

## A Greenkeeper International tribute to supporters of the Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund.

### Number 3: STEPHEN FELL, Lindum Seeded Turf



**BIGGA  
GOLDEN KEY  
CIRCLE**

**S**tephen Fell, the chief executive of HR Fell & Sons Limited, a long established family agricultural business of which Lindum Seeded Turf is the turf production and marketing arm, is a man of many parts, or perhaps to put it more accurately, many careers.

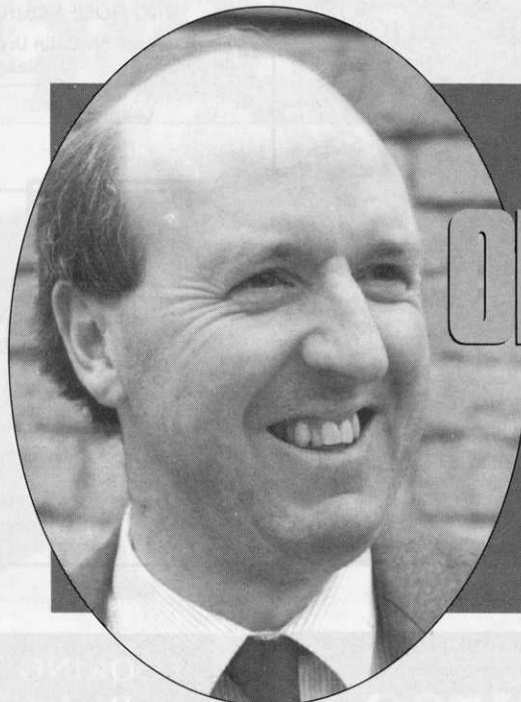
What most would be delighted to have crammed into a lifetime, Stephen seems to have crammed in within just a few short years, and whilst it would be every young man's dream to travel extensively whilst carving a career, each of Stephen's sorties to far flung corners of the globe, undergoing many different though essentially agriculturally related tasks, has neatly and successfully dove-tailed into his earning a living, with a clear cut path of progression emerging.

To understand more of Stephen as the turfgrass businessman however, one perhaps must look at the family connection, in particular the paternal influence of his father, Henry Fell, who is chairman of the company and a Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Society. Henry is a Council Member of the Royal Agricultural Society and is well known and highly respected in both British and European agriculture. Add this to the fact that the company is managed personally by members of the Fell family, each playing an important part in the overall success of the business, and it seems to logically follow that Stephen has enjoyed a guiding influence from an early age and that his present task of chief executive can be seen to have followed a very logical path indeed.

Stephen himself is a Member of the Royal Agricultural College, having taken a Diploma in Rural Estate Management in 1975 and is also a Chartered Surveyor, qualifying in 1977. He worked as a surveyor with ADAS in Durham, essentially involved in land use and open cast reclamation and also managed a farm in Limoges in France for four years. He was estates manager at the large country estate in Kent of Robin Leigh-Pemberton, taking control of farming, forestry and property management for nine years and as previously noted, he has travelled extensively both as a Nuffield Scholar in the Antipodes and then studied turf technology in Australia, the United States and, of course, throughout Britain.

As one might expect, Stephen is in love with the countryside, though one could never call him a rabid conservationist in the now accepted sense. No, for that would mean he was anti golf courses, anti developments, anti growth and anti progress in a golfing sense and certainly anti diversification – and that is clearly not his line. To appreciate his philosophy, we can do no better than extract segments of his recent address to the BIGGA Education Conference at Cirencester, in which he talked of an awareness of big golfing projects that have failed, loan capital that has all but dried up and of speculators going bust and hurting others in the process. No one knows more than Stephen how hard the media has been on golf recently and of the hostility of the environmental lobby.

From all this doom and gloom, Stephen emerges as the eternal optimist, well aware that



**AN  
OPTIMIST  
AND A  
REALIST**

if the need for 300 new courses in the next three years is met, this will mean a demand for turf and seed – and also at least 300 new greenkeepers! His optimism is coloured with more than a touch of realism in seeing that with the decline in farming fortunes has come the general farmer who suddenly thinks that turf must be a profitable enterprise. Armed with only a thin veneer of expertise the new farmer/turf grower has cast his net into muddy water and therein, warns Stephen, lies the problem, with turf grown on a whole range of soils, nearly all of them incompatible with the rootzone mixes on your greens and tees. He further warns that greenkeepers should be vigilant in seeking out only fine turf grown on stone free sands such as are found only around York, in North Lincolnshire between Caister and Market Rasen, and near Woodbridge in Suffolk. Don't be deluded, he says, for on soils other than those highlighted the growers are on suspect territory and one should not be led astray by their doubtful cut price products.

Turning a moment from the man to his company – Lindum Seeded Turf – it is well known that Lindum are avid supporters of BIGGA and their education cause, and for the past two years they have sponsored our National Education Conference and contributed in many varied ways, all geared toward making the lot of the greenkeeper a better one. They believe that efficient golf course management and country conservation are compatible and are actively involved in negotiations for the setting up of a nationwide wildlife and conservation management programme at an affordable price. Why do Lindum want this? Quite simply because they see the need developing if not being forced upon the industry and feel that the service would fit well within Lindum's

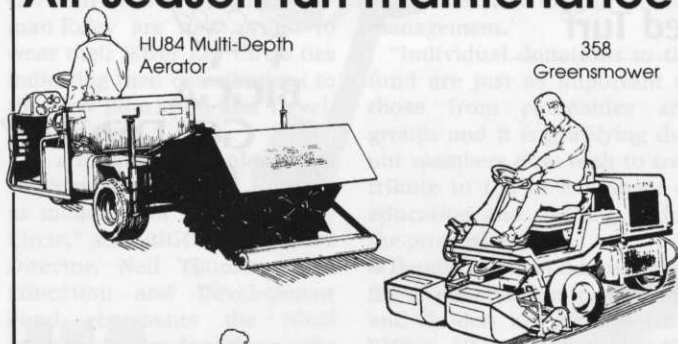
current portfolio of services and products. How would it work? Through a network of 42 advisors (16 in Scotland) who are mostly graduates and all experienced in ecology and conservation management. The service is envisaged as taking the form of a visit from a local advisor, one well acquainted with the type of habitat and indigenous species, and the production of a written appraisal to include highlighting areas of specific interest, outlining recommendations for future management and providing information on possible grant aid that may be available. Follow up visits would be available and on course half day training sessions with several greenkeepers from one area are envisaged.

Lindum may well be in the business of supplying fine turf, as their list of clients bears witness, including such internationally famous courses as Gleneagles, Royal Birkdale and Wentworth, but they are also in the business of preserving the environment, of maintaining excellent course aesthetics. In short, they have their finger on the pulse of nature.

In describing Stephen Fell earlier as a turfgrass businessman, the picture fell short of describing the man totally, for he is a naturalist, a man with a feeling for the beauty of the land, one who is friends with the countryside and one who believes that a well designed golf course should be a celebration of nature. All this in a modern business with a long standing policy to major on quality and to use only the very best STRI approved varieties grown on light sand to ensure fast establishment and bonding on the customers prepared site. The latest technology is available to Lindum and this ensures that these quality standards are consistently maintained and that confidence in their products is never questioned.

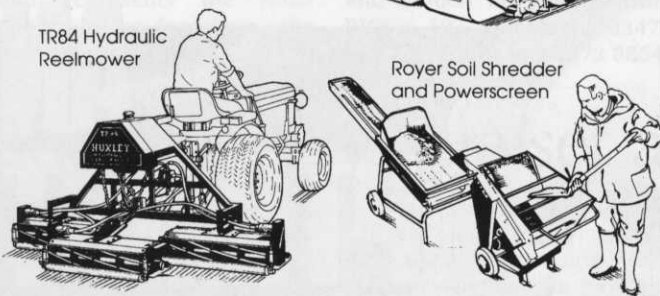
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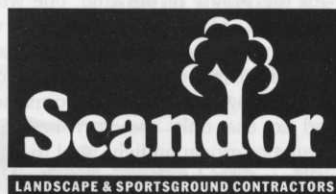
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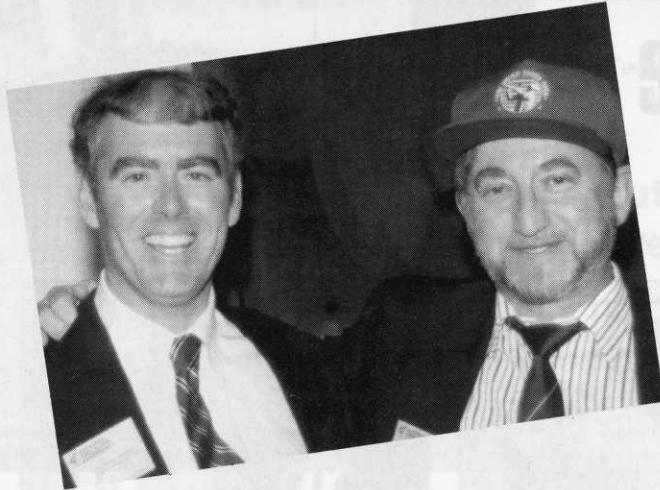


## DAVID WHITE, reporting on an ambitious BIGGA National Education Conference, discovers how the learning process can be inspirational – and even fun

Three days of incarceration in a college theatre is not the sort of thing too many greenkeepers would wish upon themselves, but the whisper that became a roar – that BIGGA conferences are somewhat different – was out, and on the occasion of the Lindum Seeded Turf sponsored BIGGA Education Conference staged at the inspired seat of learning, Cirencester Agricultural College, delegates were unanimous in declaring three days as not nearly enough! Time and again one would hear comments that this was the best conference yet, that there was so much to learn, that they wished it might go on longer, and (with not a little touch of pride) that the greenkeepers had the professionals licked into a cocked hat in terms of both material and presentation! It was magic stuff and did much to bolster self esteem in a profession that is clearly on a rapidly rising curve.

Certainly the ambitious programme covering seventeen presentations from no less than fourteen speakers called for slick adherence to timing, and although on this occasion our able chairman Gordon Child was minus his red light warning, his skill in running a tight ship was again evident – we'll award him ten out of ten for efficiency!

One way to win instant acclaim is to tell an audience something they want to hear, and Tom Cook began on a high note by stating in his presentation 'Can we maintain pure bentgrass putting turf in cool temperate climates' that the answer was a categoric NO! In truth, he covered all angles by maintaining that in parts of the USA he believed the answer was yes, and continued by explaining why bentgrass failed, revealing that in no less than 450 courses in Oregon and Washington (climate similar to Britain) there were no 20 year old courses with pure bentgrass greens, probably fewer than 20 mature courses with more than 50% bentgrass on greens



**Top: Delegates gathered in the lecture theatre, below, an Anglo-American exchange – Patrick O'Brien from the USGA Green Section gains the benefit of Jon Allbutt's knowledge, Jon Allbutt gains... a US Open cap. Above, from left, Bernard Findlay, Carol Borthwick and Geoff Hodson.**

and the average green in this region was probably yielding 80-95% Poa annua. The rogues in this equation were revealed as over zealous use of water and surface disturbance.

It would take the length of a novel to report thoroughly on every aspect of the conference, the reader therefore must be content with this overall picture spanning many hours of presentation, whilst appre-

ciating that some of the papers may form future features within Greenkeeper International. Thus I will mention without comment the presentation given by Dr Neil Baldwin of the STRI on 'Integrated disease management', the talk on 'Project management compared with normal golf course construction contracts' by Jonathan Gaunt, the insight into 'Greenkeeping in Norway' given by

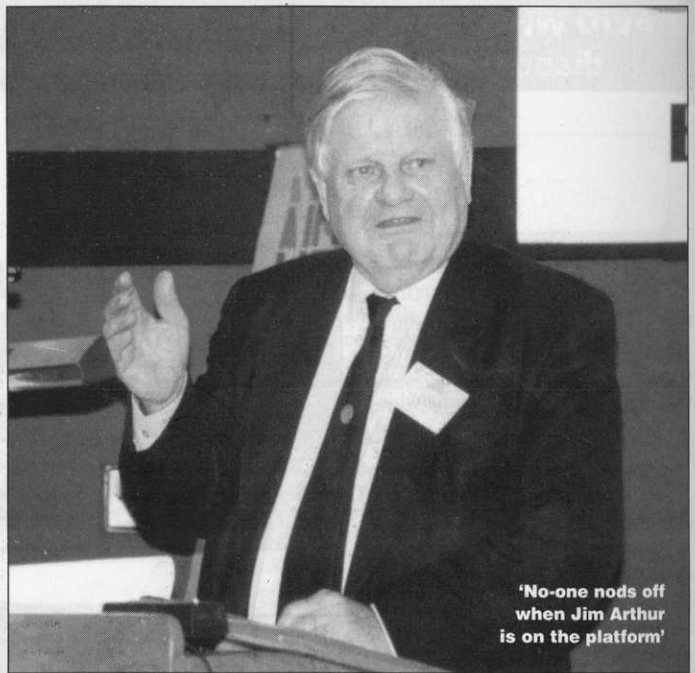
Tor Senstadt, and Gordon Jaaback's presentation on 'Limitations in root-zone design', not to dismiss them but rather to concentrate on the first of a trio of head greenkeeper presentations, that of Royal Liverpool's Derek Green on 'Dry Patch'.

Derek told in his typical droll humoured style of the 180 hydrophobic acres on the links of Hoylake, with some 50-60% of Dry Patch on any one green which appeared in a mosaic pattern. Some of the worst affected areas at Hoylake, we learned, were in roughs and sand dunes which had never been treated with anything. The theory was suggested that Dry Patch might be caused or exacerbated by sand top dressing applications, necessary with increased play, though Derek was at pains to point out that his links greens were not pure sand, rather a 80-20 mix with dirty sand and crushed shell. Dry Patch at Hoylake was certainly no recent phenomenon either, for old records revealed that the problems were first noted back in 1920. Derek told an amusing tale of the investigative work undertaken by the STRI, when he jokingly suggested that at one time it seemed they were taking so many samples that his fear was that an upcoming tournament might well be played over 15 greens at Hoylake and 3 at Bingley! Thus far, he told us, no positive results have come from these experiments, though of course he remains optimistic.

To round off our first day, Jim Arthur presented a paper on 'Drainage, before and after construction', this originally scheduled for delivery by his indisposed old friend, Barry Cooper. Although Jim delivered Barry's piece word perfect, he could not, of course, resist the temptation to spice the contents with his own invaluable reminiscences and observations – pure vintage Arthur of the finest quality which nicely rounded off the official proceedings, though shop → 14

# UNMISSABLE

# It was magic stuff and did much to bolster self esteem in a profession on a rising curve



'No-one nods off when Jim Arthur is on the platform'

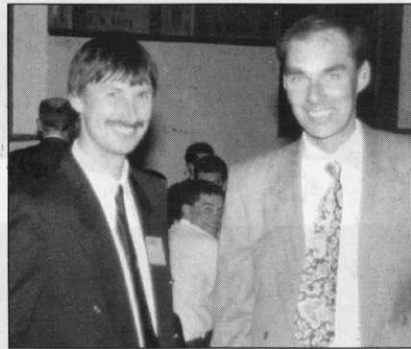
13 → talk continued well into the small hours!

Jon Allbutt is well known to our readers as both author and presenter of no-nonsense information relating to spraying, pesticides, codes of practice, COSHH regulations and the like. Delegates might have been forgiven for thinking beforehand that his subject, 'Using chemicals on the course and complying with the law', was as dry as dust, but the man is a veritable wizard in making presentations not only interesting but fascinating. Thus we enjoyed forty minutes of Jon, whilst learning of the perils that lurk in failing to comply with the law. One wag was heard to whisper, 'he could make a 'phone book sound exciting', and indeed this was the case, a hard act to follow.

That Stephen Fell, managing director of Lindum Seeded Turf, was able to follow Jon with aplomb is to be applauded, for his paper on 'Course aesthetics, good, bad and indifferent' was delivered with sound professionalism and gave delegates much food for thought – indeed this obviously wasn't Stephen's first time on the podium at Cirencester, for he is a graduate of the Royal Agricultural College, having majored in Estate Management in 1975.

Learning more of 'The development of education programmes for the greenkeeping profession in the USA' was our next major presentation, delivered by William Roberts, president of the GCSAA, and followed by Carol Borthwick asking 'Where do we go from here?'. Carol is no newcomer to the lecture room, though in wielding a mashie niblick to give emphasis to her talk, she gave a whole new meaning to the school marm edict 'pay attention!'

We all knew where we were  
14 GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL May 1992



From left, Gordon Child, our chairman, greenkeeping experts David Whitaker and Laurence Pithie, and Tommy Lindelof, representing Golfium AB, Sweden

going from here', making our way to a luncheon room that buzzed with informed comment and bulged with good food – a splendid break thoroughly deserved by speakers and delegates alike.

Laurence Pithie is so well known and well informed that there was no need to persuade delegates to return to the lecture theatre to listen to our first 'Master Greenkeeper'. Laurence spiced an altogether fascinating talk with his own highly professional slide presentation in talking of 'Golf course development' from his own individualistic viewpoint, enlivened the proceedings with shots of course construction disasters that would make Harry Colt turn in his grave.

Like the good trooper he is, Pat O'Brien of the USGA Green Section finally made Cirencester some 24 hours late, having been stuck on the ferry between Ireland and the mainland overnight, and though his talk on 'Bentgrass management in the south eastern USA' was covered, his thrust was interspersed with so many anecdotes that he had the gathering in stitches of laughter, a natural comedian who could always get a job as an entertainer should his agronomy career falter! He was later to continue in like vein with

his 'Ten best all-time tips of the USGA Green Section' – hugely entertaining and rewarding.

The finale of Saturday was left to the irrepressible Jim Arthur, this time with Jim shunning all notes in presenting his 'Sound traditional greenkeeping practices versus gimmicks'. The one predictable thing about Jim is that he is unpredictable, though he always enjoys ruffling a few feathers and never shuns controversy, especially aiming at those of the 'don't rock the boat' brigade. Indeed this occasion was no exception with his sound condemnation of the gimmick, and love him or hate him one could not fail to be impressed by his huge font of knowledge properly earned in the field, his forthright delivery leaving no-one in doubt as to his message – no-one nods off when Jim is on the platform!

The lecture day ending on a high, delegates later dining in splendid style in the imposing banquet hall and feted by a sleight of hand comedian who was uncanny in his polished routine. Indeed, in these days of smut and innuendo it was refreshing to be so perfectly entertained without a scrap of bad language – more of the same, please!

Came the finale, and it was with

Bernard Findlay, course manager at Portstewart Golf Club, that the seal of excellence was finally set. I will purposely refrain from exposing his stunning presentation, for this will be a major feature within our pages in the near future, but I can reveal that Bernard has actually built a seaside links course from scratch, has the scars to prove it, the pictures to back up his experiences, and tells a tale of such interest that you will all want to visit Portstewart to see the course for yourself. Bernard began the day as a greenhorn presenter, modestly murmuring about his inexperience and finished as the star of our conference, a perfect role model for other greenkeepers – indeed all platform presenters – to follow in the future. That BIGGA can produce such worthy speakers from within the ranks is a great credit to the profession and augurs well for the future of both greenkeeping and the National Education Conference of 1993. Incidentally, should the success of Derek, Laurence and Bernard spark off the inclination in others to become public speakers (see Page 12 of the April issue), they could do no better than attend a two-day specialist course at HQ Give David Golding a call on 03473 581.



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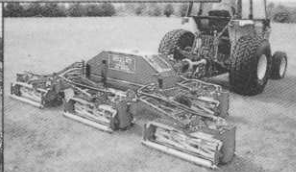
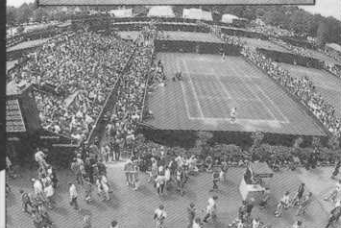
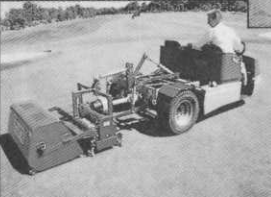
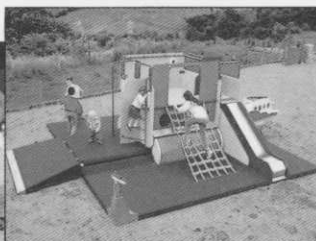
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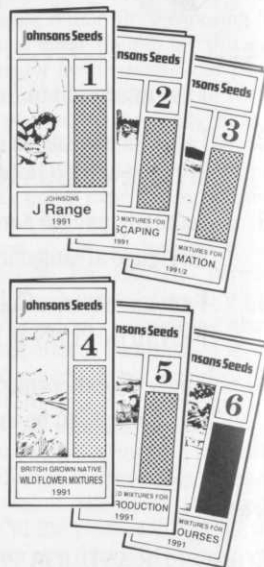
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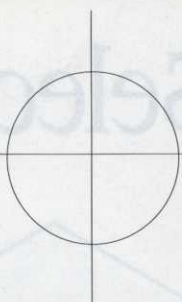
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# SIGHTS

Legislation and the requirement for specific label recommendations have reduced the number of herbicides which are available to the greenkeeper. Cost and delays have prevented several manufacturers and distributors from seeking approval for herbicides unless they have a significant and assured market, and while there are a number of materials which are approved for 'grass,' most if not all are primarily approved for agricultural grass – or cereal (which is a grass!). Amenity grass – ie. turf – is regarded as a different 'crop' and use. Nevertheless those manufacturers or suppliers with a significant interest in the turfgrass market have tried to ensure that their most important products are still available – although several are still in the Ministry of Agriculture approvals 'pipeline.' Only Approved Products may be supplied, stored or used; approved by the Government and including a wide range of products which encompass herbicides, adjuvants (wettters), insecticides and fungicides.

The manufacturer or his agent (who may be an importer or licensee) must seek approval for new uses even for materials which are already approved for apparently similar use, whilst approval is also needed if an existing product is reformulated. The Minister can also make specific requirements over the use of specific products (such as has happened with ioxynil) and these may include how and where they may be used and at what maximum application

rates. They can also stipulate requirements for protective clothing.

As an example, ioxynil is a valuable herbicide for taking out speedwells but it cannot be used with hand held or knapsack sprayers. It is perhaps not surprising that the products which are currently available are (mostly) those with the longest history of use and the first hormone weedkillers to find general use in agriculture: chemicals such as 2,4-D, mecoprop (CMPP) and MCPA. These pre-date most of the non-selective products such as paraquat. The two notable exceptions to this hormone weedkiller family are ioxynil and ferrous sulphate, used as a moss killer. Several suppliers have suggested to Greenkeeper International that in future they will not be licensing some of their products for amenity turf, thus the range available from any particular supplier – if not the overall range of products – is likely to be greatly more restricted.

Maximum weed control comes from optimising the application of the selected herbicide with obvious limitations being imposed by weather, growing conditions, stage of weed growth, and the efficiency of the application. Weather limitations obviously include rain, and the less obvious such as drought and hot weather – which place stress on the grass as well as inhibiting the uptake by the target weeds. Hot weather may also cause vapour drift with 2,4-D ester

► 19

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| 2,4-D amine + mecoprop   | Liquid      | Rhone Poulenc Supertox 30   |
|  | CDA         | Rhone Poulenc CDA Supertox 30, Vitax Sydex  |
| 2,4-D amine + picloram   | Liquid      | Chipman Atladox HI  |
| 2,4-D ester  | Liquid      | Rhone Poulenc Dicotex Extra, Mirfield MSS 2,4-D ester, Vitax Forester                     |
| 2,4-D ester + mecoprop   | CDA         | BP Oil/Chipman BP Zennapron, ICI Verdone CDA  |
| 2,4-D + dicamba  | Liquid      | Vitax New Estermone   |
|  | Aerosol     | Vitax Green Up Weedfree – spot weedkiller   |
| 2,4-D + dicamba + ioxynil  | Gran Fer    | ICI Longlife Plus   |
| 2,4-D + mecoprop   | Liquid      | ICI Super Verdone   |
| 2,4-D + mecoprop + ferrous sulphate in fertiliser                              | CDA         | BP Oil/Chipman Zennapron  |
| Chlorothal-dimethyl  | Powder      | Vitax Weed 'n' Feed Extra   |
| Dichlorophen   | W/powder    | ISK Biotech Dacthal W-75  |
| Ferrous sulphate in fertiliser   | Liquid      | Rhone Poulenc Super Mosstox   |
|  | Sol Powder  | Fisons Greenmaster Mosskiller, Vitax Green Up Mossfree, Vitax Lawn Sand, Vitax Turf Tonic |
|  | M/Gran      | Vitax Microgran 2   |
| MCPA   | Liquid      | Mirfield MCPA 50  |
| MCPA + mecoprop + dicamba  | Liquid      | Chipman Tribute, Mirfield MSS Mircam Plus, Fisons Tritox                                  |
| Mecoprop   | Liquid      | Rhone Poulenc Clovotox, Mirfield MSS CMPP   |
| Mecoprop + MCPA in gran. fertiliser  |             | Fisons Greenmaster Extra  |
| <b>Suitable for seedling grasses or young turf</b>                             |             |   |
| Isoxaben   | Liquid      | Vitax Knot Out  |
| Mecoprop   | Liquid      | Rhone Poulenc Clovotox  |
| Ioxynil  | Liquid      | Rhone Poulenc Actrilawn 10  |
| <b>For special situations, control of docks, nettles and bracken and so on</b> |             |   |
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- Agrichem International Ltd.**  
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- BP Oil Ltd.** BP House, Breakspear Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4UL. Tel: 0442 232323.
- ISK Biotech Europe Ltd.** 4th Floor, Central Court, 1b Knoll Rise, Orpington, Kent BR6 0JA. Tel: 0689 74011.
- Fisons plc.** Horticulture Division, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich IP8 4BZ. Tel: 0473 830492.
- Hortichem Ltd.** 14 Edison Road, Churchfield Industrial Estate, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 7NU. Tel: 0722 320122.
- ICI Professional Products.** Woolmead House East, Woolmead Walk, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB. Tel: 0252 733919.
- Mirfield Sales Services Ltd.** Grosvenor Works, Linthwaite, Huddersfield, West Yorks HD7 5QE. Tel: 0484 842451.
- Nomix-Chipman Ltd.** Portland Building, Portland Street, Staple Hill, Bristol BS16 4PS. Tel: 0272 574574.
- Rhone Poulenc Ltd.** Regent House, Hubert Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4TZ. Tel: 0277 261414.
- Vitax Ltd.** Owen Street, Coalville, Leicestershire LE6 2DE. Tel: 0530 510060.



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**'No-one can be unaware about the need to 'read the label' before using any pesticide: all warnings, precautions and statutory recommendations must be included...'**

17 →

and this has been known to decimate susceptible plants at a considerable distance downwind.

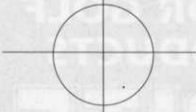
Probably the most common hormone material for use on amenity turf is 2,4-D, formulated by several companies either as an amine salt or in the ester form. Hormone weed-killers work by interfering with the plant's hormone system, causing abnormal stimulation and distortion before death. A single application applied when the weeds are growing actively in the early part of the season is likely to control weeds such as Plantains, Mouse-ear Hawkweed and Creeping Buttercup (which are very susceptible), though a second application four weeks later may be needed to finish off Daisy, Cat's Ear, Dandelion and Sorells. Clovers and trefoils may survive two applications, but obviously if these are a dominant problem you should perhaps look at using another product. Applications can safely be made with a tractor mounted sprayer or by hand-held or knapsack sprayers which allow 'spot weeding' to be carried out. Dico-tox Extra, an ester form, is suggested by Rhone Poulenc as being ideal for the economic control of a range of weeds on 'outfield' turf. Apart from relative low cost it has the advantage of being resistant to light rainfall.

More frequently 2,4-D is sold as one active constituent of a proprietary herbicide – of which mecoprop (also known as CMPP) is the most common partner. It is available both as a conventional liquid for dilution with water and application by motorised, tractor or knapsack sprayer or even by watering can, and as an oil/water concentrate for CDA application. The addition of mecoprop increases the spectrum of control by perhaps 40%. This combination is available from ICI Professional Products for CDA as Verdone CDA and from BP Oils/Chipman as Zennapron, both with the ester form of 2,4-D and the limitation of spraying in hot weather. In contrast, Supertox 30 in both CDA and conventional dilutable liquid from Rhone Poulenc uses a 2,4-D amine salt and as a consequence is non-volatile so that it may be safely used near ornamental or other susceptible plantings. Dosage rates of these chemicals is reasonably flexible allowing them to be tailored to the susceptibility of the targeted weed. White clover, creeping buttercup, plantains, daisy and dandelion succumb to the Rhone Poulenc recommendation of 84ml in 9 litres (of water) to cover 100m<sup>2</sup>. Doubling the inclusion rate (but not reducing water or area) should provide control of red clovers, lesser trefoil and other weeds. Mecoprop is active against chickweed and it has a significantly greater effect on clovers and trefoils than 2,4-D, having the advantage of being particularly safe for the grasses, to the point that it is recommended – as Clovotox, by Rhone Poulenc for application to young seedling grass or turf. Again there is the flexibility to apply by hand or power sprayer or even a watering can (with a fine rose). As already stated this flexibility does not apply to ioxynil, which in a straight active ingredient formulation as Actrilawn 10, is a prime herbicide for new grass and turf, and one which is particularly effective on chickweeds and trefoils. Whilst not a hormone weedkiller, it is a contact herbicide which inhibits photosynthesis and respiration and is exceptionally safe for fine turf grasses including bents and fescues (but excepting crested dog's tail) and it may cause temporary tip scorch on perennial ryegrasses – especially if care is not taken to avoid over spraying. No claims are made for control of mature weeds, thus it is essential these be removed before seeding – perhaps by the use of a non-selective herbicide such as paraquat, diquat, or glyphostat which require no delay before seeding. However, in general, environment awareness would suggest mechanical control prior to planting.

Particularly effective for 'difficult' weeds such as Speedwells, Parsley-piert, Pearlwort and Woodrush is the mix of Mecoprop with ioxynil which suppliers Vitax were selling as

Synox, though currently they are having difficulties with supply. Their recommendation is only for established fine turf. Vitax previously sold their pesticides under the Synchemicals mark and some of these products are still around. Another 'useful' hormone herbicide which is found in combination with other active ingredients is dicamba. Vitax combine it with 2,4-D in New Estermone to give control of weeds such as Black Medick and Toad Rush as well as enhancing the control of species such as Chickweed and Common Mouse Ear. ICI include it with 2,4-D and ioxynil in their conventional liquid herbicide Super Verdone while Chipman in Tribune, Mirfield in Mircam Plus and Fisons in Tritox add it to MCPA and mecoprop to give an optimum wide spectrum of control. Vitax's answer for weed control in newly sown grass is Knot Out. Based on Isoxaben this is ideally applied within two days of sowing so that it forms a layer over the soil surface, and as it is a residual it is absorbed by broadleaf weeds as they break through. Weeds controlled include Mayweed, Speedwells, Common Mouse-ear Knotgrass, Common Chickweed and Parsley-piert. Like most residuals it is inactivated by high organic matter or peat in the soil. Iron, usually as a Ferrous sulphate compound, is well known for its ability to control moss and algae, though often it is not even recognised as being a selective herbicide as it is frequently a component of fertilisers. The contact application is perhaps less critical than with any other 'herbicide' as it can be put on by watering or spraying with hand or mechanical sprayers.

## Set your SIGHTS



Many of these products can be 'tank mixed' with adjuvants – wetting agents, liquid fertilisers, conditioners or fungicides etc., – however such mixing must be within the label recommendations. For instance Rhone Poulenc list Mildothane Turf Liquid as being suitable for mixing with Clovertox and Supertox 30 where disease control is required in addition to weed control. Vitax suggest their 50/50 liquid feed as an ideal way of boosting the grass to fill in where weeds are killed. Some agronomists recommend the use of wetters to aid absorption of the chemical, but these must have clearance for this use. No one can be unaware about the need to 'read the label' before using any pesticide: all warnings, precautions and statutory recommendations must be included – and the container must at all times be complete with its label.

For anyone who has a personal computer there is the option to buy the Datachem program, a very comprehensive software package which assists the user in selecting the right product (from the Rhone Poulenc range) and to set rate use, including the calibration of the sprayer. The database also assists with the identification of pests and diseases. Past entries are saved for future reference and the program also allows data to be added to the database.



# Pesticides course an 'overwhelming success' – and some places still available for next one

by DAVID GOLDING, Education Officer

The pilot Pesticides Course held at BIGGA headquarters was an overwhelming success with all five members passing both FEPA PA1 and 2A examinations.

Members travelled to headquarters on Monday, 16 March for two days' intensive training with the Association's Health and Safety consultant, Jon Allbutt. On the Wednesday morning all delegates completed the Foundation Module (PA1) and during Thursday and Friday morning the application tests (PA 2A) were negotiated.

It is essential that all course managers/head greenkeepers become certificated for the application of chemicals and BIGGA headquarters is only one option for students to consider for certification. Many colleges have run very successful training courses but testing has at times been a problem. However, this is a cheaper option rather than our in-house course. The benefits of our course is that we train and test within five days at the Manor and the camaraderie which is apparent amongst the mature greenkeepers is a vital ingredient in the preparation for the tests (see letters page).

In programming and projecting our own course it was thought that whilst younger greenkeepers will choose the college route, the more mature greenkeeper would prefer the informal surroundings of BIGGA headquarters.

In conclusion, I would like to thank tutor, Jon



All aboard for success at the Pesticides Course at Aldwark Manor

Allbutt, Colin Gregory, managing director of Hardy Sprayers and Richard Bishop, sales director of Ransomes, for the loan of equipment used on the course. This is much appreciated as it is well documented that many greenkeepers when facing their FEPA tests have been asked to use equipment, chemical labels etc. which have no resemblance to golf course maintenance. This is an issue which we are confronting with the examination body and it could be that shortly we will be requiring certificated greenkeepers to

become examiners! Watch this space.

For those members still not certified, please contact your college for details of the PA1-2A courses or for members who would prefer the BIGGA route, the next week for training and testing is Monday, 5 October-Friday, 9 October inclusive. Cost is £421.27 +VAT = £495.00 including accommodation, meals, training, examination and certification fees. There are only six places available, so ring headquarters now to book your place.

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