisation for Sports Turf. There may be many reasons for this but one thing is for sure, all qualifications certainly since my time with BIGGA and the GTC from 1993, have all been developed and reviewed under the banner of SPORTS TURF.

So where is this leading? Credit to golf club employers over the years who, in the main, have supported the formal qualifications offered by our network of GTC Approved Training Providers - while other sectors of sports turf decided to abandon their own tried and tested qualifications but then did not provide or support an alternative option.

Despite the best efforts of many dedicated individuals working within Approved Centres to promote the courses and qualifications both to Golf and the other sporting employers and staff, it has been the golf sector which has dominated the formal courses leading to the Government qualifications. Credit has to be given to those greenkeepers and grounds men/women who have grasped every opportunity to further their own education and fortunately the profile has been given a boost through regular references through the popular media, especially the presentation of courses and pitches.

I am pleased to say that finally at meetings within the Lantra SSC, when qualifications are on the agenda, Sports Turf is now very well represented and this will result in a far stronger lobby with results already starting to show. The latest Government plan is to develop a Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) which, in simple terms, is one National Database of UNITS, which can then be, grouped together into industry specific qualifications e.g. Golf Greenkeeper, Golf Course Manager, Grounds Manager etc and with Awarding Body approval these could be branded and promoted accordingly.

Equal in importance is that the funding bodies should channel funding towards the QCF and this does not just mean FULL qualifications.

The GTC, on behalf of the employers and greenkeepers it represents, has repeatedly sought to promote short courses or to use the buzz words 'Continual Professional Development' (CDP) or 'bite size learning' as not every employer requires staff to achieve say N/SVQ Level 3 or 4. Indeed not every greenkeeper or grounds person wants to be registered on a full level of qualification however, the majority are more than willing to attend short courses to develop their knowledge and skill base. So when in that quiet moment think about staff and the business development, with the introduction of the credit frameworks Unit or clusters of Units into short courses by all of the Providers there should be no shortage of options to learn.

Approved Training Providers, professional bodies including BIGGA, will be looking to extend their provision to take account of the latest review of qualifications.

Finally, at a recent Pan-European Advisory Group meeting, all the work to create agreed standards for greenkeeping throughout the European member states revolved around Units which would be best suited to fit into the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and would receive International recognition based on Industry Skills Sets at the previously agreed three levels Greenkeeper, Golf Course Supervisor and Golf Course Manager.

Exciting times are ahead, and one thing is for sure, while golf course new builds might have slowed down in the UK in recent times many countries, relatively new to the game of golf, are expanding and this will create a need for a more mobile greenkeeping workforce. The agreed Industry Skill Sets are available on the GTC website and coming soon will be the agreed Standards (Units) for adoption by EU countries. Training Providers, not only in the UK will then, in partnership with the Golf Federations and Greenkeeping Associations, develop courses and qualifications to match those standards through a variety of delivery methods.

To discuss any matters relating to greenkeeper education, training and qualifications David may be contacted at the GTC on: Tel: 01347 838640 or Email david@the-gtc.co.uk

Have you registered for the new GTC Email alerts service? Visit the GTC website www.the-gtc.co.uk to register and be kept up to date with all the news both from within the GTC and beyond!

Coming next month - a look at the developments in on-line learning for the sports turf sector.

GTC is supported by:





Industry Update

NEW RECRUIT

Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd have announced that Darren Homer has joined their sales team as their Area Sales Manager for Hampshire and surrounding area. Darren will be visiting Golf Courses, Sports Grounds, Local Authorities, Schools, Bowling Clubs and Landscapers, promoting the extensive range of amenity products in the portfolio, along with offering technical services that are provided by the company. Darren has a wealth of turf management experience, having worked at Chichester Golf Centre for the past eight years as Course Manager, before that Darren worked for Marriott Hotels at The Forest of Arden, where he was responsible for setting up the course for the numerous European Tour Events, such as the English Open and The British Masters. Prior to this he was at Marriott Goodwood Park.



MOWERS FOR PRESTIGIOUS MALAYSIAN CLUB

Ransomes Jacobsen Malaysian distributor, Tractors Malaysia, has delivered new Jacobsen mowers to one of the most prestigious resorts in the country, Glenmarie Golf & Country Club.

The package of Jacobsen equipment included two LF3800 fairway mowers with 11-blade cutting cylinders and two AR250 rotary mowers with fully articulating side discharge decks which are ideal for the superior presentation of semi-rough areas demanded by the club.

Established in 1993, the Glenmarie complex is owned by DRB-Hicom, the owner of Malaysia's national car manufacturer, Proton. It features two 18-hole golf courses and was designed by the renowned course designer, Max Wexler.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE AEA

Geoffrey Davies O.B.E. (BA Hons) DipMS MIMgt was elected President at a recent AGM of the Agricultural Engineers Association. He then chaired the Association's conference at which the AEA's new branding was launched.

Geoffrey has since 1988 been Managing Director of Alamo Group Europe Limited and Vice President of Alamo Inc (USA). Companies within the Alamo Group design, manufacture and market a comprehensive range of agricultural machinery, commercial mowing equipment, vegetation maintenance machinery and road sweeping equipment.

Prior to assuming his present position Geoffrey had been Chairman and Managing Director of Dabro International before its acquisition by Wolseley plc and previously Managing Director of a number of engineering companies. He was awarded his OBE in 2003 for services to British Agriculture and to the community of Ludlow.

Commenting on his election, Geoffrey said that at this time demand is favourable in a number of sectors but there are challenges emerging and that looks forward to leading the Association in facing these within the various sectors represented, from agriculture to commercial groundscape, through to consumer products.

NEW EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT WORTH OVER £30 MILLION

A-Plant has placed orders for new equipment for the company's hire fleet worth over £30 million. The orders have been placed with a number of manufacturers including Terex, JCB, Doosan Infracore Portable Power (formerly Ingersoll Rand Utility Equipment), GenSet, JLG, Skyjack and Ausa.



EXTENSIVE REFURBISHMENT AT FAIRMONT ST. ANDREWS

MJ Abbott Limited has been appointed by St Andrews Bay Development Limited to carry out extensive remedial work to the Torrance Course at Fairmont St. Andrews.

The re-modeling of the existing 18 holes has been designed by American architect Gary Stephenson, founder of The Linksmen Golf Design Group.

The work will result in subtle changes to the layout and routing of the course to enhance the golfing experience and to make the most of the staggering coastline and views over the historic town of St Andrews.

The work commenced in January this year and includes the relocation and rebuilding of each tee to improve playability, turf condition and drainage. The 12th green will be reconstructed and two additional greens, the 14th and 18th will be constructed in new locations. Three new holes will also be constructed on the Devlin course.

Each bunker on the Torrance course will be reconstructed, re-sited and finished in the classic revetted style.

Focusing on water as a feature and a commodity, the existing inland lake and irrigation reservoir will also be rebuilt and the lakes re-shaped, deepened and re-lined.

The existing water supply to the reservoir will be upgraded to meet the requirements of the new state-of-the-art irrigation system.

A new land drainage system has been designed to improve turf conditions and will be installed to each hole.

The work also includes the construction of the greens, tees and bunkers and provision of irrigation and drainage for three new holes which will become the starting holes of the new Devlin course.

Hugging the rocky shoreline they'll be built in a more rugged style which will be the signature of the re-constructed championship course.

The re-opening of the Torrance course is currently scheduled for Spring 2009.

UK ENGINE ROLE

Kawasaki has appointed EP Barrus as principal engine distributor to serve the UK market.

In what is regarded as a significant development by the Japanese manufacturer to step up its stationary engine business across the grounds care, turf care, utility and industrial sectors, Oxfordshire-based Barrus will take on responsibility for sales and aftersales throughout the UK from the beginning of April.

The appointment will build on the previous engine business established and managed across these sectors by Kawasaki Motors UK since 1987. The operation will be co-ordinated by the recently created Kawasaki Motors Europe Engines & Power Products Division offering an extended range of the manufacturers' highly regarded two-stroke and four-stroke engine technology.

Barrus will be working closely with Kawasaki over the coming months to ensure the business transition is smooth. With access to an extended engine product range, the Bicester company will be taking the opportunity to extend the sales and service offering to OEMs and dealers. Among other areas to be addressed will be dealer training programmes and the possibility of extending the existing UK dealer network even further.

GOLF CAR FLEET FOR EUROPE

Golfsocieteit De Lage Vuursche near Den Holder in the Netherlands is the first golf club in Europe to take delivery of the new E-Z-GO RXV golf car, launched in January.

A fleet of 10 electric-powered vehicles has been delivered to the club by Duchell b.v. the long established E-Z-GO distributor for the Netherlands.

Not content with the contract at the Netherlands' flagship course, Duchell has also supplied fleets of 10 RXVs to Golfclub Edda Huzid in Voorthuizen and Golfclub De Haenen in Tilburg.



ECOSOLVE EXPANDS IN EUROPE

Drill n Fill aerator's reputation as a problem solver in turf care is spreading across Europe. Koln Golf und Landclub (Cologne) recently took delivery of their own Drill n Fill from Ecosolve Ltd, sales company for Europe.

The recent sale broadens Ecosolve's growing development in Europe in response to the growing popularity of the aerators. All over the Continent, golf clubs are using the equipment to tackle previously insurmountable aeration issues. The machine's unique ability to create 12 inch deep hollow tine-like ducts AND backfill them simultaneously, has enabled remedial treatment to be used to cure major problems of poor drainage rather than to rebuild. In addition to the machine's dramatic effects, the treated turf can be further enhanced by using other aeration equipment to build upon the "foundation" work of the Drill n Fill.

Koln is delighted with its purchase, having seen good results at Gut Kaden Golf Club in Hamburg, Munchen Eichenreid Nord in Munich and various courses in Holland. "This club aspires to present a course in prime condition," says Rolf Henrich, chairman of greens at Koln. "We appreciate that investment must be made to achieve that, but if we can avoid greens reconstruction, there are major benefits to finances, membership, playability and smooth running of the club."

WARNING OF POTENTIAL KNOTWEED EPIDEMIC THIS SUMMER

The scourge of Japanese knotweed infestation could reach unprecedented UK levels this summer and the problem is being exacerbated by many of the companies brought in to treat it. That's the warning from industry specialist, Richard Podmore, who believes that untrained and under qualified treatment 'experts' are potentially making a serious problem worse.

Speaking on the eve of the new growing season, typically the start of May, which could see the problem escalate to more than one serious Japanese knotweed infestation for every 10km in England and Wales, Podmore, joint managing director of Cheshire-based Japanese Knotweed Control, is concerned that the lack of regulation means many of the new entrants into the market are just not up to the job.

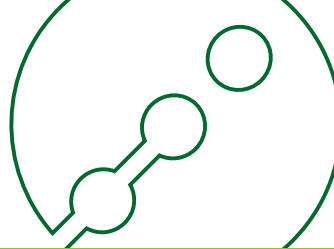
"Japanese knotweed contamination is now much more widely recognised as a major problem, not least by developers, local authorities and highway agencies, but as a result everyone is suddenly an expert on how it should best be treated.

"A prolific grower, Japanese knotweed has the ability to reproduce itself frequently and quickly. Within weeks of the growing season starting it can become dense clumps of weeds up to three metres in height, and while it does die back each year it never becomes dormant and its ability to reproduce itself is the reason the weed is so invasive. Climactic conditions over the past few months have also paved the way for potentially prolific growth this summer."



Koln Machine. Caption: (L to R) Dirk Thelens - Course Manager, Rolf Henrich - Chairman of Greens & Andreas Doring - Club Manager, taking receipt of the Drill and Fill

Membership



JUSTINE DE TAURE, MEMBERSHIP SERVICES OFFICER, UPDATES US ON MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Well at last the big move is completed and all is starting to get back to normal! Please accept our apologies for any delays this has caused with new members applications and processing renewals within the membership department.

REASONS TO BE A MEMBER OF BIGGA

After updating you on Personal Accident and the Legal Helpline in April and May's Greenkeeper International, we thought it would be a good time to remind members of all the benefits of being a BIGGA Member. In the months to come we will give more details on each individual benefit.

Educational Opportunities

BIGGA offers a variety of ways to improve your education throughout the year, including "Continue to Learn" at Harrogate Week. Many Learning and Development Services are supported by companies and individuals committed to the continuing professional development of greenkeepers. Please contact Sami or Rachael in the Learning and Development Department for more information.

Free Legal Helpline - Tel: 0800 177 7891

Access 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for you and your family (living at the same address). Advice on employment matters, health and safety issues, consumer rights and any other legal matter. Medical costs and expenses: should personal injury be sustained in an accident: and legal expenses up to £50,000 per annum.

Personal Accident Insurance - Tel: 020 7560 3013

Cover for time off work due to an accident at home, work or even on holiday as well as one off payments, dependent on the type of injury.

BIGGA Website - www.bigga.org.uk

On the BIGGA website you will find a host of information. The events section will keep you up to date with what is happening and coming up in your Section.

As a member you will be able to network with others in the profession by exchanging ideas, opinions and giving advice on the Greenkeepers bulletin board. Access is limited to BIGGA bulletin board is reserved for BIGGA Members only.

There is also an up to date list of Greenkeepers jobs if you are looking for a new position.

Networking Opportunities

Members can choose to be assigned to a Section of their choice. As an active member you can attend golf days and other social events on a regular basis, enabling you to network among others in the industry.

If you wish to change Section and affiliate yourself with another, please call membership and we will change your details.

Car Leasing - Tel: 0870 191 6950

Driving a brand new car couldn't be easier. BIGGA has teamed up with Lex FreeChoice Leasing to offer an exclusive scheme that allows you and your family members to drive the car you always wanted at an affordable price.

Car Rental - Tel: 0870 191 6950

BIGGA has enrolled in the National Affinity Leisure Programme, which offers members exclusive rates both on car and van hire in the UK and in 80 countries abroad.

Insurance Quote Service - Tel: 01924 207000

A quotation service is available to members on a wide range of insurance products.

BIGGA Delegation

For the last five years, 10 greenkeepers have been sponsored by Bernard & Company to take part in the BIGGA Delegation to the GCSAA Golf Industry Conference and Show. This also gives an opportunity to visit golf courses around the host city. All BIGGA members can apply to be part of the delegation.

Open Championship Support Team

An opportunity to be part of the Support Team that assist at the Open Championship each year, supporting the home greenkeepers through a BIGGA member accompanying each match to rake bunkers before and after each day's play. This also includes other Championships held throughout the year.

This year's team has already been chosen but should you wish to apply for next year, applications will be available in December and January's issues of Greenkeeper International. Alternatively please contact Scott MacCallum at BIGGA at the beginning of 2009.

Membership Handbook

A free annual copy of this indispensable tool, enabling you to track down professional help and keep in touch with industry colleagues. Please contact either Justine or Brad on 01347 833800 option 1 for any further membership details.

BIGGA Sub Committees

Sub committee meetings for the Learning & Development and Communications departments will be held at 8.30am on Monday, June 30 at BIGGA HOUSE.



If you have any matters you would like raised at these meetings, please contact a member of the board or BIGGA staff.

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.

SAMI COLLINS, HEAD OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT, UPDATES US ON EDUCATION MATTERS

It's that time of year when everything starts to happen at once – deadlines for competitions, the end of the CPD year and preparations for Harrogate Week 2009 move into high gear. No time for the Learning & Development Department to sit back relax and enjoy the sunshine!

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The 2007/2008 CPD year ends on 30 June 2008. To ensure that you achieve your certificate of Continuing Professional Development you must gain 10 CPD credits through your attendance at Section, Region and National education events. Those of you achieving 10 CPD credits will be sent your CPD certificate in mid July. Those of you who have achieved five consecutive certificates will receive your Diploma of Continuing Professional Development which will be awarded to you during the Opening Session at Harrogate Week 2009.



BIGGA Golf Environment Competition 2008



Would your Golf Club like to win a prize of either £500 or £2000 for boasting about its environmental initiatives? The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, supported by Ransomes Jacobsen, Golf Monthly, Scotts Professional Products and Syngenta Professional Products, has been run by BIGGA since 1997 and has seen such worthy winners as:

- 2007 - Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club
- 2006 - Brighthouse Bay Golf Club
- 2005 - Thorpeness Golf Club
- 2004 - Minchinhampton Golf Club
- 2003 - Kenwick Park Golf Club
- 2002 - Ipswich Golf Club
- 2001 - Broadstone Golf Club
- 2000 - The Dyke Golf Club
- 1999 - Temple Golf Club
- 1998 - Lindrick Golf Club
- 1997 - Hankley Common Golf Club

The competition is open to all golf clubs in England, Scotland and Wales and offers prizes for several different categories including National Winner, Regional Winner, Best Newcomer and Special Initiative. The Competition is in place to acknowledge the positive work being carried out at golf clubs and to highlight to other clubs the ways in which they may become more sustainable.

The closing date for the competition is Friday, 20 June 2008. Application forms are available from the Learning and Development Department or from www.bigga.org.uk/education/downloads and select BIGGA Golf Environment Competition 2008.

The BIGGA Training & Development Manual Supported by John Deere



Are you aware of what the BIGGA Training and Development Manual can offer you?

As a member of BIGGA you can access this valuable membership benefit through the Members area of the BIGGA website. It offers guidance on all aspects of training and development for those just starting and for those already working in the industry. For full details of the documents and links available through the online Manual go to www.bigga.org.uk/education/downloads and select Training and Development Manual Quick Guide.

Learning & Development Updates and Reminders

BIGGA Library

Several new books have been added to the BIGGA library since last month:

- Landscape Graphics* – Grant W. Reid
- Golf Architecture – A Worldwide Perspective* – Paul Daley
- Routing the Golf Course* – Forrest L. Richardson

To borrow any of the books from the BIGGA library contact Rachael Duffy, Learning & Development Administrator on 01347 833800 option 3. Two books can be borrowed for up to six weeks. The only cost to you is the return postage. Many of the books available can be found via the members area of the BIGGA website.

Higher Education Scholarships Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen



The most recent scholarships have been awarded to:
Gary Baxter – Foundation Degree Sports Turf
Kerry Jones – NVQ Level 4 Management

Useful Website

As an employer you are responsible for making sure that your staff are looked after in accordance with the law. A government website has been set up to answer your questions about employing people. For further information go to www.businesslink.gov.uk/employingpeople

MANAGEMENT OF GOLF COURSE BUNKERS

By Stewart Brown

There is probably no other hazard that causes as much comment or interest than the sand bunker. When bunkers originally evolved on the Scottish links land, they were nothing more than irregularly-shaped sandy pits. The development of the game on differing types of terrain enabled golf course architects to design different types of bunker. Today a bunker can constitute many differing forms, from a little-changed traditional 'links pit' to vast expanses of sandy scrub that sometimes occupy an area the length of a hole.

The maintenance techniques used to keep the hazards on a particular course visibly appealing will, therefore, differ – so will the equipment and the amount of labour necessary.



A poorly maintained and constructed bunker. The golfers nightmare!

DESIGN AND FUNCTION

The earliest designs of bunkers were fashioned by early designers on links courses from irregular shaped naturally-occurring depressions that have been fashioned by the shifting winds over the area, traffic and animal scrapes.

As golf became more popular and interest spread inland to the heath lands and parklands, the earliest golf course architects tried to copy the naturally-occurring shapes of bunkers. The form and shape were quite often nothing like the natural hazards and were often representations

of the designer's interpretation. Earth-moving and shaping equipment was poor and primitive and resulted in a poorly shaped oval sand pit that shared no resemblance to the original concept. As time went on the design, shape and size of the original animal-scrap hazard evolved into what it is today.

Materials and equipment used for bunker construction developed and we now have highly individualised concepts and constructions for bunkers. The interest shown by golfers, designers and golf clubs has changed over the years with bunkers falling in and out of fashion on a regular basis; with courses adding, changing, styling and removing bunkers to individual holes to add interest, design and appeal. Not only will the style of golf course influence the shape and size of a bunker, but also the placement of a bunker on the course will influence the way it is played and viewed.

The three main placements for a bunker on a golf course are:

The Fairway

- Often quite large in size with a shallow base
- Common shapes include rectangle, yawning, freeform and jigsaw
- Easy to play out of with a longer club
- Visible from the tee
- Penalty value is low
- Maintenance value medium

The Approach

- Smaller than the fairway bunker
- Common shapes include yawning, oval and jigsaw
- Usually deeper than fairway with a definite step down into the sand
- Play is restricted to medium to short irons
- Requires more skill on behalf of the player
- Penalty value medium
- Maintenance value medium

Greenside

- Usually smallest of the types available
- Moderately deep, if not the sand, the sides
- Common shapes include pot, oval and jigsaw
- Often arranged in numbers of two - four around

- the green edge guarding the surface
- It is often the number of bunkers as opposed to the size that causes the player to fault
- Extremely visible
- Penalty value high
- Maintenance value high



Large freeform fairway bunker.

The use of a particular style of bunker will also be determined by the use the bunker is being put to.

This can be:

- Strategic – Defining shot values
- Retaining – Keeping balls from worse fates
- Safety – Stopping errant shots and protecting tees, golfers, buildings
- Directional – Helping to define play direction
- Aesthetic – Adding harmony, style and cosmetic value

Bunkers certainly add to the aesthetics of a golf course and appropriate maintenance is an important part of the brief for every course manager and greenkeeper. It is also important that all hazards on the course are fair, ie:

- Bunker faces are complete and free from overhangs
- Bunker bases are shaped to avoid downhill lies
- Rear lips are graded to prevent unplayable lies
- There is a uniform depth of sand in all hazards
- The sand and its playing characteristics are the same right the course

Poor bunkers are often characterised by exhibiting the following features:

- Excessive depth of excavation (inland) – impervious clay or stony subsoil exposed
- Inadequate depth of excavation (links) – sand susceptible to wind-blow
- Bunker too narrow – limits backswing and follow-through
- Formation of excessively steep bunker faces – problems of sand retention and undercutting of front lip of bunker
- Abrupt step between fairway and sand at the entrance
- Inadequate drainage – clay subsoil
- Selection of wrong sand type
- Omission of geotextile membrane on stony sites

CONSTRUCTION OF BUNKERS

There are a number of important factors to be considered when bunkers are being constructed. The location is usually dictated by an architect in order to provide strategy and playability, and to add visual impact to a hole. However, other factors such as soil type, degree of exposure to the elements and natural land contours must be considered if the hazard is to fulfil its envisaged function. Bunkers should be well constructed and designed so that they drain freely, are (preferably) visible and influence play 'positively'. On links land, the need for protection from wind erosion will keep sand areas low.

On links courses where the inherent conditions are free-draining, there is no need to install additional drainage in the base of the bunker, although it is advisable to check the natural winter water table, and to keep above this if possible. It is usually sufficient to excavate the area to the desired shape, remembering that depth is important on exposed sites in order to prevent wind blowing sand from the bunker.

On inland sites where free-draining soils are the exception rather than the rule, problems with drainage can develop if the construction is inadequate. Because of the impermeable clay sub-soil that often exists on parkland sites, inland bunkers must be built up rather than excavated as they are on links land.

In addition, it is usually necessary to install drainage in the base of the bunker to prevent ponding during wetter periods of weather, and to ensure that external ground contours shed rather than gather water.

BUNKER SAND

Playing quality is frequently the most subjective evaluation criterion of bunker sands. Players vary widely in their assessment of what constitutes good playing quality. One of the few agreed opinions seems to be a desire for all bunkers on the course to play in a consistent manner. For this reason, when adding sand to existing bunkers, it is good practice to perform the work on all bunkers on the course. Sands often change significantly in their playing quality over the first few months as they become compacted and contaminated with soil and organic debris.

Newly-installed sand may seem soft at first, but soon will become more firm. The speed at which this firming occurs depends on the angularity and particle sizing of the sand, as well as raking practices. There must be sufficient depth (100mm/4 inches) of 'clean' sand (lime-free on inland sites) within the bunker and the surface layers should be maintained in a loose condition over a firmer base. Ideally, the majority of particles should be within the range 0.125 to 0.5mm (seaside) or 0.25 to 1.0mm (inland) and angular in shape.

Light or tan coloured sands are preferred for definition and contrast. The sand should form a central depression which will gather the badly-placed shot, yet will still allow sufficient room for backswing and a full follow-through to effect a satisfactory recovery shot. There must be a smooth transition in contouring between the surrounding turf areas and surface of the sand, with sharp definition. The sand should be kept free from weed growth or stone.

From a testing standpoint, particle size, particle shape, crusting potential, and infiltration rate all provide insight as to how the sand will play. However, other factors that have nothing to do with the makeup of the sand have equal if not greater impact on playing quality.

MAINTENANCE TASKS

Bunkers require high levels of maintenance to keep them in top condition. To this effect bunkers can become the most labour intensive area on the golf course, requiring far more day-to-day maintenance and management than the greens and tees combined. A commitment to a high level of bunkers on any

course should not be a decision taken lightly. On most established golf courses in the United Kingdom bunker maintenance should be relatively straightforward. Increasingly, however, modern design techniques involve the creation of bunkers that are far more time-consuming to maintain. Nevertheless, basic bunker maintenance involves the following main tasks: Raking, Sand replacement, Mowing and strimming, Weed control, Bunker repair/renovation and Sand replenishment.



Some bunkers need a lot of raking!

CONCLUSION

The amount of time spent on bunker maintenance will depend upon the number of bunkers on the course and the shape and contouring around them. Most existing bunkers on long established courses are of regular shape, with subtle, yet manageable, contours around them. Some labour intensive work is inevitably required but in most cases this is not excessive. In contrast, however, some newer developments have gone for the more 'grandiose' style bunker, visibly formidable for the golfer but even more formidable for the staff that have to maintain them! Fingers of sand and extensive steep slopes can make the maintenance of these hazards a far more time consuming task.

Bunker management is reasonably straightforward provided that maintenance is not neglected over a long period. There are, however, more and more courses where bunker maintenance is very time consuming – this must be recognised and time allocated to it if problems are to be avoided in the future.

Stewart Brown is Team Leader – Sportsturf and Mechanisation, Myerscough College, Bilberraw, Preston PR3 0RY
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TORO

Count on it.



PROTECTED SPECIES SURVEYS – KNOWING WHAT YOU’VE GOT

By Kelly Harmar

Golf courses are an incredibly valuable ecological resource which often provide homes for our most threatened species. Management of such rich wildlife habitat brings responsibility and though good environmental stewardship is often second nature to many greenkeepers, some environmental protection is actively enforced.

The UK has a suite of laws designed to protect our most rare and endangered species. Some of these species are well known, such as great crested newt and natterjack toads, but others have received less attention. Did you know for example that all wild birds are protected by law and that to disturb badgers on your course requires a licence from Defra? And its not just animals that are protected. It is illegal to pick or uproot protected plants such as lizard orchids, fen orchids, early gentian or Deptford pink and many rare fungi and lichens are also protected.

Protected species legislation became much stronger in 2007, following important amendments to the Habitats Regulations. The Habitats Regulations came into force in 1994 and are the UK’s interpretation of the European Habitats Directive.

However, the UK version was deemed too lenient by the European Commission who asked for changes to be made. The amendments have increased fines to £5,000 per offence (so that’s £5,000 per bat or newt or £5,000 per dormouse harmed or killed or each fen orchid destroyed!) and serious offences

can result in up to six months in prison. The amendments also remove the ‘incidental result’ defence, i.e. that offences committed unknowingly, and as and incidental result of a lawful management activity, were excused.

Put simply, ignorance is no longer an excuse.

In addition, from April 6 this year, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, it is now illegal to kill or injure water voles in England. Previously only the water vole’s habitat had been protected. Similar protection is expected in the rest of the UK soon. UK water vole populations have declined by 90% since 1990 and this legislation is long overdue.

One of the main ways of staying above the law is to know what you have on your golf course. If you know you have protected species then you can take steps to avoid disturbing or harming them.

Surveys of protected species should be carried out by approved surveyors who are licensed, by the statutory conservation body relevant to your country, to survey and handle protected species and can recognise signs of their presence: e.g. the folded leaves created by great crested newts to protect their eggs or the feeding platforms constructed by water voles.

Site surveys will map the location of protected species and their favoured habitat and will help plan future management, directing damaging activity away from sensitive areas. Equally, for specific operations, a survey can



Kelly Harmar



also prove that protected species are not present in the location you are interested in and this will allow you to proceed with management without restriction.

However, if you have protected species on your site then that need not mean that the work can't go ahead, it will just need to be thought through more carefully and appropriate measures put into place.

For example, this year's Open is to be held at Royal Birkdale, one of the most ecologically sensitive golf courses in the UK. Royal Birkdale is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the highest level of environmental protection within the European Union, that has both natterjack toads and sand lizards. Both are rare and protected in the UK and both are vulnerable to the thousands of trampling feet that track across the dunes during the Championship. However, surveys of the course have identified the main sensitive areas and have allowed spectator routes and infrastructure to be placed well away from these vulnerable areas and a plan is in place to protect any inquisitive lizards or toads spotted during The Open. The right information provided to the statutory bodies helped obtain a licence to host The Open.

Much more routine operations can also be planned to provide minimum disturbance. Measures as simple as choosing the correct time of year can ensure that protected species are not disturbed and that greenkeepers stay within the law. For example vegetation clearance in ponds that have great crested newts can be undertaken in the late autumn when newts leave their

breeding pools to hibernate on land and tree felling should be undertaken before the end of March before breeding birds have set up home or bats have left their hibernation chambers and begun to roost. In other circumstances the removal of mature trees on the golf course can be compensated for by providing bird and bat boxes or raised walkways can be installed across important botanical areas.

Ignorance is no longer an excuse while the right knowledge and expertise can help bring about structured and sensitive management and protect our vulnerable species.

Kelly Harmar is from the Ecology and Environment Unit at STRI.

For further information on protected species legislation and protected species surveys contact:

tel: 01274 518903

or email: ecology@stri.co.uk

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TRACTORS THROUGH THE YEARS

By James de Havilland

Back in 1947, Brockhouse Engineering introduced its BMB President tractor. Powered by a 29hp Morris 8 petrol engine, a new one would have set you back £239 in basic form, a rear linkage and PTO coming as an option. Considered light and powerful for its day, the President tractor was a popular 'groundsmans' tractor, with many remaining in use into the 1980s. For some, however, its main claim to fame was that it was a tractor that replaced the golf course horse.

Each generation of greenkeeper tends to see a pretty major development within their working lives. One that has been largely forgotten is the dramatic change brought by moving from horse drawn equipment to tractor power. It is all too easy to overlook this massive change, many people not realising that it was not until after the end of WW2 that the horse started to be displaced not just on farms but in other sectors too. Milk floats through to short haul carriers relied on horse power into the 1960s in many parts of the UK. As

for mowing, older courses may well find the fairways were horse and gang mown far more recently than many would think.

Although the President tractor mentioned initially is one that many may well remember as a typical gang mower tractor, there were others that were pressed into this role, typically drawn from the entry level range offered by the main agricultural tractor makers. As farm tractors got bigger, the small tractor class was expanded by the introduction of Japanese made compacts.

With so many courses now using dedicated ride-on mowers for all mowing duties, it is easy to forget how grass cutting has evolved. But for those who enjoy a look back, the following pictures may be of interest.

With thanks to Ransomes Jacobsen, Kubota UK, Lloyds and Co Letchworth, Massey Ferguson, John Deere and Michael Bird.

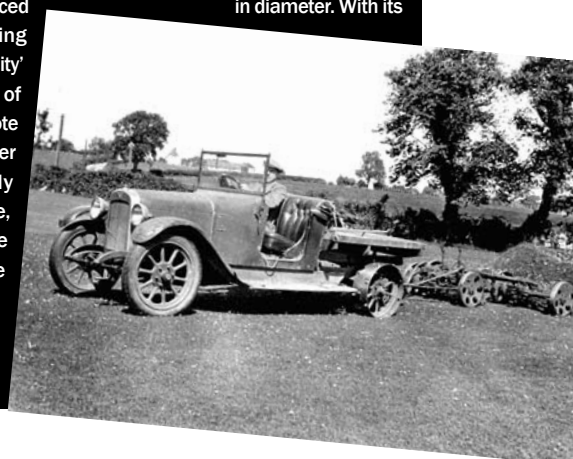
Horse Power.

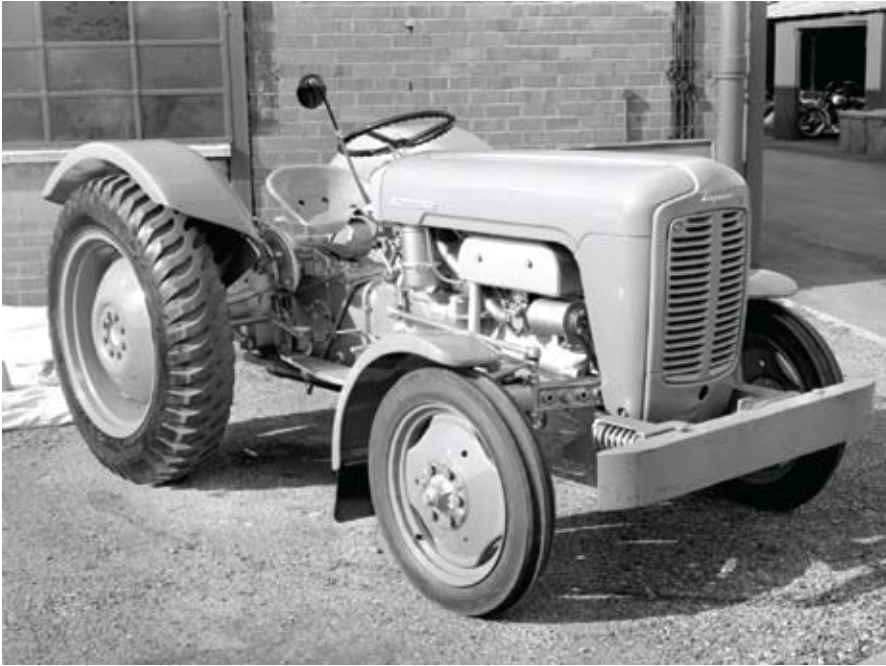
It is all too easy to forget that we relied on horse power to mow turf, with this form of power still prevailing into the 1950s or possibly even later in some areas. The animal pictured is not wearing turf overshoes, the latter being commonly fitted to help avoid damage to the ground. In the background, it is evident that working in a straight line was as much a priority then as it is today. Also look at the Lloyds gang mower, and note how the leading gang set have dual rims on the outer wheel sets. This was to help boost traction to the unit in a turn, the mower operator needing a great deal of skill when working in tight spaces and in less than ideal conditions.



Austin Car and Gang Mower.

Believed to be based around an Austin 20 Tourer of around 1924, this circa 1931 picture clearly demonstrates the desire to be less reliant on true horsepower. The rear of the car has been completely re-worked to provide a load platform for greenkeeping requisites and tools, the lugged steel wheels on the back axle appearing to have been built using the original wheels and spokes. To achieve a lower forward speed, the rear wheels are also reduced screen and comfy looking seats, this course-built 'utility' must have been the envy of all who saw it in action. Note the size of the gang mower drive wheels. Probably geared for a horse's pace, they would probably have spun the cylinders at quite a lick when the 'car' was run up to speed!





Ferguson FE35 Municipal.

An interesting picture of a 'prototype' Ferguson FE35 'industrial' tractor. Taken at the Banner Lane, Coventry, factory, the 34hp FE35 was only produced between 1956 and part way through 1957, its distinctive bronze and grey finish making it something of a collector's item today. A more sober red and grey paint scheme was adopted when the tractor 'brand' was changed to Massey Ferguson in 1957. The tractors were re-badged as the MF35. Developed from the 'grey Fergie' TE series, the FE35 featured a live PTO, a great advance as it separated the PTO from the tractors forward speed. Note the rear tyres, this pattern doubling up for both industrial and turf use. When used on golf courses, tractors like this were often fitted with worn or road front tread tyres. The prominent ribs of a new agricultural tyre would damage the turf, particularly in a tight turn.

57 Mark 1.

Manufactured by Ford at its Basildon tractor plant (still in business building current New Holland tractors) between 1965 and 1975, the three-cylinder 47hp Ford 3000 had 8 forward and 2 reverse speeds. Taken in possibly 1969, the pictured unit is seen powering a Ransomes 57 Mk 1 hydraulic gang mower. In its day the Ford 3000, which replaced the Fordson Super Dexta, was considered light and powerful for its size, with a good number being sold to golf clubs. Fit decent flotation tyres and forty years on it would not look out of place on a course today. The mower is also interesting, hydraulic gang sets enabling Ransomes to meet the demand for a wide-area cylinder mower that could tackle longer grass, deliver high levels of productivity and still leave a decent finish.



Kubota B7100.

Kubota entered the UK market in the early 1970s, its light and genuinely compact tractors proving a hit with greenkeepers. There were reasons other than size that made these models appeal; for starters they offered a wide choice of gear speeds and they also tended to be pretty oil tight. The tractor shown is a 16hp B7100 with knife tine aerator working on a fairway. This tractor was produced from the 1970s, its genes still being evident in the company's current 'B' model line-up. Tyres purpose developed for use on fine turf helped allow tractors to be used for a wider range of duties, with ancillary equipment being developed to help exploit what a tractor had to offer.





400 with 365.

Pictured in 2001, this 35hp John Deere JD4400 and JD365 trailed gang mower combination may not look to have moved the tractor game on by a great deal, but appearance is deceiving. Hydrostatic drive, genuinely turf friendly tyres and a proper ROPS frame are three clear developments, 4WD and power steering making this model more versatile and user friendly than earlier designs. Often overlooked is operator comfort. Spend a few hours behind the wheel of an old tractor and it is clear that there has been a great deal of progress.

MF 240 Golf.

The 45hp Massey Ferguson MF 240 is a good example of how agricultural models were adapted to suit the needs of amenity and golf users. The 8 forward speed transmission would go down to 1.62kph. Although the turf tyres fitted are narrow by modern standards, they were a real step forward, particularly at the front. Add a ROPS frame and run the exhaust down the side, and this tractor would no doubt still appeal to a number of golf courses. This picture is from the early 1980s.



Carnoustie Leda 7tr May 2007.

Substitute the Kubota tractor up front with a pair of well trained horses and the chances are you could go mowing with this set of trailed Lloyds gangs. OK, there would need to be more than a few changes to the mower to gear it up to work at a horse's pace, but the point is tractors started out as a simple replacement for animal power. A three-point linkage and PTO are now essential to operate modern attachments, but it has not always been that way.



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DIARY OF A GOLF COURSE

By Peter Jones

Last month Peter Jones looked at the development of a new golf course, currently under construction near Guildford, and the decisions involved in getting a new golf course established. This month we hear about some of the seed mixtures chosen, and the design principles employed to ensure the course will be relatively easy to build and maintain, while making it appeal to its target group of golfers.

Finding a suitable site close to the centre of Guildford for the new Clandon Park Golf Club was no mean feat, and although some may have questioned the feasibility of a new club being adjacent to an established course, and less than two miles from another relatively new course, it is fair to say that the Clandon Park site lends itself wonderfully to being a golf course, benefiting from a gently rolling topography.

A business decision was made by the owners/operators to create a good quality course for the Pay & Play market, and therefore the course would have to appeal to a range of golfers, and provide a sufficient challenge and an incentive for them to want to play it again and again. The challenge set to the design and construction team was to build a course that would provide such appeal, yet also be relatively inexpensive to build and maintain.

A budget of approximately £1.5m was proposed for the construction of the course, including the irrigation system, which by today's standards is less than half of what some courses cost to build.

Key design principles used to help control construction and/or costs included:

- Generous green sizes to spread the wear, averaging 520m² (566yds²).
- Greens constructed well away from existing trees
- Two or three good sized teeing areas on each hole, with tee area averaging 500m² per hole.
- Use of On-site soil as main component for tee construction

- Single side-to-side French drain across each tee
- A maximum of 40 greenside bunkers
- A maximum of 20 fairway bunkers
- The use of mowable grass hollows as low maintenance features
- All banks mowable with ride-on mowers
- Irrigation to Greens, Tees and Approaches only. (Not fairways)
- Designated 'Conservation Areas' which will receive little significant maintenance
- Limited numbers of proposed new trees, to be planted well away from tees and greens to avoid long term future problems
- Use of drainage soak-aways into the chalk as preferred choice of drainage system

Fairway Areas

Typically the biggest areas, fine turf areas to be prepared on a course are the fairways, and a significant saving was achieved by deciding to retain the existing contours on the majority of the fairway areas, and not to strip the topsoil off and re-shape these areas.

Fairway seed mixture

A choice of seed mixture for the fairways was decided on with the short term objective of maximising the chances of late spring/early summer establishment of sward on non irrigated areas, and the longer term objective of providing good wear tolerance, good summer and winter colour, and excellent drought tolerance. The mixture was based on the following proportions of Perennial ryegrass and a mixture of Fescues, and assumed that the variance in topography across the site would typically favour the ryegrass in the more moist areas, and the fescues in the drier areas:

20% Perennial ryegrass, 30% Slender creeping red fescue; 30% Strong creeping red fescue, 20% Hard fescue.

Perennial ryegrass was included to offer rapid establishment, good wear tolerance and excellent drought tolerance for the species. Hard fescue for superior drought tolerance for non-irrigated fairways and good winter colour. With a high percentage of creeping red fescues to offer excellent recovery capability and drought tolerance.

Deep Rough seed mixture

In order to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the course in the summer, and also reduce the area of rough to be mown, a seed mixture was chosen for designated deep rough areas with the intention of letting the grasses go to seed each year. This mixture consisted of Slender CRF, Strong CRF, Chewings fescue, and Hard fescue. A proportion of topsoil was removed from these areas to help reduce the rate of growth.

Conservation Areas

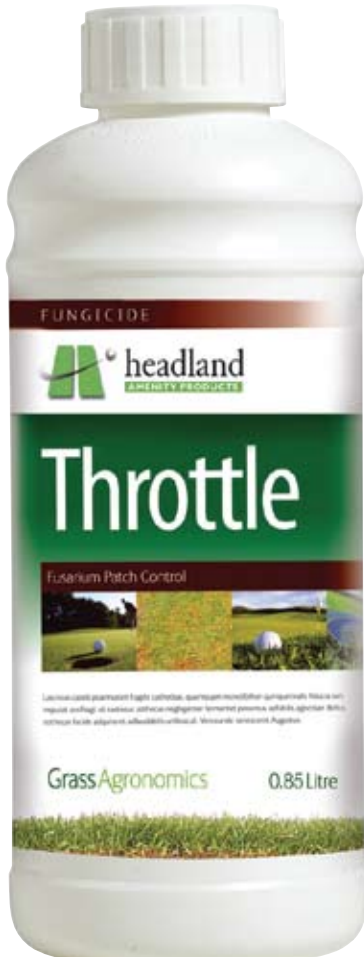
Areas identified for Conservation and Wildflower mixtures were completely stripped of topsoil to provide as little soil as practical to sow into, and the salvaged topsoil was transported across the site for future use on the fairways that would be constructed in the Wildflower areas can be notoriously difficult to maintain to their full potential over the long term, and therefore all attempts were made to maximise the chances of success from the offset in order to reduce maintenance costs. If successful, the long seeding grasses and predominant wildflower colours of yellow, white and purple should help to provide a magnificent appearance to the course, and bring rich benefits to the environment for wildlife.

Next month - construction techniques used to deal with extensive flint stone problems

New Products



NEW PRODUCTS



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Two powerful ingredients feature in Throttle, Headland's new curative and preventative fungicide.

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Designed very much with the Countryside Stewardship scheme in mind, this new hedgecutter system from STM features the Humus KM heavy duty flail technology, developed for quick, deep, clean cutting of dense and heavy growth. In recent trials it showed its capability for cutting through thick stems, including elm, a notoriously tough material.

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Synthetic surfacing supplier Notts Sport has launched a new range of aerosol markers designed specially for use on synthetic turf.

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Scotts Professional has launched a new selective post-emergence herbicide which kills turf weeds in one hit.

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TWO NEW MODELS OF RIDE-ON ROTARY

Etesia has launched two models in their 100cm ride-on rotary range – the Hydro 100D BPHP and BPSP.

In developing these machines, Etesia has succeeded in their objective to keep vibrations, emissions and noise to a minimum, while maintaining outstanding productivity and performance.

Power is at the heart of any rotary mower - with these high specification H100D lawnmowers, this comes from a Perkins 403D-07 20.5hp 3-cylinder water-cooled diesel engine - a unit noted for its quieter; cleaner; smooth yet powerful delivery.

Designed for durability and long life, this engine has a track record of proven reliability and performance and offers maximum fuel efficiency; low running costs plus longer intervals between servicing and oil changes.

www.etesia.com





SPACE INVADERS

With developers keen to market “golf course views” many courses are being squeezed by adjacent residential developments. Jonathan Gaunt talks with Scott MacCallum about how best to solve the problem – with the desired aim of making the course safe to play.

With land at a premium it is not surprising that some golf courses are finding themselves hemmed in by housing, as private golf clubs and more commercial hotel developments seek to maximise their assets by either selling land to developers or extending hotel facilities. The downside can be that encroaching development creates health and safety issues where previously there were none. It’s a subject about which renowned golf course architect, Jonathan Gaunt, has some experience.

“I was called into Westerwood, near Cumbernauld, in Scotland, which is one of the group of hotels now owned by Leeds-based specialist hotel operator, Q Hotels plc. Over the years, land immediately adjacent to the golf course had been sold off in chunks by the previous owners, which created some big operational problems,” explained Jonathan, as we sat in his superb design studio in Bakewell, Derbyshire, at the centre of the Peak National Park. (Incidentally Q Hotels also owns Aldwark Manor where BIGGA Headquarters is based.)

As the sizeable piece of real-estate was sold off, the golf course ended up being boxed in, with no room for future expansion, and for whatever reason, holes 11, 12 and 13 were bordered to both sides by new housing – which had been built in the late 1990’s and early 2000’s. The land area was barely the width of a fairway, so a mild slice or hook would end up in someone’s garden or conservatory – it was a fatal accident just waiting to happen...

It really was choking the golf course to death and having been called in by Q Hotel’s Director of Golf, Nic Oldham, Jonathan began looking at a number of options with George Oldham (Nic’s father) – a RIBA architect and planning consultant - for ways of returning the course, which was designed by Seve Ballesteros and Dave Thomas in the ‘80s, to a good standard and layout.

The only way to resolve the problem was to look for another piece of land altogether and at the same time aim to rationalise all the other problems of the course. They included drainage, irrigation and a chronic underfunding of the maintenance staff and facilities with whom, Course Manager, David Montgomery, was manfully working. I think he was down to four men with ancient machinery while the greenkeepers’ compound was an old ramshackle building with no heating or showers... and this was a prestigious hotel golf course development.”

Jonathan has a piece of advice for all golf clubs if, of course, they are in a position to do it: “Buy the fields next to your golf course as this will protect your boundaries and give you room to expand if the need arises. For example, Hillsborough GC, in Sheffield, was only on 110 acres for their 18 holes but they actually own 172 acres and this has allowed them to extend. If they decide to sell a field to housing developers in the future, the money they make will pay for something else for the club.”

Even if it stretches the finances, do not ignore any opportunity to buy up more land. “Meltham GC, near Huddersfield, bought a couple of pieces of land on the edge of the golf course because

they have a number of health and safety issues (crossing holes, narrow, sloping fairways, etc.) and while they don’t currently have the funds available to do the work, they have the land there for when they do. Let’s face it, the land is not going to lose value if they have to wait five, 10 or 15 years before making the next move.”

A masterplan has already been drawn up by Jonathan for the long term redevelopment of the course - irrespective of changes in committee and club officials, this plan will remain in place as a “policy document” for many years to come.

Back at Westerwood, Q-Hotels purchased land further north of the existing course and between the main Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line and the Antonine Wall (a World Heritage Site). Together with Nic Oldham and his father, George, a building architect and planning consultant with a wide knowledge of golf and planning issues, got the project moving.

“We looked at moving five holes to the new site. It is seriously beautiful, overlooking the Firth-Clyde Navigation and the Campsie Fells, while the land is gently undulating in places and quite steep in others. George had already prepared a suggested routing for the golf course extension, which worked very well and Jonathan fine-tuned this layout and made the new holes work in engineering and architectural terms, which were then approved by Nic. It meant that the tight, dangerous boxed in holes which had caused all the problems were taken out of play.”

The next stage was to present the plans to a sceptical membership who, at the time, were

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pretty much against any new plans for the course because they believed that Q-Hotels was going to come in, raise subscriptions and force them out, leaving it as a high profile hotel course.

“However, Nick saw beyond that and told the meeting of around 60 members they were more important to him than any hotel guests as they were users of the facilities, not just the golf course, but the pro-shop, bar and restaurant. Having gone in feeling as though we were going to be stoned to death we finished, having been as open and proactive as we could have been, with them patting us on the back,” said Jonathan, who added that the additional information about improving the drainage, irrigation and health and safety issues helped to assure the members.

Having survived the meeting of members, the feeling in the camp was that progress could then be made but they hadn't reckoned for the planning issues that arose from the sensitivity of the site.

“As part of the planning application we had to get approval from Historic Scotland because access to the new holes was only available by crossing the Antonine Wall, which actually looks more like a railway cutting than a wall. Although it had been crossed on numerous locations prior to our application, we were only allowed to have one crossing point and were not allowed to make any earth works on the new 4th hole within 25 metres of it, so a “protected no-enter zone” was established before permission was granted.

“The other problem we had related to the railway line and ScotRail was concerned because work had been done at Dullater GC a number of years previously and there had been a massive landslide onto the line.

ScotRail felt that the same thing might happen at Westerwood so we had to produce a detailed design, including engineering drawings showing the contours and drainage proposals, so we could prove how we were dealing with any surface water

on the site, which is much more detailed than we would normally be expected to produce.”

So with the archaeology and the railway issues slowing the project right down, costing at least two months of valuable construction time they were only able to get on site in April 2007.

“The seed should have gone in the ground in September 2007, but we had to close the site down due to extremely bad weather for the winter in October and it was only in April 2008 that we were able to get back on site again.”

It is often political and diplomatic skills, as much as his creativity, which golf course architects need although using the correct experts for the job is extremely important.

“On Westerwood, without George Oldham and his experience of attending meetings with archaeologists and planning consultations, it would have been much more difficult. In actual fact, I feel that you shouldn't employ a golf course architect to do that sort of thing - you should always employ a specialist. However, when it comes to landscaping and environmental issues golf course architects can deal with those as they are much more closely related to core work.”

A scholar of golf course design with an extensive library of books on the subject, Jonathan has some interesting comments to make about older designs and how, what was acceptable 100 years ago, does not work nowadays from a health and safety perspective.

“In the past, courses with blind shots were all part of the game but now we try and avoid any blind shots - we'd see it as a fault in the design even although many of us enjoy playing holes with blind shots.”

“From a design perspective if you're presented with a par-3 which is on flat ground, followed by a par-4 which is played over the brow of a hill, you can effectively, 'design out' this 'design flaw' and swap the par-3 for a par-4 played to a green

at the brow of the hill and then a par-3 from an elevated tee. You've solved the problem!

“A course with blind shots designed out if it will be a much more saleable product to members and green fee payers while it does help the speed of play - not having the ball go out of sight and potentially lost and then the group behind having to wait for a bell to ring. These are issues we have to look at nowadays with eight to 10 minute starting times and the pressure of getting golfers around the course quickly and safely. These things were much less of an issue 25-30 years ago,” he explained.

Pay and Play courses generally expect 30,000 to 40,000 rounds of golf per year, minimum - that's a lot of golfers to get round the course at 10 minute intervals.

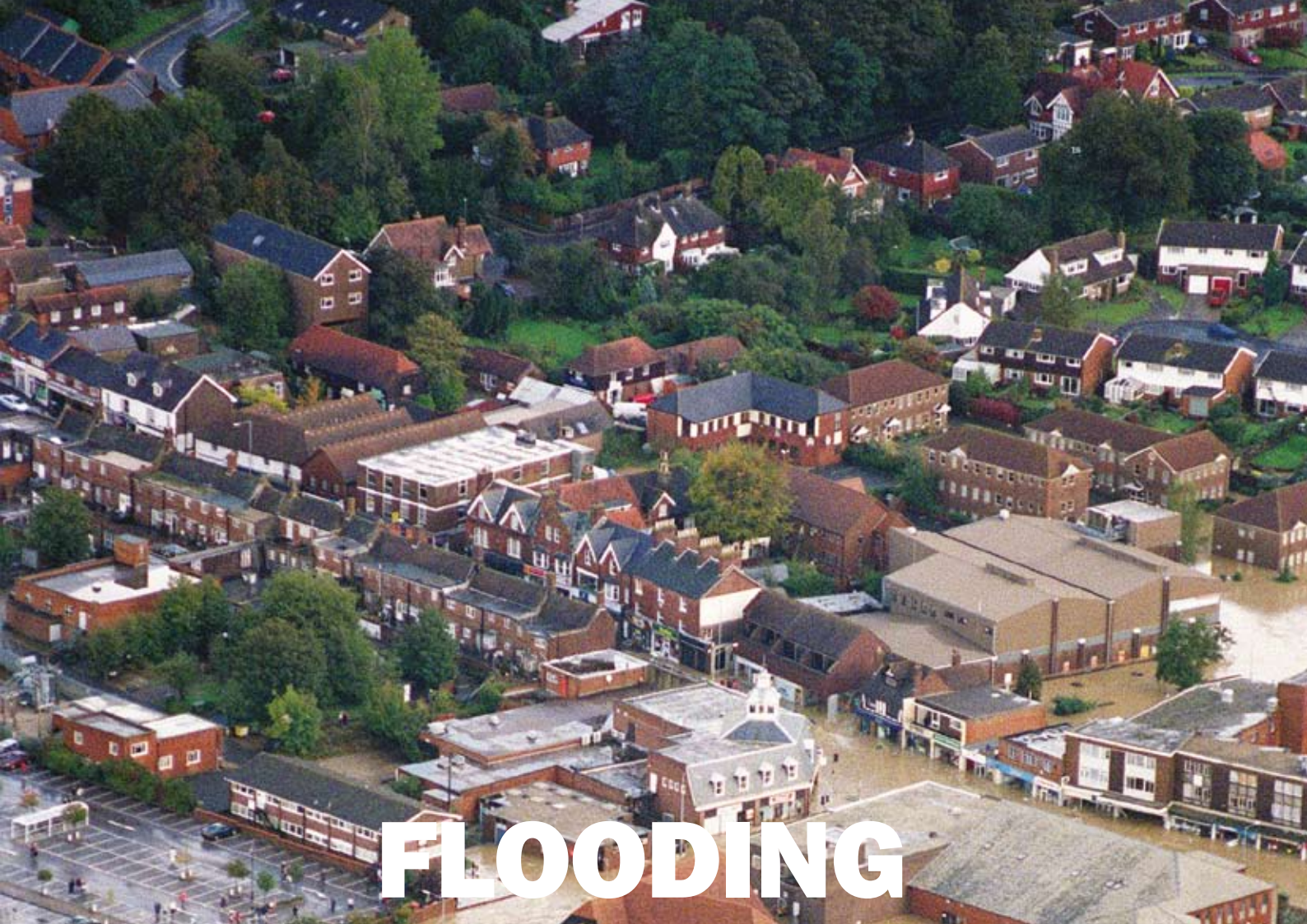
“It may make the course a bit more homogenised or formulaic but every new golf course is being designed for one particular purpose, and that's to make money. The clients I have now are building the golf course to help sell houses or hotels and the courses have to be marketable, as well as being beautiful, memorable and remarkable!” said Jonathan.

He can also envisage the day when it is common place for golf clubs to sell their urban-based golf courses to housing developers and relocated to a new venue out of town, on farmland, or reclaimed land such as pit heaps, landfill and wasteland.

“The Government is telling us that they want so many more homes built over the next 20 years and developers will tempt golf clubs by offering a new course, clubhouse and possibly a cash sum to move away from prime sites to enable houses to be built.

“It means some golf clubs will have to make difficult decisions in the future but stronger health and safety legislation may make the decision process much easier if older, golf courses on small, restricted sites fail to meet modern standards.”





FLOODING + DROUGHT = CLIMATE CHANGE?

The summer of 2006 saw the UK experience some of their highest temperatures on record and hosepipe bans were put in place in many areas. Fast forward a year and the summer of 2007 was almost non-existent, temperatures hit a low and many areas suffered greatly due to flooding. Is climate change to blame? Melissa Jones takes a look at the erratic changes in our weather and finds out what measures greenkeepers can put in place to prepare themselves for every eventuality.

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CLIMATE CHANGE ...A CLOSER LOOK

Climate change is happening and humans are contributing to it.

How can greenkeepers become more environmentally friendly but still have the resources to be prepared for the freak weather conditions they are facing more and more frequently?

Land degradation and desertification is itself a contributor to climate change, responsible for about 30% of the world's greenhouse gas releases, as well as alterations in the water, temperature and energy balance of the planet.

In the press...

AS THE DROUGHT BITES, GOLF CLUBS TOLD: LET THE GREENS GO BROWN

The Independent 10/07/06

Greens are to become browner in a drive to make golf kinder to the environment. In a revolutionary move, the rulers of golf are telling courses around the world to become more environmentally friendly, in order to head off criticism and cope with global warming.

HOT SUMMERS DRY UP YOUR MONEY

Telegraph 17/10/06

Water shortages will cost British home owners and businesses billions of pounds a year as climate change causes summer temperatures to soar, a leading financial expert has warned.

WORST OF DROUGHT IS OVER?

Surrey & Berkshire Newspapers Ltd 23/06/06

The first glimmer of hope that the worst effects of the summer drought could be over came this week with the news that some local sports clubs are being allowed to turn their sprinklers back on.

SPORTS CLUBS CAN JUMP FOR JOY AS WATERING BAN EASED

SurreyOnline 7/06/06

Sports clubs in Dorking and Leatherhead are allowed to water pitches and greens, thanks to restrictions on them being eased.

DROUGHT ORDER TERMINATED

Enfield Independent 13/11/06

The drought order imposed by Sutton and East Surrey Water Company will cease to be valid from November 15 but the hosepipe ban will remain in place.

A spokesman for the Environment Agency said: "We do not know whether we are going to have another dry winter and the boreholes are still very, very depleted."

WATER COMPANIES LIFT HOSEPIPE BAN

BBC News 18/01/07

Four water firms in the south east of England are lifting their hosepipe bans after months of above average rainfall. Thames Water, Southern Water, Three Valleys Water and Sutton and East Surrey Water have lifted the ban, which affected more than 1.3m customers.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

02/01/08

The Environment Agency's flood experts are working across the region inspecting flood banks and defences to make sure they are ready for the winter months.

COPING WITH A TOUGH SPRING

The Independent 23/04/08

It has been a very difficult spring for grass growth. Rainfall was well above normal in March and the first weeks of April. With day temperatures below normal and night frost last week, grass growth hardly stirred.

SPAIN SUFFERS WORST DROUGHT

CNN 21/04/08

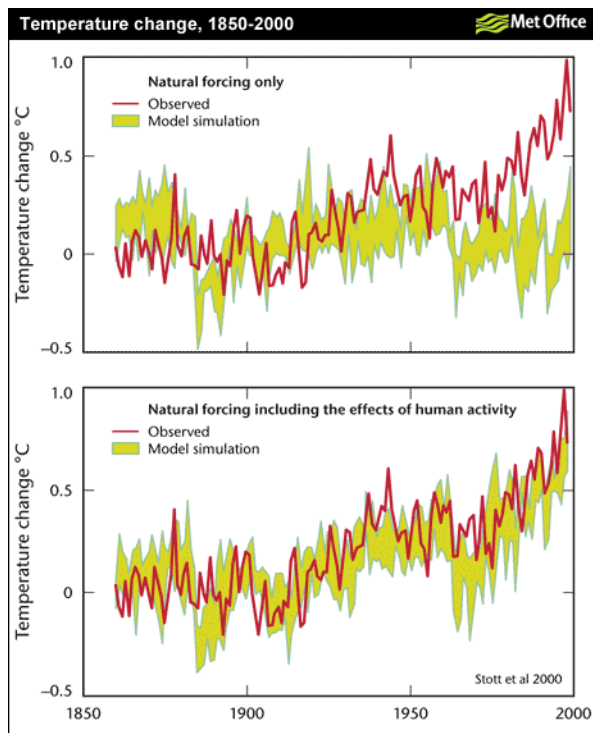
Madrid, Spain (CNN) - Spain is reeling from its most severe drought in 70 years with the nation's reservoirs on average just half full, the Environment Ministry reports. Rainfall has been less than half of what's considered normal for the last six months...

PARK THE MOWER AND PLANT A PALM

The Sunday Times 04/05/08

The Met Office is to warn gardeners to plan for a warmer climate by cultivating drought-tolerant plants such as palms, olives and Mediterranean herbs to resign themselves to the death of the traditional lawn. It believes this year will be one of the hottest on record.

CLIMATE CHANGE: THE FACTS



Crown copyright Source: MET Office

The MET Office explain...

Temperatures provide the clearest evidence that the climate is changing and globally the average temperature has risen by more than 0.7 °C over the last 100 years.

The natural greenhouse gas effect keeps Earth much warmer than it would otherwise be, without it Earth would be extremely cold. Greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and water vapour behave like a blanket around Earth. These gases allow the Sun's rays to reach Earth's surface but impede the heat they create from escaping back into space.

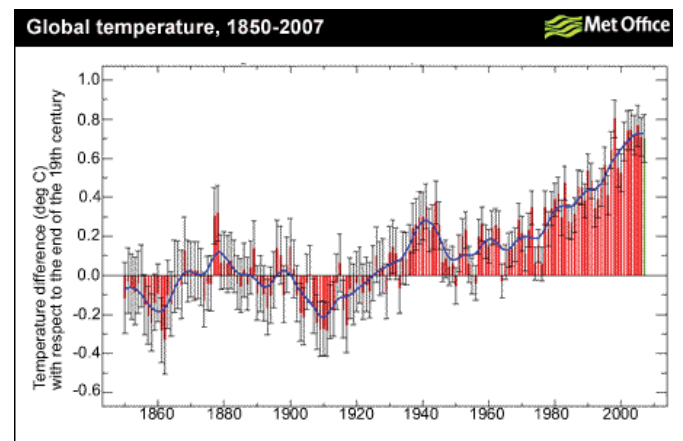
Any increases in the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere mean that more heat is trapped and global temperatures increase - an effect known as 'global warming'.

There is indisputable evidence that this observed global warming is predominantly caused by increases in greenhouse gas concentrations. Concentrations of CO₂, created largely by the burning of fossil fuels, are now much higher, and increasing at a much faster rate, than at any time in the last 600,000 years. Because CO₂ is a greenhouse gas, the increased concentrations have contributed to the recent warming and probably most of the warming over the last 50 years.

TEMPERATURES ARE CONTINUING TO RISE...

The rise in global surface temperature has averaged more than 0.15 °C per decade since the mid-1970s. Warming has been unprecedented in at least the last 50 years, and the 17 warmest years have all occurred in the last 20 years. This does not mean that next year will necessarily be warmer than last year, but the long-term trend is for rising temperatures.

A simple mathematical calculation of the temperature change over the latest decade (1998-2007) alone shows a continued warming of 0.1 °C per decade. The warming trend can be seen in the graph of observed global temperatures. The red bars show the global annual surface temperature, which exhibit year-to-year variability. The blue line clearly shows the upward trend, far greater than the uncertainties, which are shown as thin black bars. The recent slight slowing of the warming is due to a shift towards more-frequent La Niña conditions in the Pacific since 1998. These bring cool water up from the depths of the Pacific Ocean, cooling global temperatures.



Crown copyright Source: MET Office

THE CURRENT CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT JUST PART OF A NATURAL CYCLE...

Earth's climate is complex and influenced by many things, particularly changes in its orbit, volcanic eruptions, and changes in the energy emitted from the Sun. It is well known that the world has experienced warm or cold periods in the past without any interference from humans. The ice ages are good examples of global changes to the climate, and warm periods have seen grapes grown across much of Britain.

Over the several hundred thousand years covered by the ice core record, the temperature changes were primarily driven by changes in the Earth's orbit around the Sun. Over this period, changes in temperature did drive changes in carbon dioxide (CO₂). Since the Industrial Revolution (over the last 100 years), CO₂ concentrations have increased by 30% due because to human-induced emissions from fossil fuels.

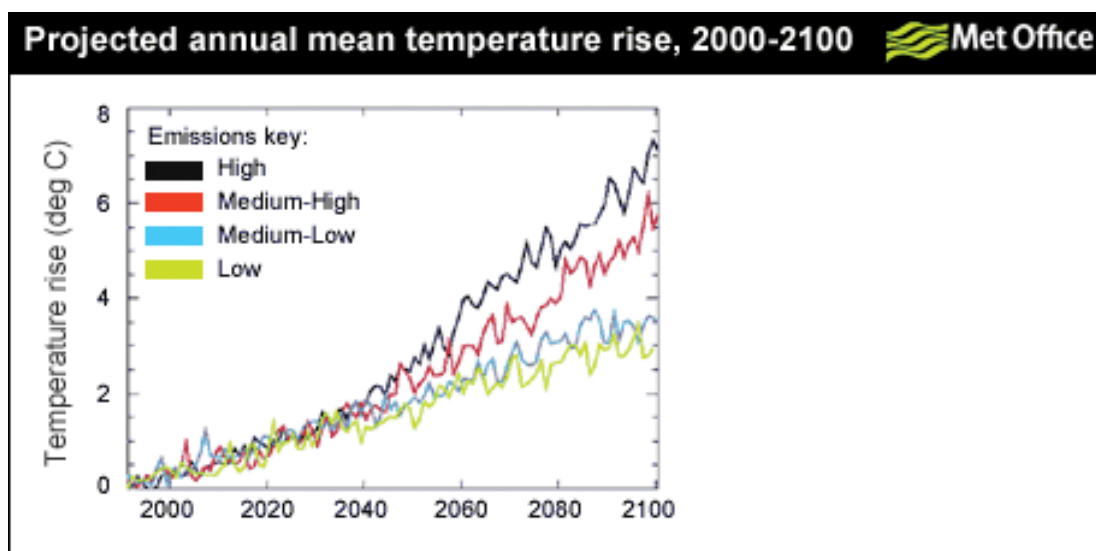
The bottom line is that temperature and CO₂ concentrations are linked. In recent ice ages, natural changes in the climate, such as those due to orbit changes, led to cooling of the climate system. This caused a fall in CO₂ concentrations which weakened the greenhouse effect and amplified the cooling. Now the link between temperature and CO₂ is working in

the opposite direction. Human-induced increases in CO₂ are driving the greenhouse effect and amplifying the recent warming.

If we continue emitting greenhouse gases this warming will continue and delaying action will make the problem more difficult to fix.

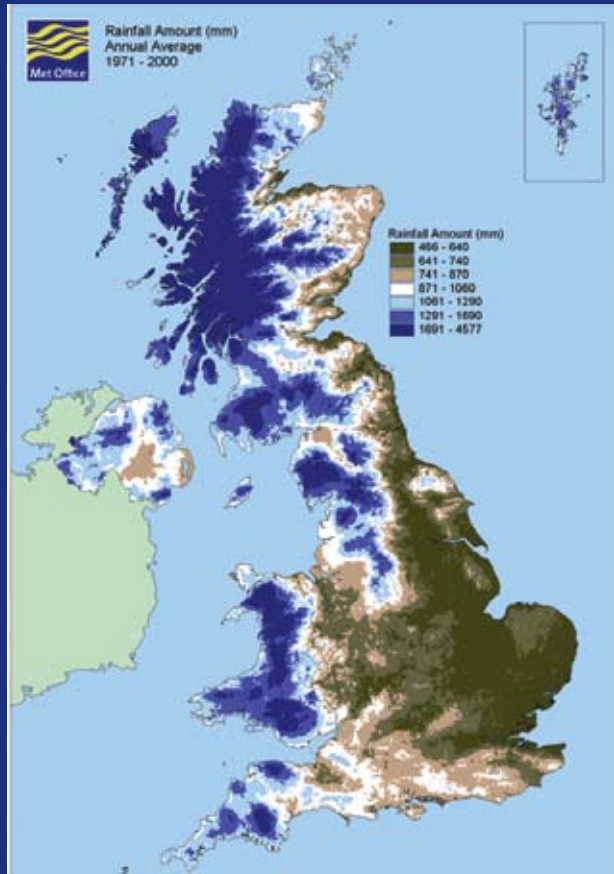
The global average temperature will increase by 2 to 3 °C this century – according to one of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) mid-range estimates (blue line on the graph below). This rise in temperature means that the Earth will experience a greater climate change than it has for at least 10,000 years and it would be difficult for many people and ecosystems to adapt to this rapid change.

These temperature increases are likely to result in an increased frequency and severity of weather events such as heatwaves, storms and flooding. Rising levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere could set in motion large-scale changes in Earth's natural systems. Some of these could be irreversible – the melting of large ice sheets will result in major consequences for low-lying areas throughout the world.



Crown copyright Source: MET Office

WETTEST AND DRIEST



The wettest and driest places in the world are generally regarded as:

Highest average annual total: 11680 mm (460 inches) at Mount Wai-ale-ale, Hawaii

Highest in one year: 26461 mm (1042 inches) at Cherrapunji, India from 1 August 1860 to 31 July 1861

Highest in one calendar month: 9300 mm (366 inches) at Cherrapunji, India in July 1861

Highest in 24 hours: 1825 mm (72 inches) at Fac Fac, La Reunion Island, Indian Ocean

Highest in 12 hours: 1350 mm (53 inches) at Belouve, La Reunion Island, Indian Ocean

Driest place: for the period between 1964 and 2001, the average annual rainfall at the meteorological station in Quillagua, in the Atacama Desert, Chile, was just 0.5 mm

Crown copyright Source: MET Office



Orpington Pond, Kent, 2006
Copyright Environment Agency



Bewl Reservoir, 2006
Copyright Environment Agency

WHAT THE R&A SAY – BE PREPARED FOR CHANGE

By Steve Isaac, Director – Golf Course Management, The R&A



The R&A promotes greater sustainability in the way we develop and maintain our golf courses. One of the key elements toward achieving this aim is the ability to be able to adapt to changing circumstances and climate change is, probably, one of the greatest challenges facing the game around the world. In the UK, we are unlikely to witness the most severe extremes that climate change may bring about elsewhere, e.g. the desertification of southern Europe, but the predictions suggest that we will witness warmer and drier summers, wetter and milder winters and more storms. What strategy can courses in the UK adopt to try and counter these effects?

One of the best means of combating any form of turf stress, and wildly fluctuating weather patterns certainly produce this, is to promote healthy turf. This means working on the growing environment to produce dry, firm surfaces with ample access to light and air movement. Links tend to benefit from nature's gifts in this regard and the short DVD, "Come rain, come shine", which is available to view at www.bestcourseforgolf.org, demonstrates how

perfecting firm surfaces which drain well helped present courses fit for an Open Championship despite the opposite extremes of weather witnessed at Hoylake in 2006 and Carnoustie in 2007. Improving drainage to create drier turf is feasible in most situations, through construction and maintenance techniques. This will require greater investment for some than for others but the very survival of courses which do not currently perform well in wetter weather may depend on positive action in this regard. Drier courses mean more play and less damage from traffic, bringing in greater revenue. Drier turf generally means better turf, in terms of its health, resistance to disease, and species composition. The type of turf you can develop to drier surfaces will not only survive wet periods in good order but will also tolerate drier conditions without recourse to heavy irrigation, and water scarcity and cost could well impact on your ability to irrigate in future heatwaves. Courses may have to be more inventive when it comes to dealing with Biblical-scale rains, looking to architectural changes to susceptible parts of the course to provide water holding ditches and ponds and utilising the spoil to raise in-play areas, this water circulation process providing a valuable source for irrigation in drier times as can storm water collection. Case studies on water management systems are available on the R&A website.

The R&A is developing systems that will help course managers to monitor, predict and proactively address the challenges that lie ahead:

- The benchmarking service at bestcourseforgolf.org which helps the course manager assess the impact of changing weather on the course and the effect maintenance has on dealing with problems, in terms of turf quality, playing quality and cost. This service is available now, free of charge, to courses registered to the site. It can be used as part of a risk assessment analysis, protecting the course and its management against the changing climate and regulations whose impact will be climate-related, e.g. water and pesticides
- Tools to objectively measure sward composition and playing quality so that you can monitor performance and adjust maintenance procedures to ensure that the playing experience is the best it can be, whatever the weather

No-one can guarantee what weather we are going to experience in 20, 50 or 100 years time. The best predictions suggest that we will see much greater extremes of heat, drought and rainfall at various times of the year, and we are already witnessing more unpredictable weather. Prepare for change and you will be in a better position to present the golf course well, sustaining your business in a more environmentally sound way and, thereby, securing the future of the game for generations to come.

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generation of wetting and spreading agents. Released over three different time spans - short, medium and long-term - it maximises prolonged water

uptake whilst reducing overall irrigation needs, not just on the surface but throughout the root zone. And when used on localized areas of drought-stressed turf, H2Pro offers immediate relief, reducing Dry Patch by up to 80 per cent. Suitable for all turfgrass types, H2Pro comes in liquid, granule or tablet form.

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SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT ...REDUCING YOUR CLUB'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

By Melissa Jones

Robert Nutt and his brother John, are proprietors of The Oaks Golf Club and Spa in Aughton, near York. Nearly 12 years old, the club opened its doors to the golfing community in June 1996. Four years ago when they unveiled The Spa at The Oaks, this opened up another market for them – one that they wanted to run as environmentally friendly and cost effectively as they could.

Within two to three years the club hope to be fully self-sufficient, but in the meantime they're not far off the mark and their efforts are helping to reduce the clubs carbon footprint.

Electricity is generated at the club and spa during peak usage - from 8am until 9.15pm then automatically reverts back to mains electric during the evening. "A lot of golf and country clubs put in place energy saving measures but compromise the experience that they are giving their customers, for instance by reducing the hours the saunas and steam rooms operate. We took the decision to be as cost effective and environmentally friendly as we could without compromising



the members' experience which has come about by reducing energy costs," said Robert.

The partners also had to consider the amount of power cuts that the area suffers from. "Consequently we were going to have to look at setting up a back-up generation system anyway. We have people travelling from miles away for golf and pamper days and we couldn't have the power cutting out. In the past we have had to close the premises and give everyone their money back, hopefully this situation has now been overcome," explained Robert.

FUEL...

The brothers, who also farm in Aughton, took the decision just over year ago to generate electricity by using rapeseed oil derived from homegrown rapeseed and the heating on wood chips sourced locally.

"Because farming has been very depressed up until late last summer, we had around 300 acres of land available on the farm to produce rapeseed.



It seemed mad buying fuel for the golf club when we had our own potential source. We've always grown rape and that seed offered us the oil. The seed itself is about 40-45% oil and you are able to create electricity by running a diesel engine generator on the oil crushed out of rapeseed," enthused Robert.

The partners had planned to then burn the oil and use the meal that was created as their heat source for the bio-mass boiler. However, as the system was being set up and the necessary equipment being installed, the price of oil seed rape went through the roof. Prices had started to rise last August but by November their increase in cost proved for it to not be financially viable for club to burn the meal as it's still of a very high feed value for feeding livestock. It had out priced itself of burning.

Not one for giving up, Robert explained: "We then had a look around and actually sourced some reclaimed woodchip to feed into the boiler."

The Nutt's plan to plant Willow on their farm as soon as weather conditions allow: "It may take two to three years before we get a viable yield to start supplying our own wood. Once we are able to use the Willow, in effect we will be totally self-sufficient with fuel – oil for electric and wood for heat," gleamed Robert.

COST...

The system cost approximately £150,000 to set up and the club is looking at, and on target for, a three year payback - depending on how much fuel costs rise the payback could come around even sooner.

As The Oaks uses a generator consisting of a diesel engine converted to run on 100% rapeseed oil, the brothers are able to claim credits back from Ofgem, regulators of the electricity and gas markets in Great Britain, for producing carbon-free energy.

"It's quite a complex procedure. Carbon credits have a value of £50 per megawatt, which for us amounts to an extra £50 a day payback," explained Robert.

"On the heating side, last year our heating cost amounted to £32,000 for kerosine (32p a litre), this cost would have risen to in the region of £50,000

this year taking in to consideration the rise in the price of kerosine. In comparison to this the cost of the woodchip we have used to heat the club this year will have amounted to less than £10,000."

Of course once the one off cost has been repaid and the willow planted to generate wood chippings, the full benefit will be realised, "I think it will take around 10 hectares to become self-sufficient - costing £1000 a hectare. Because willows re-generate that is a one off cost. We just have to be patient for those couple of years getting going and maintain our current supply of woodchip from the open market," Robert explained.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES...

It's not just off the course that Robert and John have taken extra measures to enhance the clubs contribution to the saving the environment.

"We've planted a further 35 acres of trees on top of what was already on the land the course was built upon. With the variation in habitat from younger trees, to mature trees to gorse etc, we've actually improved and maintained various habitats' which was actually a major interest of ours anyway. There's a more diverse habitat and species down here than there ever was when it was farmed.

"You do actually read, and there's a lobby against golf clubs, that golf courses cause problems for habitats but that's not the case here and I'm sure that's not the case in many places – we've actually enhanced and diversified habitats," enthuse Robert.

The last piece of the puzzle for The Oaks is addressing their water issues. "We have a borehole for the spray irrigation on the greens and this is currently been looked at for its suitability for supplying the drinking and showering water," commented Robert.

A considerable amount of time was necessary to fully research the systems available and their viability, this now seems to be paying off. The philosophy of The Oaks is to provide first class facilities that are competitively priced for the members to enjoy. Leaving the members committees to plan and organise their golf competitions while the proprietors take responsibility for strategy and the day-to-day running which obviously include all environmental aspects.



WHAT AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT SAYS...

Alan Hopkins BSc, MPhil, CEnv, MIEEM works as an Independent Consultant, specialising in grassland and related areas of agriculture and amenity land use, prior to this he worked for the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research for 30 years.

Melissa Jones asked Alan how he felt climate change would affect our greens...

"I guess the specific issues of climate change (in terms of 2020s/ 2050s MH scenarios*) are that the length of growing season is favoured by warmer conditions in spring and autumn, plus some CO2 forcing, (exactly as for agricultural grassland) which golf greenkeepers might find encouraging. But more frequent and intense summer dry periods could have greater consequences on greens where there is shallow rooting, especially where sprinklers are used, exacerbated by frequent cutting and any surface fertiliser dressings. There must also be a question over availability of irrigation water in the future in many parts of the UK, not just cost but availability."

How can we plan for the future?

"If I were planning golf course management for the future I would be focusing on anything that improved soil structure, including building up soil organic matter thus improving soil available water capacity. This requires an improved soil fauna so greenkeepers will have to learn to love earthworms and deal with worm casts if they get in the way of play. I would also suggest installing



rainwater holding systems (think about how much winter rain lands on a golf clubhouse roof).

"Longer term, and where frosts are less likely we could be looking at alternative species like paspalum or bermuda grass (plenty of overseas experience to draw on). A number of weeds are able to thrive under the conditions where swards get damaged by drought (flat weeds and anything with tap roots) and timing of any spot spraying is critical to avoid damage to a short turf. I think there could be some grass disease issues especially in warm damp autumns, so grass varieties that are less susceptible and the insurance value of complex mixtures are considerations. There is also the question of more frequent windy weather: planting wind breaks is cheap but they may take 20 years to mature."

*Alan can be contacted at GES Consulting on
Tel: 01647 252748
or Email: environment.hopkins@virgin.net*

* The UKCIP website gives numerous reports on climate change and they mostly use future scenarios rather than predictions, as used by climate change scientists. These are based on timescales and CO2 emissions levels (low, medium, medium-high, high etc for the 2020s, 2050s, 2080s) and the impacts of climate change associated with such emissions over that time scale. A medium-high emission scenario is assuming no great reduction in CO2 emission, and 2020s-2050s is the medium term and within most peoples' life expectancy.



DISEASE PRESSURE HOTS UP



Turf diseases are attacking more aggressively and for longer in warmer conditions – with some new diseases rarely seen in the UK now causing damage. Turf managers need advance warning of new risks, and to be ready to take action, advises Syngenta Technical Manager, Simon Barnaby.

With temperatures rising year on year and a marked reduction in seasonal variation, a series of unusual diseases have been appearing on fine turf areas up and down the country over recent years, creating new challenges for turf managers. Disease pathologists agree that many of the incidences are a consequence of changes in prevailing environmental conditions that are more conducive to the diseases.

Autumn and spring are typically severely truncated; we seem to go from winter straight into summer. Furthermore, the rain events tend to be more intense but of shorter duration. All of which can lead to greater levels of disease and put turf under stress that makes it slower to recover.

There are also increasing reports that turf grass diseases are getting more aggressive. Fusarium Patch seems to have been particularly severe in the late autumn early winter period over the last few years. Brown Patch has begun to appear with increasing regularity. Dollar Spot, which was an isolated problem on some courses in the south west, can now be found on fine turf across the country. The risk from Take-All, which was always a mid-summer problem, can occur from May to October.

Better Prepared

Looking back at the historical disease records on the GreenCast website – www.greencast.co.uk – highlights the intensity and frequency of localised disease pressure now encountered on golf courses across the country. Armed with this information, coupled with the website's up-to-date local disease forecasts for the coming five days, turf managers can be better prepared to tackle disease more effectively.

With the greater severity of turf disease attacks, prevention is more important than ever. Independent STRI trials have proven that using the GreenCast decision support system to optimise the timing of Heritage



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fungicide applications – when infection has taken place during periods of high disease risk, but before symptoms are visible on the turf – can achieve better results and maintain improved turf quality, from fewer applications and at reduced cost.

Coupled to this, it remains essential that turf managers adopt the highest level of Integrated Turf Management (ITM) that will help to prevent problems. Measures such as appropriate nutritional and cultural treatments, correct disease identification and the early or preventative application of appropriate fungicides can all help to prevent serious problems occurring.

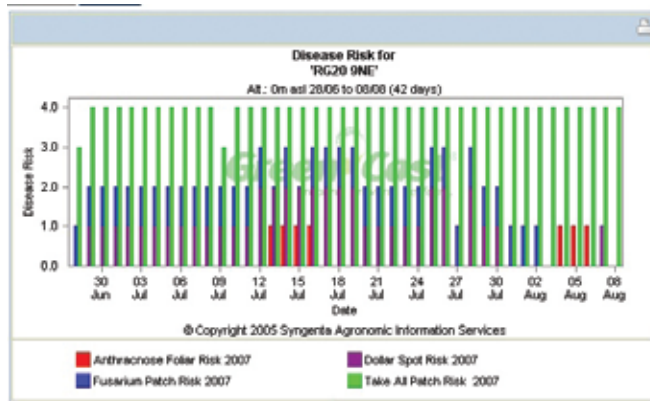
Stress Management

UK cool season grass species struggle to cope when temperatures rise and soil water reserves fall. With a warming climate becoming a reality, turf managers are going to have to cope with increasingly stressful conditions. Staying cool and green when all around are burning up will make a real difference.

Research trials and turf managers' experience on UK golf courses and sports pitches has consistently demonstrated the ability of a Primo MAXX programme to help turf withstand the effects of stress more effectively, and to recover faster.

On a sunny day, the temperature within the turf grass canopy is often 7 - 10 °C warmer than ambient air temperature, adding to turf stress. Studies have shown root growth is adversely affected when temperatures get above 18 °C; and above 24 °C leaf photosynthetic rates reduce and the chlorophyll content decreases in cool season turf grasses, such as bents, fescues, ryegrasses and Poa annua.

The net result is loss of colour, turf density and turf quality, yet, under drought conditions Primo MAXX has been shown to increase leaf chlorophyll content by 60%. Furthermore, it has been shown to increase the level of bioactive cytokinins within the plant that serve to delay the degradation of chlorophyll



caused by high temperatures and to alleviate leaf browning, improving tolerance to heat and drought induced stress.

Water Use

Research at Rutgers University has shown that only 3% of water taken up by turf grass is used in photosynthesis, with over 90% transpired by the plant. The Primo growth regulation programme has been shown to improve the turf plant's water efficiency by reducing respiration rates and stomatal evapo-transpiration, which in practice can reduce irrigation requirements by 30%.

In trials under drought conditions, the photochemical efficiency of turf was enhanced by over 75%, compared to untreated turf. The relative water content of the grass leaves remained a healthy 20% higher than untreated 28 days after application.

Healthier plants, with deeper rooting, are better able to seek out available soil moisture and nutrients, make more efficient use of irrigation and stay green and healthy for longer, as well as recovering faster from drought effects or traffic and wear stress from heavy play.



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ADVICE ON SAVING WATER FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Are you saving water?

Saving water at home, in the garden, or at work can take little effort, but makes a big difference.

The key is for everyone to reduce personal wastage, ie. turning the tap off when you brush your teeth, can save up to 5 litres a minute. If the entire adult population of England and Wales did this, we could save 180 million litres a day, enough to supply nearly 500,000 houses.

Why should I save water?

Water is not as abundant in England and Wales as you would think. We only have 1,334 cubic metres (m³) per person a year – much less than France (3,065 m³) or even the hotter Mediterranean countries of Italy (2,785 m³) and Spain (2,775 m³).

South East England has even less water per person due to its high population density and low rainfall. The Thames Valley has only 266m³, only a fifth of the England and Wales average.

Dry winters have the biggest impact on water resources. Winter rain tops up groundwater supplies while summer rain only helps reduce water consumption as we don't have to water our gardens or wash our cars. Saving water will make sure that the water we do get lasts, particularly as it is impossible to predict how long a drought will continue.

Water shortages don't just affect us: they can also seriously harm our environment. Our water comes from rivers and groundwater so every drop we use has a direct effect on the environment.

Fish, wetland birds and other wildlife that rely on ponds, rivers and streams struggle to survive when these dry up or run low. Sources of food and breeding sites for wildlife can be lost and fish can die through lack of oxygen.

The average person in England and Wales uses 150 litres of water every day. Most of it is used for washing and toilet flushing, but it also includes drinking, cooking, car washing and watering the garden. We use almost 50% more water than 25 years ago, partly because of the use of power showers and other water using household appliances.

Rainwater Harvesting

Rainwater Harvesting is the collection of water that would otherwise have gone down the drain, into the ground or been lost through evaporation. Large surfaces such as roofs or driveways are ideal for rainwater harvesting and can provide up to 100m³ (100,000 litres) of water per year from a medium sized area. This water can be used to flush toilets, water gardens and even feed the washing machine. Rainwater harvesting systems can be installed in both new and existing buildings, and the harvested water used for purposes that do not require drinking water quality. Rainwater harvesting has the potential to save a large volume of mains water and therefore help reduce the pressure on water resources.

Is it for me?

Before deciding whether or not to install a system for home or work, consider the costs of buying, installing and maintaining the system.

- Calculate the volume of rainfall that can be collected from roof areas or driveways to see whether rainwater harvesting can meet your requirements.
- Work out the potential water and cost savings.

Water-efficient gardening

There is much that gardeners can do to reduce the need for watering. Adding organic matter, home compost, composted bark or rotted manure at about a bucketful per square metre will boost the amount of water that soil can retain. Water efficient gardens also save labour, as there is less need to water them and mulches suppress the growth of weeds.

Choosing plants suited to the soil and site will mean that they grow good roots which can search out moisture. Mulching with organic matter such as bark chips or with other materials such as gravel or ornamental crushed glass will help to promote good root growth and reduce moisture losses from the soil. Newly planted areas and newly laid lawns won't survive without watering if you plant them in the summer. Set out plants and lawns as early in spring as possible so that they develop good roots early. If drought strikes, these should have top priority for whatever water is available.

Lawns can survive drought very well and even if brown recover when rain returns. Gravel and other mulches, or prostrate evergreen plants such as Juniperus squamata, can be used as an alternative to lawns.

Saving water in the public sector

Did you know that with the introduction of the Water Act 2003, all public bodies now have a duty to 'conserve water'? By monitoring your water use and comparing it to benchmarks you can save up to 50% of your water bill. The Water Act 2003 places a duty on all public bodies to 'take into account, where relevant, the desirability of conserving water supplied or to be supplied to premises'. This means that all public bodies should reduce the water used on their premises to an efficient level.

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Environment Agency.



WATER USAGE

HOW MANY LITRES TO...		
Fill a kettle:	1	
Fill a watering can:	5	Flush a toilet: 9
Have a shower:	30-50	Use a dishwasher: 25-60
Fill a bath:	80	Do laundry: 70-120

Source: BBC News

TOP TIPS...

ADVICE...

In 2003 Laleham Golf Club experienced the worst drought they had ever suffered. Course Manager, John Ross explains and offers five top tips in the fight against drought.

"In 2003 Laleham Golf Club had zero rainfall from March until October, 113 mm fell locally in that time but it felt like we were inside some form of protective dome. The water licence at Laleham allows only 1.84 cubic metres of water per hour to be applied through the irrigation system and Laleham is laid out on gravel exacerbating the problems."

TIPS FOR COPING WITH DROUGHT

1. Plan for it

If it does not happen you have lost nothing, planning is done in the winter and spring, every winter and spring! Aeration is key, No aeration no drought resistance.

2. Learn to read the early signs of plant stress

Leaf wilt, uneven dew formation.

3. Irrigation without infiltration and percolation is wasted

When we water we target plant roots not foliage.

4. Turn negatives into positives

Use a drought as a means of constructing arguments for investment in irrigation, drainage and aeration (yes drainage! drought tolerance starts with good drainage).

5. Do not abuse your irrigation system

Hand water hot spots if that is what is needed, no point saturating a large area to get a small area.

FLOODING ADVICE

Immingham Golf Club, Humberston, suffered greatly from flooding in 2007. Course Manager, Steven Beverly, offers some advice and explains: "When 500mm fell in two months, including over eight inches in one day, we ended up with several areas that were only passable by boat!"

TOP TIPS FOR COPING WITH FLOODING...

1. If you identify poorly draining areas then they need to be addressed before any flooding occurs.

2. Ensure you are properly equipped to deal with the problems, i.e. have pumping equipment on site, know where drains are to pump into, ensure these drains work.

3. Any damage done by flooding needs to be cleared away promptly, i.e. any debris left on the course needs to be removed, washed out bunkers repaired.

4. Have course policies in place, if flooding causes the cancellation of major competitions or closes holes for prolonged periods of time.

5. **DON'T PANIC!** The flooding wasn't caused by greenkeepers or bad greenkeeping practices; it is an act of god and cannot be prevented, only dealt with as smoothly and quickly as possible.

CLAIM SOME RECOGNITION

2008 BIGGA GOLF ENVIRONMENT COMPETITION



The opportunity for the golfing community to show, and indeed be recognised for, its commitment to promoting a sustainable environment has returned.

The competition is in place to acknowledge the positive work being carried out at golf clubs and to highlight to other clubs the ways in which they may become more sustainable. The focus is not limited to elite clubs who have been developing environmental projects over many years but is also on those who are in need of support and backing to justify the works they are already undertaking.

For more information and an application form contact Sami Collins, Head of Learning and Development, on tel: 01347 833800 or: sami@bigga.co.uk The deadline for applications is June 20, 2008.



Last year's BIGGA Golf Environment winners, Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club

FURTHER ADVICE

For further advice on climate change contact:

The Met Office: 0870 9000100

Email: enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk

DEFRA: 08459 33 55 77

Email: helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Environment Agency: 08708 506 506

Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

GES Consulting, Alan Hopkins BSc, MPhil, CEnv, MIEEM

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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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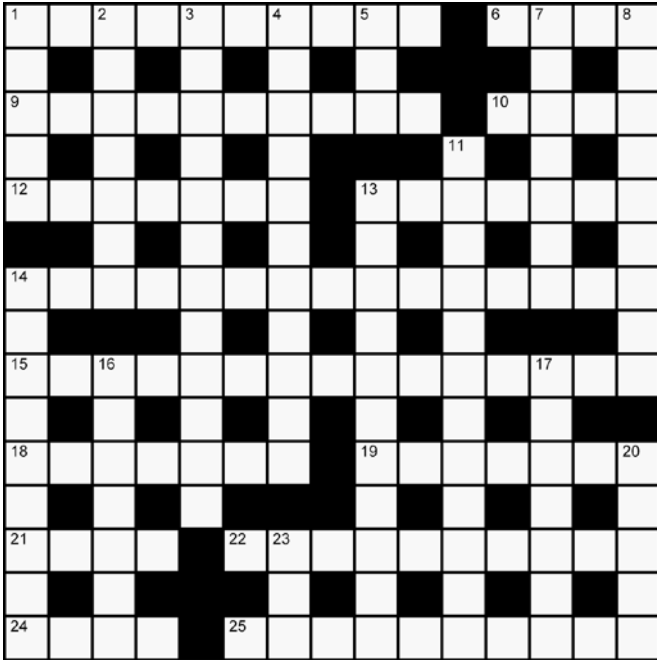
Always read the label. Use pesticides safely. ©Syngenta AG May 2008, GQ.



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 Pertaining to motor vehicles (10)
- 6 Establish validity using evidence (4)
- 9 Merchant navy employee (4,6)
- 10 Respiratory organ (4)
- 12 Word denoting part of something but meaning the whole (7)
- 13 Introduced from an external source (7)
- 14 Type of healer - anagram of CITY HAS PROPHETS (15)
- 15 Birthplace of Monty Python founder John Cleese (6-5-4)
- 18 Construct from scratch again (7)
- 19 Portuguese footballer who joined Manchester Utd in 2003 (7)
- 21 Hang around furtively (4)
- 22 Conjuring sticks (5,5)
- 24 Time taken for a planet to revolve around the sun (4)
- 25 Inhabitants of a landlocked central Asian republic (10)

Down

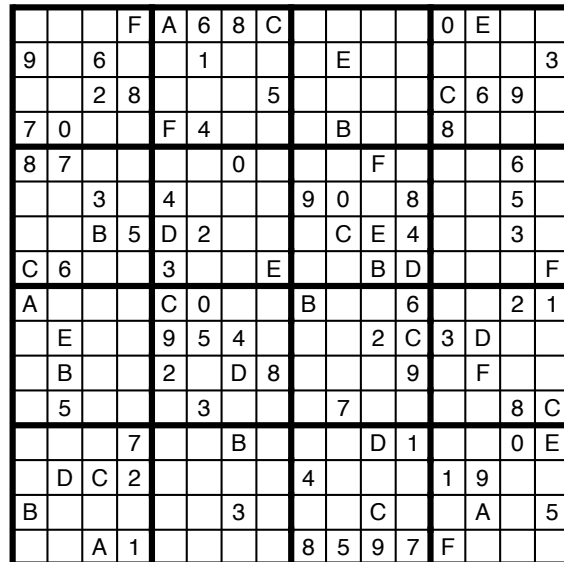
- 1 Fear caused by awareness of danger (5)
- 2 Author of War and Peace (7)
- 3 Sneeringly disbelieving of goodness in others (12)
- 4 Injured or shocked (11)
- 5 "By way of" - word for Italian street or road (3)
- 7 Performing name of escapologist Erik Weisz (7)
- 8 Small passenger vehicle often used for sightseeing (9)
- 11 Redevelopment of slum areas (5,7)
- 13 Monopoly game square furthest from the start (4,7)
- 14 Fielding rule in One Day International cricket from 2005 (9)
- 16 Vast, largely frozen area of Russia (7)
- 17 Capital of Georgia, USA (7)

QUICK 'NINE-HOLE' QUIZ

1. Who lost the 1990 World Cup final?
2. What is the last event of the Olympic decathlon?
3. In sport, Ray Reardon won his last world championship in 1978 in which sport?
4. Who won the Wimbledon women's singles most times in the 1980s?
5. In football, who is England's top international goalscorer?
6. Which athlete ran the first sub-4 minute mile?
7. Who set a new Olympic record in 1996 in the men's 100 metres?
8. Which Scottish football team play at Somerset Park?
9. In sport, what was the former ground of Derby County football club?

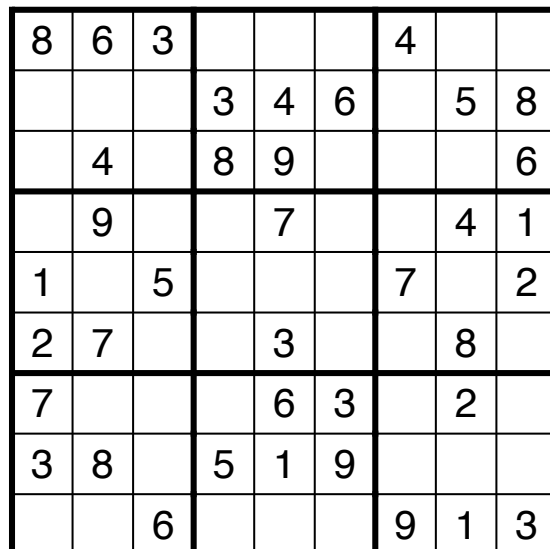
MONSTER SUDOKU

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



SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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



IN THE SHED ANSWERS ON PAGE 67



Hobbies

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

Name: Martin Forrester
Hobby: Football Referee
Job: Course Manager, Essex Golf & Country Club



How and when did you start referring football games?

"After some 15 years as a player, I had to finally retire due to a number of persistent injuries and constantly hobbling into work on a Monday morning in pain.

"I needed an objective to try and keep reasonably fit and also wanted to keep active within the game I have loved since a small boy. In 1991, I qualified as a referee and have since officiated over 600 games for various age groups and genders. I have also had the opportunity to officiate at a number of senior Essex grounds including Chelmsford City, Braintree Town, Billericay, Witham and Maldon."

What's your most memorable match?

"My biggest highlight was when I was 4th official at Roots Hall (Southend United, at present division One). The game was a boring 0-0 draw but

the atmosphere and the day it's self will one I will never forget, along with using, for the first time, the electronic board to make substitutions.

"To use the electronic board is an art in its self and when both sets of managers wanted to make a number of substitutions at the same time to say things got slight confused would be putting it politely but that's for another day."

What is it about being a referee that appeals to you?

"Like our Association, the Referee association has given me the opportunity to make many a friend and also meet the likes of Sir Trevor Brooking, Bob Wilson and Peter Taylor (then England Assistant Manager) along with those who know their match officials Ken Aston, Jeff Winter, Steve Bennett and Phil Sharpe.

"Finally to all you spectators, managers and players out there in our industry, next time you are at a match please give that person in the middle a chance. They are only human, will make mistakes and like us in our every day job will have to make decisions that will not please everyone (the golfers or committee member)."



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FEATURE

BIGGA'S GOLDEN AND SILVER KEY SPONSORS TO A MILLION AND BEYOND

BIGGA's Golden and Silver Key programme will soon have generated £1 million and many many greenkeepers have benefited from the generosity of its contributors.

BIGGA's Golden and Silver Key Programme has become one of the Association's flagship initiatives since it was introduced in 1992 and it epitomises everything that is good about the greenkeeping industry - everyone working together and supporting each other for the benefit of the industry.

In which other industry would you find the companies which supply goods and machinery to the industry also contributing to the funding the training and development of the people who work within that industry?

Since 1992 BIGGA has received £977,898 from Golden and Silver Key supporters and in the next year current projections predict that the one million pound barrier will be breached - a remarkable feat and one which everyone in the greenkeeping industry should be incredibly proud.

Think about it for one minute. The people who supply the industry with the tools to do the job also provide the resources to train and develop the people who use those tools. But what is truly commendable is that it's not just practical training in using a particular piece of kit that is provided, it is much, much wider than that. Let's look at what BIGGA's Training and Development Fund has facilitated.



Videos/DVDs

Initially produced as videos but latterly DVDs with the videos transferred to DVD format.

- Golf Course Preparation
- Golf Course Ecology
- Golf Green Reconstruction
- Irrigation
- Raising the Standard in Mowing Management
- Raising the Standard in Spray Applications



Field Guides

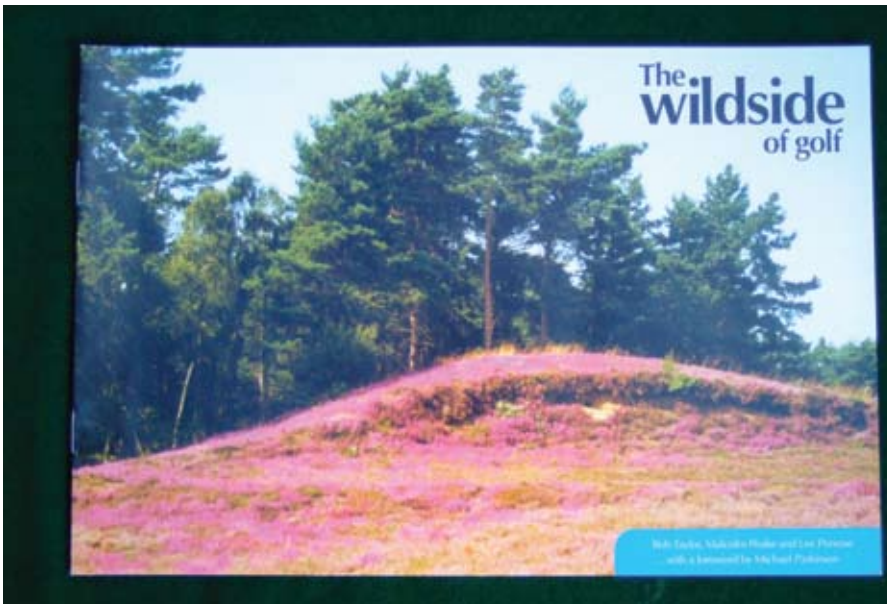
- Major Diseases and Pests for Fine Turf
- The Identification of Golf Course Grasses
- Trees and Shrubs on the Golf Course
- The Identification and Uses of the Main Grasses Found in Golf Course Rough
- The Identification and Damage Caused by Mammals and Birds





The BIGGA Library

- Currently standing at 905 books and constantly growing.



Booklets

- Wildside of Golf.



Regional Training

Over 800 greenkeepers have been trained in 24 different subjects

Refund of Fees Scheme

Set up in 1998 the Fund has given 112 BIGGA members financial assistance with education and training courses.

Education and Training Subsidies

This has provided BIGGA Regions and Sections with informal support for their seminars and training courses. Since last year this has been formalised and 26 events have received financial support.

In the Pipeline

There will be more field guides, the newest two covering Weeds and Ecology.

- A Greenkeeper Accreditation Scheme which will enable BIGGA members to attain an accredited status
- Develop training courses for Bite Sized Learning based on NVQ Standards and in line with the National and European Qualification Frameworks
- Develop an Individual on-line Continuing Professional Development (CPD) system

Quotes from donors, recipients and training providers...



Ronnie Bunting, Ballochmyle Golf Club

"I received financial assistance from the Learning and Development Fund for my SVQ Level 4 course and was among the first in Scotland to sit with GOSTA Training."

"I wouldn't have been able to take the course without a subsidy from the Learning and Development Fund. It wouldn't have happened."

"It is difficult for smaller members' clubs to justify funding such courses as the training budget tends to concentrate on the younger staff, so I am delighted that companies within the Golden and Silver Key Supporters provide money for people like me to advance our knowledge and careers."

Murray Mannall, Slaley Hall H&GC

"I really wanted to develop my education but had to fund my own training. As I wasn't earning much I contacted BIGGA to ask for financial support. Through the refund of fees scheme I have received up to 80% of my course fees and this has enabled me to complete my Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross Cutting, Felling of Small Trees and my PA6 Spraying Certificates. I really do appreciate what BIGGA, with the support of the Golden and Silver Key companies, has done for my career."

Dave Steward, Marketing Manager, Scotts Professional

"Advances in technology require all of us to adapt the way we work and the products we use. Because Scotts' products are at the forefront of fertiliser technology, we're committed to the ongoing education of end-users and are proud to support BIGGA's education and development provision for greenkeepers through our continued Golden Key membership."

Peter Mansfield, General Manager, Toro Turf Products, Lely UK

"Our Golden Key sponsorship is a great way for us to support greenkeepers at all levels in their professional development. It's vital that they get the best training aids and learning opportunities to progress. These are delivered effectively through BIGGA's funding programme and we are happy that Toro and Lely UK's contributions are helping ensure that this important initiative is such a big success."

Dave Roberts, National Sales Manager, Kubota UK

"Kubota see the Golden and Silver Key programme as a great way of putting something back into the industry at grass roots level and because it does support learning and development it was all the more important that we became involved."

Chris Bothwell, Training Manager at COSTA Training, Glasgow

"The funding from the Golden and Silver Key Learning and Development Fund was a huge boost to the industry."

"We market all our students each year tell them which courses we are putting on and letting them know where there may be funding assistance. BIGGA's support is a large part of that."

"We tend to find that younger greenkeepers can receive funding from other sources like the Independent Learning Accounts which offer subsidy for people earning less than £18,000 per annum and for things like Chainsaw and Spraying courses the clubs are often happy to put their staff on the course and pay the difference."

"For Course Managers seeking to take N/SVQ Level 4 or HNC or HND there is not generally funding available and the Golden and Silver Key Development fund often helps people who would otherwise be unable to fund the courses totally themselves."

David Withers Managing Director Ransomes Jacobsen.

"As we look back over recent years it is clear how much work BIGGA have done in raising the profile of greenkeeping in general and the role of greenkeepers in particular."

"One of the successes of this has been in the increase in greenkeepers wanting to further their careers in terms of continued professional development. This can only be good for the game of golf and the status of the profession as a whole."

"The Golden and Silver Key programmes are a vital component in helping to fund ambitious greenkeepers in fulfilling their aspirations. As such we at Ransomes Jacobsen are delighted to commit funding to support BIGGA's members."

David Hart, Commercial & Consumer Equipment Division Sales, John Deere UK

"It's great to be able to support the golf industry and in some way to give something back to our largest groundcare customer segment, and to help raise the profile of the industry. We are especially pleased that our financial support is used for BIGGA's training and education activities, as we believe that training is the key to the success of any professional business."

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www.europeantour.com
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Silver Key Individual Members

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

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



SKIN AT WORK: OUTDOOR WORKERS AND SUN EXPOSURE

As we approach the late spring and early summer months consideration should be given to the effects of sunshine on the skin. As well as tanning the skin, ultra violet radiation in sunshine can also cause skin cancer which is the most common and fastest rising cancer in the UK.

People who spend an appreciable period of their working time outdoors during the day or during leisure time spent outside, increase their risk of contracting skin cancer from the increased exposure. UK summers in recent years have been getting warmer with greater amounts of sunshine giving a corresponding higher risk from the disease. Diagnosis of the disease is rising each year. However, up to 80% of cases could be avoided with some simple precautions.

The highest risk is when skin is exposed to direct sunlight but damage can occur even when it is overcast. On average, people who work outdoors receive three to four times more UV exposure each year than people who work indoors. This cumulative exposure puts outdoor workers at greater risk of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers, which are the most common forms of cancer in the UK. People who get sunburnt increase their risk of malignant melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer.

Those most at risk are people with fair skin, lots of freckles or moles or a family history of the disease. Other contributory risk factors are other sources of UV e.g. sunbeds and sunburn in childhood.

Employers of persons exposed to the sun should, whenever possible:

- Avoid unnecessary sun exposure between 11am-3pm.
- Plan outdoor tasks so they can be done earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon, reserving indoor or sheltered jobs for peak UV radiation times.
- Limit each employee's midday UV exposure where possible by rotating tasks with other staff.
- Provide shade for workers to use, especially during breaks.
- Encourage people to cover up.
- Provide hats or appropriate headgear for workers to wear. Hats should ideally shade the face, neck, ears and head.
- If hardhats are worn, consider providing extension flaps to protect the neck.
- If your organisation has a uniform, this could include a hat, as well as shirt and long trousers.
- Consider providing/using sunscreen - If practical, SPF 20+ sunscreen
- Ensure you give guidance that for maximum benefit, sunscreen needs to be applied generously approximately 20mins before being exposed to the sun and reapplied often.
- Include sun protection advice in any routine health & safety training.
- Encourage workers to check their skin at regular intervals (monthly) for unusual spots or moles that change size, shape or colour. A mirror or a partner can check the areas that are difficult to see.

Consult your GP promptly if you find anything that gives you concern – Early detection saves lives!

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SINCERE CONDOLENCES

I was sorry to hear of the untimely death of Bert Cross recently and wish to offer my sincere condolences to his wife and family. Bert was, of course, a member of the Board until his term of office expired. I took over his position on the Board and for the short time we worked together was extremely grateful to him for his advice and wisdom. He was well liked by all who knew him both on and off the Board of Management and will be sorely missed. He worked tirelessly for the members and tried to involve them at all times.

Tony Smith



THE SAD LOSS OF A FRIEND

I first met Bert in Korea in 1951 while serving in the King's Regiment. Bert was always a larger than life character who was a joy to be with. He made his presence felt wherever he was, even stopping our troop ship in the Suez Canal, where he was lowered over the side on a stretcher to go to hospital with an appendicitis. Even then you could not keep a good man down. He joined us later in Hong Kong, before going on to Korea.

Bert will be best remembered for his friendship and help he gave to many greenkeepers. His hard work and dedication was well known. As for his contribution to BIGGA, it is probably best summed up by saying he was Mr North West. The Open Championship, National Championship, and many other events will not be the same without him.

He will also be a sad loss to the village children in Africa, where he and his good lady spent so much of their time helping.

We should all be very proud to be considered a friend of Bert. He leaves us with fond memories that will never be forgotten and he will be sadly missed.

Gordon Child

Donations can be sent to the orphanage that Bert regularly visited:

Sister Mariola,
Kasisi,
Orphanage,
PO Box 33441
Lusaka,
Zambia

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



WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?

Name: Kneale Diamond

Company: RainBird

Position:
Golf District Manager



How long have you been in the industry?

"Golf Industry 19 years – Greenkeeping
16 years – RainBird three years."

How did you get into it?

"I had a good relationship with RainBird for a number of years and then through my experience of managing an installation of a new RainBird system at Hanbury Manor Hotel & Country Club it led to a stronger relationship, which ending up with them offering me a position and me joining in April 2005."

What other jobs have you done?

"Greenkeeping for 16 years starting at Ramsey Golf Club, Isle of Man then The London Golf Club in Kent and lastly, Hanbury Manor Hotel & Country Club in Hertfordshire."

What do you like about your current job?

"Travelling and meeting new people and friends I have had in the industry for many years and working for the worlds largest Irrigation manufacturer where you can help to educate and help new and existing customers with water management which such a crucial requirement in this day and age."

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

"The biggest change is that golf clubs now run like most businesses rather than social clubs which is what they originated from. Secondly the education and perception of the staff involved within the industry has improved greatly along with the expectations."

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"What spare time? I like to spend my spare time with my family and relax near the coast and follow the mighty Tottenham Hotspur FC!"

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"Retired hopefully! But more than likely I will be continuing to do what I am doing at present."

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

"I do not have one in particular but many good friends whom I have met and worked with over the years."

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

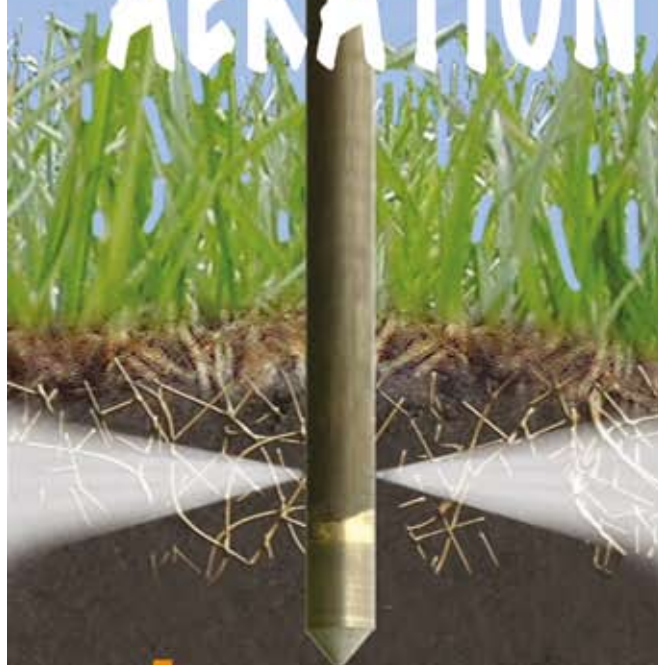
"Number 10."

Pick a number

"Number 13."

Kneale has picked Ian Howard from Dennis

WHOLE AERATION



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News from the Chief Executive

The redevelopment of the office at BIGGA HOUSE is now complete and HQ staff are now located in one large open plan office on the ground floor. Already there is an improvement in communication and everyone's approach to the job. The office move was a classic example of how good teamwork can turn a difficult job into a smooth effective operation. The staff knew what had to be done, how it was planned to be done and what was expected of them. To their credit they simply got down to working together and putting the plan into action. As with any project the key components are the planning, the management of the task, the dissemination of information and the attitude of those taking part.

In the words of the famous 19th century industrialist Andrew Carnegie, "Teamwork is the ability to work together towards a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments towards organisational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results".

I wonder how many managers effectively organise and motivate their teams and how many leave much of the teamwork to chance. The Association recognises the skill gaps that exist at management and supervisory level and it will continue to try to address this through its national and local training programme. It is important that members get the support of their employer when it comes to Learning and Development, and BIGGA will be building on its working relationship with bodies such as the GTC, the GCMA and the Home Unions.

There is no doubt in my mind that testing times are ahead for golf clubs as the over supply of facilities and the under supply of golfers starts to compete with personal finance and lifestyle and time issues. Higher expectations of standards coupled with a tightening of budgets inevitably results in stress and sadly sometimes conflict between employer and employee and occasionally between employees.

For some the way forward is perceived only to be achievable by facing up to employers through the intervention of a Trade Union. With in excess of 2,500 separate employers in the UK, each with a greenkeeping staff numbering between two or three to 20, 30 or in some cases 40+, how is being a member of a trade union going to improve on being a member of BIGGA, and what about the extra cost?

BIGGA has chosen to work with employers through their national associations, and by direct contact with clubs, to try to resolve conflict at the earliest opportunity and has earned a great deal of respect for its professional approach. It does not see itself as a substitute trade union and never will.

The management structure at Headquarters has been strengthened by the recruitment of Tracey Maddison who will head up the Membership Department. Part of Tracey's 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 offer help in this regard please contact Tracey or your Regional Administrator. I would hope that the concept of teamwork does not stop at the boundary of your golf club but extends to include fellow turf professionals no matter where employed.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive



SCOTTISH REGION – AYRSHIRE

Hello everybody. Hope you're all well and primed for the new season? I'm Writing this at the beginning of May and we've been out watering our newly turfed areas in earnest when not long ago it seemed the winter would never end!

After an early hail shower the sun shone on the 36 participants at the Spring Outing in mid-April held over the Portland course at Royal Troon. Judging by the excellent returns the good weather must have played its part. Our thanks to Royal Troon GC and the Captain for allowing us the day, Billy and John MacLachlan, and the Green Staff, for the superb condition of the course and to the bar and catering staff for the delicious beer and lovely food.

Results as follows: 1.1 Iain Barr, 39pts; 1.2 George Morrison, 37pts; 1.3 Duncan Gray, 35pts; 1.4 Kevin Kirkpatrick, 35pts; 2.1 Gary Ross, 37pts; 2.2 John Wilson, 30pts; 2.3 Kenny Gilroy, 29pts; 2.4 Will McGee, 29pts; Trade Prize - Alec Cruickshanks, 35pts.

Congratulations to all the winners, on what was a most enjoyable day. Oh! It would be remiss of me not to mention current Harry Diamond, Jug holder George Morrison's hole-in-one at the par 3 4th with a thinned 5-iron, only kidding it was a 4-iron? Well done pal!

That's all folks - except to remind you of the Scottish National Tournament at Irvine GC on Monday, June 23 - see ya there!

Denis Tweddell
denis.t@hotmail.co.uk
07939 104701



CENTRAL

The Section had a wonderful day at Lundin Golf Club for the Spring Outing, with 60 players taking part. Willie Swann and his staff had the course in superb condition with a few testing pin placements. Those lucky enough to go out early probably had the best of the day, as there were a couple of heavy showers for the later starters. I won't bore you all with the prizewinners, you can find them on the website: www.biggacentralsection.org.uk. Our thanks once again for the support from our patrons and all those who helped on the day and to Stuart Clunie, Vice Captain at Lundin, for presenting the prizes.

We were saddened to hear at the outing, the death of Willie (Bill) Milton, a past Head Greenkeeper at Downfield Golf Club. Willie was a stalwart of the North and Midlands Section of SIGGA, serving as the treasurer for many years as well as being the Chairman of that Section. He was a tremendous help to myself, Iain MacLeod, and many others of our era when we first joined the SIGGA. His son, also Billy, currently works at Downfield where he is Deputy Head Greenkeeper and our thoughts are with him.

Around the Green

The Section wishes Alan Sharp all the best in his new position back in Essex. I know the Scotsraig members will miss him as he has done an excellent job there these past couple of years. The Section will also miss him as he was our Vice Chairman so your committee will be looking for someone to take over that post.

Someone who will be able to play even more golf than he does currently is our Chairman Derek Scott (hard to believe I know). This is because his great friend and golfing partner, Mike Dennis, from Rigby Taylor, is taking early retirement this month and therefore will be available to play at any time. Everyone in the Section, and I'm sure in other areas, will wish Mike all the best in his retirement. He has been a regular supporter of the Association over many years, starting with STS in 1983 before Rigby Taylor bought out the sales division in 1993. He followed his father into the industry as his father was Professional/Groundsman at Glenalmond and Mike also trained as a professional golfer, at one point working at Quaker Hill, in New York State, for two years, leaving before he was drafted into the US Army!

Finally, Gordon McKie, Graeme Taylor and myself were among over 120 delegates who recently attended a conference staged by the R&A in St Andrews, about the issues facing golf and the environment. There were a number of case studies given by representatives of some European Golf Federations and also two papers delivered by representatives from the WWF and the EU Commission, which instigated some very healthy debate and it was thought provoking to hear the perception of golf from people from outside our industry. I am hoping to invite one of those speakers, Gordon Shepherd, to address the Section one evening at Elmwood in the summer. Although he is based in Switzerland, he comes originally from Montrose and will be in Scotland on holiday. Watch the website for more details.

Gordon Moir



EAST

I write this report in early May, with warm weather having finally arrived and more on the way. Hopefully this will help everybody to produce good consistent surfaces.

On Monday, April 14 the annual match between BIGGA and the Golf Club Secretaries was held at West Linton Golf Club. The Greenkeeping team was led by Stuart Greenwood and also featured East members, Kenny Mail, Stuart Ferguson, Tom Murray, Robert Marshall, Chris Yeaman, Scott Ramsay, Robert Burns, Scott Corrigan and Mark Littlejohn. The end result was a resounding 8-2 victory for the BIGGA team. Our thanks go to West Linton Golf Club for granting us courtesy of the course and, to Chris and his team for presenting the course in excellent condition.

On the following day, after the Secretaries' Match, all roads led to East Lothian with the Section Spring Outing being held at Gullane No 2. The results were as follows; Scratch, Fraser Anderson, Gullane GC, 74pts; 1. A. J. Holmes, Seahouses GC, 70pts; R/U, T. Murray, Ratho Park GC, 71pts; 2. I. Watson, Gullane GC, 70pts; R/U, A. Sherwood, Glenrose GC, 73pts; 3. Paul Hay, Gullane GC, 78pts; Trade, D. Archibald, Sherriffs, 67pts; Veteran, Jimmy Coombe, Gifford GC, 75pts; Best Nett, Fraser Anderson, Gullane GC, 74pts.

After the prize giving a retirement presentation was made by our Chairman, Stuart Ferguson, to Jimmy Coombe (ex Gifford Golf Club) and Mike Dennis current Sales Manager (Scotland) of Rigby Taylor. They each received a pocket watch and a bottle of whisky. The absentee from this line-up was Robert T Bruce who is at present holidaying down under.

Our thanks go to Club Captain, Keith McColl, and Gullane Golf Club, for granting us courtesy of the course, to Wayne and the catering staff for keeping everybody well fed and watered, and last but certainly not least, Stuart Duff and the team for presenting the course in an excellent condition. I understand from Tom Murray that the greens were stimping at 10.5 on the day, which is no mean feat when you consider the lack of growth in April.

A few paragraphs ago, I mentioned Mike Dennis and retirement, although during our recent meeting he very much placed the emphasis on the word early! During our discussion I discovered that he had worked as an Asst Golf Club Professional in Nova Scotia in 1969 before moving to New York State for two seasons. Prior to moving to New York he was given the chance to move to British Columbia, (where I worked during the late 70's & early 80's) but turned it down. He joined the Fine Turf Industry in this country in 1983 working initially for Mike Eddington's, STS who were subsequently bought out by his current employers Rigby Taylor in 1994. During his working life Mike has always adopted a professional attitude both to customers and competitors alike. I am sure everyone in our industry will join me in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Our congratulations this month go to Colin Noble (Head man at Peebles) on his appointment as this year's Peebles Cornet. Helping to guide him down the 'Fairway' of this year's Beltane and March Riding celebrations will be his lass (and wife) Kate. They'll celebrate their first wedding anniversary in August after a hectic summer.

I recently had a meeting with a very secretive Chris Yeaman, who informed me he was spending a few days in New York, but would not divulge the reason why. On his return he advised me that he was now engaged to a young lady called Dee Greaves. In true Sir Galahad fashion, Chris went down on one knee during a dinner cruise on the Hudson River. Fortunately for him the answer was in the affirmative.

Until Next Month
Mike Dooner



NORTH

Hello to you all, hope you are all in good health. I also hope that you all have managed to complete your winter programmes despite the bad weather we've had. I just wish it would make up its mind. Although as I am writing this, it is mild and the sun has been out most of the day, so we do seem to be heading in the right direction.

Having the Spring Outing a little earlier this month has enabled me to put the results in this edition of the magazine. We usually have to wait until next month to find out who has won the coveted sombrero or who has

Around the Green

made a complete dog's dinner of their round. The results are as follows: Longest Drive - 3. John Geddes; 2. Stewart McBain; 1. Steve Harrod (Guest); Nearest the Pin - John Hunter (Hunter Promotions) Must have had a kind bounce!; Sweep - 1. Gary Bryant (Guest); 2. Robert Patterson; 3. Muir Ross, Ballindalloch GC; 4. Jim McCombie (Guest); Guest Winner - Gary Bryant; Trade Winner - Raymond Warrender (Alpha Plus Groundcare); Veterans - 1. Brian Cocker, Alyth GC; 2. Hugh Maclatchie; Apprentice Trophy - Warren Beveridge, Peterculter GC; 3.1 Warren Beveridge, Peterculter GC; 3.2 Dale Robertson; 3.3 Mark Angus, Peterculter GC; 2.1 Paul Sharp, Peterculter GC; 2.2 Fraser Downie, Peterculter GC; 2.3 Me; Class 1 - Frews Cup 1. Muir Ross; 2. Derek Bond, Peterhead GC; 3. Kevin Fowler, Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC; Scratch - Bowen Trophy 1. Robert Patterson, Sombrero GC; 2. George Mitchell, Newmachar GC.

I must congratulate Robert Hardie, and his Staff at Craibstone, for presenting to us a tough challenge. It is not easy when 50 of us turn up on your doorstep to play your course. Whoever changed the hole on the 7th needs shooting. I think there were a few four putts that day - eh Niall Bruce, Course Manager of Montrose Links. I also hear that the Head Greenkeeper took an 11 on his own course. Work it out guys!

Well done to all those that won prizes and commiserations to those that didn't. I bet you won't lose any sleep although there was a lot of competition to see who won the most raffle prizes. It was good to see the usual faces and some new ones. I think it's the first time I've seen the entire Peterculter squad at an outing, so well done, your support is much appreciated although at the next outing at Kirriemuir there will be a demonstration on 'How to tie a tie' given to us by one of lads, mentioning no names eh Warren.

A lot of you were keen to come down to Kirriemuir so let's just hope that the enthusiasm is still there in September and that we get a good crowd down there. If you can manage it would be great to see you there.

Changing the subject now, one guy who is on the move, making the long trip down the A90 from Fraserburgh to Peterhead is Bond, Derek Bond that is. Enjoy your time working at Peterhead although I have heard that Mr Maclatchie is a hard task master so good luck!

That's it for this month so hopefully I will have more news next month otherwise there will be just a blank space for the North Section. Thanks for your time.

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links Golf Club
07813889374



WEST

Welcome to this month's report. It's great to see some nice weather after the wet start to the season - long may it continue.

On the education front, the Level 3 students from GOSTA training attended a course walk at Marr Hall; this is the new course being built on the grounds of the Erskine Hospital. Gordon Kerr, the Course Manager, and John McTeer,

the Professional, kindly gave up their time to talk the students through the construction process of the course and also to give them a guided tour. Many thanks to Gordon and John for their efforts, I'm sure we wish them all the best in future and look forward to seeing the course when it opens.

On the job front, Scott Ballantyne has moved from Cowglen to take on a new post of Course Manager at Haggis Castle Golf Club while Jack Stedward has moved from the Carrick to become Head Greenkeeper at Blairbeth.

This year's Spring Meeting was held over the East Renfrewshire Golf Club, it turned out to be a nice day after light rain in the morning. Many thanks to Jim Gilmore and his team for having the course in first class condition after a very wet winter. Many thanks to the captain Gordon Young and his Committee for the use of your fine course and to the hospitality given throughout the day.

The scores on the day were: Scratch Alistair Read Williamwood 73; 1.1 Calum Morron; 1.2 Alan Syme; 1.3 Stuart Taylor. 2.1 John Barr; 2.2 Christian Carvel; 2.3 Gary Burns. 3.1 James Mclean; 3.2 Brain Bolland jnr; 3.3 Stephen Sheehan. Visitor's prize went to Gordon Young Captain East Renfrewshire, Accurate Drive Alistair Read, Nearest the Pin Gordon Young,

Remember to put in your diary Monday, June 23 for the Scottish National Tournament at Irvine Bogside, come along for a good day's golf and meet up with some old friends.

We will be returning to the Comedy Club for our annual night out during late November. Tickets will be on sale soon so get in touch and book your place.

On a lighter note Gordon Howat, of Souters Sports, has been involved in running several marathons throughout Europe in aid of charity, I hope to do a full report on this next month.

Football wise anyone interested in a game please get in touch.

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NORTHERN REGION - NORTH EAST

On April 16, we held our Spring Competition at Dunstanburgh Castle GC, having set off on our hour long journey we were not relishing the idea of playing in the rain as we headed off but good luck was with us as soon as we saw the sea it had stopped and a lovely sunny day was had by all - mind you we had a gentle breeze to contend with as most of us were unable to conquer.

On speaking on behalf of the players credit must go to Simon Oliver and his staff as it was remarked by everyone on the condition of the course and especially the greens - they were tremendous, the best anyone had seen or played on considering the weather we have had over the winter and early Spring. Not a bad turnout this year, 18 people played and I would like to thank the two lads who travelled up from Crook GC - now that's a canny journey (A.Miller and G.Morgan) not to worry lads the Autumn Competition is about



a 30 minute shorter drive. The leading scores are as follows: Best Gross, D. Hair, Wearside GC, 73pts; Best Nett, A.Miller, Crook GC, 85-14=71pts; Best Nett, J.Storey, Alnmouth GC; K.Shotten, Alnmouth GC; M. Linsley, Alnmouth GC; A. Harrison, Garesfield GC. Thanks to all the sponsors as once again they did us proud Turf Specialist Ltd, Greenlay,Rigby Taylor, Aitkens, Tacit, Rickerbys, Sheriff Amenity plus it was good to see Alan Morton and Dave Common, Glen Baxter there representing their companies and thanks to Paul Foston who was unable to stay on.

After we had the prize giving I was flabbergasted at what was about to happen next, as Alan Morton was asked to say a few words on behalf of the Section Committee and the members, on thanking myself for having been Secretary for the past 25 years and presented me with an engraved decanter and glasses - this came as a complete shock to me, so I'm now thanking ALL Section members for that gift but I will not be carrying on for the next 25 years.

Other news around the Section, David Cuthbertson, of Rockcliffe Hall, tells me that work on building new sheds is about to start on May 6 - maybe by the time this is printed it will be nearly finished - plus a mechanic will be starting shortly having been working in Holland.

Well that's all the news this month, I could do with some more as I find that the summer months are a little bit on the shy side.

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NORTH WEST

Firstly, I would just like to say what a great tribute to Bert Cross that so many greenkeepers and friends attended the funeral for Bert. I am sure Marie, Peter and Anthony were so proud to see how highly people thought of Bert. Colleagues and friends of Bert have asked me for the details of the orphanage that Marie requested donations to be sent to, well here it is:

Sister Mariola, Kasisi Orphanage, PO. Box 33441 Lusaka, Zambia.
Website: kasisi@zamnet.zm

The spring tournament took place at Heaton Moor Golf Club and the committee would like me to say a big thank you to the Captain and his committee for allowing us to play their course - which was in fine condition considering all the rain we had in the previous weeks. Also many thanks to the caterer for such a splendid meal. The Best Gross was won by Billy Merritt, Best Nett was won by myself, jammy Chris Sheehan. The strange thing was that the first name on the trophy was my brother Mike Sheehan who won it exactly 20 years ago. The vets was won by Brian Turner, well done Brian. Many thanks go to Bathgates for kindly sponsoring the Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive competition and indeed all of the trade who supplied prizes.

Chris Sheehan



CLEVELAND

The cricket season starts and it rains – a racing certainty. My middle stump is always warped during these wet Springs! The Spring Tournament was held at Blackwell Grange Golf Club, Darlington on Tuesday, April 15 on a terribly wet day. At the time everyone was getting thoroughly soaked I was on a tropical beach in Thailand sipping a Chang beer! Please don't tell the wife as I told her I was in Milton Keynes!

A very good turnout saw 30 greenkeepers tested to the limit. Terry Harrison and his staff must have been 'sick as the proverbial parrots' attempting to prepare the course for their colleagues in such trying conditions. Thanks for all your efforts, lads.

The Stableford competition was hit very badly by torrential rain and the competition was decided over 7 – 9 holes depending on tee off time.

The results were as follows: 0 - 9 Handicap played over 9 holes: 1. Martin Woods, Bedlington GC, 19pts on back 3; 2. Martin McCrick, South Shields GC, 19pts; 3. Alan Shaw, Crook GC, 18pts. 10 - 18 Handicap played over 7 holes: 1. James Parker, Blackwell Grange GC, 15pts; 2. Marc Kerr, Marc Kerr Ltd, 12pts on back 1; 3. Peter Hipkiss, Blackwell Grange GC, 12pts. 19 - 28 Handicap played over 7 holes: 1. Steve Russell, Blackwell Grange GC, 16pts; 2. Ian Pemberton, Cleveland GC, 14pts; 3. Richard Pybus, Blackwell Grange GC, 12pts; Best Par 3 score – Jamie Applegarth, of Rigby Taylor. Booby Prize - this was won by Les Hunt, of Cleveland GC. I hope he has a wonderful time 'painting his own plate'. Knowing Les for many years and the standard of his work I think he'll probably do it with a 2 inch brush! LES – NO! As Harry Enfield would say.

Finally thanks go to Stan Shotton and Ian Holoran for looking after the scorecards and working out the winners. Did you use the renowned Duckworth Lewis method like the cricketers?

Many thanks must also go to Blackwell Grange for the courtesy of the course, wonderful food and a great effort by the greens staff.

Secondly the Section would like to thank Toro and Kubota, in conjunction with Lloyds Ltd. for sponsoring the day. Graham Main, the Lloyds Dealer Principal, Alistair Whitby, Groundcare Manager for Lloyds were accompanied by Jeff Anguige of Toro.

The range of prizes supplied by Toro and other trade members was fantastic. Our thanks go to Toro, Aitkens, Rigby Taylor, Tacit and Turfcare Specialists. Thank you all.

Baz Walkers Quiz night in February went very well yet again. Our thanks go to Baz and Allie for all their hard work and also to Teesside Golf Club for their hospitality. It was a close fought contest with Martin Woods 'Sons of the Desert' team winning by a single point. Well done lads.

Terry 'El Prez' Charlton



Around the Green



NORTH WALES

June already, I'm sure these months are turning into long weeks, half the year gone and mid-summer is here again.

Firstly, we need to thank Llanymynech Golf Club for hosting our Spring Tournament on May 14, full results and write up in next months column. The North Wales/North West match will take place on June 10 at The Vale of Llangollen Golf Club (1120 7pr), I'm sure all the players will compete knowing their Section supports them 100 percent.

Our sympathies go to John and Roger Kerry, of Royal St David's Golf Club and their families, for the loss of their mother in late April.

Only a short write up this month if you have news you would like to pass on to the Section please feel free to get in touch, contact details below.

All the best until next month!

Pete Maybury
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Johnny Evans
Johnny.Evans@tesco.net or 07917584728



MIDLAND REGION – EAST MIDLANDS

Our Spring Tournament took place on Thursday, April 24 at Notts Golf Club (Hollinwell) and was sponsored by Mansfield Sand. The field was split into two divisions 0 - 10 and 11 +. The results of the day were: Division 0 - 10. 1. Mark Blacknell, 36pts; 2. Jeff Dickinson, 35pts; 3. Paul Frith, 33 pts. Division 11+. 1. Stuart Raybold, 32pts; 2. Tim Bloodworth, 31pts; 3. Andy De Wet, 28pts, trade; Simon Banks, 28pts. Our thanks for the day go to David Smith, of Mansfield Sand, for the sponsorship of the event and the Course Manager for presenting the course in excellent condition for the time of the year. Just to remind everybody that this year's Summer Tournament takes place at Mickleover Golf Club, Derby, on Thursday, July 24.

Dan Rodgers
Secretary



MIDLAND

Hello! Assuming at least one person reads this, or am I being too bold? Answers on a post card to B.Shakespeare.

We were blessed to be able to hold our spring event at Kidderminster Golf

Club. The course was in a superb standard, very tidy, pretty, and great condition to play on. Our thanks to Kidderminster, and congratulations to R. Hunter and his fine team, you should all be very proud of the standards produced so early in the year. Thank you gentlemen - Rod don't forget those mushrooms mate. Results of the day: Best Gross. S. Scott. Nett: 1. E. Stant; 2. S. Scott; 3. G. Turner; 4. D. Fellows; 5. R. Beacham; 6. N. Couchman. Our thanks to Vitax for sponsoring our excellent main prize table. N.P: E. Stant. L.D: R. Thwaites. Thanks to Alpha Amenity and also to Turners. Don't forget to get your entries in for our summer event to be held at Stourbridge GC (Mr. Chip Monster, get those mowers sharpened) on July 4. Don't forget that the entry fee has been reduced to the astonishing amount of £20 with at start time of 2pm. No excuses, please support the Section.

As you will be more than aware, via our many kind sponsors, our Section produces an excellent, high quality calendar each year at no cost to the members of our Section. Would you like to see your course featured next year? If so please send your photos to R. Beacham at: www.rich71@btconnect.com. Please send something folks. This month's calendar page is kindly sponsored by our old friends A.L.S. Their fertiliser and chemical services can be found at: www.amenity.co.uk

Good luck to all that have entered the Scotts Doubles, the draw and rules are on our website. However, just a reminder, the home team is to contact the away team with three different dates in three different weeks. Such must also be played by the appropriate round's date; any failures will mean disqualification of the offending team. Looking forward to meeting you at the final. Dream on Sean!

And finally, it is my sad duty to report the news that Albert Cross has passed away. I was fortunate enough to have met Bert on many occasions and always found him to be a warm, knowledgeable, and kind gentleman. His counsel and efforts over his many years at golf clubs, the North West Section's Committee, and indeed BIGGA's Board of Management, made Bert's medium stature into the giant he humbly was. The Midland Section's condolences to all who knew Bert. Our industry is a lesser place without him, but greater because of him. Good night Sir.

See you at Stourbridge.

Sean McDade



EAST OF ENGLAND

Hopefully the arrival of June finds everybody out in the sunshine cutting grass and generally making their golf courses look good. I don't want to tempt fate, but a month a great deal drier than June '07 would be very nice. I don't know how everyone else's years are comparing but we have had the exact opposite to 2007 so far. Just compare rainfall for March and April in the last two years; 2007 39mm, 2008 181mm. This time last year we were watering to stop areas drying out and now we are pumping water off the course, I don't know which of these is down to global warming and which is just the crazy British weather. Anyway, it keeps us on our toes and means we have to plan for all eventualities.



The first Section golf day of the year was held at Pottergate on Wednesday, April 16. Nearly 30 people turned up to play, I am not sure how many of them got lost on the way there or if there is anyone still out there driving the country lanes of Lincoln still trying to find the place! The club has changed a lot since our last trip there in 2005 with the addition of a brand new clubhouse. I was not able to attend myself, but I am told that the course was in very good condition and the clubhouse staff looked after everyone very well. Many thanks to all at Pottergate for their hospitality, also to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day. The results were as follows: 1. James Sharp, 42pts; 2. Will Yarham, 41pts; 3. Chris Wilkinson, 40pts (back 9); 4. Steve Hopkins, 40pts; 5. Ron Bingham, 37pts; Trade - Ian Benn, 41pts (beating Gary Cooper on his home turf by 1 point!); Longest Drive - Robin Portess; Nearest the Pin - Ian Mawer.

Our next event is a trip to the seaside on Thursday, June 12 at Cleethorpes Golf Club. Tee off is at 1:30 but get there early for coffee and bacon rolls. I am also informed that we will be dining on the famous Cleethorpes fish and chips afterwards. Letters about this event should be out by now but for more information contact Rob Welford.

Many thanks

Steve Beverly
Immingham Golf Club



BERKS/BUCKS AND OXON

Golf! A record turnout! As the best of the BBO took on a pure delight in the heart of Buckinghamshire and a challenging venue to start the season at Chiltern Forest GC, which was host to the Spring National Qualifier Competition on April 23.

Golf was played on the Chilterns over 100 years ago, when most of the Halton area was owned by Alfred de Rothschild and at this time the course was just six holes.

During the Second World War while stationed at RAF Halton, Henry Cotton designed a further three holes and added other improvements to the course. In 1984 with additional land from the forestry commission and land donated by a generous neighbouring farmer enabled the club to become an 18 hole course.

This beautiful course has wildlife in abundance with Muntjac Deer and pheasant that frequently roam the links, many areas of the course are left wild at certain times of the year to provide havens for the Pink Orchid and other rare wild flowers. The course provided a stiff test and challenging holes with some of the finest views in Buckinghamshire nestled in the Chiltern Hills on the edge of Wendover Woods.

The results were as follows and winner of The Claret Jug: 1. Matt Pennock, Rye Hill GC; 2. Jake Snyman, Radley College GC; 3. Scott Saunders, Chiltern Forest GC; 4. Adam King, Radley College GC; 5. Ian Robins, Ellesborough GC; 6. Dan Lightfoot, Bearwood Lakes GC; 7. Paul Hedger, Radley College GC. Matt Smith of Sonning GC picked up The Long Drive and Graham Down Nearest the Pin. The Longest Walk, and with the most blisters, went to Nick Carrisi, Hennerton GC. Clive Parnell, Gem Professional, donning a large sombrero,

took the trade prize with a 74. The John Deere putting green competition was won by Jon Ryan, from Browns, who was quite adamant he has finally converted to the green machine. The highlight of the day went to Adam King, from Radley College GC, for a tremendous effort, after playing well all day he was rewarded with a hole-in-one on the 15th, and later presented with a giant cask of wine by Club Captain, Alistair Summers. Well done Adam.

To our main sponsor of the day, Tim Webb, from Tacit, and all the other trade, we thank you for support in our first event of the year. To Jon Beck our official photographer and Barbecue Chef, thanks for organising the halfway hut.

A big thank you to Chiltern Forest GC for the courtesy of the course and Diane and Andy Shaw from the catering department for their gastronomic delights, which were well received, and to Course Manager, Steve Horwood and his staff for ensuring the course was fantastic and prepared to a first class standard. Also thanks to Managing Secretary, Bob Clift, for arranging and co-ordinating the day, which proved to be a great success.

Our next event is on June 24 at Lambourne GC. Make a note of it in the diary before you forget.

The Annual Rigby Taylor Match play knockout will now be well underway and the organizer Gareth Acteson will always be on hand to see that things run smoothly with results of the early rounds to be published in next month's report. Gareth can be contacted on: 07734 856 924.

On April 13 I ran the Flora London Marathon and would like to thank all my supporters over the South East and fellow colleagues who sponsored me very generously for this event, although I did not threaten the Kenyan runners at any stage, I did manage to finish, even after being overtaken by Batman and Robin, Ron the Rhino and all of Noah's Ark, after running into something called the wall. Thank you all for your generosity.

Section news has slowly been dribbling in from far and wide over the three counties and if any member has any news or views they would like to share, or would like more information about the Section and forthcoming events you only have to contact us through www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk

Mark Day
mark.day@tacitgolf.com



SOUTH EAST REGION - SURREY

Thursday, May 8. I'm writing this in a lay-by in Fleet, Hampshire. The time is 7.30am and I'm on my way to visit Mark Openshaw, at North Hants GC. My journey started by crossing Epsom GC, where today, Mark Harvey's team are putting the final touches to his course in preparation for his club's Pro Am. Robert Summers was busy cutting the 5th green as the sun was just spreading its warm rays over the North Downs. Yesterday I played golf at Sundridge Park GC with Dan McGrath and Duncan Kelso, both from Kent golf clubs, but apart from that, very good company.

Laleham GC was the venue for Surrey's first golf day, a team event and



Around the Green

unfortunately one I missed because I was on holiday - sorry Ron, in Studland Bay, Dorset. I only mention this again so that anyone, who did not read last month's edition, can keep track of my movements. The result at Laleham, given to me by sources that I cannot completely guarantee was as follows: 1st team Hankley Common; 2nd team Guildford; 3rd team Sunningdale; Nearest Pin, Kevin Boxall; Longest Drive, Barry West. The result of the National Qualifier at West Surrey GC on May 13 will appear in the July edition.

Surrey welcomes Les Howkins, from Cotgrave Place GC, who has taken over as Course Manager at Richmond GC. Also congratulations to Dave Langheim who has moved to Wimbledon Park GC as Course Manager. Graham Roberts, Hankley Common GC, is going to Pinehurst GC, in North Carolina, to continue his greenkeeping career and anyone needing accommodation should contact his dad, Gareth, who has a room to let.

Brian Willmott



KENT

On the occasion of Kent Section's second golf day of the year a massive turnout of greenkeepers from all corners of the county were welcomed at Sundridge Park Golf Club by a magnificent course and glorious sunshine. It seems a few of our group didn't spot the deliberate error of our chairman who issued scorecards for the West course rather than the East, hopefully you will all be more aware next time! Plenty of cold refreshments were the order of the day as the sun turned many of us as red as beetroots. The halfway house providing welcome respite for many who were starting to flag in the heat.

The course played, and was presented, perfectly. The fact that there weren't too many high scores testament to the fact that Paul Rudkin and his team had provided a stiff challenge to the assembled throng. Many thanks to all staff at Sundridge involved in making another great day for Kent Greenkeepers and to all who attended the day for contributing to it's success.

Places as follows: 1. Paul Rudkin, 36pts; 2. Richard Larkin, 35pts; 3. Gary Branchett, 33pts; Nearest the Pin - Lee Company and I must give a special mention to Darren Burton who won the Longest Drive, WOW! When we stood on the 18th tee and could barely see the marker way in the distance, we thought it must be a longest drive in two shots competition! That was some shot mate, well done.

Our next event is to be held at Canterbury Golf Club, on July 10. Please see our website for entry forms (I won't be doing a mail out) and details of this event and other items of interest.

We've got a superb Section here in Kent now with a strong turnout of great people coming to every event all of whom are happy to share their greenkeeping experiences, a funny story, a dodgy cigar or just a beer and a laugh with their fellow professionals from across the region. This is what being in this association is all about, long may it continue.

Best of British

Rob Holland
kentgreenkeepers.co.uk



EAST ANGLIA

Our large band of brothers (no Claire?) assembled at Ufford Park - 64 in all - on April 30. A bit blustery from all accounts. Unfortunately, I was not there, but am reliably informed that the course was presented well by Adrian Hollins and his team.

Looking at the scores I see Robert Ransome and Bob Chesham had a truly forgettable day! I won't tell you the scores. Oh why not. 15 and 7 respectfully or not respectfully as the case may be. Results; 0 - 9 handicappers, 1. Mark Henderson, 32pts; 2. G Hurren, 31pts; 3. Mike Virley, 31pts. 10 - 18 Handicap: 1. Chris Gurton, 31pts; Karl Harvey, 30pts; 3. Asa Barber, 28pts. 19 - 28 Handicap: 1. Adrian Goode, 30pts; Martin Mison, 26pts; 3. John Morley-Smith, 23pts. G & T: 1. Terry Upton; 2. Eddie Jack; Longest Drive - Joe Simpson; Nearest the Pin - Rob Boyce.

The loo seat has been adopted by Steve Millard. Apparently it took him three shots to get to the ladies tee on the 2nd. All prizes were presented by the Club Captain, Roy Banes. The main sponsors for the day were Bartram Mowers. Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive were sponsored by Bailey's of Norfolk.

Other sponsors were: Sisis, Atkins, Collier Turf Care, Textron, Advanta, Monro, Rigby Taylor, Ben Burgess, Sherriff, CMW and Tomlinson Ground Care - Thanks again, Ufford Park, for a super day.

How are the new Chairs of the Greens settling in then? Only a couple more months then they will realise that the best greenkeeper is the greenkeeper!

Mick Lathrope



ESSEX

There's not that much to report this month, but if you want the most up to date news visit our Section website: www.essexbigga.co.uk

April has been a hard time for us all and many courses in the area have had problems, due to the immense amount of rain we have encountered. I recorded over two inches at Three Rivers in April. Last year we had none.

Rumours are abounding that an old friend from these parts is to make his return, more on that next month.

We held a committee meeting at the end of April and have updated the rules of the competitions (see the site for more information), and we also decided to send eight players to the National Championship at East Sussex National later this year. Winners of the Spring, Summer and Autumn tournaments along with the two winners of last year's Knockout Cup will make the trip.



For our tournaments this year we have a change of format. A banner will be placed on the 1st tee and then moved to the 18th green, with details of our Section sponsors. We also have a new backdrop to our prize table. The new look competitions this year are sponsored by the following companies: Advanta, Avoncrop Amenity Products, Bailey's of Norfolk Ltd, Banks Amenity Products Ltd, Blade Amenity, CMW Equipment Ltd, Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd, GM Amenity, Grassform Ltd, Headland Amenity Products, LiquiTec, Prime Irrigation Ltd, Ransomes Jacobsen, Rain Bird, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Scotts, Syngenta, P. Tuckwell Ltd (John Deere), Vitax, Writtle College - We are very grateful for their support. Details and links to all our sponsors can be found on the website along with links to other interesting sites.

Education: We have some good offers, so please get in touch with Paul O'Kane if you need anything to do with staff training. He can get you some good deals and we have a wide variety of courses to choose from.

Next month, I will have the results of our first event the Spring Stableford at Upton Golf Club.

Don't forget to enter the next event as early as possible it is at Warley Park Golf Club, on Wednesday, June 25. Details of how to get there and starting times will be posted on the website, soon after the closing date.

I have updated the website and will continue to do so, but still need photos and information from you guys, so any news please call or email me. Contact me at essexbigga@talktalk.net or: 01206-852.353/07764862337.

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer



SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION - SOUTH COAST

Congratulations and well done to Graham Bungay, of Wellow GC; Rob Crouch, of New Forest Farm Machinery, and Ian Noble, of Moors Valley GC. All three were successful in completing the London Marathon - speaking to Ian at our first golf tournament he completed his run in four hours two mins and 36 secs and ran for the Prostate Cancer Charity raising over £700. A fabulous performance guys! If you know of anyone else in the Section who's had a great achievement or has good information for Around the Green especially in educational matters then please contact me on the number below.

Our first golf meeting was held at Arlesford GC, on May 1. This was our Spring Tournament and also a qualifier for the National Championship. The Spring Tournament is also our memorial event for Colin White, who passed away just over three years ago. As usual it was a pleasure to welcome as guests, Colin's mother, Jill Francis and Gilly Francis (Colin's Stepfather), also Colin's brother, Robert White, and his wife Louise. We always remember Colin as a very cheerful and helpful personality. Without fail when we talk about Colin and recall the stories we end up with a smile. We will always remember Colin.

We had a good turn out for the day, with 40 for golf and evening dinner. The weather did deal some showers but overall the conditions were good and the day's golf was completed with blue skies above. The Section and the Committee offer great thanks to Arlesford GC for courtesy of the golf course and their kind hospitality. Much respect goes to Course Manager, Steve Privett, and his team for presenting and producing excellent greens and a good looking golf course. The feedback from the players was very positive. It was great to see Steve's team playing in the tournament after a good morning's work in preparation of the course.

The sponsors for the day were Avoncrop Amenity Products and Vitax Ltd. Thank you to both companies, your support is very much appreciated by the Section. Both companies produced a very high standard prize table.

After dinner, within the presentations, Chris Briggs, made an excellent speech in remembrance of Colin. Chris mentioned that he has recently made contact with greenkeepers within the Section and was very pleased to hear that Colin is still remembered.

The results were as follows: Division 1.1 Brian Forder, 50 pts; 1.2 Tony Gadd, 47 pts. Division 2.1 Brian Pitman, 52pts (countback); 2.2 Chris Bitten, 52 pts. Division 3.1 Ben Goodyear, 57 pts; 3.2 Adam Brimson, 47 pts. Nearest The Pin - Brian Pitman, Longest Drive - Ryan Griffin. Also a special mention for Derek Cunliffe, who made a great score but could not win the main prize as he is now working for Rigby Taylor, so cannot qualify (welcome to the Club Derek). The overall winner was a very happy Ben Goodyear and Jill Francis presented the Chalky White Trophy to Ben and then thanked us for inviting them and remembering Colin. Jill also made a presentation to Steve Privett in thanks for the presentation and preparation of the golf course. Jill recalls Colin always saying that when a sportsman lost they blamed the course/ground conditions and when they won they praised themselves and the grounds managers were never thanked. To complete an excellent day, Gilly Francis thanked all of us for inviting them as guests and also did a bit of stand up comedy, which was received very well. He finished by saying that people being together is essential especially in this day and age of TV and home entertainment and that it is a credit that the section regularly gets together.

The next event is the Summer Tournament, at Burley GC, on July 10. This is an invitation where a guest/golfer from your golf club can join in. The cost is £21, please send your cheques to Kevan Glass at the following address: Apartment 1, Forge Side Court, Lepe Road, Langley, Southampton SO45 1SS (mobile 07859 053054: email: glassy2003@hotmail.com).

Joe Crawley 0781 684 9942
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DEVON AND CORNWALL

Not much to report this month, April was a bit cold down in the South West with several nights' frost and then an easterly wind which has made things a bit late down here, but things are picking up nicely now.

Some good news to report, Keith Kemp W. Cornwall and his family whose



Around the Green

baby son, Jack, had been unwell recently has now recovered. Congratulations to Mark Downing who not so long ago passed NVQ Level 2.

Our summer meeting is going to be held at Lanhydrock on Wednesday, July 23, where I understand there will be a match between Devon & Cornwall which I suspect will be fiercely contested! There will be Captains appointed for each team who will have a big say in who plays, so looking forward to that. Our winter meeting venues have pretty much been sorted for the coming winter, I will let you know them next month.

Well that's it for this month. As usual any news you wish me to pass on email me at Greenwayjrc@aol.com or phone 07764 224582.

Jerry Cole



SOUTH WEST

Just back from hols in France so apologies for a short bulletin with mainly rubbish points – pretty much as usual then.

The course at Clevedon was in its normal good order for our Spring Tournament, and well done to all those who turned out at this busy time. Yet again, I managed to be double-booked with my holiday so couldn't actually play, but it was nice to get down there and see everyone tee-off. Okay there were some pretty rubbish shots actually, but I'm far too polite to mention any names! Thanks very much to Clevedon for their hospitality and to Barry Reeves and the team for preparing the course. Congratulations to Tim Morgan for the best score of the day playing off 6.

The full result: 1. Tim Morgan, Defence Academy, Shrivensham, 36pts; 2. John Batchelor, Long Ashton, 34 pts; 3. Roger Neale (The Ravishing One), 33pts. Worthy of a mention – Tom Wright, Long Ashton, 34 pts, but not eligible for the prizes.

Grateful thanks to Peter Hampton, of Bernhards, for rounding off the day with a fascinating insight into the ins and outs of reel grinding, and what happens if you don't. And finally thanks to Adam Matthews for helping with the cards and the starting.

Latest news from the Region – The November seminar is confirmed as November 20 at Cannington College, and will feature the "Disturbance Theory".

Some employers may not be aware of the Government's "Train to Gain" initiative. In a nutshell, this is aimed at assisting unqualified workers to gain qualifications (most commonly NVQ 2 in their chosen profession) by sponsoring all of the costs. More detail available on the gov.uk website.

The Section STRI Information Day as mentioned last month is confirmed for June 18 at Chippenham Golf Club. Starting at 2pm, John Lockyer and Andy Cole will lead delegates out onto the course, and give presentations on such subjects as the introduction of finer grasses, use of wetting agents, growing in new greens, general maintenance etc – in short, something for

everyone. The day should finish around 6pm and afternoon tea is provided. An invitation to greenstaff and club officials should have been received by your secretary via email, but check out the Education Board on the BIGGA website for any last-minute info. This day is completely free of charge, but please book your place to assist with the catering and organisation.

I should mention and thank our Patronage Partners for their sponsorship, which, among other things, keeps the costs of the meetings to a minimum. I recently gave a talk on the environment to South Wales BIGGA and IOG at Chepstow racecourse. Chepstow has a very undulating track and is unusual for having a dead straight mile. I know this because I made the mistake of parking near the four furlong marker, and had a bloody long walk to the pavilion with my computer and projector. The race jumps are made of birch, and are refitted every year with about 5000 bundles of birch twigs. (The old bundles incidentally, are sold on second-hand to other smaller racecourses.) Spare a thought for the hard-pressed grounds-team - if one jump has to be moved for any reason – they all do, in order to maintain the correct stride. The maintenance consists of vertidrain aeration and overseeding with dwarf rye. The "going" is no longer determined by a couple of elderly bowler-hatted gentlemen strolling around, but by a high-tech compactionometer which measures the hardness of the ground and the shear factor of the turf. Unfortunately it didn't quite work properly while we were there, so we had to rely on the managers' word.

We had a very interesting tour of the complex and facilities including the weighing room, the medical centre, and the jockeys changing rooms and baths. I say baths – this consisted of a couple of huge hydrotherapy type hot-tubs capable of holding an entire rugby team and you could easily imagine Frankie Dettori being held under by half a dozen burly rivals until he submitted. There is a doctor and medical team on call throughout the race-meeting, and the medical facilities included an operating theatre which could cope with pretty well anything, including dealing with injuries and accidents etc, (and quite possibly in-growing toenails and giving birth).

I was interested to note that the Stewards and Clerk of the Course are in session for the entire race meeting. If any jockey is found to have transgressed the rules in any way – he is instantly banned from taking any further part. I really enjoyed the talk, and thanks to all those who turned up to support it.

It was very disappointing to have to cancel the Greenkeeper Amateur due to poor uptake. Minchinhampton Old Course is happy to rearrange at another time, and offer to host again next year. If anyone has any thoughts on alternative timings, please give me a call. The committee is considering a radical overhaul of the fixtures to reflect the changes in the industry. Any thoughts would be most welcome – this is, after all, your Section.

Finally, Wayne Vincent and Paul Garland would appreciate contact from anyone interested in playing for the Section team regardless of handicap or job status. A round of golf in good company followed by a meal, and all for a tenner is good value in anyone's book, and with St Pierre - August 6, and Remedy Oak – August 27 coming up, the courses certainly measure up too. So give Wayne a call on 07958630590.

Paul Worster
07768 394593
paulw@mgcnew.co.uk



Last year's winning picture of The Duke's Course, Woburn taken by Michael Cunningham

SNAP HAPPY!

BIGGA's Golf Photography Competition is back

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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.

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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](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk) or [Melissa Jones](mailto:melissa@bigga.co.uk), 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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E	D	C	2	5	F	A	0	4	6	3	B	1	9	7	8
B	8	4	6	7	9	3	1	E	F	C	0	2	A	D	5
0	3	A	1	E	D	6	2	8	5	9	7	F	B	C	4

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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



Design Consulting

Head Greenkeeper

required for existing 36 hole proprietary debenture club north of London.

The courses are grassed with cool season grasses and have Weathermatic irrigation to tees and greens.

There are substantial areas of tall rough and gardens around the clubhouse together with gardens of an adjacent very large house which is within the overall site area.

A driving range, putting green and short game area provide members practice facilities

The Head Greenkeeper will report to General Manager directly and will have complete authority and responsibility for the management of the overall golf facility and grounds within an agreed Business Plan.

Excellent remuneration package dependent on experience.

A more detailed description is available from

Bob Hunt at bob.hunt@pgadc.com

CV's should be sent electronically to the same address.

Closing date 25th June 2008.

PGA is a registered trademark of the Professional Golfers Association of Great Britain and Ireland

RECRUITMENT

Regional Technical Sales Managers



Symbio is Europe's leading sports turf soil biology company. The drive for environmental sustainability, reduced pesticide use, increased fertiliser costs and reduced budgets means this is an exciting time to join Symbio.

To continue our expansion plans we would like to recruit 3 regional technical sales managers

Area 1 The M6 corridor - from Birmingham to Lancashire

Area 2 Eastern Counties - Essex to Leicestershire inc. East Anglia

Area 3 Southern England - Kent to Hampshire, Bucks and Berks.

Area 2 & 3 will be to manage existing accounts and extend the customer base

We offer an excellent salary and benefits with intensive training. There are opportunities to progress to national sales or export sales manager and for overseas travel. Experience of sales is an advantage but not essential.

You will be: a highly motivated self starter successful in setting and meeting targets; committed to developing your knowledge of soil biology, fertility and nutrition and confident to use your evolving knowledge to advise turf managers and landscapers how to improve results with the best soil biology and chemistry.

In addition to leading edge products for plant nutrition, thatch reduction, IPM programmes, poa annua management and mycorrhizal inoculants you will also sell Johnsons Seeds and the unique services of the soilfoodweb labs for soil biology and chemistry analyses.

Email polly@symbio.co.uk for a full job description or send your CV to:

Polly Gearing, Administration Manager at Symbio, Unit 8 Coopers Place, Combe Lane, Wormley, Surrey GU8 5SZ



HEAD GREENKEEPER

Course: GOLF SON PARC

Location: Menorca – Spain

Job description:

Responsible to the course manager of the 18th hole Dave Thomas designed course, for the day to day maintenance and presentation of the facility. For more information see our web site www.golfsonparc.com

The person should have good all round greenkeeping experience, with all the relevant qualifications and spraying certificates.

Must be self motivated and able to control & manage a mixed nationality team, a knowledge of warm weather grasses and conditions and good language skills would be an advantage.

We require the person as soon as possible. The package would be: Salary commensurate with experience, Accommodation included and contract for a minimum of 3 years.

Please forward a C.V. by e-mail to paola@golfsonparc.com and hb@golfsonparc.com or by post to our U.K. agents Krayburn Management Services Ltd, Ivy Barn, Salters Lane, Lower Washington, Macclesfield, SK11 9LR.



1906 - 2006

THE GLEN GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER / HEAD GREENKEEPER

Founded in 1906, The Glen Golf Club is a combination of Links and Cliff-top golf course. The club regularly hosts SGU events and in July of this year will hold the Scottish U14 & U16 Open Championships.

The ideal candidate will possess:

- Ambition with proven ability of working to the highest standards at all times
- Minimum of 5 years green keeping experience and currently be in a position of responsibility
- Excellent leadership, training and motivational skills
- Proven competence in H&S compliance
- Possess relevant qualifications including spraying
- Excellent communications skills both orally and written
- Experience in delivering agreed course budgets

The successful candidate will be responsible for maintaining the current excellent condition of the course whilst also instigating continuous improvements. A strong green keeping background is essential also a sound knowledge of links greenkeeping practices would be of benefit.

An excellent package is available to the successful candidate. Applications should be made in writing or e-mail stating salary expectations and accompanied by a current CV - Closing Date 13th June 2008.

Please send to:

Mr Gordon Bowden, Greens Convenor, Glen Golf Club, East Links
Tantallon Terrace, North Berwick, East Lothian EH39 4LE

or Email secretary@glengolfclub.co.uk
further details www.glengolfclub.co.uk

Hockley Golf Club

(founded 1914)

require an additional

Assistant Greenkeeper

Minimum 3 years experience
Qualified to NVQ2 or equivalent
Spraying certificates PA1-2 & 6

Salary negotiable according to experience & qualifications
Accommodation may be available

Please reply in writing to:

Mrs Lyn Dyer/Club Secretary,
Hockley Golf Club, Twyford, Winchester, Hants SO21 1PL
Or email: secretary@hockleygolfclub.com
Tel: 01962 713165

Hockley is a chalk downland course with views overlooking Winchester.
It has excellent drainage throughout the year.



KAURI CLIFFS
MATAURI BAY NEW ZEALAND

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT NEW ZEALAND

We are looking for experienced staff for our two golf courses in New Zealand for the 2008/09 summer season. Both courses have spectacular coastal locations – Kauri Cliffs is a modern golf course and luxury lodge situated in the beautiful Bay of Islands and Cape Kidnappers is a new golf course and lodge situated in the stunning Hawkes Bay area of New Zealand. To find out more about these spectacular courses, take a look at www.kauricliffs.com.

We are seeking experienced golf course maintenance staff for the 2008/09 season, beginning 8th September 2008 and ending early May 2009. Both facilities offer a modern work facility with a full range of the latest equipment comparable to top courses worldwide. Applicants would be responsible for their own work visas, travel arrangements and accommodation.

We envisage people with enthusiasm, commitment, self-motivation, a good attitude and eye for detail, and the ability to work well within our team environment.

You must be able to start work by 8th September 2008 and be committed to stay for the full length of your contract.

Please email full CV and the email addresses for two work referees to

Andy Wood kauricliffsw@xtra.co.nz

Applications close end of June 2008.

Inchmarlo Resort and Golf Club



Requires an

Experienced Greenkeeper

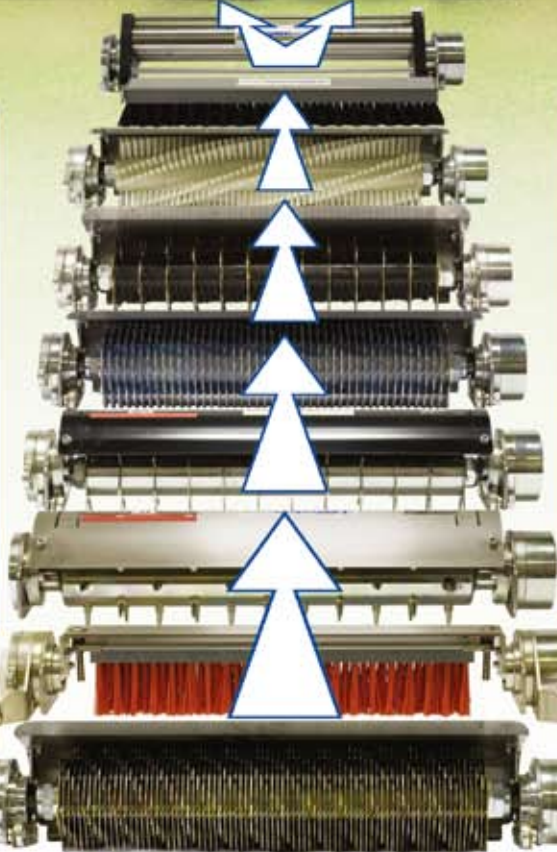
Inchmarlo Resort and Golf Club currently has a vacancy for a suitably qualified greenkeeper to join our skilled and enthusiastic course management team.

The successful applicant should have minimum of 2-3 years experience and should be qualified to NVQ level 2, have relevant spraying certificates and experience of green keeping at a golf club.

Salary is negotiable dependent on qualification and experience.

Please apply with full CV to:

**J Florence, Inchmarlo Resort & Golf Club
Glassel Road, Banchory, Aberdeenshire AB31 4BQ
Or email: pat@inchmarlo.com**



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WHATEVER THE WEATHER

As I write we have just had the first two weeks of good weather in May... and about time as it has been a long time coming! We're never happy though, as now we're complaining about keeping up with the grass. There's always something to moan about. Hopefully this is the start of things to come and when you read this I hope we will be experiencing a good start to the summer through June, after the cold spring. I don't want to contemplate a similar June to last year as sailing was more appropriate than greenkeeping.

I attended the R&A Conference at St Andrews last month and it was more of an environmentally aware themed conference, as opposed to just sustainability and grass species. When I did a presentation for the Canadian Greenkeeping Association, in Calgary, I realised just how much more the environmental issues impact on golf and ultimately our professions as greenkeepers – much more that we would have given thought to a few years ago.

At St Andrews we had two presentations, firstly from Nick Hanley, of the EU Commission, about where his views on where golf sit in Brussels with regard to water and pesticide use, as well as overall environment management, the impact of EU law and its enforcements going forward. The outcomes were that we have a long way to go to convince our counterparts in how we are perceived outside of the golfing industry. The powers at the EU think we can improve our position going forward - this was mirrored by Gordon Shepherd, from the World Wildlife Fund, as he put it across with a much stronger viewpoint resulting in a great presentation. Asked if the WWF would take on golf and its goals he said that we all had a long way to go to convince his organisation to thinking we are as good as we think we are!

Two good presentations and a bit of a wake up call. Although we are convinced within the industry that we have some great initiatives it is not always the same viewpoint from the outside. This reminded me of the summit meeting of the World Greenkeeping Associations in Calgary earlier this year. Although the Greenkeeping industry is pro-active in all the above areas we are not getting this message through to higher bodies or getting any recognition for them. It was in Canada that we listened to a fine presentation from the French Federation which is working within the



golf related industry to allow the government to back the game of golf and look upon it favourably in the future, should restrictions apply. In Europe there is also a lot of environmental certification across the Federations which is confusing and I think Golf Environment Europe has a big role to play in bringing all this work under one banner so that it can then be recognised in Brussels.

Back in St Andrews we then had a presentation from the R&A and the launch of its benchmarking tool on the website for golf course management. A fantastic initiative and one which helps us all put our records into one template which, in years to come, will be an excellent document in terms of how environmental friendly and how good the game of golf and associated industries are for it. Ultimately we are all fine guardians of the land.

A good conference with plenty of thought for the future.

I would like to wish my Vice Chairman, Peter Todd, and his team, best wishes at The London Club. They are hosting their first main Tour event, the European Open, 3-6 July.

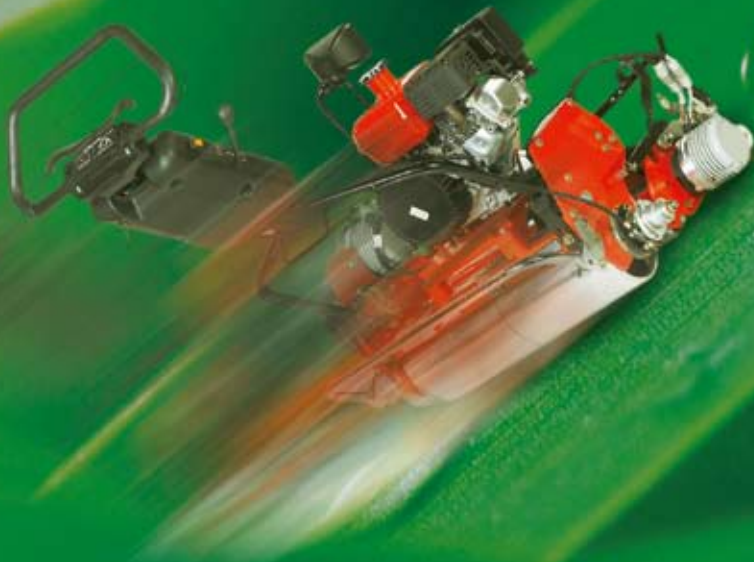
I hope you have all read John Pemberton's article last month, and understand the procedure for the Vice Chairman 2009, it is a great honour and if your club is committed then we would like to see as many applications as possible.

Kenny Mackay
Chairman



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