



# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

- Workshop Organisation
- Spreading Equipment
- Sustainability
- Teesside Golf Club

£5.00  
MARCH | 2008



MECHANICS'  
SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

# If you're too busy to read this ad, then you're the kind of person who would love TurfStart™

Times are busy. People expect fast results. TurfStart™ is an innovative new rootzone system from Rufford, pre-blended with Scotts' latest controlled release fertiliser technology. It allows you to establish a much healthier pitch or green in a far shorter space of time. Independent trials conducted by the Sports Turf Research Institute demonstrated that grass seed grown in TurfStart™ **germinated faster** than grass grown using a conventional construction technique\*, produced a **root mass 60% greater** and increased the rate of **ground cover by 60%**.

For further information please call **0845 357 3030** or email [turfstart@rufford.com](mailto:turfstart@rufford.com)

*\*i.e. the current practice of laying the rootzone then adding a pre-seeder fertiliser*





## BIGGA

### President

Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE

### Board of Management

Chairman – Kenny Mackay

Vice Chairman – Peter Todd

Past Chairman – Billy McMillan

### Board Members

Lee Strutt, Jeff Mills, Gavin Robson, Archie Dunn, Tony Smith, Elliott Small, Mark Dobell

Chief Executive – John Pemberton

Email – john@bigga.co.uk

Communications Manager /

Editor – Scott MacCallum

Email – scott@bigga.co.uk

Sales and Membership Manager – Rosie Hancher

Email – rosie@bigga.co.uk

Head of Learning & Development – Sami Collins

Email – sami@bigga.co.uk

Membership Department – Vanessa Depré

Email – vanessa@bigga.co.uk

### Contact Us

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

Email – reception@bigga.co.uk

Website – www.bigga.org.uk

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801



The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

### Editorial

Communications Manager /

Editor – Scott MacCallum

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

Email – scott@bigga.co.uk

Assistant Editor – Melissa Toombs

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

Email – melissa@bigga.co.uk

### Design

Agency – Stone Soup

Web – www.stone-soup.co.uk

### Advertising

Sales Executive – Kirstin Smith

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833802

Email – kirstin@bigga.co.uk

Sales Administrator – Fliss Chaffer

Tel – 01347 833812 | Fax – 01347 833802

Email – fliss@bigga.co.uk

### Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor Lane,

Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH

Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested.

No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication.

Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear.

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £47 per year, Europe and Eire £60. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

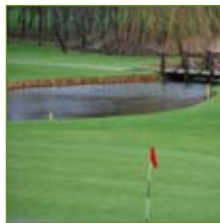
© 2008 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

March 2008

## Regulars



4-8

**News**

9

**GTC**

10-11

**Industry Update**

12

**Membership**

13

**Learning & Development**

Sami Collins updates us on Learning and Development matters

14-15

**Learning & Development Training**

Waste Management On Golf Courses

By Mary Purcell



37

**Hobbies**

47

**In the Shed**

Greenkeeper International's puzzle page

50-51

**New Products**

54

**News from the Chief Executive**

54-62

**Around the Green**

70

**As I See It...**

National Chairman Kenny Mackay's monthly column

## Features

16-19

**Spreading Equipment: Spread Your Dressing Evenly**

By James de Havilland

20-23

**Course Feature: Done to a Tee**

Scott MacCallum visits Teesside Golf Club and meets a man who isn't in danger of letting the grass grow under his feet

25-27

**New Friends and New Knowledge**

By Daniel Lightfoot

29-30

**Liquid Fertilisers: Don't Just Fertilise...Utilise!**

By Richard Fry

32-34

**Sustainability – The Way To Go**

By James Blacklock

39-45

**Workshop Organisation**

In this special supplement GI takes a look at the training a mechanic goes through, what it takes to set up a workshop and how to ensure it runs smoothly

53

**The Greenkeeping Kid**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Welcome



## A Greenkeeping Anachronism

Occasionally we receive calls at BIGGA HOUSE from golf club officials keen to learn a little more about specific greenkeeping issues. “Can golf be played in frost without damaging the surface?” “What is BIGGA’s view on trolley bans?” “What green speed should be achievable on our course?”

The first answer to all these questions is always “Have you spoken to your Course Manager?” The reason being, other than the fact that BIGGA Headquarters staff are specialists in their own areas of responsibility and are not greenkeepers, is that you can’t help thinking that any information gleaned could be to use against the club’s own Course Manager.

They may be trying to increase their own knowledge, but more likely is the fact that they don’t agree with the approach which is being taken at their club and are looking for evidence to back up their own point of view.

Wouldn’t it be far better to engage with the Course Manager on the subject and at least learn why he or she adopts the particular approach? It’s more than likely that there is a perfectly good reason for going down one route and not another.

It is all part of the old chestnut of the average golf club having 650 greenkeepers and the generally held belief that anyone who sits down in front of the box on a Friday to watch Alan Titchmarsh or Monty Don, and who possesses a modicum of knowledge about gardening, is perfectly capable of double guessing a Course Manager on matters agronomic.

The make up of many traditional members’ clubs doesn’t help, with Green Committees often charged with planning the working week of the Greenkeeping Team rather than acting as a communication link to the rest of the membership.

I’ve met some wonderful Chairmen of Green over the years, many of whom have developed good greenkeeping knowledge and who have been big supporters of the greenkeeping staff, but the fact remains that their sole role should be to act as a middleman between the Maintenance facility and the Board Room. Even then, in an ideal world there should be no room for them. They are a greenkeeping anachronism. Any modern Course Manager worth his salt should have the skills to communicate with club members whether it be on the course, in the bar or in the Board Room.

While out visiting members at their clubs I’ve noticed that the Course Managers who play golf with the membership, and who take time to learn names and chat with members, are the ones who have fewest problems when it comes to the whispering campaigns about the state of the course.

It might seem that you have enough to do without adding to your workload and adding to your day by popping into the clubhouse but it is time well spent. It can nip potential problems in the bud and, if you press the right buttons, you might find that 650 strong greenkeeping team losing some of its recruits.

## HOW CAN GOLF CLUBS RETAIN ‘NOMADIC’ GOLF MEMBERS?

The GTC has recognised a growing expectation amongst golfer’s seeking to play on golf courses in pristine condition for as near to 12 months a year as possible with those in golf club membership seeking to derive full value for their annual subscriptions.

The commonly acknowledged trends of reducing waiting lists, removal of entry fees and marketeers actively promoting new member packages, now offer the ‘nomadic’ golf club member an ideal opportunity to satisfy his/her needs to move freely between golf clubs, at will.

Kevin Weir, The Scottish Golf Union’s, Golf Service Manager, says: “The reasons for joining a golf club are obvious - location, cost, length of waiting list, ease of access to the course, practice facilities, condition of the course and many more. But fundamentally golfers simply join clubs to play golf.”

Kevin explains: “Golfers will therefore seek a course that is presented in the best possible playing conditions at all times for as near to 12 months of the year as possible, having had their expectations significantly fuelled by current TV and golfing media coverage. Augusta and the Masters inevitably kick starts this in early Spring every year.

“Expectations such as these will apply whether playing in a club championship, an open competition, a monthly medal, a bounce game with friends or a few holes on a summer’s evening - the player will always want to enjoy the best possible course conditions at all times.” Kevin continues.

It is important for golf clubs to identify and implement course management practices appropriate for their courses that will best deliver the best possible quality playing surfaces for their members and visitors alike. To do this golf clubs must plan ahead utilising a long term Course Management Policy framework. This process should not only include the course management and development programme for the golf course but also the commitment of the golf club to support and fund this agreed programme.

The policy document should be openly shared and communicated to the golf club membership, allowing them to understand the agreed long term plans for the golf course, some elements of which they will have voted for. The policy should be reviewed regularly and updated as required.

Kevin adds: “The success of the golf club will depend on high quality playing surfaces that can reap huge rewards for a club and also significantly enhance the reputation of its green staff. This will retain existing members, attract new members, establish the club as an attractive venue for visiting parties, visiting golfers and corporate events, and external sponsorship. Most importantly golfers will achieve value for money, have access to the quality of a golf course they desire and become extremely satisfied customers!”

## NEW PRODUCT OF THE YEAR AWARD

DJ Turfcare has won a Turf Professional New Product of the Year Award with MO Bacter, an organic fertiliser which also destroys moss without leaving debris.

The announcement was made at BTME by editor Chris Biddle who said: "We were impressed by the qualities of this product and by the fact that it is genuinely new to the industry and developed with the environment in mind."

MO Bacter, from Viano of Belgium, is a slow-release granular fertiliser (launched at IOG Saltex) which eradicates moss by secondary action, feeds grass and improves the soil. Scarifying after treatment is not necessary.



## INDUSTRY EXPERTS INSPIRE STUDENTS

Writtle College hosted an Industry Day event recently. Organiser, Donna Sheringham, Recruitment Officer in the School of Horticulture, said "the aim of the day was to introduce students to the wide diversity of occupations available in the industry including the steps needed to enter particular fields".

High profile guest speakers included Mark Gregory of Landform Consultants, Paul Downer of Oakview Landscapes, Alistair Bayford representing Liz Lake Landscape Architects, Ian Legros, Curator of RHS garden Hyde Hall, Fiona Dennis, Scheme Co-ordinator of the Historic & Botanic Garden Bursary Scheme; Wyevale Garden Centres were also represented along with freelance arborist Darren Blunt; Ian Baalham from Colchester Parks and Paul Stacey from Mole Valley Local Authority.

Students Annika Brown and Heidi Baker having previously undertaken an industrial sandwich placement also shared their experiences with the student audience.

Senior Lecturer Greg Allen, also Regional Vetting Officer for BALL, believes the day was an important step in bringing education closer together with industry and anticipates the college hosting similar events in the coming year to ensure students are aware of what is happening in the real world of work and prepare Writtle graduates for the workplace.

## NORTHERN REGION

The Northern Region would like to thank Aitkens and Vitax for their continued patronage, which makes a valuable contribution towards greenkeeper training. The photos show the Northern Region Chairman, Ian Holoran, presenting commemorative plaques to Richard Aitken from Aitken's Ltd and Karl Geary from Vitax on their respective stands during Harrogate Week.



## NEW DEALERS

Two new dealers have been appointed by Turfmech to provide sales, service and parts support in the north-west of England for the full range of Allett professional pedestrian mowers and fineturf maintenance equipment.

Appointed to look after north and east Lancashire and parts of Greater Manchester is Burnley-based Balmers. Established in 1979, the business is owned and run by David Balmer and has built over the years a strong reputation for the high levels of service it provides to retail and hire customers throughout the area.

Responsibility for Cheshire, Merseyside, south Lancashire and parts of north Wales and Greater Manchester has been given to the Chester branch of Turner Groundscare, a four-times winner of Turfmech's dealer of the year award. The branch becomes the third Turner Groundscare depot to take on the Allett agency, joining the company's outlets at Bledlow, Buckinghamshire and Erdington, a suburb of Birmingham.

---

## GOOD COMMUNICATION

---

The GTC sees Golf Course Manager/ Secretary Manager partnership as a significant step forward in golf clubs allowing professionally trained and qualified personnel to manage the day to day business of a golf club.

One example of this is at Ashburnham Golf Club, Burry Port, Carmarthenshire where a new partnership has reaped success and shows the need to communicate within a team.

Secretary Manager, Ian Church, and Course Manager, Huw Morgan, joined forces to take Ashburnham's fine reputation to even greater heights. By bringing their expertise together they see their success can be greater than the sum of what they bring separately to Ashburnham.

Ian Church states: "I don't see how I can achieve my goals without Huw doing his job. I know he is one of the best there is and that means I can give him free reign to achieve the goals that we want."

Huw Morgan realises the importance of Ian's job: "Ian brings in the money to help finance the tools, materials and resources needed to execute the work on the course. We have many areas where large sums of money need to be spent and this will have to come through visitor greenfee income.

"A good relationship is vital to the success here at Ashburnham. I have worked for some great secretaries who have trusted me and wanted to work with me. I have also worked with people who wanted to control my job as well as trying to do their job. One job is hard enough, no-one will benefit if we interfere in each other's work." Huw continues.

Planning has already started at Ashburnham for future tournaments, including the Home Internationals in 2010. Ian and Huw are vital cogs in that process. They meet or speak daily to communicate what is going on in both departments.

Standards required at golf clubs have risen to unprecedented levels in the last 10 years. All staff must be trained to be able to cope with these demands. Golfers demand high standards on the course, in the clubhouse, proshop and administration office. Golf clubs have to employ professional people with the correct skills, experience and customer service to manage their departments and produce the standards required.

The relationship must be down to trust, respect and shared positive experience. At Ashburnham, Ian and Huw trust each other to do their jobs professionally, respect each other for the areas that they bring to the team and which invariably allows them to focus on their own areas of expertise.

The shared positive experiences are that Ian delivers what Huw needs (money to pay for the materials and tools Huw and his team use to get the course to the required standard) and Huw delivers what Ian needs (a golf course that exceeds expectations and acts as a springboard for Ian to use to generate further business).

After only nine months working together, great progress has been made with increased visitors giving positive views of the course improvements. The GUV has bestowed its approval by naming the club to host the 2009 Welsh Amateur Strokeplay Championship and the 2010 Home Internationals.

Huw continues: "[The GUV] is not only saying it approves of the path we are laying down, but this is its vote of confidence in the ability of Ian and I to achieve the required standards. We are both reaping the rewards of each others hard work and the future looks very bright for the members of Ashburnham."

## LAST CHANCE!

---

BIGGA are to provide a Greenkeeping Support Team for the BMW PGA Championship at The Wentworth Club, May 22-25.

As a team member you will be involved in walking with a match and raking any bunkers found by the players, as well as aiding Chris Kennedy and his staff, should adverse weather occur.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course, while there is no overnight accommodation provided.

Being a member of this team will not be detrimental to your chances of making The Open Championship team that BIGGA also puts together.

Applications should be sent to: Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator, 34 Howard Close, Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 7QF.

## IRRIGATION CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR 2007

---

Ocmis UK Limited has been awarded the title of Toro Irrigation Contractor of the Year 2007. The Martlock-based company is one of the UK's leading installers of irrigation systems and was awarded this accolade, which is based on total sales, after working closely with Toro Irrigation for the past year.

Toro Irrigation's UK sales manager, Robert Jackson, and the company's area manager for northern Europe, Simon Squires, presented the award to Ocmis' managing director, Chris Aplin, at Harrogate Week. Commenting on Ocmis' achievement, Robert Jackson says: "Ocmis has undertaken numerous projects on our behalf in the last year, including prestigious installations at Ballyliffin Golf Club in Co. Donegal, Ireland, and Castle Stuart in the Scottish Highlands. It's a pleasure to work in partnership with someone at the top of the irrigation industry – Ocmis is an excellent contractor to work with."



## NEW APPOINTMENTS

John Deere has appointed Richard Charleton as Product Manager for the Commercial and Golf & Turf equipment range.

The continued growth of the Commercial and Consumer Equipment (C&CE) Division within the UK and Ireland has presented the opportunity for John Deere Limited to invest in this new position.

Richard joined John Deere Limited in January 1991 as C&CE Demonstrator and Instructor. Successfully progressing through the company to become Area Service Manager for the UK and Ireland, Richard then became Territory Manager for Scotland and the north of England in July 1996. Richard's wealth of experience will stand him in good stead to take on this challenging role.

The appointment of Richard sees Henry Bredin fill the position of Territory Manager for North England and Scotland.

Henry renews his relationship with John Deere Limited as he had previously been with the company when he joined in the summer of 2001 as a management trainee with the C&CE division.



Henry Bredin



Richard Charleton



Call to discuss your requirements: 01883 344244

Email: [info@eagle.uk.com](mailto:info@eagle.uk.com) Website: [www.eagle.uk.com](http://www.eagle.uk.com)



## STEM INJECTION TRAINING COURSE



Specialised new training aimed at the eradication of Japanese knotweed has been launched.

Cheshire-based Reaseheath College and Stem Injection Systems (Europe) have been promoting training in the use of an innovative new direct stem injection system which is set to augment traditional chemical spraying and 'dig and dump' treatment methods for non-native invasive plants.

The hand-held stem injection applicator works by delivering a measured dose of herbicide into the stem of the plant rather than just to the leaf surface. This means it targets only the plants injected and there is no environmental risk of spray drift, run-off or contamination of watercourses and other sensitive vegetation. Injection directly into the plant stem means the method is unaffected by rain or wind and can be applied in all weathers throughout the growing season which assists in dramatically reducing treatment times for the removal of Japanese knotweed to a single season.

Reaseheath College, based in Nantwich, which has one of the biggest horticultural departments in the country, has devised a specific training course in the use of the new equipment and is looking for accreditation with a national awarding body.

Head of Horticulture Ian Benison said: "We are delighted to be able to work with such a forward thinking and rapidly expanding company towards developing and delivering training for the control of Japanese knotweed. We are expecting a great demand from industry because there are no other courses like this in the country."

## SPEEDCUT

Contractors of Oxford used Harrogate Week 2008, to launch a newsletter and celebrate their 30th anniversary.

Director and founder Dick Franklin, together with Contracts Manager, Kevin Smith, manned a busy stand that attracted a wide range of inquiries – from golf clubs to local authorities.

"We have a lot of people to talk to during the next few months about drainage work this year," says Dick. "And we are looking at a number of possible sports facility construction jobs."

The launch of Speedcut News gave past, present and future clients an opportunity to read about recent work carried out by the company.

"Harrogate was an excellent show for us," said Dick. "We were kept busy during the whole three days and met a wide cross section of people from every type of sport."

## TOP PRIZE FOR CHRIS



The winner of the BTME 'Racing ahead with Rigby Taylor' promotion was Chris Milnes, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Lowes Park Golf Club, Bury. The competition during the first two days of the show was for stand visitors to guess the number of golf balls that would fill a Callaway golf bag and prize was a pair of tickets for a 'hospitality weekend' at the 2008 Formula 1, Silverstone Grand Prix. Over 500 entered the competition and the winner guessed the exact number of 777 balls.

John Pemberton is seen above with the winning ticket and two RT Promotions girls.

## NEW APPOINTMENT

Rockliffe Hall has made its first senior appointment, placing former Slaley Hall Course Manager, Davy Cuthbertson in charge of their own golf course.

Davy, aged 40, is highly regarded as a Course Manager and said he's thrilled at the challenge which lay ahead at Rockliffe Hall. The course at the development is set to become the jewel in the crown at the multi-million pound development in Hurworth, near Darlington.

Warwick Brindle, director at Rockliffe Hall Ltd, says he's thrilled to have someone of Davy's standing in position. He said: "We've waited a long time to make the right appointment for Course Manager. Its one of the most important positions for the development and we're overjoyed someone of Davy's stature has agreed to join us.

"With the course construction now near completion, Davy's arrival is perfect and I know he's going to do a first class job of developing the course to one of the very best in the UK."





## AWARDING BODIES

David Golding, GTC Education Director, comments on companies such as Flybe and McDonalds having "been given the authority to Award their own certificates"

### Why shouldn't Greenkeeping have similar status given our commitment to training staff using the Governments National Framework for qualifications?

Traditional Awarding Bodies are working with Blue Chip employers to accredit the standards for the various staff job profiles and while it was great publicity for the companies involved there is nothing new in this development!

The GTC has worked with the established Awarding Bodies for many years. This partnership approach has been of great benefit as the GTC representing the golf club employers and greenkeepers has ensured there is a range of formal qualifications specific to the sector.

The GTC seized the opportunity when Government introduced vocational qualifications in the late '80s and has been instrumental in ensuring the content of the qualifications incorporates the skills and knowledge at the various levels. No longer can individual establishments accredit what they think industry wants by way of qualifications, as they have to be approved by industry through the Sector Skills Council - in our case the Lantra SSC.

The development, review and accreditation process of greenkeeping qualifications is very transparent through both the GTC and Lantra SSC. The GTC has a major input to all matters relating to training programmes and qualifications. The consultation process is open to anyone who cares to assist the industry to ensure the learner and the employers interests are catered for. While the GTC technical committee has representation from greenkeeper, employers and training providers we encourage a wider input through the consultation process. How can you get involved? The GTC website will post any qualification which is due for review and this will help to ensure we get as much input as possible to feed into the consultation process.

This industry control of the standards and qualifications came about after much lobbying by greenkeepers in the '60s, '70s and '80s on behalf of both their fellow greenkeepers but also the golf club employers who supported the battle for specific greenkeeping qualifications.

Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship are united as Sports Turf at meetings to discuss standards and qualifications and while we might be included into broader industry groups within the Lantra SSC eg Amenity Horticulture or, worse still, Landscape, rest assured there is not a better-organised specialist sector than Golf Greenkeeping.

The GTC is introducing an email alert service which will keep you informed on all matters that the GTC is involved. To register for this just visit the GTC website [www.thegtc.co.uk](http://www.thegtc.co.uk)

Why does the GTC still remain loyal to the Government's policies for

education and training? The Government is encouraging employers to become actively involved in developing National Occupational Qualifications and supports them with funding subsidies through various schemes.

The GTC has claimed a recent success with the Qualifications & Curriculum Authority (QCA) the regulating body for England in association with other countries co-ordinating a test and trial project with the SSC's aimed at introducing a Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF).

What is a QCF? In simple terms it will be a database of UNITS. Each unit will have learning outcomes and have a credit value based on the number of hours learning a learner would be expected to need to reach competency including the required knowledge.

The Government Inspectors, in the main, have judged our Centres/ Approved Training Providers on how many Level 2's, Level 3, 4 candidates have achieved the FULL qualifications or apprenticeship frameworks. Any learner who has achieved six or seven Units but has failed to gain say one Unit of the N/SVQ Level 2 the Centre is seen as failing! Something has to change.

Unit certification is an obvious way forward to correct this crazy situation and it will also have the huge benefit of receiving funding Unit by Unit instead of only full qualifications at the various Levels receiving funding support.

The QCF has the potential to be a great opportunity for our sector and in partnership with our Approved Training Provider Centres and Awarding Bodies short courses in 1,2 or more Units will receive funding support and, at long last, our Centres will be able to offer what the learners and employers have been requesting.

Not every greenkeeper needs to achieve a full qualification, albeit by grouping the appropriate Units we will still be able to have full Greenkeeper, Supervisor and Manager qualifications, but maybe at long last Unit funding is imminent.

We sincerely hope the QCF will be introduced and with our pan-European initiative on greenkeeping standards reaching a critical stage, all EU countries will have to map their current qualifications to ensure they fit into a European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

Contact David to discuss any of the developments: [david@thegtc.co.uk](mailto:david@thegtc.co.uk) or: 01347 838640

### GTC is supported by:





# Industry Update

## RESTRUCTURING FOR ROLAWN

Rolawn has announced a restructure of their depot network management team. John Carter, Jason Kewen and Alistair Matheson previously Senior Depot Mangers have all been appointed to the new position of Regional Operations Manager. John Carter is responsible for the depot network in South-East England, Jason Kewen, the Midlands and Northern England and Alistair Matheson, for Scotland and the Borders.



Left to right: John Carter, Alistair Matheson and Jason Kewen

## NEW ROLE FOR BOB

Bob Scott has joined DLF Trifolium.

With over 30 years experience in the turf business, Bob will be responsible for sales in the South of England. Bob has left a challenging sales and marketing role at British Seed Houses having spent 13 years gathering experience as well as contributing to year on year sales growth. "We are delighted to have such a dynamic professional sales person in the Johnsons Sports Seed team and look forward to reaping the benefits of Bob's knowledge, experience and contacts," explains Derek Smith, Amenity Sales Manager.

## BROTHERS HEAD COMPANY

Kevin and Michael Cavanaugh are the new heads of Floratine Products Group having taken over as President and Vice President.

Kevin Cavanaugh whose title embraces the role of Chief Executive Officer brings over 15 years experience in turf management, agronomy and golf course renovation to the post having trained, initially in golf course management at Augusta National in Georgia. He went on to become Course Manager at Miami Beach in Florida before becoming involved in the building and re-construction of a major golf facility at Key Largo. It was while managing another golf course, at Ponte-Vedra Beach, that he developed a growing interest in agronomy, which led to a post as Corporate Agronomist within Floratine. He rose to become Vice President in 2006.

Michael Cavanaugh will serve as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Having gained business degrees at both Penn State and New York Universities, Michael joined the corporate world following eight years as a U.S. Marine pilot. Before joining Floratine he was Executive Director of Sales and Marketing with OraPharma a member of the Johnson and Johnson healthcare group.

"We're looking forward to working together and with our outstanding international distributor team, to further develop Floratine's worldwide interests" said Kevin.

## IAN JOINS CAMPEY

Ian Pogson has joined Campey Turf Care Systems' as Product Specialist for the south of England, Wales and Ireland. He is 65 years young and has a wealth of knowledge of the turfcare industry.

He entered the grounds care industry in 1980, and he has held positions with several tractor manufacturers, including Ford, Massey Ferguson and Iseki.

Ian - or 'Poggy' as he is known to friends and colleagues - is relishing his latest opportunity with Campeys. "I have always admired the company's product range because of its comprehensiveness and the fact that the high work-rate machines enable busy groundsmen and greenkeepers to achieve great results," he said.

## NEW MARKETING PLANS

John Reynolds has joined Blec Equipment Co. Ltd as Sales and Marketing Manager.

The former head of Imants UK will be responsible for developing UK sales and marketing strategy for the Peterborough based company.

A qualified Agronomist and well known features writer on all aspects of turfcare and machinery, John brings a wealth of experience to compliment Blec's highly innovative team headed up by Gary Mumby the company's founder.

"I have always respected and admired Blec's products, and I am delighted to be working closely with Gary and the rest of the team. It is our intention to rapidly expand the company and increase market share over the next three years." said John.

## COLLEGE COLLECTS



Elmwood College's Andrew Mellon (left), with Toro's Brad Hamilton (right), and Barry Beckett (centre)

Toro recently presented internationally recognised golf studies Centre of Excellence Elmwood College with a cheque for \$80,000 courtesy of its Giving Programme.

Part of the company's ongoing commitment to benefiting education, the environment, the arts, and health and human services, the donation was made to the college, which is located close to St Andrews Golf Club in Fife, Scotland, recently. Toro's Brad Hamilton, Director of Marketing, Commercial and Irrigation Products, and Barry Beckett, Senior Marketing Manager of Commercial Products, jetted in from the company's HQ in the States to present the cheque to Elmwood's Course Manager, Andrew Mellon, who accepted the funding on behalf of the college.

"This new development will enable us to develop our expertise in web and graphics design, taking the course materials to a whole new level of quality while helping to realise the college's vision to be a world-class Centre of Excellence for golf education. This is a fantastic opportunity for both Elmwood and Toro to continue to lead and develop new initiatives that will benefit the whole industry. We are very grateful for the support and assistance The Toro Company has given Elmwood over the years," said Carol Borthwick, the college's Director of Golf and International Affairs.

## KEVIN JOINS SHARPES

Sharpes Leisure are pleased to announce a new appointment to its new sales team within their Seoul Nassau Golf division, Kevin Hodges joins the company as Area Sales Manager for Scotland. Kevin is a former Greenkeeper and Secretary of the East of Scotland Section of BIGGA.

Kevin brings a wealth of experience to the company. "I am delighted to be joining Seoul Nassau and be part of its exciting growth plans" said Kevin.

Scott Lucas, Sales Director, said "We welcome Kevin to our team and I am sure he will prove to be a big success with Scottish customers."

"We now have a team that consists of 13 salesmen and gives us virtually total UK coverage, such an investment is indicative of our attitude towards the future, we are determined to stay at the top with quality product, service and support."

## DOUGLAS JOINS A-PLANT

A-Plant has appointed Douglas McLuckie as the company's new Director of Environment, Health and Safety and Performance Standards. This new appointment reflects the increasing focus at A-Plant on improving safety standards in construction and the many other industries served by the company.

With a career including 24 years within the Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) sector, Douglas is very experienced in this area of the market. Highly qualified, with a Masters Degree in Environmental Management, Douglas previously worked for the Laird Group plc, where he was responsible for Global Strategic Environment, Health and Safety Risk and worked extensively in the Far East, Europe and North America.

Commenting on his new appointment, Douglas said: "There is an increased focus on EHS within the construction industry and I am pleased to have joined A-Plant to assist with the company's response and developments in light of current and future Safety and Environmental issues."

## SISIS IN SCOTLAND

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) are pleased to announce the sales and after-sales operation for the whole of Scotland will be handled by Shaun Reilly. Customers in Scotland will already know Shaun, who has been a Territory Manager for several years.

Customers will continue to contact Sisis or Shaun directly for machinery and spare parts, in keeping with the company direct sales policy, but will now be able to enjoy full service and maintenance via Shaun's company 3PointPower. Shaun will benefit from our full support in this new venture and we wish him every success.

## BIRDS OF A FEATHER? - PARTRIDGE JOINS SWAN

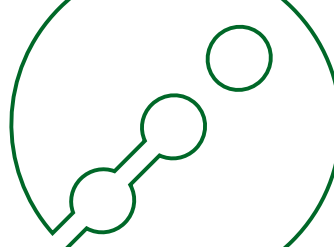
Swan Golf Designs' ranks have recently been supplemented by the arrival of David Partridge, an advanced PGA professional and a Graduate of the Diploma Programme of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects.

David quit his playing career and joined Howard Swan's team of professional golf course architects last month and will contribute to SGD's work, currently on five continents and in close to 30 countries from Iceland to South Africa, from South America to the Far East.

"It's a great opportunity for me to work with Howard and the rest of the team at Swan Golf Designs. I'm looking forward to using the experience I've gained from 18 years as a professional golfer. This knowledge gleaned from playing many of the best layouts in the world has added to that which I've gained through teaching golfers of all abilities over the years will be an asset to the Practice, whether designing new courses or improving existing ones," said David.

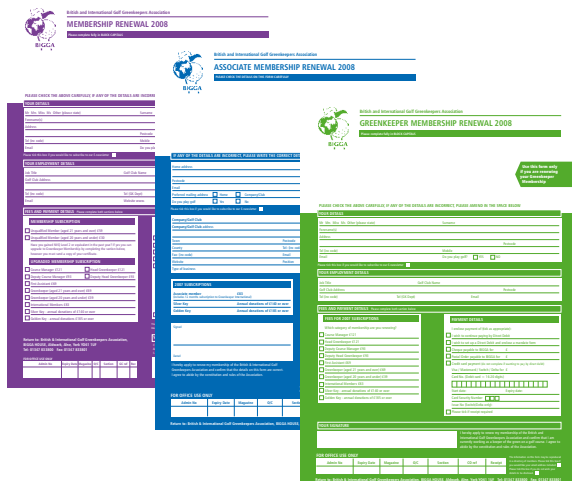
He will begin his design work with SGD assisting at Kingswood Golf Club and at Silvermere Golf and Leisure, both in Surrey, and owned and operated by Tom Hilliard's Group.

# Membership



## AN UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Time's running away. We are still waiting for a few December and January renewals so don't forget to send them in as soon as possible or you will no longer be entitled to your BIGGA Benefits.



If you've lost your renewal form just ring us and we'll send you a new one. Or you can now download renewal forms on the BIGGA website.



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

Don't forget that if you are paying your own BIGGA Membership subscription fees you can apply to the tax office for a refund of 23% of the subscription amount. This can also be backdated.

For those of you retiring or leaving the trade, you can still be a part of BIGGA. There are many different types of memberships that we can offer you.

For retiring Greenkeepers BIGGA has a Retired Membership with full benefits or a Retired Membership with limited benefits. Just give us a call for more information.

If you are leaving the Greenkeeping profession why not join BIGGA as an associate member so you can still be a part of the Association.

For more information on any of the above you can give us a call on 01347 833800.

## BIGGA WELCOMES

<b>SCOTTISH REGION</b>	
Ross Campbell	Central
Alan Graham	East
Jason Walker	East
Colin Tomlinson	East
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>	
Michael Reeve	North East
James Crossfield	Northern
William Myles	Northern
Paul Bale	North West
Andrew Hill	North West
Alex Dixon	Northern
Andrew Hunter	Northern
<b>SOUTH EAST REGION</b>	
Jamie Honeyman	Kent
David Pascoe	Kent
Philip Hirst	Kent
<b>SOUTH WEST &amp; WALES</b>	
Gavin Dunstan	Devon&Cornwall
Alex James	South Wales
Martin Williams	South Wales
Steven Owens	South Wales
Robert Hopkins	South Wales
Robert Williams	South Wales
<b>STUDENTS</b>	
James Rendell	Devon&Cornwall
Matthew Amy	South Coast
James Kenny	North East
Joe Button	Northern
<b>OVERSEAS</b>	
Christian Kroll	Germany
Keith Brumolase	Germany
Klaus Stumm	Germany
Audre Laugbein	Germany
Axel Schirmer	Germany
Phiipp Stegmann	Germany
Erik Gripenberg	Sweden
Ian Larson	USA
Curtis Kono	USA
Richard McNabb	Africa
<b>CORPORATE MEMBERS</b>	
Alan Dommett	Devon&Cornwall
Steven Dommett	Devon&Cornwall
Robert Guntrip	Devon&Cornwall
Dennis Lumley	South West
<b>GOLD KEY</b>	
James Kay	Mid Anglia
Amy Slatter	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Mark Slater	North
David Atkinson	North
Nigel Wood	North
Richard Goodhand	North
Mark Waltham	Switzerland

# 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 Fry; JH Greasley; WJ Rogers; Chris Yeaman; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Bruce Cruickshank; Frank Newberry; Andrew Cornes; Christopher Lomas MG.



#### SILVER KEY



#### Silver Key Individual Members

Clive A Archer; Douglas G Duguid; Robert Maibusch MG; Steven Tierney; Roger Barker; Ian Semple; Paul Jenkins; Robert Hogarth; Nichollas Gray; Trevor Smith; Iain Barr; Richard McGlynn; Alex McCombie; Paul Murphy; Reaseheath College; Steve Dixon; Ian Benison.

### SAMI COLLINS, HEAD OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES AN UPDATE



I can't believe that it is March already - this year is really flying by. Before we know it we'll be Christmas shopping again!

The time has finally come to knuckle down and get on with the day-to-day issues that concern the Learning and Development Department and to catch up with all the administration that goes on hold during the preparations for Harrogate Week.

Rachael is getting to grips with running the Continuing Professional Development scheme and she is about to be introduced to the administration of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. In the meantime I'll be concentrating on management training, Continue to Learn 2009 as well as a whole host of other new and ongoing projects.

### The Toro Student of the Year 2008



Following a very successful Competition in 2007 that saw Avon Bridges selected as the Winner with Lewis Birch and Simon Lambert as Runners Up, Toro are continuing to support the competition that will celebrate its 20th

Anniversary this year.

To enter the competition, Students must be nominated by their tutor and be able to attend a Regional Interview that will take place during the week commencing Monday 30 June. The closing date for entries is Friday, May 2. The National Final will take place at BIGGA House on September 15.

Details of the competition and entry forms will be sent out to Training Providers during this month. Application forms can also be downloaded from the Education area of the BIGGA website.

### The BIGGA Training & Development Manual



JOHN DEERE

The BIGGA Training & Development Manual, sponsored by John Deere, is an online resource that provides users with the information they need on recruitment, induction, training and career progression using video clips, written information, downloadable documents and useful web links.

Designed around a theme of 18 holes, users can gain access via the 'sub-text' tab to training records, job specifications, job descriptions, sample contracts of employment, appraisal forms and details of continuing development.

A valuable membership benefit, the manual can be accessed via the BIGGA website on the Education, Jobs' and Members' areas. Simply log in using your surname and BIGGA membership number on the Home page.

### Continue to Learn 2009

Planning has already begun for Continue to Learn 2009. Please feel free to put forward suggestions of topics for seminars, workshops and discussion panels. Any ideas you have will be welcomed and considered for 2009 and beyond.

Submit your suggestion by emailing me, [sami@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sami@bigga.co.uk).

# Learning & Development

## WASTE MANAGEMENT ON GOLF COURSES

By Mary Purcell

**Waste management is the new environmental hot topic. We all produce waste and we all have the responsibility to manage waste in a sustainable manner. The rate of waste generation is increasing and existing waste disposal sites are reaching the end of their useful lifetime.**

Economic growth during the last decade has stimulated greater consumption throughout society and has created a 'throw-away' culture.

Recently, public awareness and expectation of a clean and green environment is high, be it on the streets or at the golf club. The overall management plan of the golf course should have waste management high on the list of priorities.

Waste prevention and minimisation require Course Managers and greenkeepers to make small, but significant behavioral or operational changes. Simple changes like on-site composting can benefit the environment greatly. Of course, the possible waste disposal solutions are dependent on waste composition, since the organic fraction is the main factor that determines its viability, while the fractions of paper determine the feasibility of recycling (Koufodimos and Samaras, 2002).

**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE** – the well-known three Rs involved in optimising a waste management strategy. Reducing waste, reusing where possible and also recycling resources are all simple steps in a successful waste management plan. Recycling represents one attempt to reduce the amount of rubbish being buried in landfills. Source reduction, resource recovery and waste disposal should be considered when planning a waste management programme. EU policy, most recently published in the Sixth Environment Action Programme, stressed the importance of preventing and recycling waste. It also clearly identifies a need to decouple waste generation from economic activity and to reduce waste volumes (EPA, 2004).

Waste management techniques - Some simple steps to improve the current waste management system on a golf course can include the following:

- Leave clippings (grass and other organic materials) in place
- Dispose of chemicals in a responsible manner
- Avoid purchasing products with excess packaging
- Make a real effort to recycle
- Buy recycled products
- Avoid over-purchasing
- Allow for naturalised areas to be created on the course (eg, wildflower meadows)
- Onsite composting
- Onsite mulching
- Dispose of non-recyclables in an environmentally-sensitive manner

Grass clippings and other materials such as prunings and dead branches can be left in place where agronomically possible. Grass clippings, on areas that are not required to be as manicured, can be left where they fall. This reduces the amount of waste being generated, allows nutrients to be returned to the ground and also cuts down on work. If the clippings are going to be removed, then it is best to compost them or use them as mulching.

Disposing of any chemicals on the course in a responsible manner is of utmost importance. All chemicals should be disposed of according to the label and extreme care must be taken to ensure no chemicals enter waterbodies or leach into the soil. Also, care needs to be taken so that they chemicals are not left around the course for susceptible wildlife to come in contact with. Any batteries or used oil should be recycled or disposed of responsibly. It is also important to make an effort to recycle and buy recycled products.

Recycling office paper, scorecards, etc, is an easy behavioural step that can be taken and also ordering recycled products is important. Buying recycled products helps drive the recycle market and not just flood it with products to be recycled. Also good management in purchasing or ordering goods for the course can help reduce waste from unwanted or unused products. It is important to ensure the non-recyclable waste from the course is collected by a reputable collector and not from 'the man in the van'. All too often, the waste collected by 'the man in the van' is fly tipped in rural locations.

Allowing for or creating naturalised areas or increasing the amount of areas left for nature and increasing the size or amount of bufferzones (no-spray zones) not only increases the habitat value of golf courses but also decreases the inputs required for management, therefore minimising waste generated.

Composting - will reduce the waste being sent to landfill. Top quality compost can easily be made from general garden waste. Leaves, grass clippings and vegetation trimmings are suitable for composting. Compost has the potential to act as a soil/sand improver. It is beneficial to micro-organisms, which improve soil structure and act as a slow release fertiliser on the course. In principle, it presents an ideal solution to the challenge of turning organic waste into a valuable product. There are many benefits which composting has to offer on a golf course:

- Viable means to remove permanently the organic material fraction from the waste stream.
- Reduces the amount of waste collected, thereby minimising the environmental impacts and costs associated with managing organic waste.

- Composting of organic wastes at or near the point of production will result in reduced transportation and energy costs, along with saving landfill space.
- Nutrients are returned to the soil, aiding the cycle of nutrients.

**THE COMPOSTING PROCESS** - Compost is made by employing accelerated simulation of a soil process (decomposition), where decomposer organisms carry out their role in global cycling of carbon and plant nutrients. On a golf course, one of the major products to be composted will be grass. Grass has a high odour potential because of the ease at which it becomes anaerobic. So piles need to be managed properly.

Piles will need periodic turning for aeration and watering to add moisture if the compost dries out too much. The optimum moisture content is about 40% to 60%, in my opinion. Moisture content can be increased by spraying a compost heap with water, and can be decreased by adding dry straw/sawdust. The ratio of green to brown material is also important for the Carbon:Nitrogen ratio (optimal at 30/20:1). The C:N is perhaps, the most important factor that requires attention with respect to the nutritional needs of the microbes active in composting. A large percentage of the carbon is oxidised to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by the microbes in their metabolic activities. Once the composting process has stabilised, the material can be used as a soil improver.

Mulching - of branches and wood, which are not being left in place for conservation reasons (e.g. safety, excess fallen wood) is ideal for mulching on site for use on the course. Onsite mulching has many benefits including:

- Mulch conserves moisture
- Prevents weeds
- Adds organic matter to the soil

Conserving water in the soil is very beneficial to a course. It reduces the amount of irrigation required. Mulch also prevents weeds from emerging and therefore reduces the need for labour (manual removal, herbicide spot applications) and thus saves money. An onsite shredder is a good investment.

**HAZARDOUS WASTES** - It is important to handle, store and dispose of hazardous wastes properly according to the label/laws. Storage areas for hazardous wastes should be secure and not accessible to susceptible wildlife. Containers should be in good condition to avoid leaks and labelled and dated clearly. Hazardous wastes on a golf course include: Course care products (pesticides, herbicides); Ignitable waste (petrol, diesel, paint, parts maintenance products); Waste oil; Batteries; Solvents.

**LITTER** - on a course is unsightly. Bins should be provided on the course and where possible separate bins should be made available for recyclables. Golfers and visitors should be educated on their importance. Signs reminding golfers to bring home litter or even pick it up can prove very successful. It lets people know the course is managed with waste taken into account.

**WATER CONSERVATION** - The management of water can be listed under waste management. Water is a valuable resource and should be managed carefully. Simple actions can help in reducing water misuse on the course:

- Rainwater collection for watering grounds

- Install low flow devices
- Maximise native species on the course
- Use water at appropriate times
- Maximise irrigation systems and management – precise efficiency

Reusing rain water for irrigation can help reduce the amount of water used on the course. Installing low-flow devices enhances the use of water. Planting native species means they will require less water than plants which are not native to the area.. Irrigation patterns should be suitable to the environmental conditions and ensuring irrigation is not used during times where evaporation is high is important in reducing the amount used. Irrigation systems should be inspected regularly (GCSAA, 2007) to ensure they are in good repair i.e. no leaks.

Make golfers aware - I realise Course Managers and greenkeepers are already over-burdened in many instances and managing all aspects of waste may seem a very thankless job. I would highly recommend, if one is serious about reducing and carefully managing waste, that golfers and the local community are made aware of all efforts that are being made to protect the environment and manage the course in a sustainable way. Greenkeepers are, at the end of the day, in charge of vast tracks of land and it is vital that the community at large realises Course Managers are playing their part in protecting it. Publicity could be as simple as placing notices around the course or in the clubhouse, which show how the club is reducing, reusing and recycling. From experience, the general public will be very receptive to all strategies that are being implemented.

Waste management should be high on the priority list for sustainable management of a golf course. Implementing a successful waste management plan involves making informed decisions for both the tactical (day-to-day) and strategic (long-term) waste management operations specific to the course. The waste management plan should be monitored periodically to optimise it. Constant thinking and improvement of existing strategies will lead to a more rational and efficient waste management system

Mary Purcell is currently carrying out research for a doctorate degree in Environmental Science at University College Dublin, For more information contact Mary at [mary.purcell@ucd.ie](mailto:mary.purcell@ucd.ie)

## REFERENCES

EPA (2004) National Waste Prevention Programme, Outline work plan 2004 – 2008. Environmental Protection Agency, Johnstown Castle, Wexford, Ireland.

GCSAA (2007) The environmental principles for golf courses in the United States. [www.gcsaa.org/resources/facts/principles.asp](http://www.gcsaa.org/resources/facts/principles.asp)

Koufodimos, G. and Samaras, Z. (2002) Waste management options in southern Europe using field and experimental data. Waste Management 22 p 47 – 59.



**Count on it.**

# SPREADING EQUIPMENT: SPREAD YOUR DRESSINGS EVENLY

By James de Havilland

**When looking to buy a new top dresser, typical considerations will include choosing between a tractor or vehicle mounted designs, and trailed spreaders with or without their own integrated power pack. Once the ideal capacity has been established, the selection job may seem easy. But there are numerous other points to consider.**

For what appears on the surface to be a really simple bit of kit, modern top dresser designs have enough design variation within them to make selecting the right one perhaps more involved than it may at first appear. As an example, some options can allow a machine to be swapped between direct drop to spreading via spinning discs. Several higher capacity trailed machines can be readily converted into a bulk loader, the addition of a rear conveyor allowing them to discharge directly into a smaller spreader, trailer, a bunker or even into a heap or windrow on the ground.

On trailed models, the variety of wheel and tyre options to consider varies; some designs favour a relatively narrow track but with wheels across the width of the dresser body. Others adopt wide flotation rubber with an outer edge well beyond the width of the hopper.

On smaller models, both mounted and trailed, there may be a choice of an integrated power unit. These 'self-contained' models can often be used in conjunction with equipment that would otherwise not have the power, hydraulic flow or PTO to drive a spreader but otherwise be ideally suited to top dressing and spreading duties.

There is then a choice between those designs with simple full width hopper and discharge systems. Simple to use and set up, it is easy to match each bout pass with this type of kit. As spread widths increase beyond the unit's width, productivity will climb. So will the need to match each pass to ensure spread accuracy. The appeal of a machine that can spread material to 8, 10, 12 or even 16m needs to be countered by the ability to accurately match bouts at these widths.

Next up are hopper capacities. It is all too easy to assume that a large trailed top dresser will be too big. A key issue is that there are no rules to say a nominal 3.0m<sup>3</sup> capacity machine needs to be fully loaded. Loaded with 1.0m<sup>3</sup> of material, a 'big' top dresser may offer a footprint that is less than a smaller machine with the same load on board.

This brings in the issue of tyre types and inflation pressures. Without getting into the complex territory of how much load a tyre can take at a certain pressure, a simple guide is that a tyre inflated to a given pressure should impart much the same pressure to the ground.

A bit of an over simplification, perhaps, but what this can mean is a big trailed spreader and tractor combination running on tyres inflated to 0.5 bar may well exert less pressure on the ground than a buggy with its rear tyres blown up to 3.5 bar to enable it to take a fully loaded mounted spreader.

If you are looking for a new top dresser, you have a huge choice. Entry level direct drop tractor mounted models with a 3.5m<sup>3</sup> body and a nominal spread width of 1.5m will retail from under £5,000, utility vehicle equivalents listing between £6,500 and £7,500.

Spinning disc broadcast spreaders occupy a diverse range of machines, those designed to fit a utility vehicle retailing from £7,500 for a top specification machine. When it comes to trailed models, prices may well start at under £6,000 to large trailed units costing over £20K. It is pretty obvious that there is a huge choice of designs to consider.

To help, it can be useful to set out a few pre-purchase demands and preferences. These can include:

- Tractor or utility mounted versus trailed
- Vehicle driven or fitted with own power pack
- Direct drop or broadcast – or both
- Ability to spread range of top dressings
- Application rates and hopper capacity
- Versatility. Fertiliser as well as top dressing?
- Tyres sizes and inflation pressures
- Compatibility with existing equipment
- Projected workload
- Additional options offered to improve versatility
- Ease of operation and setting up
- Fitting and removal from tractor or vehicle
- Local support and budget

A top dresser may be simple, but these machines do differ in so many ways. It is the small details that can really help make one machine more suited to individual needs than others. Knowing what is needed is the first step in selecting the best tool for the job.



# Excellence is par for the course!



*"We have been very pleased by the establishment of the Johnsons Sports Seed mixtures throughout the course, and the fact that we are continuing to see an increase in the fine fescue component of the sward."*

**Mr Craig Gilholm**  
Head Greenkeeper

Royal Liverpool Golf Club  
Mixture used J Fescue



**Johnsons**  
SPORTS SEED

Marketed by



www.dlf.co.uk • email: [amenity@dlf.co.uk](mailto:amenity@dlf.co.uk)  
Tel: 01386 791102 • Fax: 01386 792715

Europe's only dedicated sports turf seed range

**QUICK TIPS TO HELP SPREADING EASIER:**

Spreading wet material. Some dressings may bridge within the hopper when wet. A simple check is to see if 'tunnels' can be pushed into the heap before loading. To help, load the hopper so the dressing is broken up as it is dropped into the body. Avoid overloading and keep transport speeds down. This will help reduce the load compacting upon itself in transit.

Keep the spinners spinning. Always start the spinners on broadcast models running before the floor conveyor. When shutting off, allow the spinners to run to clear of any material that may continue to fall from the conveyor.

Check material consistency. Variations between top dressing batches can influence how the material spreads. Check that the material is spread to the desired width and adjust as necessary.



Campey Turfcare Systems established the Dakota 'Turf Tender' top dresser range in the UK, with mounted and trailed units spanning 0.65m<sup>3</sup> to 3.82 m<sup>3</sup>. Spinning disc models spread up to 10m, the Dakota set-up system making these machines popular with operators. As with all types, the choice of model will need to be related to the machine's intended applications and the equipment that will operate it.



Lloyds has expanded its previously three-model range to include the '6 cubic yard' Pequea Turf FX650 which will be supplied to order and a smaller 'half ton' GT-50 model below the existing GT-100. The smaller models come in trailed or mounted versions with the choice of an integral power pack. The latter has now been upgraded to enable it to cope with the heaviest of dressing materials. As with most suppliers, Lloyds can offer a range of options to suit specific needs, including a discharge conveyor for bulk handling applications.



The design of top dressing equipment may be similar in outline but not in detail. The Pro-Cast PC3 from Sportsground Machinery drives its discs via hydraulically powered shafts. This keeps the hydraulic motors well out of the way of spread material. Spread width and patterns will vary according to the quality and quantity of top dressing applied, but a model like this is versatile; it will cope with large volumes of materials but will also spread light and thin if required.



Taking a side by side look at Rink top dressers from Charterhouse Turf Machinery shows how the designs offer different approaches to wheel and tyre positioning. It can be wrong to assume a smaller and lighter machine will always have a lighter footprint. Mounted Rink models start at 1.0m<sup>3</sup> capacity and spread to 1.5m, the large 3.8m<sup>3</sup> DS3800 on the left offering spread widths from 2.0 to 15.0m. Material can be applied to a thickness of between 0.5 to 15mm.



Distributed in the UK by Turfmeh Machinery, the TYCROP ProPass 180 ultra low impact broadcast top dresser can be used as a large-area top dresser fitted with twin rear spinning discs or, with these removed and the optional swivelling cross conveyor fitted, used as a bulk loader for filling trailers or greens top dressers, bunker filling, tee construction and path resurfacing. The conveyor measuring 203mm (8in) wide by 1.65m (65in) long and will through an arc of 180 degrees. All Tycrop models feature a simplified instructions to adjust application rates

## SUPPLIER LIST

The following is a guide only and may not include all companies that produce or sell top dressing equipment. Fertiliser broadcasting equipment suppliers are not listed.

Campey Turfcare Systems  
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd  
John Deere Ltd  
Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd  
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd  
Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd  
Sportsgrounds Machinery  
Toro Commercial Products  
Trilo UK Ltd  
Turfmech Machinery Ltd  
Ultra Spreader International  
Wiedenmann (UK) Ltd



'Full width' top dressers, such as the Toro Top Dresser, come in trailed and mounted variants, the former in its trailed 2500 version offering the flexibility to be used behind a range of machines. An even spread and easy bout marking are key advantages of this type of kit, with a potentially reduced risk of material bridging in the hopper; the top dressing has a shorter distance to travel to the point of discharge. The 0.70m<sup>3</sup> Toro can be towed at speeds of up to 13kph, its ground drive system making it simple to maintain and switch between vehicles.



There is no fixed top dresser design rule book. Although the machines on offer fall into broadly similar groups, subtle design differences can make a given model a better choice for some applications. The key is to establish what is expected of the machine and checking it can deliver.



Versatility is a key to making the best use of equipment, the Turfco CR-10 from Ransomes Jacobsen not only offering spread widths from 4.6 to 12.2m but also the ability to bulk transport material from its 3.1m<sup>3</sup> capacity hopper. Unlike a tipping trailer, the use of a conveyor to discharge material helps spread it and also allows the material to be discharged without compromising the edge of a bunker.



Although top dressing kit can be used to spread fertiliser, a simple ground driven broadcaster can sometimes make life easier, simply because it can be set up to apply a fixed application fertiliser rate and not need the settings on the main top dressing kit to be adjusted. A little bit of lateral thinking can save time and money.



The new pond beside the 18th green

# DONE TO A TEE

*Scott MacCallum visits Teesside Golf Club and meets a man who isn't in danger of letting the grass grow under his feet*

**Teesside Golf Club has seen, and been through, some remarkable changes over the last quarter of a century and one man has been at the forefront of them all.**

Tony Smith arrived as Head Greenkeeper in 1982 and he certainly hasn't been one to sit back and let the mundane greenkeeping chores fill his days – he's pushed himself, his team, and often the club itself, to greater heights.

"No-one would argue that we're the most improved club in the north east," said a proud Tony, as he sat in the club's dining room overlooking the subject of his labours.

Let's just list some of the developments at the club since then – purchasing the club after the racecourse with which it shared land went bust; planting 31,000 trees; opening an official tip and then having the tipping trucks create six metre high, many metre wide, mounding to shelter the course from the nearby roads and industrial trading estate; building ponds and filling in many of the becks which criss crossed the course.

Even given the fact that there has been a significant amount of time in which to fit in the work the grass hasn't been allowed to grow under the collective feet of Teesside Golf Club.

But it was a very difficult time when Tony arrived at the club from Cleveland Golf Club, Yorkshire's only true links, having started his greenkeeping career at Abbeydale Golf Club, in Sheffield.

Teesside shared its land with Stockton Racecourse with eight holes inside the oval track and 10 outside, but within a month of Tony arriving the racecourse had gone bust.

"I only ever saw one race around the track," explained Tony, who added that they used to halt all golf while the race meeting was on.

The implications for the club of the Racecourse going bust were wide-ranging.

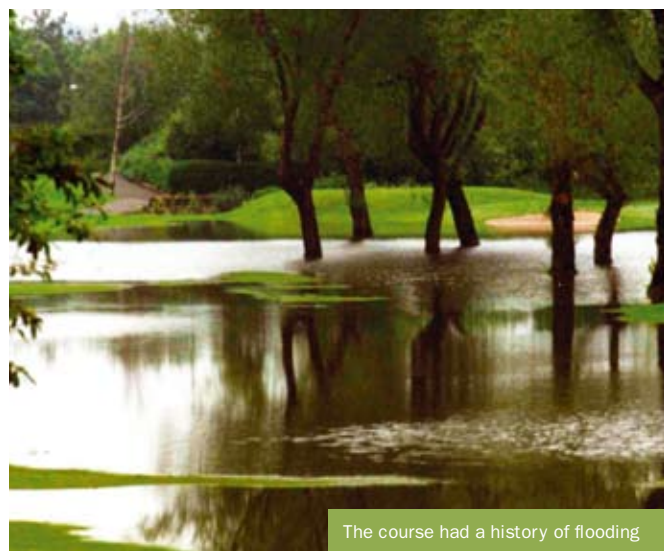
"We paid rent to the Racecourse, before it was taken over by the receivers, and there were sealed bids to buy each plot of land – the cricket club, the football club, the golf club and the surplus land around the racecourse.

"We won the golf course bid but lost out by a small margin on some of the other land which, had we got, would have given us much more room and probably resulted in a re-routing of the course," explained Tony, adding that the developer who bought the other land immediately recouped his investment by selling the grandstand to local Football Club and having car boot sales at weekends.

However, the purchase did have a knock on effect on the maintenance of the course as each member paid a £100 levy to pay for the course, which they got back after 10 years, and fees remained static for five years meaning reduced budgets over that period.

"It meant silly little things like having to borrow a tractor for certain jobs and for the first year I used to carry tools in the back of my Land Rover to repair machines while we were out."

Teesside Golf Club is over 100 years old but we've only been able to make alterations to the course for the last 24 years. The reduced funding didn't, however, mean a halt to course improvements and, working in-house, the team began a programme of installing drainage into what was a wet golf course. So wet indeed that not so many years ago – just under 200 in fact – the River Tees ran along what is now the 18th hole.



The course had a history of flooding

Tony has always planned that the team work the same hours in the winter as they do in the summer to ensure continuity of employment and no winter lay-offs and there are always plenty of projects on the go to keep the entire team busy.

“The route of the Tees was altered three times and our clubhouse was once an old corn mill which was built directly on the bank of the river. It was diverted and is now a couple of miles away but the water table is still extremely high,” said Tony, who recalls seeing photographs of people canoeing down the 18th fairway during his early years at the club. Part of the drainage issue was caused by the fact that Teesside is such a flat golf course, with only an eight inch natural fall from highest point to lowest.

The need to create more definition on the golf course galvanised Tony and an army of club members to plant trees on the course and although, starting in 1985, they were a year later than the “Plant a Tree in ‘83” and “Plant Some More in ‘84”, they attacked the project with genuine gusto.

“On a Saturday and Sunday morning I’d give members a spade and, after a short lesson, they were told where to go and they’d go out and plant them. If I wanted some on a specific place I’d place them on the spot. They weren’t great trees, one foot long whips which we were given by Stockton Council, and they didn’t take too well but it brought the membership together and gave us a common cause. People thought I was a nutter – I’d be out with 1,000 trees under my arm.”

Because of the variety and quality of the trees in the initial phase, most of the planting was to the edge of the golf course adding shelter and cover from the neighbouring area.

Prior to that there had been less than 100 old willow trees on the course and that was that.

“I’d never seen a willow tree in my life before that so I read up on them and discovered that their lifespan, if they didn’t have ready supplies of water, was 30 – 40 years. I also learned that crack willow was its common name because the branches used to break in anything more than a slight breeze. It certainly wasn’t the ideal tree for golf courses and once our water table had dropped they weren’t getting as much to drink.”

The second tree planting phase came about 10 years later and John Nicholson, whom he had met at a conference, was brought in to produce a professional design system the second time.

“With the second phase, which was grant aided, I wanted to split the fairways because we had so many open spaces; we wanted to divide the fairways so golfers didn’t see others playing on the other fairways.”

Over the two phases some 31,000 trees were planted and although many didn’t take, those which did and thrived are now 15 feet tall and are integral parts of Teesside Golf Club.

It was the next project, however, which was to create the biggest change to the golf course.

“We had a little spare land which we didn’t know what to do with but we suddenly thought we could get a tipping licence for subsoil waste and build a mound around the golf course to shield us from the noise of the A66, the A19 and the industrial park which had just replaced the remainder of the racecourse which had been our neighbour, this, together with some landscaping, would create some definition for our perfectly flat golf course,” said Tony,

He spoke with his committee and they agreed that, as an experiment,

they could build a mound down the side of the 13th hole as long as it didn’t interfere with golf.

That heralded the start of lorries tipping on the edge of the golf course, a practice that went on for much longer than originally anticipated.

“It took about six weeks to build that first mound but overall we had around 200 lorries a day for seven years and now we have around three miles of six metre high mounds – they are around 100 metres wide – around three quarters of the course,” said Tony who built a two way roadway outside his maintenance complex to enable the lorries to get in and out.

Lorries used to drive along the top of the mounding and tip at the end so the mound grew lengthwise while the weight of the waste and the inevitable vibrations has seen the mound push into the ground and the golf course rise in places.

“I have three trees which are eight foot above their original level and still growing while we had pipes which we’d discover a few feet above the ground,” said Tony.

With those mounds and others which have been installed at certain points on the course it now boasts definition and privacy it could never have dreamt of and the beauty of it is that it didn’t cost the club a penny and actually brought some revenue into the club.

“In fact we could have made more money than we did but for tax purposes it was not appropriate. In fact we used outside contractors for the landscaping work as it could be claimed back against tax whereas if it had been done in-house we wouldn’t have had any tax benefits.”



The massive mounding, together with the trees, offers great privacy to the course

But having completed the mounding – the tip has now been sealed - still Tony and his team didn't rest with further additions and improvements to the course.

“We've added four new ponds in the last two years. Each one is designed differently so they are not all edged with wood or not all edged with sleepers,” said Tony, of a programme he took initially to his committee.

“They said if we wanted to do a couple of experiments with ponds that would be fine so we built the one at the 1st and the committee said it looked nice and could they have some more. In fact I've just completed my fourth pond.”

The ponds don't fill up via a catchment area but through the water table so the level drops when the water table drops in the summer but each of the ponds has added greatly to the course and become home to a pair of swans among other wildlife.

“The male swan was limping a few months ago and we called in the RSPCA. Gary was able to jump on him and it was discovered that fishing line around his leg had almost severed the foot. But he was able to receive treatment and now they both come to get fed by hand every day. I think he knows we helped him,” said Tony, who added that they also have a robin which lives in the sheds and which hops around the machinery and comes when whistled!

“We get greenkeepers from other clubs coming to see what we've done and when they ask how I'd staked the pond out I told them we did it by hand myself – all 2500 of them.”



Course Manager, Tony Smith



Tony Smith and his team



With 26 years service at the club what does Tony think about those greenkeepers who feel you should move every seven years?

“I think you should. It’s my fault I’m still here,” he said in his blunt Yorkshire way.

“The only advice I have is to look at your course from inside and out and don’t wait for people to come to you with suggestions - be proactive,” said Tony, who along with his wife Lorna throw themselves into their out of office activities as much as they do in.

He has just started his second year on BIGGA’s Board of Management and would encourage everyone to become more involved whether it be at Section, Region or National level.

“I get a lot out of the Association but then people only get out what they put in.”

He and Lorna are also stalwarts of the local amateur dramatic society and Tony has appeared as Buttons in the pantomime among many other parts.

“We were both into scouting for several years and Lorna is Company Secretary of the Saltburn Community & Arts Association. We also make full use of our caravan.”

Tony lives life to the full and anyone who visits Teesside Golf Club can see that it has benefited from the energy that he brings to his day job.



The greenstaff's pet



Coke, Hoover, Biro, Levi’s, Aga, Barenbrug. None of these great names were born great, or had greatness thrust upon them.

Some were aided by a stroke of genius, some helped by fortunate timing, but all of them achieved their iconic status the hard way.

In our case, it has taken over 100 years hard work to become the leading grass seed breeder in the industry.

It has taken long term investment, exhaustive research, endless trials, visionary leadership and some extraordinary people.

Above all it has taken this – the single-minded determination to help create the very finest sports and landscape surfaces – and to ensure that the name ‘Barenbrug’ continues to be the other way of saying ‘the very finest grass’.



[www.barenbrug.co.uk](http://www.barenbrug.co.uk)

[www.greencast.co.uk](http://www.greencast.co.uk)



# One Web Site: Ten Services

Where turf management experience and science meet

## Weather

### Weather Forecast

GreenCast has the most up to date five-day weather forecasts available that contain a wealth of valuable additional information for turf managers

### Weather Charts

- Historic records of local weather conditions
- Use past trends to predict future risks

### Radar

View moving weather fronts in real time as they approach

## Disease

### Disease Maps

GreenCast Disease Maps predict the impending risk of all key UK turf diseases for your site. Easy to use and interpret, you can now be ready to tackle disease before it hits

### Disease Charts

GreenCast Disease Charts quickly inform what diseases are likely to have affected your turf in the past and help assess risk for the future

### Disease Notes

- In depth advice on key UK turf diseases
- Identification guide
- Management options

## Management

### Product Information

How to get the best from the outstanding range of Syngenta products, designed to manage your turf more effectively

### ITM Advice

Topical advice on Integrated Turf Management techniques

### Spray Window

Five day forecast for conditions suitable for spraying and other turf management operations

### Technical Notes and Updates

Up to the minute advice to make better turf management decisions





# NEW FRIENDS AND NEW KNOWLEDGE

*By Daniel Lightfoot*

**When the letter came through the door to tell myself and the other nine successful applicants that we had been chosen to represent BIGGA and Bernhards at the GIS conference in Orlando, I don't think any of us quite realised what we had signed up for. It all started at Harrogate Week, our own show that we can all be very proud of. We were invited to a presentation at the Majestic Hotel which gave all the new delegates a chance to meet and talk to those who had had been on the trip before. I was a little surprised that 10 greenkeepers were given their plane tickets at a free drinks gathering at Harrogate, but the selection committee must have had confidence in their delegates. It also helped me to know who to look out for at a crowded Gatwick airport.**

Everyone made it to the airport and with no delays we were soon on our way. The flight landed on time but we were nearly reduced to nine, as Alan Walker was detained at Orlando airport, suspected of being an International Terrorist. After some expert negotiation by Kim - and Alan threatening to put his kilt on again - they let him in and we set off for the short trip to the hotel.

Sunday evening was enjoyed acclimatising to the weather, finding our bearings and getting to know the other delegates over dinner. Unfortunately, there were two restaurants with Fridays in the title, which caused a little confusion, but it wasn't long before the night was over and the trip

really began. Bernhards had organised a fantastic schedule of events for us which began with one of the most impressive.

## **MONDAY**

The first trip of the day was to Isleworth Country Club. A Steve Smyers designed golf course, where the fusion of sport and art created some impressive and radical images. We were met by the Equipment Manager, Chris Langley, who gave us a tour of the "shop", as they called it in the US. It was very impressive and the attention to detail was second to none. I tried to justify whether 36 hand mowers were necessary for 18 holes but I decided it was best not to think about it.

The impressive machinery shed and the even more impressive Kerry Jones!

After a tour of the maintenance facility we went for a drive around the property. Similar to many courses in the US, a large community of houses surrounds the golf course, one of which belonged to Tiger Woods. The golf course is set up to accommodate the touring pros that live on the site and in March they compete in The Tavistock Cup against the pros from Isleworth's sister course, Lake Nona, which we had the privilege of visiting in the afternoon.

At Lake Nona, we were met by Murray Russell, the Superintendent, who gave us a tour of the "shop" before we ventured out on to the golf

# ARE YOU A MECHANIC?

BIGGA has launched  
a new membership  
category for Mechanics.



## JOIN US

Find out about the full  
range of benefits, including  
free personal accident  
insurance and legal  
helpline, contact Rosie on

**01347 833818**

or visit our website:



**www.bigga.org.uk**

# Kubota



## B30 Series

*The next generation of Compact Tractors*

The B30 Series premium Compact Tractors combine high power output, proficiency and many comfort features so even the toughest jobs are tackled effortlessly.

The B30 Series feature Kubota's Shuttle Shift transmission and hydraulic bi-speed turn for exceptional productivity, reduced turf damage and effortless operation, and with a choice of four there's a model to perfectly suit your needs.

Visit your local dealership to arrange a test drive.

[www.kubota.co.uk](http://www.kubota.co.uk)



Email: [sales@kubota.co.uk](mailto:sales@kubota.co.uk)

Tel: 0800 023 1111 ROI Tel: 1 800 848 000

Kubota (UK) Ltd, Dormer Road, Thame, Oxfordshire. OX9 3UN

course. The course was in excellent condition and the chance to ask the Superintendent about the course and find out a little more about warm season grasses was great. My favourite answer to why it was so quiet was that the course was closed on Mondays for maintenance. I don't think that will go down well with the General Manager back at home. Murray was great fun and I would like to thank him again for the time he gave us on a memorable trip. There was little time to relax though. Soon we were back to the hotel, quick change and out for dinner and a few beers. Not too many though as we had to be ready for lectures at 8am.

## TUESDAY

Tuesday was spent at the Conference Centre for a day's lecture on tournament preparation by John Millar CGCS, agronomist for the LPGA tour. It was an informative talk, but it did remind me that we do things pretty well in the UK. There was nothing new or groundbreaking, but just a reminder to stick to sound greenkeeping principles, as well as making sure no one drives a stake in to your irrigation pipework before an event. The evening was spent having dinner, a few beers and a chance to meet our new Chairman, Kenny Mackay. It was also a wonderful opportunity for some of the guys to show off their karaoke skills, apart from Ian and Mike who shamefully refused to get up.

## WEDNESDAY

Wednesday was another highlight with an all day field trip. It began with a trip to Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club and Lodge. The Superintendent, Matt Beaver, gave us a tour of the maintenance facility followed by a trip to the turf nursery where we looked at six turf grass trials. They were also working on a sub-air type system to manipulate the temperature of the root zone to enable them to grow one type of grass all year round. It is amazing how some areas of greenkeeping have changed over the last 20 years.

We all got back on the bus for a short trip to Shingle Creek Golf Club where we were met by Superintendent, Rickey Craig. He was a very impressive individual. The "shop" was spotless and he seemed very much in control of the operation. It was a shame with so many in the group we could not see more of the course and with a quick look at a green we were back in the bus for a trip to Orange County Golf Club and driving range.

The driving range was outstanding. All turf and bigger than most golf courses in the UK. A quick lunch was organised with an opportunity to hit some balls before a looking at the maintenance facility and a few holes.

Next up was Disney's World of Sports. It was great to see something different and to witness how baseball parks and soccer pitches are prepared. In many ways it was no different to home, too much play and

not enough time to rest pitches between games. Disney is a very profit orientated facility and the Turf Manager, Preston Courtney, seemed to be under a lot of pressure to get pitches turned around quickly for the next game. Even on the turf tour we were taken past the Disney shop before getting back on the bus!

No sooner were we back at the hotel, it was suit on and off to the Rosen Centre for the official opening of the show and a poolside reception. The evening was spent on International Drive and at a bar called Howl at the Moon. A wonderful venue with live music and lots of laughs.

## THURSDAY - THE SHOW BEGINS

Thursday's highlight was being invited to the GCSAA Opening Ceremony where Greg Norman was honoured with the Old Tom Morris Award. He spoke openly and passionately about his views on golf course management. His comment that "you can't beat a bit of brown!" went down well with those following the sustainable path! The rest of the day was spent looking round the show. It was big, but in all honesty no better than our own show at Harrogate. This was a pleasant surprise and made you very proud as a visiting UK greenkeeper. There was a still lot to see, many people to meet and an informative day was had by all.

In the evening we were invited to the Prestige Dinner hosted by Bernhards. The guest list read like a who's who of golf and greenkeeping with illustrious names such as Turgeon, Vargas and Dye. The security of sitting next to a fellow delegate was gone as we were all put on different tables but it was a great opportunity to meet some new faces. Another trip to Howl at the Moon in the evening and we were suddenly over half way through.

## FRIDAY

Friday was spent having another look around the show and spending a couple of hours manning the BIGGA booth. The Master Greenkeeper Award was popular and it was great to see a lot of interest in the Association. A few book purchases, chance meetings with old friends and numerous cups of coffee in the international centre (which is a great resource for those going next year). The evening was spent at the Presidents dinner and at an out of town steakhouse, which was enjoyed by all.

## SATURDAY

Saturday was an opportunity to do a bit of sightseeing with a quick trip to Universal Studios. The evening was spent at the Ransomes Jacobsen function at City Jazz and we would all like to thank Dave Withers for his kind hospitality. The evening finished with a game of crazy golf at the Pirates Cove. My putting was awful, but the deserved winner Kerr Rowan can add this victory to his Longest Drive trophy from this year's National Championships.

## SUNDAY

Sunday was spent relaxing by the pool or doing a bit of shopping before the flight home. Alan managed to get through customs safely this time, but the Captain's message of a 2-degree, wet Gatwick airport told us our trip was nearly over. A flurry of emails when we got back confirmed everyone got home safely.

On behalf of all of the delegates I would like to thank John Pemberton and Sam McLean for selecting us and Stephen Bernhard for his support of the programme. Stephen's vision is to expand the delegation across Europe and beyond. It is a great commitment and all the delegates who have been lucky enough to be selected appreciate his generosity.

Our thanks also go the large group of lecturers and superintendents who made our journey so enjoyable and to Kim Furnell for organising such a wonderful trip. Finally my personal thanks go to all of my colleagues on the trip for making it so much fun and an experience we will all never forget.



# MICROFLOW-CX

Controlled-release liquid fertilizers for all situations



Good initial response, controlled nutrient release for up to 8 weeks  
Contains chelated trace elements for improving turf colour and health  
Humates provide physical, chemical and biological benefits  
Contains naturally derived nutrients offering a microbial food source  
Precise control over nutrient input applied – no growth flushes

**MASCOT**  
FERTILIZERS

Rigby Taylor Ltd, Rigby Taylor House, Crown Lane, Horwich, Bolton BL6 5HP.  
Freephone: 0800 424919. [www.rigbytaylor.com](http://www.rigbytaylor.com)

**RT**  
rigby taylor



Fertilisers - Chemicals - Grass Seed - Top Dressings & Aggregates  
Golf Course Equipment - Sprayers & Spreaders - Sports & Landscaping Equipment  
Contract Spraying - Technical Advice - Total Weed Control Solutions

# SHERRIFF

---

# A M E N I T Y

Northern Depot: 01925 758886 Southern Depot: 01638 721888 [www.sherriffamenity.com](http://www.sherriffamenity.com) [sales@sherriffamenity.com](mailto:sales@sherriffamenity.com)



# DON'T JUST FERTILISE.....UTILISE!

**Richard Fry talks with Neil Mackenzie, Rigby Taylor Business Development Manager, about some important considerations to be aware of when assessing the benefits of incorporating liquid fertilisers into the turf management programme**

“Record high as UK basks in sunshine”. This was the headline as the country enjoyed the hottest February 12 on record. In Trawscoed, Wales the mercury reached 18C!

With such un-seasonal weather, player expectations will be unreasonably high over the coming months and the greenkeeper's greatest challenge will be to maintain healthy greens with good colour whilst, at the same time, producing a consistent playing surface and fast putting speeds throughout the playing season.

Controlling leaf tissue growth is essential for meeting demands for putting quality. However, lowering the mowing height to gain better ball speed and roll can compromise the turf's root systems. Achieving the right balance of leaf tissue and surface playability is also essential for retaining carbohydrate reserves, because when top growth, is removed the plant responds by trying to replace its lost photosynthetic area. This, the plant does, by drawing on valuable carbohydrate reserves stored in the roots with the result that a potential nutrient deficit situation occurs, at exactly the time of the year when these reserves are most needed.

When designing and implementing the ideal nutrition plan for turf, understanding the importance of sources of fertility and timing of application of the necessary nutrient levels is essential. For golf greens, prudent levels of nitrogen should be used so that soft growth is not encouraged. This will result in finer leaves and slower production of thatch, which ultimately should reach a position where build-up of organic matter is compensated by decomposition.

It means taking control of the nutrient inputs and not letting them control you!

Today's maintenance standards eclipse those of just a few years ago. The conventional ways of looking at soil fertility and plant nutrition are no longer adequate. Phrases like “soluble nitrogen,” “available phosphorus,” “chelated” and “essential” have been the unquestioned basis of defining, registering, and comparing fertilisers for many, many years. However, this has never been an adequate way to consistently explain or understand a plant's response to a given fertiliser.

For example, all granular and most liquid fertilisers that are designed for root uptake rely completely on a set of conditions such as soil moisture, temperature and microbiological activity to control their release and availability, all outside the control of the turf manager.

This is not a criticism of either granular or liquid root uptake fertilisers; however, prudent professionals need to be aware of some of the inherent limitations, particularly under adverse climatic conditions and under circumstances that cause plant stress. So, if you're managing intensively maintained turfgrasses and your fertilisation program is solely dependent on root uptake, consideration should be given to the enormous potential offered by foliar applied nutrition.

Today's modern, forward thinking turf professionals have gone far beyond the agriculturally biased view of plant nutrition where the emphasis was on the application of solids and kgs/ha and units/acre defined their view of fertiliser inputs. Density not excessive growth, consistency of playing surfaces (all year round) and natural, not artificial colour are now the watchwords for managers of fine turf.

From a technical point of view, liquid formulation chemistry has advanced out of all recognition to what was available in the past. Many of the

drawbacks associated with liquid applications such as high scorch potential, high water volumes, limited product ranges and short intervals between applications have been eliminated.

Research by Rigby Taylor into advanced formulation chemistry has developed liquids that offer controlled nutrient release, are easy and accurate to apply and the nutrients are absorbed both through the leaves and roots of the grass plant. Some products even offer eight-week application intervals.



Easy of application, speed of spraying, no surface residue and tank mixing are clear features of a liquid fertiliser selection

### COMBINING PRODUCTS HAS BENEFITS:

Another major benefit to using liquids compared to solids is the ability to tank mix different products. With labour often at a premium, particularly during the busy spring and summer, any opportunity to combine treatments will be beneficial. Tank mixing is however a potential minefield and operators should consult with their suppliers as to the work that has been undertaken on product compatibility. Comprehensive and published compatibility charts are the operators assurance that they are dealing with a reputable company and can use their products with confidence.

A further reason to consider the use liquid nutrition is the option of combining trace elements and other ingredient such as amino acids, humates and, even simple plant sugars that provide an energy source for mycorrhizal fungi. In exchange for this energy supply, the fungi, in return, provides the plant with a supply of nitrate and phosphate.

Efficiency is the critical factor because root uptake of fertiliser takes energy. A well-designed foliar, applied in relatively low water volumes, will have a high proportion of its nutrient content remaining on the leaf tissue until its absorbed.

The faster a foliar is absorbed through the leaf tissue and, the faster it translocates within the plant, the more efficient it is and therefore, the better it is.

This has a two-fold benefit: 1. Ensures a more reliable and controlled feeding of the plant. 2. Allows the plant to conserve energy that it can better use to tolerate stress.

Turf managers also need to look beyond N.P.K. fertiliser and consider

products that include ingredients with an activity that is relative to root growth. There are several such products both in granular and liquid formulations that are equally successful so the choice is up to the individual depending on the application equipment available. An example would be products that include amino acids to help alleviate growth problems associated with shade.

Products containing humic acid can also be considered but it is essential that the source is identified and the product selected contains potassium humate. Many soil tests indicate high levels of phosphate derived from a mineral source but it is questionable how available this is to grass plants, so it may also be worth considering the use of organic phosphate

Whilst there are, quite rightly, greenkeepers that concentrate on the maintenance of greens, the tees are also very important; they are of course the first surfaces the golfer experiences when playing each hole and provide that 'first impression' of the course.

Sophisticated slow release fertiliser is very suitable for tees and in some cases may only need to be applied once in the spring and once in the autumn. An example would be a product containing at least 50% methylene urea together with an appropriate percentage of fraction two and three, long chain polymers.

What you feed you turf, when you feed it and how, all have a great impact on its photosynthetic capacity, physiological fitness, root mass and carbohydrate reserves, stress and disease tolerance, colour, quality and consistency.

What you feed you turf (the source of nutrients) matters greatly. Not all seasons are the same, so not all fertility plans are created equal, nor do they produce equal results.

For optimal turf quality, emphasis should be placed on complete and balanced nutrition involving organic complexes, chelated nutrients, proteins, seaweed extract and other beneficial supplements such as amino acids, vitamins and fulvic acid.

When you feed your turf (the distribution of nutrient loading during the year) has a great effect on the carbohydrate storage and leaf tissue growth. Planning the distribution of nutrient loading is important as it maximises root mass and carbohydrate storage and minimises leaf tissue growth. Research has demonstrated that approximately 50% of the fertility applied to turf should be undertaken in the 2-3 months prior to dormancy to maximise carbohydrate storage – that means autumn applications and hopefully, as the spring approached, this plan has already been implemented.

How you feed your turf (how it processes nutrients) should be directly related to mowing height. When heights are low, root mass potential is diminished. Root mass is diminished naturally in the summer due to ambient and soil temperature changes. When root mass is weakened and or roots are under stress, it's vitally important to feed the turf directly through the leaf tissue.

### MAJOR FORCES YOU CAN'T CONTROL

At the end of the day the choice will lie with what works best given the specific situation, however there are forces that operate over which the turf professional has no control. For example, player requirement for tournament-type playing conditions will continue to increase and public demand for environmental controls will intensify.

Given these realities, greenkeepers will be expected to do more with less and produce better, more competitive playing conditions with fewer traditional fertilizers and synthetic pesticides. To achieve these goals, products will be required that are based on science and built upon a firm foundation of facts not fiction.

# Because **NOTHING** is more important than water !



We can't give you more water, but we can help you use the water you do have more efficiently.

With our range of Aquatrols water management products you can:

- Reduce irrigation water and rainfall lost through runoff
- Increase infiltration rates and distribution uniformity in the soil
- Optimize plant available water in the rootzone
- Correct soil water repellency and preferential flow that can interfere with the soil's ability to capture and distribute water effectively
- Enhance water delivery to the rootzone for maximized irrigation efficiency and plant performance

Call your Farmura distributor today to find out more.

Farmura Ltd.  
Stone Hill, Egerton, Kent, TN27 9DU  
Tel No: 01233 756241  
Fax No: 01233 756419  
[www.farmura.com](http://www.farmura.com)  
email: [info@farmura.com](mailto:info@farmura.com)

   
**Revolution**<sup>®</sup>

   
**Dispatch**<sup>®</sup>  
Soil Penetrant

   
**FIFTY  
90**

   
**PRIMER  
select**<sup>®</sup> Enhanced Matrix Flow Soil Surfactant

   
**AQUEDUCT**<sup>®</sup>  
SOIL SURFACTANT

**farmura**<sup>®</sup>  
environmental

  
**AQUATROLS**<sup>®</sup>



# SUSTAINABILITY – THE WAY TO GO

*By James Blacklock*

**I find myself writing this article to address several viewpoints, most likely the source of many arguments and debates among the greenkeeping industry! However, these can only be positive points for discussion. Steve Isaac, at the R&A, encouraged me to submit this article to Greenkeeper International. It is his hope and mine that greenkeepers take the initiative and move down the ‘sustainable road’ for the future benefit of all involved. The R&A can use its vast resources to school us to the benefits of a ‘sustainable’ future, but it is up to us the custodians of our courses to take the initiative.**

I am in what I like to call the ‘second generation’ in the sustainability debate. I am the Head Greenkeeper at Ellesmere Golf Club, in Worsley, Manchester. I am closing in on one year ‘in the deep end’ of my new employment as previously, until February of this year, I worked at Lymm Golf Club under the tutorage of Stuart Yarwood – the founder member of the Gingerbread men! For the past six or so years we headed down the highly controversial ‘sustainability’ route. Although I’m not entirely blessed with the exact date the term ‘sustainability’ came into existence, we were, at Lymm G.C already practising this philosophy when it first became a widespread topic of discussion.

At the time of leaving for my new venture I witnessed at first hand a typical parkland course turn from a wet, thatch ridden haven for poa

annua, into an excellent, well draining, firm, dry course blessed with thriving populations of the finer fescue and bent species – especially on the greens.

Even though our approach to course management may not have been known at the time as what we now call sustainability, we were moving along that line and following the ‘Jim Arthur’ approach. I remember well the first three years or so when thatch removal and drainage improvements were the main priorities. This was a time when relaxing disturbance pressures on the greens were not the way to go! Commonplace was intensive coring and deep scarification on the greens. Every winter thereafter showed signs of drainage improvements. This, combined with selective green reconstructions and piped drainage introduced to problem greens, created an environment starting to favour the finer species. It was evident that natural bents and even fescue colonies were becoming well established.

During the last few years these finer species were also introduced via seed. This was only possible after the thatch had been all but eliminated. When we started to introduce seed to the greens, we were at the point where coring would only remove the more desirable species. We were also reducing the fertiliser and irrigation inputs annually. This really needs to be done gradually over a few years. Greens fed and watered too much are like drug addicts. They need to be weaned off slowly.



The situation I found myself in at Ellesmere was that my predecessor had left me with greens that had virtually no thatch and an excellent depth of topdressing over the years as root zone. I noticed there were natural colonies of bents especially, and a good percentage of fescue grasses. Fertiliser and irrigation inputs had been reduced over the past couple of years. The environment was perfect to use my first year as what I call a further step up the sustainability ladder. It was time to stop coring because thatch was under control, and to start introducing fescue and bent seed. Top dressing frequency was increased to every two weeks when the weather allowed during the spring and summer months. Wetting agents were applied monthly and surfaces stayed firm and dry even through the wet summer. Areas of longer rough were introduced and left to grow over the summer months before being cut down and collected late 'summer/early' autumn. The course had a very natural appearance.

I'm not saying all was rosy in the garden. I had a section of the membership who didn't take too kindly to their golf balls being swallowed up by long rough hit 50 yards off line! Some members were not impressed that during the warm dry spell in April last season, I didn't pile the water on to keep the greens soft and bright green. I resisted pressure to follow the 'green is great' notion, and noted

the annual meadow grass yellowing and showing signs of stress. I continued my policy throughout the summer and only occasional watering – mainly by hand, had a positive effect. I do think that these periods of stress levied from the irrigation systems are very effective when timed prior to over seeding on the greens. This appears to give the seedlings more of a competitive edge and chance to establish themselves at the expense of the poa.

At the Captain's dinner the Captain said the greens were the best they had been in 50 years. I might add he also wasn't too impressed by 'all the long rough this year'! I come to the conclusion that you can't win them all! I do feel, however, that it is very important for the Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager to be very strong in 'his/her' convictions. I believe if you stick to your guns and continue with what you know is best – even in the face of disapproval from sections of the membership and committees, you will emerge with a better and more sustainable golf course. I must stress though that you must communicate with the membership and committees as to what your motives are. Every golf club has a few hundred greenkeepers, each with differing opinions who think they can do a better job. With their knowledge of working in offices and business so to speak they are obviously not experts in agronomy. Even though you know that what



you are doing is right you must never lose sight of the fact that it is the members' golf course, and sometimes you have to compromise and educate them to make progress.

I think the common misconception among the greenkeeping industry, is that moving along the sustainability route will in the short term produce a downturn in the quality of playing surfaces. This is not the case as long as the greenkeeper in charge doesn't try to bite off more than he can chew. If a well-formulated 'Course Management Policy Document' is followed over several years, the greens will show signs of improvements year after year. Softly softly, gently gently and above all patience is the answer. Changes don't happen overnight and in reality it will take a couple of years to even create the right conditions to move forward. The basic fundamentals of thatch control and drainage improvements must be tackled first. If done right, this will lead to better more consistent putting surfaces.

I consider myself to be quite fortunate, as I have experienced several different approaches and philosophies towards golf course management. I completed my HND education at Muserscough College under the stewardship of Martyn Jones. A more knowledgeable man you will never meet. I worked for a year in Florida, building, growing in and subsequently maintaining a multimillion-dollar 'championship' golf course.

Every golf course is different and every situation unique in its own right. Every club's level of sustainability is different. I find myself

now, trying to keep fertiliser, irrigation and chemical applications to an absolute minimum, yet during my time in America I can remember fertilising wall-to-wall (the whole golf course!) on several occasions with complete fertilisers. Can you imagine it – fertilising the rough! Irrigation was complete coverage across the whole course and usually daily. We had a full time spray technician who just seemed to spray all day everyday – even at night! I recall in the recent STRI bulletin the agronomist Megan Hood commenting on how in the New Zealand Open in 2005 back up measures were in place artificially to green up the fairways if they weren't green enough for the tournament.

Our level of sustainability in our temperate climate is clearly different from other climatic zones. Yet we have a duty to the environment and ourselves, to make life easier. How can it not be better and easier to apply less fertiliser, less irrigation and fewer chemicals? The knock on effect on the workload is also evident. A higher percentage of finer grasses mean less coring, less verticutting and fewer disturbances as a whole. This extra time saving can be put to use elsewhere, e.g. hand mowing greens more during the summer. It seems silly not to move along this route.

The final point I make is do you have the resources to move forward? I found myself very limited in terms of available machinery and resources. Almost all work over the previous years had been done by hiring in people to do jobs such as verti draining, coring, spiking etc. After much discussion and examination of previous working methods the council agreed to completely overhaul our inventory of machines and add new items such as a new spin top dresser (with which I can top dress the greens and drag them in myself in half a day), a pro core machine (with which I will use a variety of narrow solid tines as frequently as possible next season), two new hand mowers and several other machines replacing older and possibly unreliable ones.

Part of my philosophy is to hand mow the greens as often as possible during the summer, and exclusively from Mid September to May. Heights of cuts are rarely below 5mm during the summer and 7.5mm during the winter. I have five full time staff – which I keep very fit with lots of hand mowing!

I can already hear lots of Course Managers muttering 'It will never work at my golf course.' Well the answer is simple. What are you going to do when the inevitable cutback in pesticide regulations lead to either a partial or total ban on spraying chemicals on our treasured courses? This has already started to happen across Europe. Is the membership going to be happy when on the day of the Club Championship they arrive to see their greens decimated by fusarium? Will they care that we can no longer combat this disease via fungicide applications? We must make a move to promoting the sustainable approach before it's too late. The buck stops with us the greenkeepers. We must take the initiative. We are aware of probable future changes in regulation, and if we don't act now, then we will have no one to blame but ourselves. We must not let our own ignorance be an excuse. One hundred years ago greenkeepers managed to produce the kind of fine grass dominated surfaces that we strive for, so why can't we? As a result they didn't have the disease problems we have today. Although to be fair the level of play on the courses was far less than today. I welcome debate on this issue, which can only be good for the industry.

I find it fascinating how the industry as a whole evolves and I will stick to my beliefs. I would like to commend the R&A and BIGGA for championing the sustainability cause and putting the message out there via the best course for golf website and the Greenkeeper International magazine.

James Blacklock is Head Greenkeeper at Ellesmere Golf Club.



James Blacklock, Head Greenkeeper at Ellesmere



James Blacklock, with Deputy Chris Shorten

## INFECTIONS AS WORK

BIGGA's Management Support series produced by Xact  
[www.xact.uk.com](http://www.xact.uk.com)



### INFECTIONS AT WORK

Those working in the outdoor leisure sector have a slightly increased risk of contracting specific infections than the general population due to the nature of their work. Infection organisms can be transferred via several routes:

- Inhaled as spores or droplets
- Through the skin via cuts and abrasions
- Splashes to the eyes, nose and mouth of infected liquids
- Ingested through contaminated hands or foodstuff
- Bites from insects

The likely infections to be aware of: Weil's Disease (Leptospirosis) - Is mainly caused by coming into contact with water in ditches, ponds and slow moving rivers, or streams that are contaminated with rat urine, other sources are grain and seeds that rats may have fed on. Infection arises through the bacteria entering the body through cuts and abrasions in the skin or droplets and splashes to the eyes, mouth and linings of the nose.

Infection can be prevented by always washing your hands before eating, drinking or smoking. Cuts and abrasions should always be covered with waterproof dressings and, if you are immersed in potentially contaminated water, waterproof protective clothing should be worn. Gloves should be worn or tongs used to handle dead rodents.

**LYME DISEASE** - Is contracted by bites from infected ticks. The ticks feed and breed on animals but can be deposited on vegetation in woodland or heaths. People entering these areas may come into contact with the tick which can attach itself to skin. Early signs of a bite and infection can be a rash, which should be medically examined. The risk of infection can be reduced by:

- being aware of ticks, and which areas they normally live in,
- wearing appropriate clothing in tick infested areas
- using insect repellents, •inspecting your skin for ticks, especially at the end of the day - include your head, neck and skin folds (armpits, groin, and waistband),

If a tick is found on the skin, it should be removed by gently gripping it as close to the skin as possible, preferably using fine toothed tweezers, and pulled steadily away. It is essential that the head and mouth parts are removed otherwise it may only remove the tick body leaving the possibility of infection from the mouth. Some veterinary surgeries and pet shops sell inexpensive tick removal devices.

The initial symptoms of both Weil's and Lyme disease are flu like. Both are treatable in the early stages with antibiotics. Outdoor workers should alert their GP to the nature of their occupation to ensure that these diseases are taken into account.

**TETANUS** - Is caused by the tetanus bacterium getting into the body via a wound such as a cut or animal bite. The risk of the disease is greater where the wound is deep or gets dirty with organic matter. However, even small wounds such as thorn pricks can introduce enough bacteria to cause infection. Protection against tetanus is achieved by immunisation. Five doses of the vaccine are required to give life long immunity. Normally, every child in the UK is immunised in childhood. Booster injections are required every 10 years for those who haven't had the full five doses. Even where the vaccine has been given, medical advice should be sought where wounds are deep, badly soiled or extensive flesh damage has been sustained.

Outdoor workers should ensure that they have had the requisite number of vaccinations.

# MASCOT<sup>®</sup> GRASS SEED

The best start  
for a perfect finish



Freefone: 0800 424919  
[www.rigbytaylor.com](http://www.rigbytaylor.com)

Rigby Taylor is a seed agent and a major supplier of high quality grass seed mixtures for all amenity situations

# Close, but not quite the part!

Leeds-based Laurel and Hardy lookalikes, Jem and Graeme.

London-based Marilyn lookalike, Suzie.

Essex-based Madonna lookalike, Louise.

Essex-based Louis Armstrong lookalike, Shenton.

**Only genuine Toro parts will give the performance you've come to expect.**

When you purchase a Toro machine you're buying the best, but even the finest equipment can be compromised by inferior replacement parts. Genuine Toro parts outperform lookalikes and maximise the value of your investment by ensuring consistently superior performance. They last longer because they're better made from higher quality materials - with genuine Toro parts in place you eliminate the risk of reduced performance, warranty invalidation or even damage to your valuable machine.

Modest budget or tight deadline? Toro's competitive prices and 24-hour delivery means you don't have to accept any substitute for the real thing. Call 01480 226845 for your copy of the Toro Performance Parts Catalogue.



TORO Commercial, Irrigation and Consumer Products are distributed by Lely (UK) Limited, St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH. Tel: 01480 226800 Email: [toro.parts.uk@lely.com](mailto:toro.parts.uk@lely.com) [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)

**TORO**

**Count on it.**



# Hobbies

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

**Name:** Fliss Chaffer

**Hobby:** Playing the Saxophone

**Job:** Sales Executive at BIGGA HQ

### How and when did you take up playing the Saxophone?

"Always having had a long term desire to play the Saxophone, a very thoughtful friend bought me an Alto Sax for my 40th. Next thing was to endeavour to blow a note! Not the easiest of instruments to learn. I was fortunate enough to find a marvellous tutor, charismatic, bordering on wacky and have never looked back! I just play for pleasure, not working towards any grades.

"I enjoy playing Salsa, Latin American, Jazz, Blues and Soul music. After some time, my tutor told me I was tall enough and ugly enough to progress to the Tenor Sax – not quite sure if that was a compliment! So I have!"

### What is it about playing the Saxophone that appeals to you?

"The Saxophone has a wonderful resonance (when played well!), I find playing to be a great stress relief – although the long-suffering neighbours may not agree!"

### Have you played in any concerts?

"I've played in four concerts so far (I'm currently taking bookings for next year!) and a lot of rehearsing is required. The learning and practising process is very much like being back at school, and I've had a few detentions for being sluggish on the rehearsals!"



www.bmsproducts.com

**NEW WEBSITE  
FOR 2008**

VISIT US ONLINE TODAY

BROWSE OUR NEW SITE  
FOR HUNDREDS OF GOLF  
COURSE PRODUCTS



### ▼ GOLF PRODUCTS

- FLAGS
- HOLE CUPS
- TEE MARKERS

### ▶ GENERAL TOOLS

### ▶ CLOTHING

### ▶ SIGNAGE

### ▶ TURFCARE

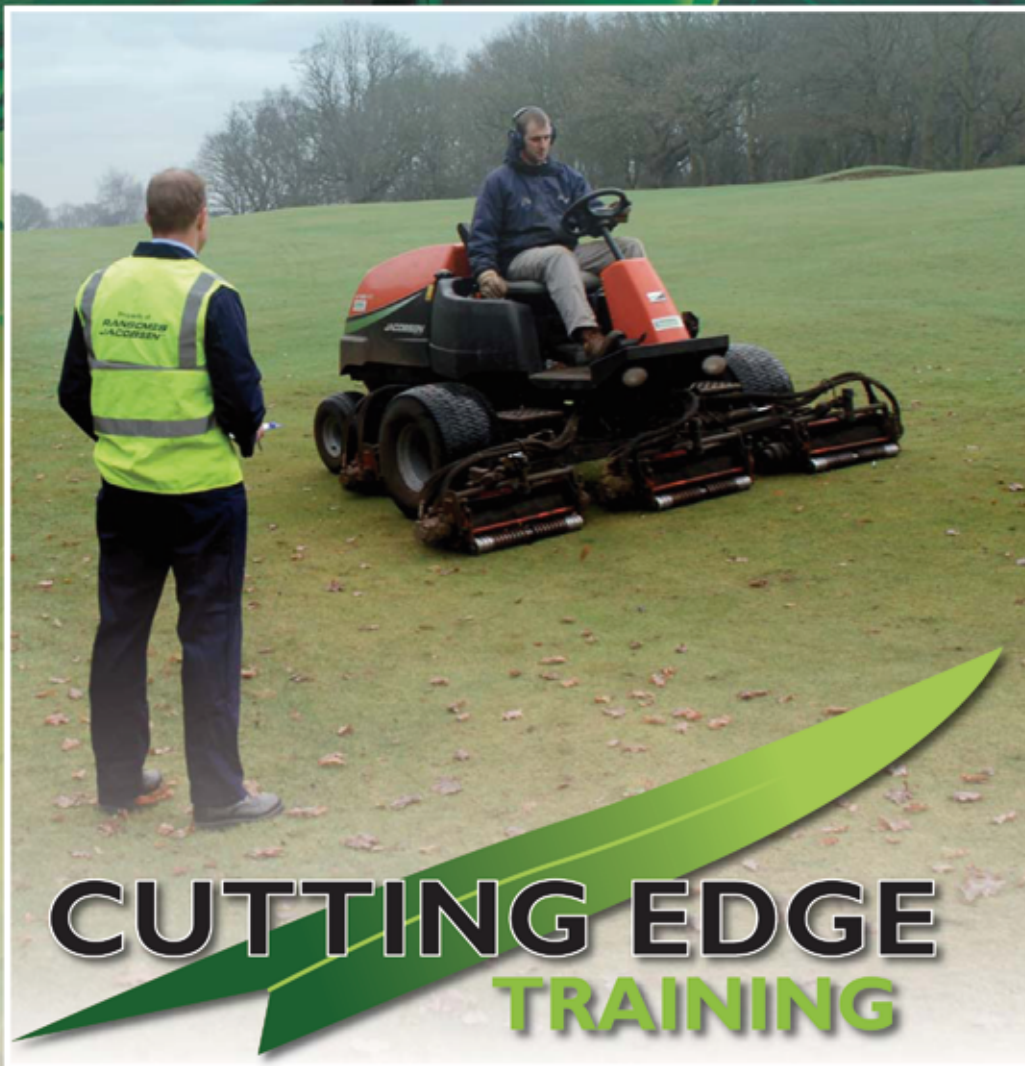


DISTRIBUTORS  
NATIONWIDE  
TEL: 01582 758444

WWW.BMSPRODUCTS.COM

HOBBIES

# Nationally recognised training... ...wherever you need it!



## CUTTING EDGE TRAINING

**The Cutting Edge Training Team is committed to providing the turf care industry with the most comprehensive package of dedicated industry sector training available today.**

With over 75 years of industry experience the Cutting Edge Training Team is well equipped to provide training to the turf care sector. All have proven track records in their chosen areas of expertise and are able to provide candidates with the knowledge required to safely and effectively complete their daily roles.

Our training programmes are available to ALL operators, irrespective of manufacturer or machine type. Training can either be held on-site at your premises or at our Training Centre in Ipswich, where candidates will experience some of the best training facilities available today.

We are able to offer both LANTRA training and our own bespoke training to ensure that you are equipped with the knowledge to pass an NPTC assessment related to mowers, tractors and sit-in ATVs.

**Pricing information is available via [www.cuttingedgetraining.co.uk](http://www.cuttingedgetraining.co.uk) or by calling 01473 276292. Quote the code shown at the bottom of this page when booking and receive 10% discount off the list price!**



Cutting Edge Training  
West Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9TT, UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 1473 276292 Fax: +44 (0)1473 276297  
[www.cuttingedgetraining.co.uk](http://www.cuttingedgetraining.co.uk)

Code: GKISup/03/08/CET

Cutting Edge Training is a part of Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd.  
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd is the first grounds care equipment manufacturer accredited to ISO14001

**RANSOMES  
JACOBSEN**  
A Textron Company



# WORKSHOP ORGANISATION

*In this special supplement GI takes a look at the training a mechanic goes through, what it takes to set up a workshop and how to ensure it runs smoothly*





Cal's technicians at Celtic Manor

# MANAGING MECHANICS

*Melissa Toombs asked Workshop Manager, Patrick Callaby, just what it takes to set up a workshop...*

**Patrick Callaby, or Cal as he is more fondly known, is Workshop Manager at Celtic Manor Resort. Supported by three technicians - one of Cal's team is a trainee at Evesham College and the other two are graduates from there.**

Cal started out in the industry at St Pierre Golf & Country Club, at Chepstow, where he remained for eight years before moving to Celtic Manor in 1994 - just as the golf courses were being built. He has been working as a mechanic for around 40 years, studying full time for six months and taking evening classes for five years. Cal has been working in golf industry for 22 years and is an Associate Member of both the Institute of the Motor Industry and the Institute of Vehicle Recovery.

**What would a mechanic require to run a small workshop, a medium sized workshop and an all singing, all dancing workshop?**

"A small workshop is generally created with a small budget in mind. A few tools and some space set aside to work on machines on wet days when work on the course is not possible. "Created" is possibly not the right word for such a set-up more like "evolved", it's happened almost by accident. Nothing wrong with that, not all clubs need more than that and view it as a cost saving.

"A medium workshop for say, 27 to 36 holes takes considerably more

money to set up and a lot more thought. The skills of the person working there will dictate the level of equipment to be purchased therefore it will also have a bearing on the money required initially. As the skills of the mechanic develop then the equipment level will rise and must be viewed almost as a work in progress. Will the budget run too grinding machinery? Again it depends on the person employed, how much work is generated, the general age of the machinery and its condition, the level of care and presentation of the golf course and whether there is an exchange program in place, also how far away the local dealership is. All these things need to be considered, after all it's pointless buying a mig welder if the mechanic can't weld for instance.

"A large workshop is usually purpose built and incorporated inside the main building. Often with heating, good lighting, good access from outside and inside, airy and spacious, if these things are in place we need only address the equipment level.

"More than 36 holes would justify a large workshop and more than justify an "in house" grinding set-up. This is where costs go up considerably, quality grinders for both cylinders and bedknives will cost between £18,000 and £23,000 depending on manufacturer and specification.

"Justification for this outlay is a subject on its own and I won't go into it here. Gas and electric welding equipment, a machine lift, tyre changing machine, jacks/stands, bench grinder, angle grinder, electric drill, vice,



bins for parts storage, I won't continue as the list is considerable but allow £30-35K for initial set-up and first year re-evaluation. Staffing levels have to increase with the bigger fleet, extra cost there."

### What tools should every workshop have?

"Hand tools on a personal level are much like chefs and knives, the individual supplies them. So it follows that the tools used would be much the same in each workshop.

"A rough guide would be:

- A set of metric spanners from 5mm up to 30mm.
- A set of metric spanners from 5mm up to 19mm.
- A set of imperial spanners from 5/16 up to 1 1/4".
- A set of imperial spanners from 5/16 up to 3/4".
- A very full set of sockets.
- An air impact wrench in 1/2" drive with correct grade 6 point sockets. (Often supplied as set).
- A 32oz ball pein hammer.
- A 16oz ball pein hammer.
- A set of screwdrivers.
- A set of cold chisels.
- A test light.
- A multi meter.
- A set of prise bars.

"Pliers, sidecutters, mole grips, point nose pliers, hacksaw (standard and junior), breaker bar, circlip plier set (heavy duty), wire brush, oil

filter wrench, many other items that one begs, borrows and steals over the years to numerous to mention.

"The mechanics tool kit is very personal and differs from one to another but here you have the nucleus, the foundation tool kit without which the job cannot be done. Depending on grade and make this will cost anything from £200.00 to £2,000.00, the tool cabinets are very expensive but not essential and individuals have different tastes and budgets."

### Do you hold spares in your workshop? If so, how many?

"Yes, we hold many spares, consulting my excel spreadsheet I use for stock there are 1300 rows but since each row only represents one part number but more than one of those parts is kept I would guess that we keep around 4000 items. Downtime with machines is very inconvenient and we minimise this by having most commonly used spare parts in stock."

### Is communication between mechanics and greenkeepers important?

"Yes, the building has many signs asking for machinery faults to be reported to the workshop; this is as opposed to telling one of the technicians over lunch when it could easily be forgotten about. The fault is then entered on a task sheet (along with many others) this helps me to prioritise repairs.

"All greenkeepers are trained on individual machines regardless of their past experience and reporting faults is part of the training and is entered on the training sheet."



### How could communication between mechanic and greenkeeper be improved?

“Although we do not have communication problems here I understand many golf courses do. I think that the way to encourage greenkeepers to report faults is to keep working relationships on a friendly footing, thank the person for reporting the fault, add the fault to the task sheet in front of the greenkeeper (if possible) to demonstrate and confirm that his observations are valued.

“Unreported faults can be dangerous and must be discouraged at all levels, a few enquiries usually reveals the offender; unfortunately the bigger the workforce the more difficult making enquiries becomes.”

### Do you consider mechanics to be a specialist job? Some people work as greenkeepers and mechanics?

“I most certainly do. Experts in their field train technicians over a long period in colleges on a variety of machines, they are trained in the workplace and mentored by senior technicians. The vast array of machinery found on the average 18 hole golf course can be daunting for the faint hearted. The key to employing a good technician is what training has he had and what experience has he got. Here at the Celtic Manor we have a huge fleet of very diverse machinery involving just about everything you can think of that can be found on a machine, electrics, electronics, computers, diesel, petrol and 2 stroke engines, transmissions that involve everything from a simple belt and pulley set-up, sophisticated hydrostatic drives, electric clutches and hydraulic transmissions. The standard of greens presentation gets higher and the height of cut gets lower, this requires that greens mowers are in the best condition possible whether they are pedestrian or ride on, this calls for specialist machinery to sharpen both bed- knives and cylinders and technicians who know how to use them to the best effect.

“Agreed that some “mechanics” have two hats, one for the golf course and one for the workshop but often he is limited to changing oils and filters on wet days and mending punctures, more difficult work is often contracted out to local dealerships in favour of work on the golf course because he is a greenkeeper first and mechanic second. Don’t get me wrong, I’m not knocking it, this works very well for some clubs.”

### How much time and money do you think you can save by having your own workshop?

“In the scenario above where greenkeeping is prioritised over machinery maintenance, but still having a person who is competent in the workshop can pay dividends in less downtime. Machinery problems can be addressed at the earliest opportunity as opposed to transporting to the nearest dealership, getting

a place on the end of a considerable queue then transporting the machine back again a week or two later at great expense and inconvenience.”

### How do warranties work?

“Warranties are where a manufacturer guarantees the machine for a pre-determined period of time against defects in materials used and design but excluding accidents and misuse. The period is commonly two years or X amount of hours or miles, sometimes there can be longer warranties on component parts. Electric golf carts from Club Car, for instance, come with a two-year warranty but the batteries are four years, such is the advance in battery technology. Warranty work is normally carried out by the supplying dealership.”

### If you lease equipment do dealers have to do the repairs or can anyone do them?

“Leasing is tailored to individual company needs and priced accordingly; the repair and maintenance terms are generally specified in the contract.”

### Should every golf club have a mechanic?

“Ideally yes, I think if you asked Course Managers the same question they would all say yes because they are the people who are most inconvenienced by machinery failures. But there are other factors preventing clubs from employing a mechanic. In my opinion first and foremost would be budgeting constraints, justifying a mechanic to those who pay the wage bill, although many clubs now see the wisdom of maintaining expensive machinery for a longer working life. Justification often comes when he is employed with the aforementioned two hats. Just as a point of interest I was employed as a single-handed mechanic at a 36 hole complex for eight years and was the only full time mechanic on a golf course anywhere in Wales. It’s a different tale now although I don’t have any figures to prove it.”

### Are you in touch with many mechanics within the industry?

“Yes, I am an active member of both [www.golftechs.net](http://www.golftechs.net) and [www.igcema.org](http://www.igcema.org), golf techs is a somewhat “casual and informal” site catering for golf course technicians, mainly Americans, there are other nationalities who contribute to the forums; The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association is built on education for technicians. There is also a forum and members may ask and answer questions on many subjects. The word International means just that and we have many members around the world, membership currently stands at 852 from approximately 15 countries.”





# CUTTING EDGE TRAINING



**Ransomes Jacobsen launched a new training initiative for operators and technicians during Harrogate Week in January, which is known as Cutting Edge Training. This new programme is industry recognised and accredited and is available to all operators and technicians, irrespective of the manufacturer or type of machinery that they use at their respective golf courses.**

The Cutting Edge Training Team are committed to providing the turf care

industry with the most comprehensive package of dedicated industry sector training available today. Working closely with industry experts to understand and adapt its training to meet the needs and requirements set out by Government and HSE, the Cutting Edge Team have aligned their training with independent assessment bodies.

With over 75 years of industry experience the Cutting Edge Training Team are well suited to provide training to the sector. All have proven

track records in their chosen areas of expertise and are able to provide candidates with the knowledge required to safely and effectively complete their daily roles.

“Cutting Edge Training is committed to providing a world class service to the industry sector, and as a world wide business our aim is to provide a training standard that can be relied upon around the globe. Our training programmes are available to ALL technicians and operators, irrespective of manufacturer or model of equipment. Training can either be held on-site at the end-users premises or at our Training Centre in Ipswich, where candidates will experience some of the best training facilities in the market available today. We are able to offer both LANTRA training and our own bespoke training to ensure that each candidate is equipped with the knowledge to pass various assessments related to mowers, tractors and ATVs,” Jason King, Customer Support and Training Manager.

The Cutting Edge team have added their backing to the Landbased



Technicians Accreditation scheme (LTA), developed by the AEA in conjunction with the Institute of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE).

The objective of the scheme is to provide a nationwide means of benchmarking, monitoring and assessing the competence of technicians employed within the sector. The scheme will also provide encouragement and recognition for both employers and technicians, who voluntarily commit to continued professional development in pursuit of technical support excellence.

There are four categories, or tiers, with all tiers being registered on a central database held by IAgrE.

- **LTA 1:** Self registration on-line. Entries on this register would be categorised as either Apprentices (on recognised programmes) or more skilled/mature entrants not yet otherwise assessed and categorised. There is currently no charge to register.
- **LTA 2:** Newly qualified apprentices or assessed skilled technician meeting the required criteria.
- **LTA 3:** A skilled and experienced technician who has successfully attended a series of assessed course programmes - may be a product specialist.
- **LTA 4:** A professional technician having a proven and assessed track record. Additional assessment criteria are included to demonstrate exceptional diagnostic and technical ability together with customer and technical mentoring skills.

“The scheme has been established to give credit and recognition to developing the skills and knowledge of technicians working in the land-based sector. All training is accredited by the relevant manufacturers in conjunction with the employers to guidelines agreed jointly with them, LANTRA and IAgrE. The scheme also provides a clearly defined career path for those working in the land-based engineering sector and is backed by the AEA and BAGMA,” said Jason.

“We are absolutely delighted to be part of this scheme as it dovetails perfectly with our Cutting Edge Training programme, which has been introduced to enhance the skills of today’s grounds care technicians,” he added.

Cutting Edge provides all levels of training from preventative maintenance to diagnostic and problem solving. Using the latest training materials and learning techniques, we can provide the tools to undertake every technical aspect; from routine maintenance to complete strip downs and rebuilds of tractors or mowing machinery.

The team will provide delegates with the skills to keep their machines performing to their expectations, irrespective of model or manufacturer.

A typical example is the introductory one-day course on electrics. Upon completion delegates will be able to understand and use electrical schematic diagrams, identify visually common electrical components and understand their function. They will also be able to demonstrate safe and effective use of basic electrical instruments and test equipment before safely and effectively diagnosing and rectify simple equipment electrical faults.

Many technicians who enter the industry have come from other business sectors, so it’s important that they understand the theory behind cutting grass. At the end of this particular course they will certainly be able to explain the principals of grass cutting and demonstrate an understanding of verti-grooming and scarifying. They will also be able to visually identify grass cutting techniques and problem conditions such as tram lining and ribbing. However, these training sessions are not just theory; hands on experience is essential so delegates will be asked to strip down and rebuild a selection of cutting units, some with verti-groomers and rear roller brushes.



# TOP TIPS FOR SETTING UP A WORKSHOP

## TOP TIPS

- Make it as big as you can.
- Have as much bench space as room allows.
- Make the bench as strong as you can, do not skimp on materials, fix it to the walls.
- Make the top of steel plate, do not use wood, this will soak up oil like a sponge and heavy objects will be difficult to slide.
- Paint the floor a light colour; thin the first coat by 50% with thinners suitable for the paint. This will help reduce concrete dust; finish off with a non-thinned topcoat.
- Lots of light, as much as you can get, both overhead and on the walls.
- Get a space heater.
- Get a good quality six inch vice, do not buy Chinese.
- Buy good quality jacks and not cheap imports, the warranties are not worth the paper they are written on.
- Buy good quality axle stands.
- If the operation justifies it then get cylinder and bedknife grinding equipment.
- Buy workshop grade hand tools, the nice shiny ones tend to get "lost".
- Leave money in the budget for more hand tools, you'll need them.
- Buy power tools, hand held electric drill with half inch chuck and variable speed trigger, it's more versatile. Angle grinder, four and a half inch. Six inch bench grinder. Parts washer.
- A sink with hot running water, use a good quality hand cleaner.
- I think a computer with Internet link is a must; the person paying the bill may disagree.

- Printer.
- Telephone.
- Access to a fax machine.

Setting up a workshop is a subject in it's own right and the list, as you can see, is not exhaustive.

## USEFUL LINKS

[www.golftechs.net](http://www.golftechs.net)

[www.igcema.org](http://www.igcema.org) Much technical information is available in the forums of these two websites, both are free to join.

[www.johndeere.com](http://www.johndeere.com)

[www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)

[www.ransomesjacobsen.com](http://www.ransomesjacobsen.com)

The websites of the "Big Three", online workshop manuals and parts catalogues are available. The latest machinery in their range can be reviewed as can the dealership network where demonstrations can be arranged. Lots of information is available from all three sites, take the time and have a browse around, you could be in for a surprise.

- [www.spaldings.co.uk](http://www.spaldings.co.uk) After market spare parts.
- [www.centernalspares.co.uk](http://www.centernalspares.co.uk) After market spare parts.
- [www.turfmachinery.co.uk](http://www.turfmachinery.co.uk) After market spare parts.
- [www.sealey.co.uk](http://www.sealey.co.uk) Tools and workshop equipment.
- [www.greenham.com](http://www.greenham.com) H & S products plus many more.
- [www.sip-group.com](http://www.sip-group.com) Tools and workshop equipment.
- [www.hsebooks.co.uk](http://www.hsebooks.co.uk) An extensive list of H & S publications available.
- [www.steelmaster.co.uk](http://www.steelmaster.co.uk) After market tines.
- [www.bernhard.co.uk](http://www.bernhard.co.uk) Grinder Manufacturers.
- [www.foleyunited.com](http://www.foleyunited.com) Grinder manufacturer.
- [www.huntergrinders.com](http://www.huntergrinders.com) Grinder manufacturer.

## MEMBERSHIP FOR MECHANICS

**BIGGA has just launched a new membership category for mechanics. For just £60 per year mechanics can now also benefit from BIGGA Membership.**

### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Free legal helpline – Access 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for you and your family (living at the same address).
- Personal accident insurance – 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 – You will find a host of information on the website and you will also be able to access the BIGGA bulletin board.

For more information and a full list of membership benefits, please contact the BIGGA Membership Department on 01347 833800 and select option 1





## Ever seen electricity leak all over the green? Neither have we.

### **The run-all-day, 2500E Hybrid Greens Mower from John Deere**

It's about advanced technology and common sense. The 2500E is a hybrid mower that puts power in its proper place. The diesel engine of the 2500E powers the reels using an alternator. By removing all the hydraulics from the cutting units, we've eliminated 102 potential leak points. And since 90% of all hydraulic leaks occur in and around the reels, the possibility of a leak is extremely remote. Also, the 2500E reels get constant power from the moment of engagement. This in turn leads to a consistent cut, all day long. When you factor in lower sound levels and less fuel consumption, the 2500E makes even more sense. Call your John Deere dealer for a demonstration today. [www.johndeere.co.uk](http://www.johndeere.co.uk)



**JOHN DEERE**

**Nothing Runs Like A Deere**



# 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.

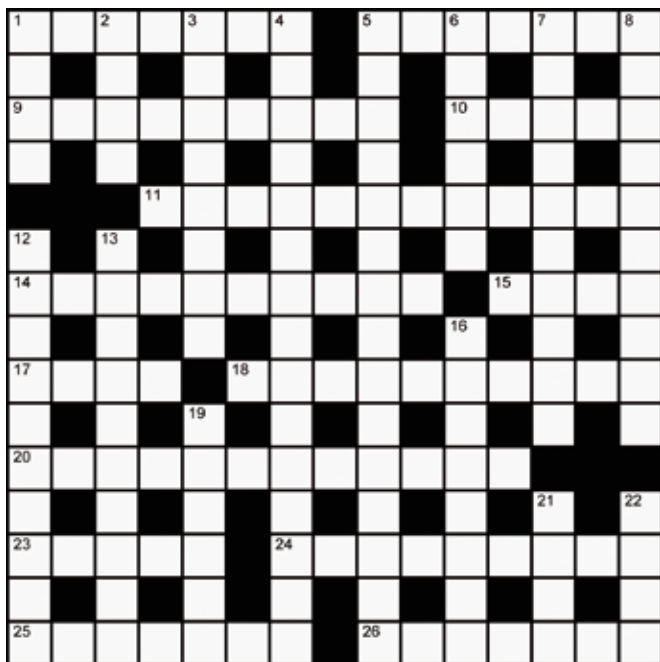
## CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Sailing vessel armed with cannon (3,4)
- 5 Cooked in hot water; hunted illegally (7)
- 9 Divided into parts - anagram of COASTLINE (9)
- 10 Name formerly used for Russia's Mariinsky Ballet (5)
- 11 Radio 4 programme hosted by Dr Raj Persaud (3,2,3,4)
- 14 British car marque founded in 1906 (5-5)
- 15 Reverberation of sound (4)
- 17 Baseball fielder's glove (4)
- 18 Rule for closing an item of parliamentary debate (10)
- 20 Counterbalancing (12)
- 23 Stratospheric gas which screens ultraviolet radiation (5)
- 24 Appraisal, rating (9)
- 25 Physician who is qualified to operate (7)
- 26 Crowned head (7)

### DOWN

- 1 In North America, a journey by dogsled (4)
- 2 Small cut (4)
- 3 Neck injury caused by rapid deceleration or acceleration (8)
- 4 Snooker player who won the 2007 UK Masters (6,9)
- 5 Protection for refugees facing persecution at home (9,6)
- 6 Ornament worn above the foot (6)
- 7 "Wasted" fashion look of the mid 1990s (6,4)
- 8 English cricketer whose final test match was in 1992 (5,5)
- 12 Wonderful, terrific (10)
- 13 "Dish of the day" (4,2,4)
- 16 Artificially produced water jet (8)
- 19 Country to which the word "Hellenic" is applied (6)
- 21 In architecture, a vertical supporting structure (4)
- 22 Foot division (4)



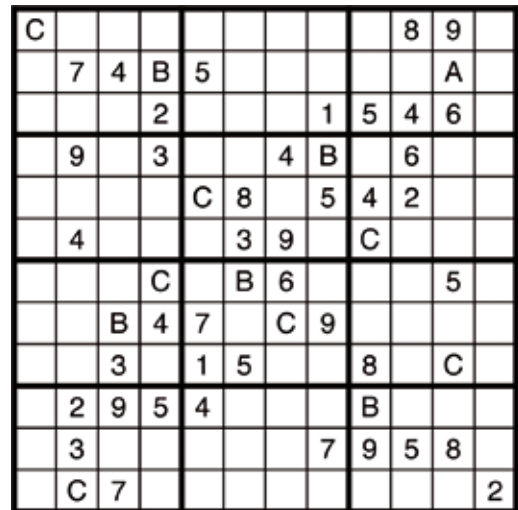
## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

### QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. In the Harry Potter novels, who is the author of The Dream Oracle?
2. How many times has the host nation won the football World Cup?
3. If you walked one mile south, one mile west, and then one mile north, and ended up where you started, where would you be?
4. In which city is the film Trainspotting set?
5. The pop groups Ace Of Base and The Cardigans both hail from which country?
6. On which Scottish river does Inverness stand?
7. Who directed the 1985 film Back To The Future?
8. In the board game Cluedo, whose murder has to be solved?
9. Why is the Golden Gate bridge painted plum colour?

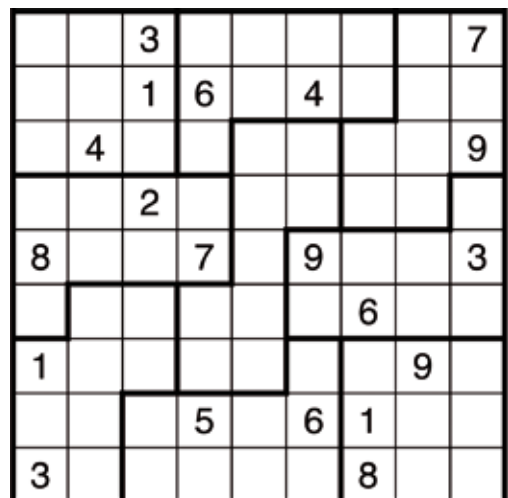
## MONSTER SUDOKU

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 62



IN THE SHED



## Turf so good they'll all want to play.

Treatment with Primo MAXX® will create course conditions that are sure to impress the players and turf professionals who really know the difference between good turf ... and superior turf. Primo MAXX increases root and lateral growth creating a high quality surface of increased density which looks good, plays superbly and is more able to withstand stress.

Primo MAXX is a new liquid formulation that is easy to use and comes with a simple to follow season-long programme tailored for specific areas around the course and is compatible and easily mixable with other products.

To learn more about Primo MAXX please go to [www.primomaxx.co.uk](http://www.primomaxx.co.uk)



Syngenta Crop Protection UK Ltd., CPC4 Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge, CB21 5XE.

Website: [www.greencast.co.uk](http://www.greencast.co.uk) & [www.greencast.ie](http://www.greencast.ie) Technical Enquiries: 0800 169 6058 Email: [customer.services@syngenta.com](mailto:customer.services@syngenta.com)

Distributed in the UK and Ireland by Scotts Professional, Tel: 0871 220 5353 Email: [prof.sales@scotts.com](mailto:prof.sales@scotts.com)

PRIMO MAXX® contains trinexapac-ethyl (MAPP 13374, PCS 02273). PRIMO MAXX® is a registered trademark of a Syngenta Group Company. Always read the label. Use pesticides safely. © Syngenta 2008



# Cut the time and cost of fairway management



Syngenta Technical Manager, Simon Barnaby, reports

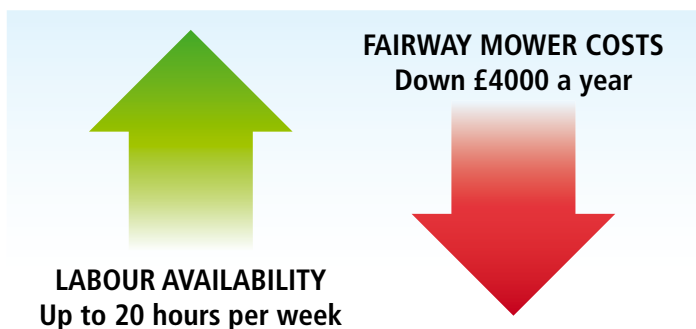
Primo MAXX application on fairways can help cut the time and money involved with mowing turf, to spend on more productive management.

Most golf courses typically spend 24 to 40 man hours a week mowing fairways through the growing season. A Primo MAXX programme could release up to 20 hours additional time for essential maintenance to improve greens, tees and work around the course.

## Trim down fairway mowing costs

Furthermore, with the cost of running a fairway mower calculated by turf managers at around £9 an hour, Primo MAXX could save over £4000 a year in lower fuel, maintenance and repair bills - along with the opportunity to cut your carbon footprint with reduced fuel use.

Greenkeepers always report that Primo MAXX gives greater flexibility to manage the mowing programme when conditions are better, or when it causes least inconvenience to players.



## Regulation to reduce stress

Research has shown that Primo MAXX makes turf stronger, healthier and more resistant to stress. Deeper rooting enables plants to reach soil water and nutrients, withstanding the effects of drought stress and staying green for longer.

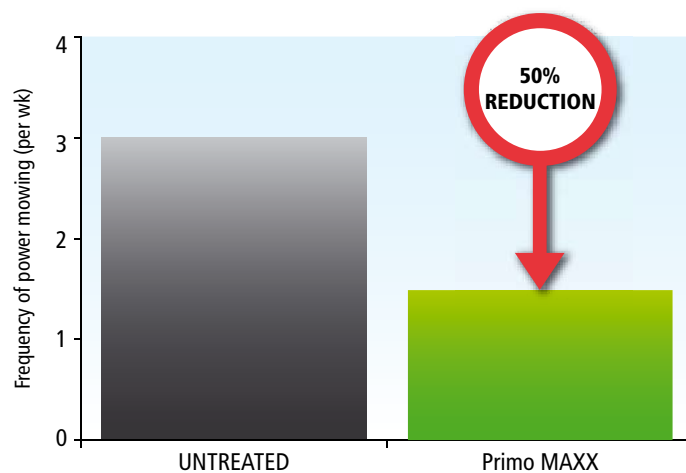
Stronger rooting also enables turf to better withstand the effects of wear and tear from heavy play. Divot recovery is faster - minimising bare patches and the opportunity for *Poa annua* to establish.

Healthier turf plants with improved rooting treatment are better able to fight off the increasing incidence of nematode and soil pest damage. Primo MAXX is an important part of an effective Integrated Turf Management regime.

## Cut time spent mowing

Independent user trials with Primo MAXX applications on fairways, conducted by STRI, identified turf managers could typically reduce the frequency of mowing by 50%, whilst still enhancing playing conditions.

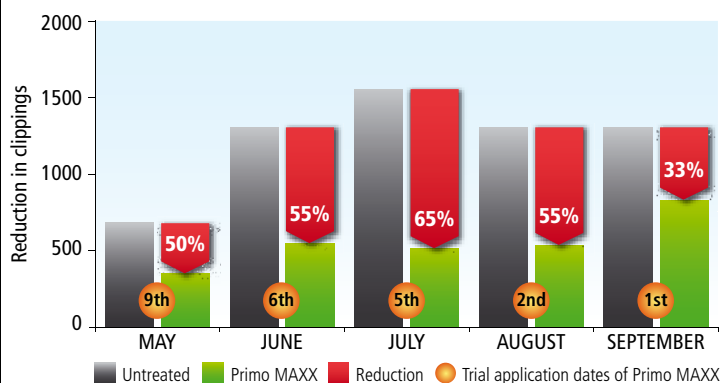
Results were consistent under a range of fairway management regimes, often requiring just one cut per week to maintain high quality fairways.



Source: Observational reports of greenkeepers undertaking Primo MAXX fairway trials

Additionally, turf managers reported the volume of clippings on Primo MAXX treated fairways was significantly reduced, typically by around 50% (below). The result was:

- Faster mowing
- Reduced volume for composting
- Sharper, cleaner finish
- Less drop off of grass clumps when mowing in wet conditions
- Reduced stalking of turf in summer conditions



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

# New Products



NEW PRODUCTS

## CUT WIDTH CHANGEABLE ON THE MOVE

John Deere's new 7400 TerrainCut trim and surrounds mower is a brand new concept machine developed following extensive customer feedback in Europe and the US. Following its European launch at Harrogate Week in January, the mower will be available in limited numbers in late spring 2008, with full availability in the summer.

Designed as a rotary alternative to the company's established 2653B utility mower, the three-wheel drive 7400 features a 36hp turbocharged diesel engine and three independent 27in rotary decks, constructed of 10-gauge steel, with an innovative 'Width on Demand' system. This allows the operator to adjust the working width of cut from 68 to 74in while on the move, thus increasing productivity on the most demanding golf courses.

 [www.johndeere.co.uk](http://www.johndeere.co.uk)

## 4x4 MODEL

The new 4x4 model from JCB is set to build on the success of JCB Groundcare's Groundhog 6x4.

It boasts many of the same key features such as high payload, versatility and the availability of road legal kits - with the added benefits of even greater travel speeds, ground clearance and off-road performance.

The Groundhog 4x4 will be powered by a 20kW (27hp) diesel engine, delivering impressive torque and a top speed of 50kph (31mph).

 [www.jcb.com](http://www.jcb.com)

## ELECTRIC POLE SAWS

Pellenc has launched a range of four electric pole saws - the Selion which have been designed for professional tree surgeons, landscapers and viticulturists.

Two models have fixed length poles of 1.30m (P130) & 1.80m (P180) and a further two models have telescopic poles of 1.50m extending to 2.0m (T150/200) and 2.20m extending to 3.0m (T220/300) via an easy adjustment knob.

The Selion is available exclusively in the UK from Lamberhurst Engineering Limited.

 08456 121141  
or visit: [www.lameng.com](http://www.lameng.com)

## TRIMMOWER

Echo Bear Cat has introduced a range of heavy duty wheeled trimmers they claim can churn their way through the heaviest weeds, or lightly trim around the most intricate landscaping with ease.

The robust Bear Cat EZ TrimMowers are constructed on a solid steel frame, yet are light enough for one person to load and unload, and are easy to manoeuvre and operate.

 [www.countax.com](http://www.countax.com)



## NEW SKID STEER

Ditch Witch has released the SK650.

The SK650 is designed to be efficient, versatile and productive with over 70 quick-change attachments available.

The SK650 has a number of features that make the operator's life easier with both the fuel and hydraulic tanks, mounted on the outside of the machine's frame. Because the fuel tank is exterior-mounted, it is made larger. With an eight-gallon (30 L) capacity, most jobs can be completed without stopping to fuel. Also, with the hydraulic tank on the outside the capacity is increased for more efficient hydraulic performance.

 01792 895906  
or visit: [www.ditchwitchuk.com](http://www.ditchwitchuk.com)



## NEW LOOK

Simon Jersey has teamed up with well known leisure brand Cotton Traders to put together a stylish new range of polo shirts and rugby-style tops that look great on employees in less formal situations where appearance is still key.

And for the first time ever you can customise Cotton Traders garments with your club name and logo thanks to Simon Jersey's embroidery service.

 0870 1118800  
or visit: [www.simonjersey.com](http://www.simonjersey.com)



## SIX NEW MODELS FOR 2008

Grooved technology leaders YES! Golf used the occasion of the 55th PGA Merchandise Show at Orlando last January to announce it will launch six new C-Groove models for 2008.

The models include two new blades - Nicky and Gina; two mallets - Sandy and Athena; a new 2-piece hybrid called Donna; and a putter with a high MOI and a totally-new patented alignment system called GrooveTube™.

 [www.yesgolf.co.uk](http://www.yesgolf.co.uk)



### BROWNTOP BENTS

Rigby Taylor are now supplying two new cultivars.

Greenspeed and Egmontwo have been bred from the finest New Zealand browntops (*Agrostis capillaris*) and are ideal for use on golf greens, tees and fairways, blending in well with fine fescue and other cool season grasses.

**i** contact your local Rigby Taylor representative or call: 0800 424919.



### HIGH TIP AT LOW COST

For 2008, Etesia has announced that end users now have the opportunity to increase the scope of their Hydro 124DS ride-on rotary through the addition of a revolutionary low-cost (MHD124) accessory designed to convert the machine's grass collector from ground-emptying to hydraulic 'high-tip' emptying.

**i** [www.etesia.com](http://www.etesia.com)



### TOTAL WEED CONTROL

Syngenta has launched a new total herbicide.

The company claims Proliance Quattro is the first of a new generation of Enhanced Active Ingredient (EAI) products, where the glyphosate active ingredient is truly integrated with the adjuvant system.

**i** [www.syngenta.com](http://www.syngenta.com)



### BULLSEYE SPRAY PATTERN INDICATOR.

Spraying accuracy and uniformity is assured with the introduction of BullsEye spray pattern indicator.

The Farmura stand was the selected venue during Harrogate Week for the launch of this non-staining, next generation spray colourant.

When added to the spray tank solution, BullsEye imparts a dark green colour to the target surface so that operators can see at a glance the spray pattern; excessive overlap and missed areas are eliminated, off-target application is detected and blocked nozzles identified.

BullsEye is available in both 1 litre and 10 litre packs and may be obtained from Farmura's network of specialist UK distributors.

**i** 01233 756241  
or E.mail: [info@farmura.com](mailto:info@farmura.com)



# Get smooth, fast acting relief – whatever the conditions



The New Super 70 is the latest addition to the Soil Reliever family of great value, deep tine aerators. The unique triple roller design will deliver a consistent depth over the most undulating of surfaces.

Like the rest of the range the unique angled frame delivers more punching power right where you need it, over the tines.

Instant variable depth control on most models allows you the control to aerate all season long, whatever the conditions - without disrupting play.

With a factory backed 2-year warranty, local dealer network and wide choice of tines, check out the best pound for pound aerator in the business. You'll be relieved you did.



**Lo-Call 0845 026 0064**  
[www.jsmd.co.uk](http://www.jsmd.co.uk)



## WORTH DRAINING

**Sportsturf Drainage Specialists**  
**Vertidrainning - Blec Groundbreaker**  
**Sand Spreading - Overseeding**  
**Top Dressing - Spraying**

**Irnham, Nr Grantham, Lincs NG33 4JQ**  
**Tel / Fax: 01476 550266**  
**Mobile: 07855 431120**  
**Email: [worthdraining@talktalk.net](mailto:worthdraining@talktalk.net)**  
**[www.worthdraining.co.uk](http://www.worthdraining.co.uk)**

## WE'RE ON YOUR TURF.

MAKING LIFE EASIER

THE FORMULA FOR TOP-NOTCH TURF BEGINS WITH THE MH-400 MATERIAL HANDLER AND THE PP-180 TOP DRESSER. TOP DRESS ALL YOUR GREENS IN UNDER TWO HOURS USING THIS UNBEATABLE COMBINATION.

TO FIND A DISTRIBUTOR NEAR YOU, EMAIL [SALES@TYCROPTURF.COM](mailto:SALES@TYCROPTURF.COM) OR VISIT [WWW.TYCROPTURF.COM](http://WWW.TYCROPTURF.COM)



# THE GREENKEEPING KID

By The Kid

**There was this kid who left school. Used to bum around on the back of his mates motorbike, getting merry on six pints and wondering what was out beyond the twinkling stars.**

His mate was a greenkeeper. Kid wondered what the hell that was and why anyone would want to be one. Cutting grass all day was not what was out beyond the twinkling stars. One day his mate said 'Hey Kid, I'm fed up buying all the beer, do you fancy helping out at the golf club for a few weeks so you can pay your round?' Kid said 'Well that'll be a laugh, what do I have to do?'

After a month Kid thought, 'Hell this is hard work but there is something about it though, there is something about it.'

Kid had always been a rebel. Well, he had always been a teenager, which qualified him, but he went extra. When he was merry he sang union songs and dreamed he was Che Guevara. Working at the golf club wasn't quite it, but there was something about it though. Kid immediately joined the 'Association', the BGGGA. It wasn't a union but hell, Kid could see himself marching down Whitehall with his BGGGA banner singing 'We Shall Overcome' and shouting 'Fair pay for greenkeepers, balls to golfers!!' Kid drank quite a bit.

Within a year Kid had got the woman thing. In his actions he wasn't Kid any more but he still liked to think he was. He followed her down south and went to work for a council run golf course. Kid paid his union dues every week and could sing his songs with more feeling. 'Us council workers are gonna sort that government out!' Yeah Kid, yeah!

Kid helped to form a local section of the BGGGA and rose to be chairman. He was pushing for revolution but found that most of the time they would rather debate whether they should play a greensome or a Texas Scramble and 'Was an umbrella a good 1st prize?' Kid wasn't into golf.

Some time on Kid heard about some other rebels who weren't happy with the Association and wanted to form a new Association to progress the lot of greenkeepers through education. Now, education was something Kid was keen on. He had heard his dad talk about education and his dad was smart. He had his six pints and decided that he didn't really like school but he liked education. He would join. Look out EIGGA cause Kid's a-rollin' in!

'Christ these guys are good', thought Kid as he sat in the dining Hall of King's College, Cambridge, banging slowly and rhythmically on the big wooden table to show his appreciation as the guest speakers marched in for supper. Kid was right in the heart of establishment, right under its vaulted roof. 'These guys are really good and they're not even real rebels' thought Kid. Along with the many others gathered in academia, he knew something was happening. He was not sure what, but something was happening. It was kinda like that feeling Kid got when he was out in the early morning by himself at that special place on the golf course. Even the six pints couldn't match that. Kid only had four, went to bed and slept like a big fat ginger Tom on a Cornish windowsill.

Well time passed and Kid learned all he could. EIGGA joined in with the Scottish guys, 'real rebels the Scottish guys' thought Kid, to form the BIGGA.

Things took off. The BIGGA got involved in all sorts of education and were sitting down with the employers and the governing bodies to improve basic working conditions by empowerment through education. Kid began to realise that railing against things was not always the best way of getting them changed. Shouting from the sidelines was not as productive as getting on the pitch and working your socks off. It was not half as rewarding either. Kid was down to two pints now but still singing his songs.

Kid knew from his own experience that the more educated and professional he got the more respect he and his workmates commanded and the better they were treated. He wanted everyone to get that message and set about spreading it. He was working hard on the left wing to supply the crosses for his team when one day the manager pulled him to one side and said 'Hey, Kid, you're not a kid anymore, how about being Captain and leading the team.'

'Christ sakes!' thought Kid, but he was owing. He was owing all the beer from the motorbike rides, he was owing all the revolutionaries, he was owing all the midfielders who were running harder than he was. He didn't really want to do all the meeting and greeting, all the shaking hands and dishing out prizes, all the 'saying the right thing', but he was owing big time. Kid went establishment.

He went from patrolling the left wing to roaming free in the central role. He was now seeing close up what the right back was doing and where he was coming from. All the members of the team had different attributes and he saw them in a different light. They had different backgrounds, different philosophies, different perspectives. Some didn't have any pints at all or ever even wonder what was out beyond the twinkling stars. But they all had one thing in common, they all wanted to do their best for the team and they all wanted to support each other, in whatever way they could. From a distance Kid had always thought that the right back was a bit of a plodder but close up Kid could see the sweat and hear the clattering studs. He put his head in where it hurt for the team. Kid admired him a lot.

'It takes some time to realise that you are not always right', thought Kid and Kid now knew that he was not always right. He had his story and everyone else had theirs. It is not really about who has the best story, it's more about listening to all the stories and then doing what is best for the team. It's about respecting others viewpoints. It's about staying together and talking things through. It's about inclusiveness, not isolation. It's about compromise, not conflict. It's about unity, not independence. In short, it is about association. Oh, and of course, it is about wondering what is out beyond the twinkling stars.

'Best regards to everyone who has helped me along the way.'

Kid



## News from the Chief Executive

It is Sunday morning and the sun streams through the window of the waiting lounge in Brussels airport where I eagerly await the 'plane to take me home, a much nicer day than the one that greeted me on Thursday.

For the past three days I have been networking with our European colleagues who have all come together to represent their countries at the annual FEGGA Conference. Just like at Harrogate there is a great camaraderie between delegates, despite cultural and language differences, and it's not long in any gathering before the talk turns to greenkeeping and golf club life. The conference delegates were presented with an excellent education programme including talks from Golf Environment Europe, the R&A, Frank Newberry and the key sponsors.

The main theme revolved around environmental issues and of particular personal interest was a presentation on the workings of the European Parliament that explained very clearly the process through which legislation is created and the recent draft paper on pesticides was used as an illustration. There is little doubt in my mind that tighter legislation is just around the corner and while I do not envisage a ban on chemicals I do think that eventually there will be much stricter control over the purchase and use of such products, including the domestic consumer. Upon closer inspection however it is clear that the UK leads the way in control and use of such products however we cannot afford to relax the pressure on Brussels through participation in such groups as the Amenity Forum.

With the sun in mind I am conscious of a recent meeting with representatives of the Karen Clifford Skin Cancer Charity that has been established to raise the awareness of the risks of over exposure to UV leading to skin cancer. It seems that the incidence of this illness is on the increase and it is only a question of time before the courts try test cases against employers who have a duty of care under health and safety legislation. If you wish to learn more then visit [www.skcin.org](http://www.skcin.org) and more on this will be featured in coming issues of Greenkeeper International and the BIGGA website.

At BIGGA HOUSE we seem to be getting more calls or e-mails than usual from golfers regarding the policy of course closure due to adverse conditions. We treat these with extreme care and usually suggest that the enquirer communicates better with the greenkeeping staff at his or her club. Any members needing help should not hesitate to contact a member of staff here at Aldwark and please remember that the Legal Helpline facility covers Health and Safety advice as well as a myriad of other legislation. I can confirm that the service is completely free and members should contact their Regional Administer if they feel that a face-to-face friendly chat with someone would help.

There is no need to feel isolated when help could be provided, usually all for the cost of a 'phone call. After all that's part of why people join associations such as ours.

**John Pemberton**



### SCOTTISH REGION – AYRSHIRE

Hello to you all, hope you're in good health and have managed to get some winter renovation and maintenance work done in between the horrendously wet and windy weather we've been bearing the brunt of!

The date for the Spring Outing to be played over the Portland Course at Troon has been confirmed and will be Tuesday April 15. Derek will be sending out the invites so be sure to get them in promptly as I'm sure places will be in high demand. Remember the outing also serves as the first leg of the Daval-sponsored Harry Diamond Memorial Jug.

I was fortunate enough to get down to Harrogate for a few days and thoroughly enjoyed it! No, not just to get a break from a mundane home life or to escape the horrendously wet and... (you get the picture), well ok maybe a wee bit of that! but mainly because it was great to see old friends and hopefully made new ones. It gives you the opportunity to find out the hot topics in the profession and to take in seminars that are of interest to you.

I had a beer or two with Kerr Rowan and Ian Smith, a couple of local lads selected for the Bernhard-sponsored trip to the GCSAA show in Orlando, so I'm sure they will of had a good time of it over there.

In closing I would just like to wish my pal and ex Turnberry workmate Brian Aitken all the best as he embarks on a new challenge with his lawn care business.

*Denis Twedell*

07939 104701 [denis.t@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:denis.t@hotmail.co.uk)



### CENTRAL

Harrogate week seems like a long time ago now but it was a good week by all accounts. I was unfortunately unable to attend this year but those I spoke to certainly got a lot from it. The Section pass on our (belated) congratulations to Walter Woods on receiving his Lifetime Achievement Award, which was very much deserved. I often bump into Walter when he is out practising on the courses at St Andrews and he never mentioned it, which is typical of his self-deprecating style.

The season will soon be upon us and hopefully the weather will have improved from the time I'm writing this. The Section are still hoping to arrange a visit to the Barenbrug mixing plant at Falkirk followed by a presentation before the end of March. Details of the date and directions to the Warehouse will be posted on the website, [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk) as soon as they become available so keep a look out for that.

Also, your committee will be considering whether to stage a social function some evening as has been suggested on the website, clay pigeon shooting, go karting or similar. Again, log onto the website and go to the new forum page to give us your suggestions on that or any other items that interest you. The forum on the website has been very

# Around the Green

well received and there is now a chat room section which has started up every Sunday evening at 8pm. Member you have to register in the first instance when you log in to allow to access to the form.

Hopefully we will see you at the Spring Outing at Lundin Links on April 24, if not before. We only have 20 times available to us from 11.32 until 2.04 so a speedy return of your entry forms once you get them is recommended. Lundin Links is a great course and Billy Swann and his team have consistently done a really good job there over the years.

Congratulations to Craig Wilson, the man mountain who works at St Andrews Links, who has been selected for the Scottish under 20 Rugby squad and to the Leven Links team who trounced their "Royal" Scoonie opponents at their annual games night.

Finally, we all wish a speedy recovery to Andy O Hara, Jim Finlayson and George McDonald who have all been seriously ill recently.

*Gordon Moir*



## EAST

Our apologies. Due to a mix up at BIGGA HQ, last month's East Section notes were not printed. They have been added to this month's text.

I start this month's report on a sad note with the news that Shaun Hardy, Head Greenkeeper at Magdalene Fields in Berwick was killed on Thursday, 17th January 2008. Two suspects are currently being held in police custody on manslaughter charges. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

The dates for 2008 are as follows: Spring Outing – 1st April, Gullane No.2 at 1pm; Autumn outing – 9th September, Kingsknowe at 1pm; Willie Woods Tournament – 9th October, West Linton at 1pm; AGM – 30th October, Dundas Park.

The Willie Woods Tournament this year is being sponsored by Scotts, therefore a big thank you in advance is due to them and to our sponsor in previous years, Golf Finance, who are based in North Berwick.

The Section is currently organising an educational trip to the Renaissance Club, in East Lothian. The date and time will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Finally the long overdue questionnaire based on ways to improve the Section is due out shortly. Please do not file it in the bin, complete and return it in the stamped addressed envelope provided.

The Scottish winner of the BIGGA 2007 Environment Award is West Linton Golf Club. The club, that previously received a Highly Commended award from this competition, was delighted to receive the award for Scotland. Good environmental practices are well established on the course and in the clubhouse, and the club intends to develop and promote the key features of its stunning location. Working with local schools, organisations and agencies the club is keen to show off its environmental strengths and their importance to the game of golf in West Linton.

The Head Greenkeeper at Swanston Golf Club, John Gallagher, has recently had a partial Hip Replacement. On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish John a speedy return to full fitness.

On the trade front Robert T Bruce retired at the end of 2007. Although in the main he lived and worked in the West of Scotland, he was well known throughout Scotland and the North of England. I for one will miss his smile and tremendous wit!

On a personal note, Roz and I spent New Year in Crete. The good weather and the absence of tourists made the hassle of three flights out and three flights back worth the effort!

Until next month

*Mike Dooner*



## NORTH

How is everybody this month? Hopefully March will bring some decent weather for us to get the courses up and running.

The two outings this year will be at Craibstone in the Spring and Kirriemuir in the Autumn. The Spring outing is slightly earlier this year on April 24. Hopefully this will allow more of our members to come along and support the section before they get too busy on their respective golf courses. The 200 Club will be coming out soon and this is our best means of income so let's support it and buy as many tickets as possible. Bob Hardie is the man to see for tickets if you don't already have one or you know of somebody that is looking for one. Bob's number is 07841-993772 for information regarding the 200 club.

Congratulations are due to Neil Bruce, at Montrose GC, on his appointment as Course Manager. There was a strong entry for this job so well done to Neil in coming out on top, I'm sure he will relish the chance to put his own stamp on the course over the next few years.

William Mackenzie, who was First Assistant at Fortrose GC, has left to take up the post of Head Greenkeeper at Ulapool GC. Good luck to him in his new post. Graham Gordon, who is the Deputy Head at Oldmeldrum GC, has become a father for the 1st time with a baby daughter arriving in late January. Rebecca is doing well and keeping her father awake till the early hours. Enjoy fatherhood Graham, grey hairs will follow soon.

Not much more from me this month so here's hoping for a good spring weather wise to kick-start some growth.

*Robert Patterson Royal Aberdeen GC*



## NORTHERN – NORTH EAST

Will they or won't they, the Messiahs have returned (yes it's plural) firstly King Kev has returned to Newcastle Utd, and secondly Steve Cram, formerly of Slaley Hall, has returned back to Slaley, after being in charge of Close House for the past couple of years, just in time for an

# Around the Green

important professional Seniors' Competition coming up in August this year. Good luck, Steve, hope to meet you sometime this year.

With Steve moving, Brian Clark who was his second in command at Close House has been promoted to Course Manager and is looking forward to having his own course to look after.

News from a couple of courses in our Section, Longhirst Hall have got the Junior County Championship and the local newspaper the Evening Chronicle Sunshine Fund Golf Day this year. Not bad going for the time the course has been going - this represents a major step forward for them for the hard work done over the years to host such events. Those of you who know Graham Chambers know he is now officially Golf Manager, looking after the business as a whole, including the courses, overseeing the clubhouse operation and most of the Club Secretary duties. Fortunately he has Stu Wilson and Stephen Smith doing a great job of overseeing the daily tasks on the courses - this is all part of the growth process which is ongoing as always.

Talking to Head Greenkeeper Tommy Harrison from Gosforth GC (Bridal Path) the other day and he was saying that this season they spending quite a bit of money on new machinery, buying a rough cutter, fairway and tees cutter, but what's different is that he's not buying all the same make - now that doesn't happen very often these days.

Section Competitions have been confirmed. This year we are going to Dunstanborough Castle in the Spring (Wednesday, April 16) we are trying different days this year maybe we will get more people playing as figures have dropped severely. The Autumn Competition is at Burgham Park, this is the first time we have played there and that's on October 8.

If you play at Dunstanborough Castle in April perhaps you could take time out for looking at the reconstruction of greenkeepers shed from the 1900s, in the same style and dimensions as the original but with extended eaves to provide nesting space for birds. If you read your December magazine you would see that they received the 2007 innovation title for restoration work been done on various parts of their course.

And finally, once again we have Terry Charlton to thank for providing transport - much appreciated from the North East Section. A little mention should not go unnoticed about Steve Pope, I think broke his own record by collecting about 26 pens and most likely some wooly hats as well - the Section committee will set you a target for next year Steve.

*Jimmy Richardson*



## NORTHERN

A date has finally been set for the Spring Seminar. It will be taking place on Thursday, 13 March at the De Vere Oulton Hall Hotel and Golf Complex, Leeds. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of both Bernhard and Company and Rigby Taylor, this is a free seminar, open to all members of BIGGA Northern Section, and we have three of the best speakers around - Martyn Jones, Stephen Bernhard and the Northern Section's own Jim Brown.

The day will start at around 9.15am with bacon rolls and coffee, followed by Martyn Jones' talk, entitled "Sustainable Golf Or Not?" Stephen Bernhard will take over at 11am for his talk "Stay Sharp, Run Fast". A free buffet lunch will follow, before Oulton Hall's Golf and Estates Manager Jim Brown speaks on "The Rise, Fall and Rise Again of Oulton Hall".

This seminar is strictly limited to 50 places, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Anyone wishing to attend please get in touch with me on 07739 319060 as soon as possible.

Another important date for your diaries is Wednesday, 30 April, which is the confirmed date for the Spring Tournament, to be held at Filey Golf Club. First tee off is at 12.15, and bacon rolls and coffee will be available from around 11.30. For future events all names AND payment must be received at least seven days prior to the event. If payment is not received prior to the day then unfortunately places will be cancelled. If you have any difficulties with this please get in touch and we can come to an agreement.

Next month I will bring you the dates of the remainder of 2008s golf events.

*Adam Speight 07739 319060*

Model 521EH

**LASTEC**

Front mounted mower with 2.5 metre cutting width  
Cost effective, versatile and rugged  
Five fully articulating decks  
Fits to most out-front traction units

**The Articulator**

Tel: 01622 812 103 Fax: 01622 815 534

"Quality Rotary Mowers for a World that isn't Flat."

[www.lastec.co.uk](http://www.lastec.co.uk)





## CLEVELAND

Sorry about the lack of notes recently but there was a mix up between HQ and myself on two separate occasions.

Well, another successful Harrogate Week has come and gone and I feel I should congratulate all the organisers and thank all of the trade supporters too. Although the merger talks between BIGGA and the IOG have been halted for the moment, the 'big shows' are one area where the 'Industry' can support each other. Can I urge all greenkeepers and groundsmen to work together even if the circumstances are less formal than we hoped for?

Our Section members are invited to enter the 2008 Annual Turfcare Darts Championships. The Southern qualifier has been provisional booked for Castle Eden Cricket Club at 7pm on Thursday, March 20. The first prize is £100 with the runner up receiving £50 and semi finalists £25 each. Please ring Karen on 01207 505837 for further details and booking your place in the draw.

Our Spring Outing is planned for Tuesday, April 15 at Blackwell Grange Golf Club, Darlington. Tee off times are 9.30 – 10.30am. Please book with Pembo as numbers are limited 07989 508878. It will be nice to play Blackwell again after a good few years!

We were represented by several members of the branch at the Turfcare quiz at Mount Oswald in December.

The greenkeepers team was triumphant this year and Barry Walker received the trophy on behalf of the Greenkeepers. Well done, lads and lasses.

Finally the first 'Bring a Bottle' tournament was held at Cleveland Golf Club on a beautiful day in December. This team Stableford event was won by a quartet of Ian Pemberton (Cleveland GC), Dave Hatfield (Cleveland GC Greens Chairman), Phil Hargrave (South Shields GC) and Anthony 'Titch' McGeough (Richmond GC). Their total of 118 points was enough to win easily.

I think local knowledge may have played some part in their victory. The longest drive was won by Martin McCririck of South Shields and Pembo was the 'Nearest the Pin' winner. May I compliment Ian and his staff for the condition of the course – the greens were superb! Thanks must also go to Cleveland Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and the superb meal.

The event was sponsored by Tacit and it was great to see their area manager Peter Marshall walking the course with the lads. Fortunately the Section Chairman, Tony Smith, did not attend, so no one had their ears bent over a full 18-hole walk. However he sent an able deputy in George Malcolm who spent the whole round telling his team how good looking he still is, even though in reality he's really an ugly old git! Just joking boys!

*Terry 'El Prez' Charlton 07831 214879*



## SHEFFIELD

Once again not a lot of news this month, just to let everyone know that our new Section Secretary is James Stevens and anyone wishing to contact him at anytime with regard to any matter may feel free to do so on: 077388719614 or: [jimmy\\_jams20@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com)

We have got a lecture planned for March 12 at Rotherham Golf Club which will be sponsored by Rigby Taylor and the lecture will be given by Bernhards and Martyn Jones details of this you should of received in the post if you have not please feel free to contact James or myself.

As regards to the trip to Wembley we hope to try to re-arrange it at some later date we will keep you informed of this as we finalise the details. Anyone with any news please feel free to contact me on 07793111845 or on my new email: [jvl1967@sky.com](mailto:jvl1967@sky.com)

*John Lax*



## NORTH WALES

Here we go, March already and as the old adage goes, in like a lion out like a lamb (well we can only hope!).

It's around this time our minds turn to spring renovation and all the humbug it brings, will the aerators work properly? Will the top dresser spread properly? Will the dressing suppliers not put their prices up two hours before you put your order in? And finally will the weather actually be nice and allow you to get the dressing in before it rains! Fingers crossed eh!

The spring seminar will be held at Abergele golf club (LL22 8DS) postcode in case you're using sat nav to find your way there.

The main subject is the new downloadable Safety Management System, a holistic approach to health and safety not only covering the course but the clubhouse areas as well.

The agenda is SMS download and use, an SMS in use and the importance of it in the health and safety environment. This information will be very handy to have in today's blame and claim culture.

The Spring Competition will be held at Llanymynech Golf Club (SY10 8LB) on May 14 entry forms for all of this years competitions should be with you now. Any enquiries to Jeremy Hughes or Carl Crocher, who I'm sure will have all the answers for you.

We're a bit short on local news this month but anyone who was at Harrogate, would have seen a very proud father and son team, these being Brian and Darren Anderson as Darren was officially presented with his Master Greenkeeper plaque. We would like to increase the local news aspect of our column, so please get in touch with your local news, anything that you might want to share with the Section - Marriages, Births, promotions, Retirements. This might be your only



# Around the Green

chance to see your name or your club's name in print in a national publication.

Peter Maybury [petemayb66@aol.com](mailto:petemayb66@aol.com)  
Johnny Evans [Johnny.evans@tesco.net](mailto:Johnny.evans@tesco.net)



## MIDLAND REGION

### Training and Education

There was something for everyone at Harrogate this year with a comprehensive programme of education. Congratulations to all at BIGGA and especially Sami and Rachael. I was one of the many candidates for the STRI presentation of The Disturbance Theory. The seminar was not only interesting and entertaining but delivered some food for thought. There is the possibility of hosting this seminar in the Midlands if there is sufficient interest. As ever you can contact me to discuss your training and education requirements and it would be nice to find some new venues for the autumn so please let me know if your club would be willing to host an event. We have lots of ideas for future events and topics with an Irrigation Electricians Workshop and Pesticide Update and Refresher Training amongst the first to be staged.

Please note that the date for the Midland Section Spring Tournament has been changed to Thursday, 24 April.

Paul Woodham



## MIDLAND

Well, as we are all too aware, and for some to their embarrassment, security against theft in and around the sheds is now of huge importance. What with motion sensors, laser beams, circuit breakers, mess rooms which resemble a jail, and the call at one in the morning from the alarm company only to find that a spider has tripped the alarm. However the Wrekin greenkeepers have an additional security system called Rebel, the Dobermann Pinscher, whose father is Karl Lans. Does anyone else have an unusual security system?

Now our Spring Tournament is to be held at Kidderminster GC; however the Club has double booked the published (21/04/08) date as on the fixture card and entry form. The new date is Thursday, 24 April. Don't forget you can download an entry form from our web site, just click on the Golf link. You can still use the posted entry form, but please could you please put a line through the date and put the 24/04/08 so as Gary knows that you have entered the correct day. For this year's first three Tournaments the cost of entry has been reduced down to £20 each, it is hoped that such shall encourage more of you to attend these great days.

Don't forget to get your Scotts Doubles entry in before the Spring Tournament, as the draw shall be carried out there. Now if you are thinking that the same old faces always win why enter? The dynamic duo that is Paul and Ed have been cut two shots each in this event for this year, so come on support this long running great event.

Now I must admit that our website is growing from strength to strength in both its content and presentation. Leigh has posted some very interesting STRI articles in the News & Reports link, check them out they are worth reading. Our thanks to the many sponsors of the website which of course can be found on such.

Finally, our thanks to North Staffs Irrigation for this month's calendar page. If we have a summer like last year we shall all need a reliable system for sure, they can be found at [www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk](http://www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk)

Sean McDade



## EAST OF ENGLAND

Hello again. Hopefully everyone returned home from Harrogate Week in one piece and the hangovers have now diminished. A good complement of East of England Section members were present for some part of the show and a full committee was able to meet on the Wednesday (some more in body than in mind!). It was also good to catch up with old friends again.

The show seemed like a big success and congratulations should go to all involved with work in producing the stands and the education programme for the week. I certainly learned a few things so my green committee had better watch out!

I was a bit dubious about returning to work on the Thursday after getting a picture sent to me from one of my staff showing the golf course a foot deep in water again (not quite deep enough to row a boat though!). However I am pleased to say that my attempts at drainage work have paid off and the holes are dry and open for now.

Congratulations go to Allan Walker on his last minute call up for the Bernhard Delegation to the GCSAA Golf Show in Orlando. As a previous delegate to the Orlando show I know that you will have a great time, it is an amazing show and the Bernhards crew take good care of you. Work hard and play hard, that is the advice I can give you. By the time you read this he will have returned and I am sure that he will have many stories to tell!

By the time you read this we will have had our final winter seminar, due to be held on February 27 at Elisham Golf Club. It is going to be presented by the STRI on the Disturbance Theory and should be very interesting to all those who attend. A full report will be here next time.

A quick reminder that our first golf day of 2008 is going to be held on April 16 at Pottergate Golf Club, Lincoln. A full fixture list should have arrived with the letter sent out about the seminar.

All Section members are reminded to make full use of our website: [www.eastofenglandbigga.com](http://www.eastofenglandbigga.com)

Anyone with any news to be mentioned on this page please contact me [Steveimmingham@aol.com](mailto:Steveimmingham@aol.com)

Steve Beverly Immingham Golf Club



## BERKS/BUCKS AND OXON

Players' don't get relief from divots in fairways or footprints in bunkers. Why should they get relief from spike marks on greens?  
Jeff Hall (USGA Spokesperson)

The BBO pigeon carrier service has been quite with little news to report over the three counties.

The much coveted ball and chain awaits Alistair Higgs from Blue Mountain GC who after having his arm twisted, with a night passion in his wagon (Cushman vehicle) has decided to tie the knot after proposing to Aimee his fiancée. Congratulations to you both.

Steve Chandler from Goring & Streatley GC had a blond moment and has recently consulted a Follicle Replacement Therapist and now on Sunday's can be seen batting with Graham Gooch, something must have gone to his head, Claire his fiancée of 15 years has accepted his proposal of marriage, Congratulations Steve, remember the pitter patter of tiny feet are just around the corner.

The Spring National Qualifier has been confirmed and this year will be held at Chiltern Forrest GC on Wednesday, April 23, also the Summer Tournament will be at Lambourn GC on the 17th July entry forms will be sent out early and can also be downloaded from the section website.  
[www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk)

The Rigby Taylor Pairs final was played at The Berkshire G.C. in late autumn, and the finalists were blessed with a fine winter's day. The Red Course provided a true test of golf for both pairs although Barry Holt from Burford G.C. struggled with a sore back after the two cooked breakfasts that he polished off or was The Great Holty using mind games on his opponents.

As the day progressed it was neck and neck with neither team able to take a commanding lead, nor neither team moving more than two holes ahead.

Teams were all square on the 18th as a sudden death payoff ensued. Sid Arrowsmith, who goes by the nickname, steady Eddie, had not been his normal consistent self off the tee for most of the game. Sid stepped up to the plate and blasted a long straight drive down the middle of the 21st hole to win and be crowned the Rigby Taylor BB&O Pairs winners for 2007.

The opponents from Waterstock G.C., Dan Gascoyne and Paul Tipping, fought bravely and indeed at times seemingly had the title in the bag, provided fantastic camaraderie and with true team spirit conceded the Rigby Taylor Trophy to Barry and Sid.

A big thank you to Course Manager Chris Lomas for arranging courtesy of the Red Course for the final and Gareth Acteson from Rigby Taylor for organizing and ensuring that all the people who took part throughout 2007 had fantastic days as did the finalists at The Berkshire G.C. Entry forms for the 2008 competition are underway and will be sent out to all members shortly.

On the 23rd April this year, the Spring Tournament will be underway and hosted this year by Chiltern Forrest G.C. which nestles in the Chilterns on the edge of Wendover Woods.

This will be your chance to win a place for The National Tournament later in the year and to take on a real golfing challenge which is The Badger, a 160 yard par 3 which is featured in the book "The 100 most extraordinary holes in England" and believe me you are in for a real surprise, especially if the wind blows. Enough said. Remember to put this date in your diary.

Entry forms will be sent out in good time with the TH White section fixture card for 2008 and details and information can also be downloaded from the section website which is [bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk](http://bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk)

If anyone out there has any news of views please get in touch.  
Have a great 2008

Mark Day [mark.day@tacitgolf.com](mailto:mark.day@tacitgolf.com)



## MID-ANGLIA

South Beds Golf Club hosted the Turkey Trot way back at the start of December and the results were as follows: 1. South Beds GC, J. Smith, M. Davies, D. Mennie and P. Compton. 2. Berkhamsted GC, L. Rance, D. Quinlan, M. Wood, G. Ravenscroft. 3. Mount Pleasant GC, G. Simkins, B. Brown, D. Hodkin, S. Moss. Longest Drive was won by Dale Housden and Nearest the Pin was Steve Moss. Special thanks go to Barry McCloskey, of Avoncrop, for generously sponsoring the prizes. Thanks also to all the other members of the trade for supporting the day and thanks to South Beds Golf Club for hosting the event. I understand the course was in exceptional condition and was a great credit to Tom Hooper and his dedicated team. Golfer of the Year was won by Steve Mason, from Stocks Golf Club, who did comment that the criteria was very complicated and, most crucially, he was the only one that could afford the bribe! Seriously though, well done, Steve.

For those of you that are acquainted with Mark Day, from Tacit, please take time to visit [www.justgiving.com/markday1](http://www.justgiving.com/markday1) as Mark is running the London Marathon this year in aid of the charity SENSE. On behalf of the Mid-Anglia Section, I would like to wish you the very best of luck and hope all goes well.

Some of the more senior members of the Section who may remember the days when Mods, Rockers, Scooters and the Brighton scene were the vogue may be interested to know that in April it will be 30 years since the making of the film Quadrophenia. To celebrate the anniversary there is to be a reunion for the cast of the film and guess who is going? None other than our own Mark Ellis who appeared as an extra due largely to the fact that he lived in the Brighton area and was the proud owner of a Vespa (I think he still makes some deliveries on it!). Oh yeah, and man can he act!

Starring alongside Mark were many other young budding actors and musician, many of which have suffered at the merciless hands of destiny and fate. Take Phil Daniels for example. He became a drunk in bar run by the Pub Landlord before moving to Walford Square to eek out a living



# Around the Green



as a dodgy car dealer only to die in one of his cut and shut motors! Sting played in a band made up from members of the "Old Bill", tried to save the world by singing and was last seen half way up the Amazon rain forest. As for greengrocer's son, Ray Winstone, apart from a few minor films, lavish screenplays and more notably voicing over the part of Soldier Sam in the Magic Roundabout, nobody's ever heard of him. Whereas Mark went on to a glamorous lifestyle of managing exclusive Country Clubs such as Mentmore and Stocks before jetting off to Spain as a gigolo only to return to his current position at Vassgro. Well good luck Mark, I hope you enjoy the reunion and don't waste too much time signing autographs.

After making the article last month, Jim Cassidy, from Ashridge, can't keep out of the news. Jim is off to Golden Eagle Golf Club near Lisbon in Portugal to manage the golf course. Good luck to you and your family Jim and keep in contact.

Craig Spooner [craig.spooner@advanta-seeds.co.uk](mailto:craig.spooner@advanta-seeds.co.uk)



## SOUTH EAST REGION – SURREY

Wednesday, February 6. My 2008 New Year resolution is not intact any longer and it's all the fault of the greenkeepers who were supposed to look out for me at Harrogate. Ron Christie and Douglas Fernie, how can you have let me slip on the muddy ground outside Rigatoni's restaurant and blame it on excessive wine when you both know about my unfortunate medical inability to tolerate even the smallest quantity of the evil drink. Whoever slipped that small sherry into my Cherryade ought to feel ashamed that my resolution, not to indulge this year, has failed again and I must now wait until 2009 for another opportunity. Oh well, never mind, here's to next year's vintage.

There are out there, in this greenkeeping industry, some who will want to enter the knockout Surrey Bowl. If you have not received an entry form please contact Roger Tydeman, he's the man in charge or even the Tydeman in charge, on his mobile 07711399036. The deadline is April 1.

Most members will remember, Mark Day, a larger than life character when he used to call on you, in Surrey, a few years ago. Well Mark has lost a little weight and has decided to run in the London Marathon this year for charity. He needs sponsors so if you have a few pence to spare please contact him on 07887723377.

One of Surrey Section's members latest addition to the worlds population belongs to Mairead and Craig Earnshaw, Oak Park GC. Padraig, 8lbs, was born on January 17. Congratulations and good luck to you all.

After a happy event it is with regret that I have to report on the accidental death of a young Surrey greenkeeper. Scott Swanson, the 17 year old son of Head Greenkeeper, Steve Swanson, was killed in a vehicle accident just before his 18th birthday. Our deepest sympathy to Scott's family and friends.

Brian Willmott [brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk)

## KENT

Finally some spring-like weather, skies are blue, the sun is beaming down gloriously, hoards of happy people are whistling away as they pass by, seagulls swoop majestically over the clear, blue ocean, the sand is starting to get too hot to walk on...Hold it! I hear you say. That doesn't sound like a normal February day in downtown Dartford!

That's because I'm not in Dartford, I'm on a beach in Tenerife and thoroughly making the most of a well earned winter break!

Back in good old Blighty I recently posted out close to 300 calendars to all of you in the Kent Section. These were the brainchild of several but pretty much individually produced by Danny Stunt, of Redlibbits Golf Club. Superb job mate and thank you. These must-have adornments for your desktop not only highlight our five golf days and all our sponsors, they contain some great photos of courses in our area. If you have not yet received one then please leave a message on the webpage, alternatively I shall bring a few to our first event at The London Club on March 25. We hope these calendars will become an annual production run to all of you. Entries will be limited to the London Club event for our National Qualifier so please don't delay in returning your forms to David.

We are also still compiling an event calendar for 2009 and would ask any of you interested in hosting a golf event to let us know. It really isn't as daunting as you think!

Sorry for the short report this month but I need to roll over before my back burns too much.

Happy holidays!

Rob Holland



## SOUTH WEST & WALES REGION – SOUTH WEST

I started last month by remarking how quickly the winter has evaporated in front of our eyes. By the time this one comes into print, we'll have started Spring renovation of greens and really be thinking about the mowing season. At Minch, we'll be continuing to Drill and Fill greens using the Ecosolve machine, and will combine this with deep scarifying, mini hollow tining, and vertidrainage. Some greens get up to four passes on pretty well the same day. The thinking behind this is lots of holes and disruption for a short time only, and then leave things alone. Sounds a bit drastic, but this has worked really well over the last few seasons, and allowed us to get the greens off to a good start early in the season. Michael Evans, who for years was Greens Chairman at my last club Lilley Brook, used to comment – "it's surprising what you can do to grass – it just keeps coming back" – hope he's right!

Harrogate Week was an outstanding success. Big thanks to all HQ staff, officers, and rank and file greenkeepers who contributed so much to make it so. Congratulations to Tim Needham, whose letter won the South West Section Patronage Scheme-sponsored place. One or two little wrinkles from



## SOUTH COAST SECTION

the week – like I arrived at the Cairn Hotel on the Sunday afternoon with a virtually empty car park to choose from. So naturally, I parked at the end of a row, not too far from the door, but well out of the way of delivery trucks etc, and promptly woke up on Monday morning with my car up to its axles in a dirty great flood. “Oi Worster - your poncy new car’s sinking out there” laughed a couple of hung-over greenkeepers over breakfast – I said “BMW can expect a pretty bl\*\*dy strong letter of complaint if it does”! Mind you, I got my own back the following morning as they had strayed into a club during the late evening, and the barman recommended a B-52 house cocktail. On the second visit to the bar he suggested they try a B-53 cocktail. The next thing they knew, they were up to B-58, and no one was quite sure what they were doing, where they were staying, or even who they were any more. Will some people never learn? Dave Rosselli and Adam Matthews were still reeling from two days cooped up with Frank Newberry (no offence Frank!) Worryingly, they’ve picked up some disturbingly clever management techniques – I never win an argument these days. The Disturbance Theory was both interesting, controversial, and, well, disturbing really, but if the attendance was anything to go by, of importance to a lot of people. Henry Bechelet and the team were just so enthusiastic, and gave a pretty well balanced picture.

The Conference Keynote speaker – “Spike” Jetsum, recently of the Red Arrows, was simply phenomenal. He brought home the importance of the team ethic – of everyone buying into the team and working together. A video of that for a rainy day in the shed, would be a superb motivational tool. Thanks to all who visited, exhibited, and put so much in.

The Section Spring Tournament will be at Clevedon Golf Club on April 24, the haunt of my old friend Barry Reeves. Barry has been at Clevedon in excess of 30 years, having been a Pro for a while, and has overseen the complete reconstruction of all the greens and an extension to the course. One of our most experienced members, and looking so well on it! There will be golf, and a short educational presentation by Peter Hampton, and Steve Nixon, of Bernhards. Details of our Section Education Programme will have been posted on the website using the Education Bulletin Board. Please check regularly for updates. We would welcome any suggestions, and members requests can be delivered using sponsorship from both our Patronage Scheme, and the Education Support Fund. So if there’s something you’ve always wanted to learn about, but never dared to ask (within reason!) please get in touch.

Hot on the heels of the Spring Tournament will be the popular Greenkeeper/ Amateur event at Minchinhampton Old Course on May 13. Timed just before “Brown Friday” (when the cows come out), this should be the best time of year to play this historic course. Look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, with the advent of improved club and ball technology, our greensheds are well in range of sliced balls from a nearby par 5 tee. Even the seniors are quite capable of carrying a ball into the compound with monotonous regularity. Imagine then my Mechanics concern when he read an advert in a golf magazine explaining how a heated golf ball will travel yet further - and purchasing a carry-case with an electric element inside will keep the balls at the “Optimum Temperature” for maximum distance. “Blimey” he muttered – “they’ll be dropping like fiery meteors from the sky next” – “better check-out the fire drill, just in case”!

Let’s have some feedback on Spring Renovation etc. on your courses.

Paul Worster [paulw@mgcnew.co.uk](mailto:paulw@mgcnew.co.uk) 01453 837355

First of all a big thank you to Chris Bitten our Secretary for completing February’s Around The Green article. Unfortunately I was one of the many who fell to the dreadful bug that was going around at the turn of the year, but glad to say now I’m fighting fit.

I now have the dates for this year’s Golf Days. Our first outing is the Spring Tournament which will be held at Arlesford GC on Thursday, May 1. This is always a very special occasion as we always remember Colin White. So please come along and support what I know will be a very enjoyable day.

The Summer Tournament will be at Burley GC on Thursday, July 10; Autumn Tournament at Salisbury & South Wilts GC on Thursday, October 9 and the Turkey Trot once again at Barton-On-Sea GC on Wednesday, December 10.

Other important dates are: The Match with the Secretaries at Brockenhurst GC on Wednesday, June 4 and the Annual Match between the South West Section which will be a fantastic occasion as it will be held at Remedy Oak GC on August 27. All of these above fixtures will be on the fixture card which you should all receive soon, if you have not already received.

The Pairs Competition is continuing this year with Alan Magee organising the draw and the running of this event. Please support it as it is an excellent opportunity to get to know fellow greenkeepers and play different courses. To register please contact Alan on: 01202 606668 or send him a cheque made out to “BIGGA South Coast” with details of you and your playing partner. Cheques to be sent to Alan at 12 Sutton Close, Poole, Dorset, BH17 8SS. The cost is £12 per pair. Standard FBBB rules apply with a nominated home course before the closing date of March 31, 2008. Any questions please feel free to call Alan on 01202 606668.

As a reminder, the new Tournament Organiser is Kevan Glass. Please contact Kevan from now on for booking and payment of Golf Days at the following address: Apartment 1, Forge Side Court, Lepe Road, Langley, Southampton SO45 1SS or on: 07859 053054 or on email: [glassy2003@hotmail.com](mailto:glassy2003@hotmail.com).

And finally, remember to keep me up to date with all the news in the area. Please contact me on the number below.

Joe Crawley 07721 389200



## DEVON & CORNWALL

Our first meeting of 2008 took place on a reasonably pleasant day (for January) at the beautiful links of West Cornwall and was sponsored by Barenburg UK Ltd and Cornwall Farmers, our thanks to them.

Attendance was in the low 60’s with approximately half of who tackled the course, myself included, I had the pleasure of the company of Andy Dunstan, Head Greenkeeper from Newquay GC, and Tim Ellis, First Assistant from Mullion, for the round-all of us a bit rusty I’m afraid-but we had fun!

# Around the Green

The course was in excellent condition and our thanks go to Course Manager, Keith Kemp, and his team for the use of the course for the day. The format for the day was an individual stableford 3/4 handicap for the Barenburg Trophy. The results were 1. Nick Olds, W.Cornwall, 37pts. 2. Steve Elliot, W.Cornwall, 36pts. 3. Roger Neale, Taunton & Pickeridge, 34pts. There was also Nearest the Pin on the par 3 15th won by Chris Ralph from Hele Park Golf Centre, and Longest Drive on the 18th won by Tony (Jacko) James, Head Greenkeeper from Killiow Park.

The non-golfers course walk was attended by the rest and proved to be of great interest as Andy Cole along with Steve Gingell, from STRI, gave a talk on practical sustainable golf course management.

After an excellent lunch, our thanks to the catering staff, the talk was on course policy, forward planning with you and your members, and a very interesting presentation by Steve Gingell on global warming and its affects, during which we were shown average temperatures in the UK over the passed ten years or so and how they have risen-certainly something for us all to think about.

On a lighter note just a reminder of the spring workshop on Wednesday, March 5 at Fingle Glen Golf Club, nr Exeter, on subjects such as sustainability, water and nutrient management, grass breeding and selection. Guest speakers for the day are Andy Cole STRI, Dr Neil Baldwin Amega Sciences, Brian Robinson, Director of Seed Research, and Stephen Denton, Grass Seed Development Manager, both from Rigby Taylor. Non-members such as Greens Chairman, Captains etc and non-affiliated turf grass professionals are also welcome.

A few changes to note Steve Evans, Course Manager for the last seven years at Yelverton, is starting full time work at Duchy College early February as "Greenkeeper Tutor and Assesor" Steve replaces Bill Pile who has done so much for Greenkeeping in Devon & Cornwall. George Pitts, we all know from Cannington College, is taking over the reins at Yelverton. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing all three of them best wishes for the future.

Finally our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 12 at Royal North Devon. Here's wishing for some drier weather!

Well done to all greenkeepers who made it too Harrogate and our thank you's to; Colin Webber for the free use of his mini bus; Symbio, for sponsoring the fuel; Graeme and Tim for collecting and returning the bus, and thanks to Keith Kemp for driving both ways.

It was a really good show with some excellent seminars. It sounded like everybody enjoyed themselves.

A big thank you must go out to the Duchy College and our Section for sponsoring three students who had a great time and found it a valuable experience. We plan to provide a bus up and back again next year, and we will be providing a free trip for one person as a raffle prize at this year's AGM.

Jerry Cole 07764 224582



## SOUTH WALES

Hi everybody, apologies for my absence over the last couple of months, but if you have not heard, my dear wife, Norma, lost her three year battle

with cancer. I would like to thank everyone for his or her support and kindness through our difficult time, thank you all.

As if that's not enough, more bad news, Ceri and Donna Richards lost their son, Evan, on the December, 20, 2007. Evan was born prematurely and suffered from serious complications. I am sure I speak for everybody when I say our thoughts are with you and your family at this sad time.

On to some good news now and its congrats to Paul and Mandy Johnson, Paul is Head Greenkeeper at Pyle & Kenfig GC and Mandy gave birth to a 7lb 1oz bouncing baby boy his name is Luke. Well done you two must be this Welsh air!

I know it's late but on December 7, 39 greenkeepers took to the links at P&K GC for our Christmas bash, our thanks to P&k GC for once again allowing us the use of their excellent course and facilities, to Paul and the team for all their hard work to present the course in such a fine condition, all the bar and catering staff for the excellent meal and service. Our sponsors for the day were Vitax and Celtic Mowers who were represented by Mr John Mullins and Mr. Kim Davies respectfully. Thank you for your continued support, which enables us events like today.

Onto the prize winners, and 3. Daryl Bray, 37pts; in 2. Jamie Probit, 37pts on count back; 1. Peter Lacey, with 38pts was our out going Secretary. Longest drive on the 9th was won by, guess who! Andy Roach. Nearest the pin on 12th was won by Mr Daryl Jones. The Silver Salver for best combined score over four tournaments went to Andy Hatcher, (Coed y Mwstwr ).

Our thanks to Mr Jeff Vincent, Vice Captain of P & K GC, for presenting the prizes. Last of all, thank you all for turning out, 44 of us sat down for dinner and it would be nice to see more of you at our golf days in the future.

That's it from me for now except to wish David Ward all the best in his retirement after 20 odd years' of loyal service at Royal Porthcawl Good luck! Dave, you will be sadly missed within the industry, up and down the country.

You should have all had your letters by now on the fixtures, don't forget the Spring Seminar at Royal Porthcawl on April 24.

I would like to wish Steven Chapel (Neath GC), all the best in his new role as Section Secretary. I am sure you will all give him your support.

Henry Stead 07889792190

## BIGGA's Regional Administrators



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



Clive Osgood  
SOUTH EAST  
Tel: 01737 819343  
Mob: 07841 948410



Peter Larter  
NORTHERN & MIDLAND  
Tel: 01476 550115



Jane Jones  
SOUTH WEST & WALES  
Tel: 01454 270850

Section Notes - Can all notes be emailed to: [melissa@bigga.co.uk](mailto:melissa@bigga.co.uk) by the 5th of the month prior to publication please. Suggested word guide: 500



# In the Shed

## ANSWERS

### CROSSWORD



### QUICK NINE HOLE QUIZ

1. Inigo Imago
2. 6 (Uruguay 1930, Italy 1934, England 1966, West Germany 1974, Argentina 1978, France 1998)
3. The North Pole
4. Edinburgh
5. Sweden
6. The river Ness
7. Robert Zemeckis
8. Dr Black's
9. It is the most visible colour in fog

### MONSTER SUDOKU

C	1	5	6	B	4	A	2	3	8	9	7
9	7	4	B	5	6	3	8	2	C	A	1
3	8	A	2	9	C	7	1	5	4	6	B
5	9	C	3	2	7	4	B	A	6	1	8
A	B	6	7	C	8	1	5	4	2	3	9
2	4	8	1	A	3	9	6	C	7	B	5
1	A	2	C	8	B	6	3	7	9	5	4
8	5	B	4	7	A	C	9	1	3	2	6
7	6	3	9	1	5	2	4	8	B	C	A
6	2	9	5	4	1	8	C	B	A	7	3
4	3	1	A	6	2	B	7	9	5	8	C
B	C	7	8	3	9	5	A	6	1	4	2

### SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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

# BUYERS' GUIDE

## AERATION

**HYDROJECT**  
AERATION AND CHEMICAL  
INJECTION SERVICE  
(WITH NO SURFACE DISTURBANCE)  
**KEITH DRIVER**  
(SPORTSTURF CONTRACTOR)  
Tel: 01273 679994 Mobile: 07958 532008  
124 Warren Road, Woodingdean, Brighton BN2 6DB



## F Woodward & Sons. Turf Care

Sisis Aer Aid System, Vertidrainning,  
Hollow Coring & Collecting, Herbicide,  
Pesticide, Fungicide & Fertiliser  
Application. Top Dressing, Overseeding,  
Stoneburying, Laser Levelling

Tel Phil or David on:  
01455 220767 or 07747 864677  
Wolvey, Nr Hinckley, Leicestershire  
Email: enquiries@woodwardturfcare.co.uk

## Use Airforce

Advanced Terralift technology

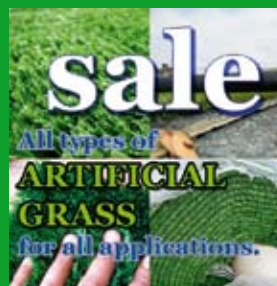
Relief of  
compaction and  
waterlogging  
Aeration to one  
metre depth

As recently used on  
the Waterloo Green and  
recommended by Bowls  
Manager Jim Parker

## TERRAIN AERATION

T: 01449 673783 F: 01449 614564  
email: terrainaeration@aol.com  
www.terrainaeration.co.uk

## ARTIFICIAL GRASS



## CLEARANCE SALE

All types of artificial grass  
From £7.00 a sq metre

IDEAL FOR  
PATHWAYS • CART PATHS  
TEE BEDS • FAIRWAYS ETC  
(UK delivery service)

0845 22 11 345  
www.grasstrader.co.uk



## Supatee Tee-Line Turf

- ✓ No sand in-fill
- ✓ No compaction
- ✓ No maintenance
- ✓ Accepts a tee

It plays just like real turf!

The **BEST** solution for:

- ✓ Practice ground tee-line
- ✓ Par 3 tees
- ✓ Winter tees



01780 781249 • 07932 037733  
info@supateeturf.com

## VERDE SPORTS LIMITED

Tel: 01254 831666 Fax: 01254 831066

- VERDE TEE TURF  
Sand & Rubber Filled Artificial Grass  
- Allows you to tee up from any position
- PATHWAYS  
Spike Resistant Verdeturf & Super Verdegrass
- TEES  
Driving Mats & Various Options
- PUTTING  
Adventure Golf, Mini Golf & Putting Greens

Chorley, Lancashire, PR6 8SW  
www.verdesports.com www.artificialgrass.org.uk  
email: sales@verdesports.com  
Please call for samples & information

## AGRONOMY

## B Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd

Bruce Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd, is an established company offering expert advice on:

- Golf Course maintenance
- Tournament preparation & presentation
- Machinery selection
- Budgeting
- Staff recruitment
- Soil & turf analysis
- Establishment of new golf courses

Contact: Bruce Jamieson  
Forth House, Bracknell Lane, Hartley Wintney, Hants, RG27 8QP  
Telephone: 01252 844847  
Email: bruce.jamieson@btconnect.com www.bigoff.co.uk

## CLOTHING / FOOTWEAR



FAMOUS SCOTTISH GREENKEEPER WEAR

Europe's Leading Suppliers of  
Clothing & Footwear for  
Professional Greenkeepers

CONTACT US FOR FREE CATALOGUE  
Tel. 01334 653733 Fax. 01334 653553  
sales@hoggs.co.uk  
Online Store Opening Soon

# BUYERS' GUIDE

## CONSTRUCTION

### LAND UNIT CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

#### Sportsground and Golf Course Construction

Hanslope, Milton Keynes, MK19 7BX  
Telephone: (01908) 510414  
Fax: (01908) 511056  
web: [www.landunitconstruction.co.uk](http://www.landunitconstruction.co.uk)  
e-mail: [sales@landunitconstruction.co.uk](mailto:sales@landunitconstruction.co.uk)

### MJ ABBOTT LIMITED

- GOLF COURSE & SPORTSGROUND CONSTRUCTION
- RENOVATION & MAINTENANCE
- IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
- LAND DRAINAGE SCHEMES
- WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Tel. 01722 716361  
[www.mjabbott.co.uk](http://www.mjabbott.co.uk)



**Delta Golf 2000 Limited**  
Construction • Remodelling  
Water Features  
Tel: 01604 468908  
Fax: 01604 474853  
[www.deltagolf2000.co.uk](http://www.deltagolf2000.co.uk)  
180 Ruskin Road, Kingsthorpe,  
Northampton NN2 7TA

**John Greasley**  
Specialists  
in Golf  
Course  
Construction

**JOHN GREASLEY LIMITED**  
"Ashfield House" • 1154 Melton Road  
Syston • Leicester • LE7 2HB

Tel: 0116 269 6766  
Mobile: 07836 553899  
Fax: 0116 269 6866

## COURSE MARKERS

**GressGolf**  
HANDCRAFTED  
TEE MARKERS,  
YARDAGE POSTS  
AND HAZARD  
STAKES



EXTREMELY GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY  
Example: 120 x Augusta style markers - only £399  
VISIT [www.gressgolf.co.uk](http://www.gressgolf.co.uk)  
For more information and photos  
OR Tel. 07771 986745

## DRAINAGE

**NO MORE  
FLOODED  
BUNKERS**



**Spot on**  
STANDARDS  
BUNKERS  
& GREENS  
DRAINAGE

01784  
248466  
[www.spotonstandards.co.uk](http://www.spotonstandards.co.uk)

**Harrogate week**

**EDUCATION**  
18 - 22 January 2009

**EXHIBITION**  
20 - 22 January 2009

[www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk)

**PHILIP DIXON**  
Contractors Ltd Est. 1978  
Sportsturf Drainage Specialists

**Golf Course • Sportsfield**  
Drainage • Construction • Renovation  
Slitting/Banding • Vertidrainage  
Groundbreaker • Sand Master  
Topdressing • Overseeding  
Spraying • Cultivation

Tel: 01772 877289  
Fax: 01772 877479 (Preston, Lancs)  
[www.philipdixoncontractor.co.uk](http://www.philipdixoncontractor.co.uk)

## DRAINAGE

Traditional  
drainage and  
Lytag banding  
of greens and fairways

North Staffs  
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706  
E: [NSIrrigation@aol.com](mailto:NSIrrigation@aol.com)  
[www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk](http://www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk)

**Duncan Ross LTD**  
Sportsturf Drainage Specialists

DESIGN : INSTALLATION : MAINTENANCE  
Pitch Construction : Piped Drainage Systems  
Sand Slitting : Blec Vibro Sand Banding  
Koro Surfacing : Vertidrainage : Topdressing : Overseeding

Appley Bridge, Wigan, Lancs WN6 9DT  
Tel: 01257 255321 Tel: 01257 255327  
office@duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk  
[www.duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk](http://www.duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk)

**WORTH DRAINING**

VERTI-DRAIN HIRE 2.5 & 1.6M  
2M & 1.5M GROUND BREAKER FOR HIRE  
SAND SPREADING & OVERSEEDING  
TOP DRESSING • SPRAYING  
Distance no object  
Tel/Fax: 01476 550266  
Mobile: 07855 431120  
Email: [worthdraining@talktalk.net](mailto:worthdraining@talktalk.net)  
[www.worth-draining.com](http://www.worth-draining.com)

**SPEEDCUT  
CONTRACTORS LTD**

**SPORTSTURF**  
Construction  
Drainage  
Renovation  
Sandslitting

Contact: Kevin Smith  
OXFORD 01865 331479

**Turfdry**

**Golf Course Drainage**  
Survey / Design / Installation / Greens /  
Fairways / Bunkers / Complete Courses  
Plastic Pipe / Turfdry Drainage System

For fast and friendly Nationwide Service

Contact Melvyn Taylor: 01283 551417  
07836 259133 / [melvyn@turfdry.com](mailto:melvyn@turfdry.com)  
[www.turfdry.com](http://www.turfdry.com)

## DRIVING RANGE EQUIPMENT



### GOLF DRIVING RANGE EQUIPMENT

- Unique Behind Wall & Integrated Ball Dispensing Systems
- Golf Ball Cleaners & Elevators
- Golf Ball Collectors
- Utility Vehicles & Mowers
- Edel "Green" Range Mats
- Fiberbuilt Range Mats
- Range Balls

Plus a full range of Accessories  
Approved stockist for  
**STANDARD GOLF** course products

Bucklesham, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP10 0DN  
Tel: 44 (0) 1473 659815  
Fax: 44 (0) 1473 659045  
Email: [rangeball@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rangeball@tiscali.co.uk)

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)  
and check out the  
latest chat  
from the  
greenkeeping  
industry

**TIME TO TALK**  
[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

## GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES



Our Lowest Ever Prices for 2007  
APPROVED U.K. STOCKISTS  
Fast Nationwide Delivery

**For all your  
Golf Course &  
Range Supplies**



Bucklesham, Ipswich, IP10 0DN  
Tel: 44 (0) 1473 659815  
Fax: 44 (0) 1473 659045  
[www.rangeball.co.uk](http://www.rangeball.co.uk)  
Email: [info@rangeball.co.uk](mailto:info@rangeball.co.uk)

## GOLF MATS



Fieldguard Ltd

Norley Farm, Horsham Road, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8EH  
Tel: 01483 275182 • Fax: 01483 275341  
E-mail: [info@fieldguard.com](mailto:info@fieldguard.com)



**GOLF MATS**

**GOLF MATS UK**

All weather mat in framework



Tel: 01580 892 002  
Fax: 01580 891 918

sales@golfmatsuk.co.uk  
www.golfmatsuk.co.uk

**GRINDERS**



Tel: 01207 270 316  
email: admin@huntergrinders.com  
www.huntergrinders.com

**B&M SHARPENING LTD**  
CYLINDER GRINDING SPECIALIST

Cylinder regrinds/replacement  
Bearing replacement  
Bedknife regrinds/replacement

Tel: 01280 840909 | Mob: 07936 036146  
Email: bms sharpening@yahoo.co.uk

**IRRIGATION**



**25+ YEARS EXPERIENCE**



**YOURS FOR THE ASKING...**

Irrigation systems, lakes and reservoirs, plus servicing, repairs, system updates and extensions a speciality.



**IRRIGATION SYSTEMS & SERVICE LLP**  
Unit 34-35, Downton Industrial Estate,  
Batten Road, Downton,  
Salisbury, Wilts SP5 3HU  
TEL: 01725 513880 FAX: 01725 513003

**Cameron IRRIGATION**

Suppliers of Irrigation Equipment to Golf Courses  
Bowling Greens, Landscapes, Horticulture.  
Existing systems renovated and upgraded  
**DESIGN • INSTALLATION • SERVICE**  
BS EN ISO 9001 Registered Company

Telephone: +44 (0) 1425 474614  
Fax: +44 (0) 1425 471296  
http://www.misc-irrigation.com  
e mail: enquiries@misc-irrigation.com

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

**TORO**

**IRRIGATION SOLUTIONS**

Call Lely: 01480 226858 or email: [toro.info@lely.co.uk](mailto:toro.info@lely.co.uk)  
[www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)

**Topturf**

Irrigation Specialists in:  
Design, Supply, Installation & Service Support.  
Offering Toro, Hunter, Rainbird products and Otterbine Aeration Fountains.  
0870 8720081  
[www.ttirrigation.co.uk](http://www.ttirrigation.co.uk)  
Toro & Otterbine Contractor of the year 2006

**OAKDALE T&G IRRIGATION**

Phone: 01427 874200  
Fax: 01427 875333

**OCMIS** bringing water to life

**Irrigation Systems**

Professional Design, Supply, Installation and Maintenance

Visit our new online store at [ocmisonline.com](http://ocmisonline.com)

**RAIN BIRD** **TORO**

Ocmis Limited  
T 0870 600 5131 F 0870 600 5132  
E [Sales@Ocmis.com](mailto:Sales@Ocmis.com) W [www.Ocmis.com](http://www.Ocmis.com)

**Independent Professional Irrigation**

Golf Courses, Bowling Greens, Sports, Racecourses, Gardens +++

Design/Advice Servicing  
New Installations Service Contracts  
Contracting System Upgrades  
Supply & Sales PC Systems

Telephone 01765 602175  
01765 690598  
Fax 01765 603488  
Area Dealer Email: [admin@par4.co.uk](mailto:admin@par4.co.uk)  
[www.par4.co.uk](http://www.par4.co.uk)

**TORO** **BTLIA**

BTLIA 2001 CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD

**AUTOFLOW SYSTEMS LTD**

The independent choice for irrigation:  
DESIGN : SUPPLY : INSTALLATION

Tel: 01603 759701  
[sales@autoflowsystems.co.uk](mailto:sales@autoflowsystems.co.uk)

**Design Installation Service Irrigation supplies**

**North Staffs IRRIGATION**

Tel: 01785 812706  
E: [NSirrigation@aol.com](mailto:NSirrigation@aol.com)  
[www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk](http://www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk)

**IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS**

**irritech limited**  
Independent Irrigation Consultants

Specialising in:-

- Existing system evaluation
- System design & upgrade
- Project management

Contact Roger Davey on:  
**01823 690216**  
[www.irritechlimited.co.uk](http://www.irritechlimited.co.uk)

**LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS**

**LINERS**

Liners for lakes, ponds and storage lagoons from the UK's leading contractor

Comprehensive advice regarding design and construction of water areas

Tel: 01206 262676 Fax: 01206 262998  
E-mail: [sales@geosynthetic.co.uk](mailto:sales@geosynthetic.co.uk)  
[www.geosynthetic.co.uk](http://www.geosynthetic.co.uk)

**PEST CONTROL**

**SCRAPEAWAY**

A New Organic Rabbit Deterrent  
10 years in the making  
Non-toxic  
Biodegradable

**AVAILABLE NOW**

For further details, brochure & sample  
Email: [enquires@swigley.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:enquires@swigley.freeseerve.co.uk)  
Website: [www.scrapeaway.co.uk](http://www.scrapeaway.co.uk)  
Mobile 07881 782975

BUYERS GUIDE

# BUYERS' GUIDE

## PUMPS

**ITT Lowara**  
 Lowara Quality Pumps & Variable Speed Drives.  
 T: 01297 630230  
 F: 01297 630270  
 E: lowaraukenquiries@itt.com  
 www.lowara.co.uk  
*Engineered for life*

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

**TIME TO TALK**  
[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

**GRUNDFOS**  
**Grundfos Pumps Ltd**  
 Grovebury Road, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 4TL

Tel: 01525 775450  
 Fax: 01525 775224  
 Web: [www.grundfos.co.uk](http://www.grundfos.co.uk)

Grundfos offering a wide range of quality pump solutions for all applications

**BE > THINK > INNOVATE >**

## RUBBER CRUMB

The use of RUBBER CRUMB on grass as top dressing has been granted a PATENT in the UK and Ireland under Number EP078830 1B1

**TEBBUTT ASSO. ARE THE LICENSEES**

with CROWN III rubber crumb Turf Reinforcement, the licensed product

Contact Tebbutt Asso. on 01253 342003 or Fax 01253 346644  
 e-mail: [tebbuttassociates@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tebbuttassociates@tiscali.co.uk)  
 www.tebbuttassociates.co.uk

**DUNWEEDIN**  
 RECYCLED RUBBER  
 TURF REINFORCEMENT

**Rubber Crumb for Turf Reinforcement.**  
 Dunweed in rubber crumb creates a wear resistant turf with excellent drainage properties.

The use of rubber crumb as a soil improver is protected by our UK patent: GB2244988.

Tel: 01928 735555  
[www.dunweed in.co.uk](http://www.dunweed in.co.uk)

## STORM SHELTERS

BESPOKE STORM SHELTERS  
 TREE SEATS & BRIDGES

**CREATIVE TIMBERWORK**

T: 01189 893576 M: 07973 666313  
 E: [sales@creativetimberwork.co.uk](mailto:sales@creativetimberwork.co.uk)

## TOP DRESSINGS

*Banks Amenity Products Ltd.*

**FENDRESS™ TOP DRESSINGS & ROOTZONES.**  
 DRESSINGS FOR FAIRWAYS AND TEES.  
 SCREENED FENSOL, LOAM & TOPSOIL.  
 BUNKER SAND & PATHWAY MATERIALS.

01858 464346 / 433003  
[www.banksamenity.co.uk](http://www.banksamenity.co.uk)

**Shirley Aldred & Co. Ltd**  
 Suppliers of high quality granular charcoal for over 200 years

- Use one of the oldest products known to man to treat black layer
- Totally organic product
- Prevent thatch build up
- Large stock levels of all grades
- Improve drainage and rootzone
- Delivery anywhere in mainland UK within 3-4 days

Tel: 01433 620003  
 Fax: 01433 620388

ISO 9002  
 UKAS

**LOVIE**  
 QUARRY & CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Producers of quality Top dressings, Specialist sands, Rootzone soils, Grit, Gravel and Pathway materials for Golf Courses, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches

Cowbog, New Pittsligo, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB43 6PR  
 Tel: 01771 653777  
 email: [sales@lovie.co.uk](mailto:sales@lovie.co.uk)  
[www.lovie.co.uk](http://www.lovie.co.uk)

## TREE MOVING

**Garstang Golf Club**

**TREE MOVING SERVICES**

Call John on:  
**07718 782146**

## TURF

**Lindum**  
 taking grass a step further

20 years of golf turf experience  
 5 golf grades including high bent greens on USGA rootzone, RTF for stabilisation and drought tolerance, and new Wildflower Turf

Tel: 01904 448675  
[www.turf.co.uk](http://www.turf.co.uk)

[www.turfservices.net](http://www.turfservices.net)

golf green / tee construction / renovation / verti drain / hollowtine services / irrigation / lake construction

Tel: 01474 747565  
 Mob: 07711770488  
 Email: [kmc@turfservices.net](mailto:kmc@turfservices.net)

**Tillers Turf**  
 growers of fine turf

**Specialist Growers of Turf for Golf Courses**

**Rootzone Turf for Greens**  
 Grown on USGA rootzone, top-dressed throughout the year, and mown at 6mm.  
 Predominantly bent sward

**Turf for Tees, Surrounds, Approaches and Fairways**  
 Various mixtures including ryegrass/fescue, 100% fescue, and bent/fescue grown on sandy loam topsoil.

**NEW for 2007**  
 RTF turf for pathways and bunker banks.  
 Tees supplied and laid, with optional precision laser grading.

Tel: 01652 678 000  
[www.tillersturf.co.uk](http://www.tillersturf.co.uk)

## USED MACHINERY

**GroundCare Direct at P.I Limited**

"Looking for Quality Pre-owned or End of Lease Machinery?"

For quality, inspected and serviced machinery, tailor-made to your requirements, look no further than P.I Limited. From a one-off purchase to a full package of machinery, P.I Limited offers a complete buyers service with specialist impartial advice. Contact us today and see how we can help.

Finance & Lease Arranged  
 Part Exchange Considered  
 European-Wide Delivery

01635 551665  
[sales@pilimited.co.uk](mailto:sales@pilimited.co.uk)  
[www.pilimited.co.uk](http://www.pilimited.co.uk)

## VERTIDRAINING HIRE

**PETER MANNINGTON**

**Professional Verti-Drain and Earthquaking Contractor**

Experienced operator, competitive prices and reliable service  
 Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211  
 or Mobile 07850 612061  
 1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green, Etchingham, East Sussex TN19 7QA

**NATIONWIDE VERTIDRAIN HIRE**  
 SELF OPERATED OR WITH OPERATOR

**TRACTOR WITH 1.6m £500 PER WEEK**

**TRACTOR WITH 2m £700 PER WEEK**

TEL: **01522 869100**  
[www.countygrass.co.uk](http://www.countygrass.co.uk)

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

**TIME TO TALK**  
[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

## WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

**Hydrotech Solutions**

- Golf Machinery Wash Water Treatment
- Positive Filtration – Non-Biological
- 200 + Systems Installed Worldwide
- Simple, Low Cost Installation
- Low Running Costs

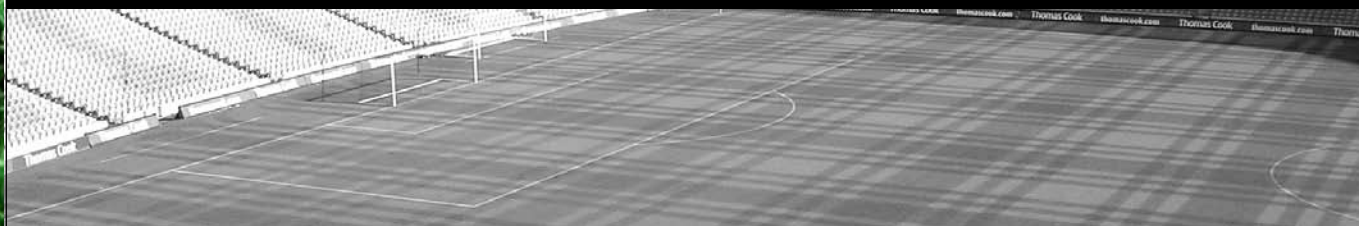
Tel: **01925 758099**  
 Fax: 01925 757519  
[www.grassgrabber.com](http://www.grassgrabber.com)  
 Email: [info@hydrotechsolutionsltd.co.uk](mailto:info@hydrotechsolutionsltd.co.uk)

**Waste2Water**

**BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS**

**ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.**  
 Tel: 01782 373 878  
 Fax: 01782 373 763  
 E-mail: [info@waste2water.com](mailto:info@waste2water.com)  
 Web: [www.waste2water.com](http://www.waste2water.com)

# REGIONAL MANAGER AMENITY Northern England and North Wales



**Barenbrug UK, a subsidiary of the international Royal Barenbrug Group, leads the way in breeding innovative cultivars and varieties to meet the ever increasing challenges faced by groundsmen and greenkeepers. This innovation, technical expertise and enthusiasm for the natural turf surface has helped the company rightly claim its position as the leading grass seed breeder in the business.**

We are looking to appoint a Regional Manager for Northern England and North Wales to promote and support our customers and grow our market share for our branded amenity mixtures. We have invested heavily in the region, including a dedicated production facility in Falkirk.

The successful candidate will need to develop close working relationships with existing distributors and forge new partnerships

with other amenity merchants in the area. The provision of technical backup is a major part of the Barenbrug offering and an important part of this position. We are seeking applicants who have an academic qualification from either the amenity, horticultural or agricultural sectors, ideally with knowledge of the amenity market or the capability to acquire it. Training will be provided in areas where needed.

The successful candidate will need to become part of our dedicated team, working closely with colleagues, Barenbrug Holland and other subsidiaries on technical, sales and marketing matters. If you believe you are capable of operating in the amenity market, are confident and capable of communicating with all levels of management, committed, self motivated and looking for a challenging and financially rewarding career, we want to hear from you.

Please send your CV, in confidence, by mail to: Julie Whitelaw, Barenbrug UK Ltd., 33 Perkins Road, Rougham Industrial Estate, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9ND or email: [JWhitelaw@baruk.co.uk](mailto:JWhitelaw@baruk.co.uk)

RECRUITMENT



**Benton Hall**  
Golf & Country Club

**BENTON HALL GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB**  
Wickham Hill, Witham, Essex, CM8 3LH  
Tel: 01376 502454,  
Fax: 01376 521050

18 Hole Golf Course • 9 Hole Par 3 Course • Club Shop • Large Membership  
Swimming Pool • Gym • 2 Studios • Spa • Sauna • Steam Room • Club Bar • Crêche

## COURSE MANAGER

A fantastic opportunity has arisen for a quality individual to fill the position of Course Manager at Benton Hall Golf & Country Club.

Established in 1992 on the river black water. The golf course design is the epitome of a classic English parkland course. Complementing the course is a modern and friendly health & fitness club and Par 3, 9-hole golf course.

This role requires a strong leader of people with good communication and organisational skills. It is essential that you have a full understanding of Health & Safety and COSHH regulations and promote safe working practices at all times. You will also possess a strong background in Greenkeeping, a recognised qualification in turf management together with PA1, 2 & 6 spraying certificates. You should also have a keen eye for detail and ensure exceptional standards of quality are maintained.

This senior position will report directly to the General Manager and salary will be negotiable depending upon experience.

Fantastic Package – In addition to a competitive salary, we offer an excellent range of staff benefits, including pension scheme, incremental holiday entitlements, complimentary use of facilities across the group and discount on retail goods.

Applicants are requested to apply in writing or by e-mail, enclosing a full CV, to:

James Gathercole, Benton Hall Golf & Country Club, Wickham Hill, Witham, Essex CM8 3LH  
E-mail: [j.gathercole@theclubcompany.com](mailto:j.gathercole@theclubcompany.com)  
[www.theclubcompany.com](http://www.theclubcompany.com)

The Club Company (UK) Ltd is an equal opportunities employer



**OLD THORNS**  
*Golf & Country Estate*

## 1ST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are looking to fill the above position and become part of an expanding team in one of Hampshire's premier golf courses

The successful candidate will be required to assist the Head Greenkeeper and supervise in their absence.

The applicant should be qualified to NVQ level 2 preferably with spraying certificates.

Salary negotiable according to experience.  
Live in accommodation available.

PLEASE APPLY IN WRITING WITH FULL CV TO:

Gregory Knights, Company Secretary, Old Thorns Golf & Country Estate, Griggs Green, Liphook, Hampshire, GU30 7PE  
or by email to [sales@oldthorns.com](mailto:sales@oldthorns.com)

# COURSE MANAGER

## COMPETITIVE SALARY PACKAGE



Wimbledon Park Golf Club is seeking an experienced and appropriately qualified **COURSE MANAGER** to join our Club team.

Set in a picturesque parkland environment, the Club has a well developed, mature 18 hole course that provides members and guests with the opportunity to enjoy the game of golf.

Applicants must have a proven track record with a minimum of 3 years experience as a Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, and a minimum qualification to NVQ Level 3 in Sports Turf Management. The ability to lead and work with an established greenkeeping team is essential, along with a determined, hands on approach to the work. The successful applicant will have a range of modern course machinery and an appropriate budget to help develop and improve the course and should possess relevant technical and management skills.

A competitive salary is available to the successful candidate and accommodation may also be available on a temporary basis. If you would like to be part of our team, please send your CV with a covering letter to:

**Patrick Shanahan**  
General Manager  
Wimbledon Park Golf Club  
Home Park Road  
Wimbledon Park SW19 7HR

or alternatively  
e-mail your CV and letter to [patrick@wpgc.co.uk](mailto:patrick@wpgc.co.uk)

**CLOSING DATE: 31st March 2008**



### WILDWOOD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB



Wildwood, a 27 hole Championship golf course is situated between Guildford & Horsham on the Surrey/Sussex borders. The course has USGA spec greens and covers approx 400 acres. We are under new ownership and are currently looking to recruit an experienced Mechanic.

#### MECHANIC

We are seeking a mature, qualified person to fill this prominent role. Working alongside the Course Manager and his team you will need to display and in depth knowledge of course machinery. You will be responsible for maintaining our fleet of maintenance machinery to the highest standards. The position is a key one within the team. A competitive package is available for the successful candidate.

Applications should be in writing to Gary Gornall, Wildwood Country Club Ltd, Horsham Road, Alfold, Surrey GU6 8JE or by email to [info@wildwoodgolf.co.uk](mailto:info@wildwoodgolf.co.uk)

### LYTHAM GREEN DRIVE GOLF CLUB

require a

#### MECHANIC/GREENKEEPER



The Club is working towards a full programme of in house repair and maintenance of its fleet of machines

Applicants must be qualified to NVQ level 2 in Green keeping with equivalent qualifications as a Mechanic

We can offer a competitive salary to the right person.

For further information about the position please contact the Club Secretary/Manager on 01253 737390 Option 4

Applications with a detailed CV should be sent to: Secretary/Manager, Lytham Green Drive GC, Lytham St Annes FY8 4LE

The closing date for applications is Friday 28 March



### FOREST OF GALTRES GOLF CLUB



Skelton, York

We require an **ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER** who is keen, reliable, hardworking, interested in the job and prepared to work flexible hours. NVQ Level 1 & 2 would be an advantage.

**Applications in writing to:**  
The Secretary, Forest of Galtres Golf Club, Skelton Lane, Wigginton, York YO32 2RF



CAME DOWN GOLF CLUB

#### ASSISTANT / 1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Assistant / 1st Assistant Greenkeeper with relevant experience required to work on this 18 Hole downland Golf Course.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

NVQ or Relevant Experience essential, Mechanical knowledge an advantage, Spraying Certificates advantageous, Computer skills desirable.

Apply in writing with CV to:  
The Manager, Came Down Golf Club, Dorchester, DT2 8NR

Closing Date: 21st March 2008



MOOR ALLERTON  
GOLF CLUB LIMITED

### HOSTS OF THE 2008 WORLD CORPORATE GAMES

Moor Allerton Golf Club, a prestigious 27 hole Championship Course designed by Robert Trent Jones on the outskirts of Leeds, invites applications for a highly motivated, experienced Greenkeeper to join a modern, forward thinking team of ten who pride themselves on the quality, presentation and continuous improvement of the course. Spraying and other certification would be an advantage but not essential.

A competitive package is available, dependent on qualifications with further training opportunities.

PLEASE APPLY IN WRITING INCLUDING CV BY 17TH MARCH 2008 TO:

Marcus Oakey  
Head Greenkeeper  
Moor Allerton Golf Club  
Coal Road  
Leeds  
LS17 9NH

WWW.MAGC.CO.UK



HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE  
GOLF CLUB  
requires a  
HEAD GREENKEEPER

We are a private members club, approaching our centenary in 2013, and situated on the south coast, on the outskirts of Christchurch, Dorset. Our little gem of a course has a local reputation for the excellent condition of its 18 holes of parkland and traditionally built greens. The position has become vacant because our Head greenkeeper is retiring after 30 successful years.

The successful applicant will be a self motivated, hands on professional with:

- Relevant experience and qualifications to a minimum of NVQ2 or equivalent plus appropriate spraying certificates.
- The ability to coach and motivate our young and keen team of assistants to achieve their full potential.
- The skills to develop and implement work programmes to maintain the course to the highest level of presentation within strict budgetary controls.
- A working knowledge of Health and Safety regulations and a commitment to promoting safe working practices at all times.

Please apply to:

Graham Fisher, The Secretary, Highcliffe Castle Golf Club, 107 Lymington Road, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 4LA.

**Closing date for applications 31st March 2008**

RECRUITMENT

### Could you sell Professional Groundcare Machinery?

For over 60 years we have been supplying and supporting sales of very high quality groundcare machinery to schools, councils, contractors, golf courses and private estates, and we are now looking for a new Area Sales Manager to work from our Surrey branch.

This sales role isn't about having the gift of the gab, its about having a great working knowledge of machines, the ability to listen and advise customers during site visits, conduct successful demonstrations, and most importantly, to back up anything you promise with actions.

Training is provided but you must already be highly motivated, a good organiser, practical and bright. If you would like more details of this exciting sales opportunity then please contact Jason Scott tel. 07836 37 66 44

**LISTER WILDER**  
Long Reach, Ockham, Surrey. GU23 6PF

### BOYCE HILL GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Founded 1922

has a vacancy for an

#### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience on a recognised golf course and will be required to work a basic 37 hour week, in addition weekend overtime work will be required on a rota basis.

NVQ level 2 qualifications and spraying certificates PA2 and PA6 would be an advantage. We are looking for a highly motivated individual with potential to progress to 1st Assistant Greenkeeper and beyond.

Please apply in writing or by e-mail, with CV to:  
The Secretary Manager, Boyce Hill Golf Club, 125 Vicarage Hill, Benfleet, Essex SS7 1PD.  
E-mail secretary@boycehillgolfclub.co.uk



### SALES MANAGER FOR HAMPSHIRE AREA

As one of the largest suppliers of turf and amenity products we are seeking a Regional Sales Manager for Hampshire and the surrounding area.

We are looking for a highly motivated individual to call on golf courses, sports grounds, local authorities, schools etc advising on and selling our portfolio of leading amenity brands.

Applicants should have experience in the turf & amenity business with or without a proven sales background. Have good communication skills and require a challenging career in sales.

The successful candidate will be given full ongoing training, an attractive salary depending on experience, a company car & pension.

Please apply in writing with your current C.V to:

R E Feltham, Managing Director, Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd, Northfield, Station Road, Winscombe, North Somerset. BS25 5NX

### CHARTHAM PARK GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Felcourt Road, Felcourt, East  
Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 2JT

#### MECHANIC

Based either Hildenborough, Kent or East Grinstead, West Sussex. The right candidate must possess skills and experience in mechanics. An agricultural or horticultural background would be desirable but not essential. You will be responsible for working on the maintenance of the golf course

equipment across two sites and general health and safety of the workshops.

#### GREENKEEPERS

Opportunities at Hildenborough, Kent and East Grinstead, West Sussex Reporting to the Course Manager you'll possess strong abilities to complete the day to day tasks within the team. You must have a background in Greenkeeping, a recognised certificate in turf management (NVQ Level 2 or equivalent). You will also have an eye for detail and ensure that quality standards are maintained at all times.

#### EXCELLENT PACKAGING BENEFITS

Applicants are requested to apply in writing or by email, enclosing their CV to:  
Matt Turner, General Manager at the above address or email m.turner@theclubcompany.com  
www.theclubcompany.com

The Club Company (UK) Ltd is an equal opportunities employer

## EARLY BREAKFASTS AND HEAVY RAIN

On the back of Harrogate it was a quick change, iron some shirts, see the kids for Saturday and Sunday then head off to the GIS show in Orlando. I knew I had a very busy schedule of classes, seminars and meetings ahead of me. With attendance from other Associations as well it was to be a big week. There were lots of highlights throughout the week and a big British and Irish contingent over at the show this year.

Classes started on Monday/Tuesday and there were plenty to choose from technical turf issues to management courses.

### WEDNESDAY

Set up the stand on the show. John, Sami and I attended the President's Reception and Main Show Reception. I met some old friends and made some new ones, from Canada and the States.

### THURSDAY

I attended the Superintendents' Breakfast Seminar. I attended this session last year and again was amazed at the number of people bearing in mind that the start time was a 6am breakfast, then from 6.30am, two hours of 20 minute presentations. There were at least 300 in the audience for the opening seminar 'Five things you can do with your stimpmeter'. Some very funny slides and a good presentation from Mike Morris. More about that later. Also, Dean Pillar, an old friend, gave a presentation on managing physical properties on greens.

I then moved on to the opening session of the GIS to see Greg Norman collect his Old Tom Morris Award. Greg gave a fantastic insight into his work within the golf industry and his support of the Golf Course Superintendents and greenkeepers, where he works for the GCSAA as Chairman of the Board of the Environmental Institution.

I was coming to realise that my very early start could have been a mistake later that day as I attended more meetings, with Rainbird Syngenta and then on to a dinner, hosted by Bernhard's. I was fortunate enough to be seated next to Mike Morris who had given his presentation earlier, so a very good evening followed, covering that, and many subjects.



The BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhards, was also in attendance.

An entertaining evening following what amounted to being a very long day for me, which had me struggling by 11pm.

### FRIDAY

Another early start to the Superintendents' Breakfast, very well attended again. Some more superb presentations. We were then on the move again to a meeting with the Mechanics Association to discuss how they could link in with our new category for mechanics memberships. Lots of education workshops and broadcasts through the internet with the possibility of linking through webcasts for education programmes

On the stand at the show I was amazed at how much interest there was in our Master Greenkeeper Certificate from the American Superintendents.

Also, some interest from exhibitors looking at stand space for Harrogate next year.

### SATURDAY

A much quieter day at the show which finished around lunchtime. A good time to get round and pick up some literature. Sami and I spent some time talking about future ideas going forward into 2009 for Harrogate with speeches and education. A leisurely afternoon followed with colleagues from the industry.

### SUNDAY

A day of rest before returning home, but not before work first thing Monday morning, turning my thoughts back to the real job.

## BACK AT THE COURSE

A very wet start to the week in which I returned. It began to dry out but had already given us some problems with our construction project on our 11th hole. With only three or four days completed construction in January. We are now four weeks behind schedule. With the course starting to dry out we can progress with the project once again. I was very impressed with how quickly the course did manage to dry out, although the delay gave us time to focus on our tree planting and thinning projects.

We then had our annual Supplier's Golf Day at the Belfry. We entertained our suppliers from within our golf departments, as they enjoyed a round on the Brabazon. Some good golf among the trade but some tough holes, for which I believe I was blamed....

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

I know we had a terrible January with average rainfall across the UK at 225mm - 9 inches in old money. It was the third wettest January on record. This varied from region to region with Scotland and N Ireland worst hit. This has put our industry on the back foot in terms of revenue streams and incomes. I am sure it will have a long term effect bearing in mind the horrendous summer of 2007. It is an impact we could do without and hopefully February will be kinder with more favourable weather forecasts.

When planning winter projects, I know that the norm in recent years within the industry is to do a lot more construction and disruptive work in the winter months than in the summer, so our greenkeepers are in need of some good weather in February and March if we are to push these plans on, otherwise the season will be on us. In addition we have to consider an early Easter in mid-March increasing the possibility of higher golf attendance and therefore expectation. There will be significant pressure to finish winter projects when really our golf season is May to October. This could cost us two valuable months of completion and again give us another back-log of work to carry through into next winter.

I hope you are all getting through your workloads and managing expectations in a difficult year already.



Kenny MacKay

Your next issue of GI will be with you by April 7th  
Visit our website for a full archive of BIGGA magazine issues at [www.bigga.co.uk](http://www.bigga.co.uk)

NEW!

# Dedicated *Speed* and Endurance

for broad spectrum disease control



Fusarium



Anthracnose



Dollar spot

- Contact and systemic turf fungicide
- *Fast*, long lasting and rainfast
- Controls anthracnose
- Use all year round, "whatever the weather"



Bayer Environmental Science



**Dedicate**<sup>®</sup>  
WORKS INSIDE AND OUT

Bayer Environmental Science, 230 Cambridge Science Park,  
Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0WB  
Tel: 01223 226680 Fax: 01223 226635 [www.bayer-escience.co.uk](http://www.bayer-escience.co.uk)

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL : USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.  
Dedicate<sup>®</sup> contains 200g/lit (18.2% w/w) Tebuconazole and 100g/lit (9.10% w/w) Trifloxystrobin.(MAPP 13612). Dedicate is a registered trademark of Bayer.  
© Bayer Environmental Science 2007.

# A tool to groom your bottom line – Toro Financing.

For more than 90 years, Toro has partnered with turf care professionals like you to create the world's most appealing landscapes. Toro is committed to providing innovative, reliable equipment to make your job easier. Now Toro introduces a product to help your bottom line: Toro Financing. Designed specifically for turf care professionals, Toro Financing can help you acquire the equipment you need to create picturesque, playable landscapes – and stay on-budget.

TORO Commercial, Irrigation and Consumer Products are distributed by Lely (UK) Limited  
St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH. Tel: 01480 226800 Email: [toro.info.uk@lely.com](mailto:toro.info.uk@lely.com)

TORO Commercial and Irrigation Products are distributed by Lely Ireland Limited, Kilboggan  
Nurney, Co. Kildare. Tel: 00 353 (0)45 526170 Email: [toro.sales.ie@lely.com](mailto:toro.sales.ie@lely.com) [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)



**TORO.**

**Count on it.**