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# **FACES and PLACES**

• Delight is shared by us all at the recent announcement that our President, Viscount Whitelaw, has been appointed by The Queen to the highest order of chivalry in Scot-

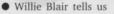
He is appointed Knight Companion of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle. Lord Whitelaw, who was born of Scottish parents in Nairn, joins just 15 other Knights Companion of the Order.

His appointment, especially appropriate for one so deeply involved with golf, was made by tradition on St Andrew's Day.

• A little merry-go-round has occurred recently in the Northern Section with Fulneck's Benny Hill taking over from Chris Raper at

West Bowling. This in turn has enabled Mick Rooks of Woodhall Hills to take over at We wish Fulneck. them all good fortune.

• We at Greenkeeper International join with all members of the Sussex Section in wishing Nick Beadle every success as the new Head Greenkeeper at Peacehaven Golf Club. Your editor, having watched the Peacehaven course turn from green to coffee brown over the past drought stricken year, is sure that Nick will find his fresh task a most challenging one.



of considerable natural curiosity generated over the appointment of a young lady greenkeeper at Rathno Park.

The mystery solved, Miss Heather MacKinnon has become a member of The Association and the 'East Scottish lads now look forward to welcoming her at forthcoming meetings. We join with them in wishing her good fortune in her new post

- Greenkeeper International joins with Ayrshire Section members and students at Ayr College in congratulating Alan MacWilliam, Portpatrick Golf Club, on winning the Best Student of The Year Award. The trophy is presented annually by the BIGGA Ayrshire Section.
- Trevor Neale, formerly an irrigation engineer with Rand & Sons, has joined irrigation consultants Philip York & Partners as Technical Co-ordinator.

Trevor, 33, will be responsible for providing technical support to each of the senior irrigation consultants at the partnership, with his new role placing great emphasis on involvement with fine turf irrigation projects.

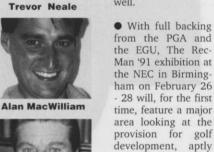
• Golf & Irrigation Services Ltd (GIS) is the name of a new creative force in golf course consultancy, design and management, set up to respond to the industry survey which suggests that 700 new courses will be required by the end of the decade to meet demand.

Currently working on several assignments in Western Europe and the Middle East, they are also closely involved in the design and construction of the new Harvington Lodge Golf and Country Club at Evesham, Worcestershire.

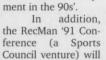
 Supaturf Products Ltd have appointed Stephen Seymour, 26, as Area Sales Manager responsible for Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Merseyside and North

and Mid Wales.

Stephen been National Karate Champion for the past 8 years and was World Champion in 1987. We wish him well.



**Derek Ganning** 



titled 'Golf Develop-

stage seminars entitled 'Planning for Golf and 'Managing Golf, both run in conjunction with the PGA. Details from The Exhibition Manager on 081 742 2828.

Greenkeeper International is delighted to join the many friends of Derek Ganning in congratulating him on his being awarded the British Empire Medal in the recent Queens Honours list.

Derek received his medal from Lord Aylesford at a special ceremony given in his honour at The Belfry in November.

Derek is known far and wide as the Course Manager of The Belfry, the 36 hole complex that is headquarters for the PGA and the venue of the recent Ryder Cup triumphs. If it is true that the site itself has been the subject of adverse criticism, it can equally be said that Derek Ganning has unfailingly delivered playing conditions that are clearly above reproach.

Whilst not knowing the criteria applied in the awarding of such honours, we are in full accord with the wisdom of such thinking, recognising as we do that Derek Ganning has been a true ambassador for the profession that he loves and serves so well.

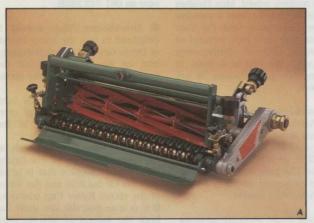




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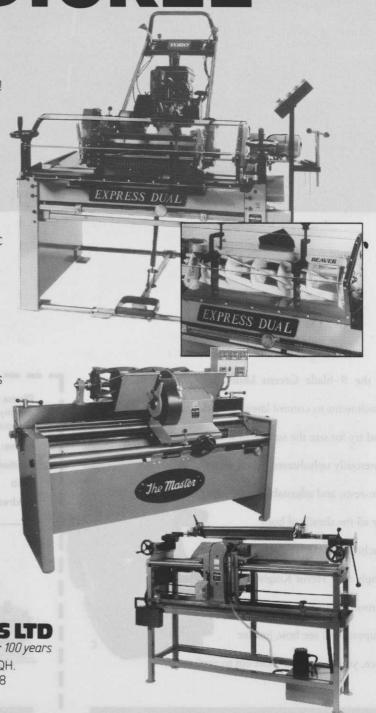
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#### To The Editor

I have been a greenkeeper for twelve years, a member of the Northern Section of BIGGA and a serving Section committee member for some time, and a keen attendee of the many winter lectures and year round golf competitions organised for the benefit of our section.

I write to express my disgust at the miserable attendance for the recent lecture on Controlled Release Fertilisers, given by a staff expert from Sierra UK Ltd at West Bowling Golf Club on November 7th.

Why am I disgusted? Because only three Committee members and nine greenkeepers deemed it worth attending!

Imagine the scene. We have an interesting subject, of importance to all who gain their living from green-keeping, covered in an informative and entertaining way by an expert. He has travelled from Kent to address an audience that might have been a potential 200 or more. He is faced with a gathering of twelve.

The Northern Section has nearly 300 members and I think it is high time they took a positive interest in winter lecture subjects and not only in playing golf competitions.

Those who did not attend, for whatever lame reason, must feel that they have let their section down.

So come on you chaps, let's make these meetings worthwhile by lending support for a couple of hours. Quite apart from the benefits gained, they offer a grand opportunity to meet old friends and join them for a drink or two.

BRIAN D CARR

Head Greenkeeper, Howley Hall Golf Club

# To The Editor

The game of golf has, over the ages, been widely known as one where good manners and impeccable behaviour are synonymous. May I therefore point out an unacceptable face which appears to be creeping into the game, at club administrative level.

Youngsters these days spend a lot of time trying to become proficient at their chosen vocation. Upon leaving, they obviously apply for jobs and send off applications. Sadly I have to report that young dedication is not always matched by good administration at certain Golf Clubs.

When a Club advertises a post, for example in this magazine, surely it is only good manners for the secretary to reply to the application – even if it be rejection of the possibility of an interview.

I have come across a number of cases in the last year or so of Clubs simply not bothering to reply. One young lad had made 11 job applications with only one reply, a situation I find disgraceful, don't you?

So, all you secretaries and managers of Golf Clubs, a heartfelt plea to please reply to all the youngsters – and indeed to all others – who write in the hope of making their career in this wonderful sport of golf.

MALCOLM HUNTINGTON

• Malcolm Huntington is perhaps better qualified than most to comment on good sporting manners, being a sports journalist, a top level tennis umpire and an Olympic Games official. Like most sports writers, he is in admiration of golf's good manners, witness as he is to many fiery and temperamental outbursts in other sports.

# Letters

#### **To Neil Thomas**

My name is Jonas Ogvall. I am twenty years old, and I live in Gothenburg, Sweden.

I have been working at Delsjo Golf Club for superintendent Jerker Tobiasson over the past three summers and have found this most interesting and enjoyable. I would like now to learn more about the care of a golf course and I think there is much to be learned by working outside Sweden.

I therefore wonder if you can help me to obtain a job at a golf course in Great Britain. I would be free to work from now until the end of April 1991.

I have played golf for some seven years and have a handicap of 3. Apart from playing a great deal I have recently become a member of the green committee.

JONAS OGVALL

Konsertvagen 13, S-435 44 MOLNLYCKE, Sweden Is there a head greenkeeper or course manager that can help? - please make contact with Jonas directly.

## **To David Golding**

I write to thank you and BIGGA headquarters staff for the In-house Management Course which I attended most recently.

The organisation was excellent and the course content was exceptional; from Nick Bisset's humorous look at communications to the very serious subject of health and safety by Graham Oddy, which gave us food for thought. The 'hands-on' experience Fred Robinson gave to us with computers provided more than a glimpse into the future of greenkeeping management, and leaving 8 computers with us for a whole week showed great trust!

All in all it was a very enjoyable time, if not a little exhausting. In fact, the only disappointment came in discovering that only 35 greenkeepers had registered for the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Does this mean that only 35 greenkeepers in the country consider themselves under qualified?

I believe this certificate programme will become the pinnacle of education for greenkeepers in the future, but only with their utmost participation.

PETER GEE Nevill Golf Club

# **To David Golding**

May I take this opportunity of thanking BIGGA for the splendid hospitality I received at Aldwark Manor during the finals of the BIGGA/ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

I would also like to express my thanks to ICI for sponsoring this event and long may it continue.

Finally, my sincere thanks are extended to the other finalists for their support – I feel we were all winners of this award.

**ANTHONY DAVIES** 

Head Greenkeeper, Prestbury Golf Club

Opinions expressed in these columns are not necessarily shared by the editor of BIGGA and the Association accepts no responsibility for them.

Letters to the editor are welcome on any topic related to the practice or pursuit of greenkeeping. Write to the editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firle Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL. Letters should be signed.

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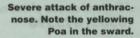
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RUTUM

# **SEASONAL MISERY** IN THE SHAPE OF **TURFGRASS**

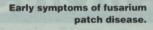


**Individual Poa plant with** rotted base - characteristic symptoms of anthracnose.











As most greenkeepers are aware, there are several disease problems of fine turf that may be damaging and disfiguring during the winter months. Two such diseases, namely anthracnose and fusarium patch, are particularly troublesome especially where annual meadow grass (Poa annua) forms significant proportion of the sward. In this article NEIL BALDWIN describes the cultural and environment conditions that favour outbreaks of these diseases, and gives details of the most effective prevention and control methods

available for greenkeepers to follow.

# **Curse of the yellow patches**

Anthracross, caused by the fungus Colletotrichum graminicola, is seen throughout the winter as yellowing individual annual meadow grass plants in the sward. In cases of severe attack large patches of affected turf may develop which cause serious damage to the putting surface. At later stages of disease development small black pin-head sized structures may be seen at the base of the plant which is rotted

(figure 1) and consequently diseased plants may be easily removed from the sward.

Fusarium patch disease (Microdochium nivale), a common and familiar sight to most UK greenkeepers in the winter months, is probably the most damaging and disfiguring disease in golf greens. Whilst the characteristic symptoms of orange-brown patches with paler centres caused by the disease are probably

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AD REF recognised by most greenkeepers, the appearance of fusarium patch in its early stages of development are not familiar to so many (figure 2). However, it is essential that fusarium patch is identified in its earliest stages as it is then that control methods are the most effective.

The cultural and environmental conditions that favour the development of anthracnose and fusarium patch diseases are categorised in table 1 below:

Thus, with an understanding that both diseases are favoured by the presence of Poa and surface wetness, it is not surprising that these diseases may occur concurrently during the winter months.

## An old problem, and a new one

Whilst fusarium patch has been recorded for over 20 years on golf greens, anthracnose is a comparatively recent problem. As with most turf disease problems, the increasing incidence of anthracnose in recent times may be associated with the changes in golf course play and greenkeeping practice.

In particular, two factors have probably played a role in the development of anthracnose. The high numbers of rounds played on many of our courses has led to wear and compaction problems, which in turn has led to a stressed annual meadow grass sward. Current trends in greenkeeping practice advocate fertiliser programmes based on nitrogen only, together with minimal irrigation, which again stresses annual meadow grass.

Of course the aim of these practices is to stress the undesirable meadow grass so that bent (Agrostis spp) may thrive. However, a stressed Poa is highly prone to anthracnose disease. In situations where the Poa content of the sward is low, anthracnose may be thought of as beneficial as it selectively removes this plant species from the green. However, where the Poa forms a significant proportion of the sward, (figure 2) the disease may be considered a serious problem and thus require control.

## **Integrated Management of Anthracnose** & Fusarium Patch

Integrated disease management is defined as the complimentary use of cultural, biological and chemical methods to maintain disease at an acceptable level. These are listed in table 2. It is clear that the good turf management practices of Poa reduction, adequate fertiliser programmes and regular aeration, will have a beneficial effect on the turf to the detri-

# Tacklin the old and nev threats

ment of disease development. As both anthracnose and fusarium patch are primarily diseases of Poa, biological control: ie choice of disease resistant varieties of grass, is not appropriate.

Due to the widespread occurrence of Poa in golf greens throughout the UK and the cold wet nature of British winters, in many instances both diseases may occur even if all attempts are made to prevent outbreaks by cultural methods. Thus the careful and judicious use of fungicides may be necessary to maintain greens to a good standard.

There is only one fungicide currently Approved for use against anthracnose, namely chlorothalonil (Daconil Turf Fungicide). For fusarium there are several Approved fungicides that may be considered. During the winter months it is the contact fungicides that give the best results as they have eradicative properties. Also systemic fungicides, (table 3), if applied in the late autumn/early winter period, may inhibit the development of fusarium patch.

Further suggested reading: 'Turgrass Pests and Diseases' (1990) 72pp including 32 colour photographs. £5.50 including postage from: STRI, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 1AU.

 Dr Neil Baldwin, the author of this article, is well known to our readers as the Sports Turf Research Institute's Plant Pathologist.

# Table 1

Conditions that favour disease outbreak

## Anthracnose • Fusarium Patch

Predominance of annual meadow grass in sward. Surface wetness and poor sub surface drainage. Cool ambient and soil temperatures.

- Low fertility conditions . Both acid & alkaline
- High fertility conditions Alkaline turf surface
  - - Compaction Humid atmosphere conditions/dew

# Table 2

Integrated disease management

#### Anthracnose • Fusarium Patch

Reduce/eliminate annual meadow grass in sward. Maintain adequate fertility Ensure good surface/sub surface drainage.

- Relieve compaction slitting/vertidrain Do NOT apply materials containing lime. Avoid
- - late season fertiliser
- Fungicides chlorothaloil Approved . applications or uneven/ excessive top dressing.
  - Fungicides: see text.

#### Table 3

# Systemic Fungicides • Contact Fungicides

- benomyl (Benlate) . carbendazim (Fisons
- chlorothalonil (Daconil
- Turfclear and Mascot

(Mildothane)

- Turf Fungicide) iprodione (Rovral
- Contact) Green)
- thiabendazole (Tecto quintozene (Brassicol
  - wettable powder) Systemic Turf
  - cinclozalin (Mascot fungicide)
- contact) thiophanate-menthly

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