



# OPEN YOUR EYES TO SEE

## ...WHO'S OPENING BTME '93



**HARROGATE, JANUARY 20-22**



The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association is proud to announce that the Duke of York will officially open the 1993 BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition.

The presence of Prince Andrew at the BTME, together with Viscount Whitelaw, BIGGA President, underlines the event's importance and confirms its status as the premier exhibition for the fine turf industries.

New equipment, the latest products, service updates, familiar faces and some new ones made Viscount Whitelaw, who opened the 1992 exhibition, proclaim that "greenkeeping has come of age".

For 1993, as well as the Royal visitor, there's even more to watch out for. With all the names you'd expect plus a few surprises, you'll certainly be wide-eyed at the choice and variety of what's on offer.

Space bookings are already up on this time last year for the record-breaking 1992 exhibition and bookings for stands from all sectors of the industry will continue to be accepted right up until the last minute, depending on space limitations. But to make sure of the best positions, you need to act quickly. Why wait until January to squeeze in your stand when *this week* you can plump for a prime site?

Debbie Savage has all the details of how BTME can provide you with a window of opportunity. Call Debbie on 03473 581.

The 1993 BTME will be an event you won't want to miss – make a note of the dates in your diary! *A world class exhibition... the highest calibre education seminars... all at BTME, January 20-22, Harrogate.*



For more details or a copy of the comprehensive BTME Information Pack, contact Debbie Savage on 03473 581 or request one by fax on 03473 8864. The BTME is organised by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF.

# PRE-REGISTRATION CARD



# BTME

BIGGA Turf Management  
Exhibition and Seminar  
Programme 1993

20-22 JANUARY 1993, HARROGATE

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◆ On receipt of your completed card, you will be entered in a *free* prize draw. You could win top quality BIGGA merchandise of your choice!

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Draw will be made on the Wednesday; prizes must be collected during the Exhibition.

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Please also send me details of the Seminar Programme

(commences 18 January 1993) ..... (tick)

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Official publication of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association  
**NOVEMBER 1992**



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**EXHIBITIONS/MEMBERSHIP OFFICER**  
Debbie Savage



**EDITOR**  
David White  
Tel: 0323 891291 • Fax: 0323 895593

**DESIGN/PRODUCTION EDITOR**  
Tim Moat  
Tel: 0904 610611 • Fax: 0904 643074

**SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER**  
Bill Lynch  
Tel/Fax: 091 413 7218

**ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE**  
Carol Dutton  
Tel/Fax: 0207 570117

**PRINTING**  
Hi-Tec Print, Unit 7, Universal Crescent,  
Houghton Road, North Anston Trading  
Estate, Dinnington, South Yorkshire S31 7JJ  
Tel: 0909 568533 • Fax: 0909 568206

Greenkeeper International is the official magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association and is published monthly at BIGGA Headquarters, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Airedale, York YO6 2NF. Tel: 03473 581/2 • Fax: 03473 8864

Please address all advertising, subscriptions and address changes to BIGGA.

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.

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £34 per year, Europe and Eire £44. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

**Editorial Offices**

All magazine contributions should be sent to: The Editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firlie Close, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 2HL. Tel: 0323 891291. Fax: 0323 895593. 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 by the Association for such content, advertising or product information that may appear.

ISSN 0961-6977  
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# GREENKEEPER

1875

## International

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Barry Neville with the shield awarded as Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of 1992



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at what Greenkeeper

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The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme is now recognised as the industry's most significant indoor event. Contact Debbie Savage on 03473 581 for a BTME 1993 Information Pack and find out how your company can take part.

#### Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

Launched by Viscount Whitelaw at BTME 1992, the Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 03473 581.

**GOLDEN KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS:**  
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The eighteenth from behind the lake – the second shot

# A win by a whisker

**T**he Kubota records will show no more than the bare bones of our latest success, gained at the tenth anniversary match for the Kubota Golf Challenge: it will be simply written – The Greenkeepers defeated The Golf Club Secretaries in 1992 – period.

What will not be recorded is that for the seventh time in ten years the greenkeepers have succeeded – this time in a final which ended at four games all, decided in our favour by the margin of holes won, nineteen to fifteen, with the match result resting on the performance of Bernard Emberley, a stout performer with the courage of a lion. Let me explain...

Since 1983 the Kubota Challenge has been the very epitome of match play golf – head to head singles – and the greenkeepers have had it pretty well sewn up year upon year – certainly for the past seven years and irritated only by a single hiccup in 1990, when a team of secretaries sneaked in a blow for their side. We've had grand victories, none finer than the eight-nil whitewash of 1991, and in truth we've come to expect to win! This heavy burden, the massive expectations of the greenkeeping fraternity, was never more apparent than in this latest series, when the team came to battle out the final after winning a semi-final against the Golf Foundation – by the now familiar margin of eight games to zero! We all know this God-like play can't last forever, there must come a moment when the veil slips, when players become human again...

Richard Barker, captain and number one, is noted for his golfing excellence, a more solid four handicap player doesn't exist... yet he met his Waterloo at the hands of Martin Yates, four and two – without putting a foot wrong! Barry Holt, the Mighty Atom who seems to romp along the fairways, his legs trying to catch up, couldn't wait to get on with his game as our number two, loving the hard battle. He positively thrives on match play and his was a crucial victory, a splendidly contrived five and three whilst declaring throughout the round that he was 'not at his best'!



Alistair Tough



Ian Holoran



Jim Byrne



Bernard Emberley



Graeme Patrick



Richard Barker



Craig Handyside



Barry Holt

Holt's game over, there came a pause while a handful of spectators settled down to gossip in the chill, sunny air and wait for the Handyside/Peak match to reach a conclusion. Both are excellent players, but in Handyside's case it was all nip and tuck, up then down, the game finally swinging in Peak's favour by two and one. No disgrace for Craig Handyside and one that could have gone either way.

Meanwhile news was filtering through of a battle royal between ex-pro turned secretary, Bob Lanyon and our Bernard Emberley. It looked likely to go the full distance... and it did, as you will soon learn.

Of Graeme Patrick, our number five, there can be nothing to add save a drum roll and trumpet fanfare for his annihilation of Dewi Davies by seven and five. Add a second fanfare for Jim Byrne's similar thrashing of Bill Short by six and five... things were looking positively rosy!

If Alistair Tough will forgive the obvious pun, his day couldn't have been tougher. Each tiny slip was punished beyond reason: his ball would nestle between tree roots, lodge in unplayable lies, spin three times round the cup and lip out – the Gods were against him. His five and four defeat against Len Harpum was something even he came to expect in the end, for when the bitch that is Old Mother Fate takes a hand it's best to greet her with a grin, hoping for her blessing the next time round.

It was a similar story for Ian Holoran, our number eight. His was a game which never quite reached his own high expectations and he

went down battling to Trevor Davey by four and three.

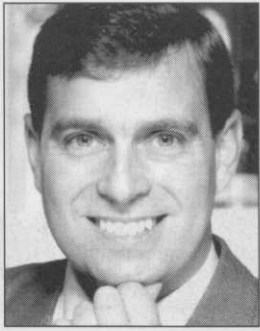
From these known results you will see the rose had withered, we were in deficit by one, we needed a win from Bernard Emberley! Our man Bernard has nerve galore, though I doubt he has been called upon to exhibit such nail-biting stuff at such a crucial time before – and at such an illustrious arena as the eighteenth on the Brabazon. For those who may have been in a time warp, The Belfry's prima-donna hole, scene of so many triumphs and tragedies in Ryder Cup history, is 474 yards from the back tees, two lakes in play at both tee shot and approach, the final shot a most daunting carry to a sloping and well protected green.

Coming to the final hole all square both players hit fine tee shots, Emberley's some 15/20 yards longer. What followed, especially at such a crucial point, was somewhat uncharacteristic for an ex-pro, for he played short of the lake rather than risk a carry of some 190-200 yards. Emberley was made of sterner stuff and conjured the most exquisite spoon shot imaginable, the ball finishing near pin high and just rolling into the right hand bunker. Lanyon faltered with his third, leaving it on the very edge of the green, uphill and sloping – three-putt country! Calling on every ounce of those priceless qualities called grit and inspiration, Emberley feathered his wedge and we saw the ball floating, landing above pin and some ten feet from the cup. The inevitable happened, Lanyon three-putted, Bernard lagged to within 'gimmee' distance and the game was over – sweet victory was ours.

What a wonderful event The Kubota Challenge is, what a clever concept. It has been said before and deserves repeating: The Kubota Challenge is a very important event indeed. We are proud to retain the handsome porcelain Kubota Trophy – our good friend Brian Hurtle, Vice President and Director, Kubota GB Ltd., may be assured that it is in very safe hands!

**Results: The Greenkeepers defeated The Secretaries. Third place was taken by the Golf Foundation, who defeated the English Golf Union (margin of four holes the better after a tie at four games each).**

## Duke of York to open BTME '93



Prince Andrew: to open BTME

*Pride is something one hears a great deal about in greenkeeping circles of late: pride in the profession, pride in the importance of our place in caring for Britain's great golf courses and pride in our achievements in the field of education.*

*Now our cup runneth over, for pride is bursting from every seam as we learn that Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, a recent convert to the game of golf and its most visible devotee, has honoured us by accepting our*

*invitation to open the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate next January.*

*Not only will Prince Andrew open our exhibition, he will also present awards to the recipients of BIGGA's highest honour, The Master Greenkeeper Certificate, and to those companies who honour us by supporting our Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund, making greenkeeper education a reality.*

*Let us share equally in this honour – proud to be royally recognised!*

■ Ian Tomlinson, head greenkeeper at Lausanne Golf Club has written with news regarding Jim Richards, who started his greenkeeping career at Knaresborough GC and has been at Lausanne some five years, four as Ian's first assistant. The surprise for Ian came when Jim announced that he is to leave Lausanne in January for Brownsville, Texas, where he is to become a pilot. As Ian joked, 'having seen Jim on a triplex, God help him!'

'Should you happen to be on a commercial aircraft flown by Captain Richards in the future,' added Ian, 'why not drop into the cockpit and say hello' – Roger, over and out!



■ Continuing with the flying theme, it is with particular pleasure that Greenkeeper International announces the granting of a Private Pilots Licence to Sunningdale's Robert Brewer (pictured left) – is he, we wonder, Britain's first official airborne greenkeeper?

■ Toro, world leaders in professional grass cutting and maintenance equipment have awarded their coveted 'Mr Commercial International' award to UK Toro distributors Lely (UK) Ltd.

Senior Toro International managers throughout the world vote on the distribution network that they feel has given the most distinguished achievements in the field of: Coverage of commercial dealers and direct accounts; Aggressiveness in seeking new turf product outlets; Excellence of demonstrations and field days; Service to commercial dealers and Toro customers.

Graham Dale reported that he is fully committed to improving the already high standards of service support to all Toro dealers and customers alike. A fact which is endorsed with Lely's introduction of a 'Guaranteed on time' parts delivery service to its comprehensive dealer network anywhere in the UK.



Graham Dale, Managing Director, Lely (UK) Ltd receives the 'Mr Commercial International' award from Ted Reilly, Toro Sales, Marketing and Commercial Director, Europe, on behalf of all UK Toro dealers.



■ Warmest greetings are extended to Eric Palmer on his well-earned retirement after 50 years of greenkeeping, a career which began at Sitwell Park GC in 1942 – aged 14! After a two year spell in the RAF from 1946-48, Eric returned to Sitwell Park and remained there until 1966, holding the post of head greenkeeper for some fifteen years. He moved to Abbeydale GC in 1966 and remained until 1982, when he joined Hickleton GC until his retirement – a proud record which deserves recognition.



■ The winner of the SISIS Diamond Jubilee competition was Cliff Parry, head greenkeeper of Woolton GC, near Liverpool. The picture shows him receiving a diamond pendant from the directors of SISIS at their Macclesfield office.

■ Eric Hunter wrote telling of an enquiry received from a Mr Oliver Hackett of Rathcormac, Co. Sligo in the Republic of Ireland. Oliver, green chairman of a Co. Sligo golf club, informed of 'not enjoying good service for our mowing machines – they are away too long and when returned they are not that good anyway'.

Leaflets despatched, Eric waited some three months to be given some good news and some bad. The bad news was the club had decided – on cost- not to progress with an order for a Hunter grinder. The good news? Mr Hackett was so impressed with the Jupiter machine that he bought one and started up a new business – North West Lawnmowers – specifically to serve fellow clubs bugged with the aforementioned problems. It seems the spirit of enterprise is not yet dead! Oliver Hackett can be contacted on 010 353971 43669.

■ De Vere Hotels, owners of The Belfry, home of the 1993 Ryder Cup, has acquired Belton Woods Hotel and Country Club, a 96 bedroom hotel with two eighteen and one nine hole golf courses at Grantham, near Nottingham, for £10.3 million, from administrative receivers KPMG Peat Marwick. Belton Woods is a purpose-built four star hotel with conference facilities for 300 people, set in 485 acres. In addition to the two 18-hole golf courses, there is a further 9-hole course and driving range. Indoor leisure facilities include heated swimming pool, gymnasium, two squash courts, a spa bath, saunas and steam rooms.

■ Following a misprint in our October issue, Verde Sports Ltd have been flooded with enquiries for 'winter trees'. Much as they love the idea, and may consider it as a new line for the future, Verde Sports have asked us to point out that the company are actually in the business of providing winter trees. Anyone interested in the latter can reach Verde Sports on 0257 269069.



■ Simon Checketts has joined Watermation in their Aldershot sales office as a sales engineer in the contracts division. Simon replaces Jonathan Turner, who has donned the pith helmet and travelled to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to open a new sales office for the company.



■ A new golf manager, responsible for the co-ordination of all golfing services at St Andrews, has been appointed by St Andrews Links Trust. John Lindsay (46) previously executive director with the PGA, will take up his post on January 1.

■ It is with sadness that we report the sudden but peaceful death of Mr J K (Jock) Glass, latterly of The Cottage, Thorpe Hall Golf Club, Thorpe Bay, Essex.

Jock, a life member of the Association and a holder of high office within the BGGA, was always keen to expound the aims of the Association. His contribution to greenkeeping over the years was without parallel and he will be sadly missed by his many friends and associates.



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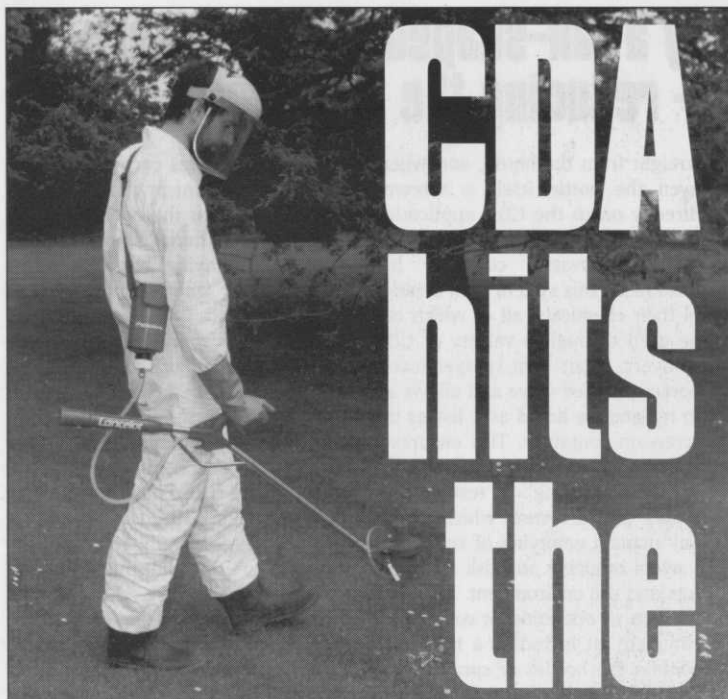
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# CDA hits the target

Despite ten years of commercial use, the benefits of CDA – controlled droplet application – for the application of pesticides may not yet be fully understood. There could still be some confusion over the differences between CDA and the more traditional type of spray application.

Like many other advances in technology, the principles of CDA are very simple. A steady flow of undiluted liquid drops on to a battery-powered disc running at a constant speed, which throws out a controlled stream of uniform-sized droplets. The herbicide, fungicide or insecticide being applied can come pre-diluted, eliminating the need for mixing, and the system operates at low pressure.

Perhaps most important of all, CDA does not use erratic and often unreliable air currents to ensure distribution to the plant or other target area.

Conventional sprayers, on the other hand, mostly use a small quantity of pesticide in a much larger quantity of water. This involves mixing in the concentrated ingredient – one obvious area of possible operator hazard. This water must also be carried to the site being sprayed – four gallons of water weighs 40 pounds, even without the weight of the sprayer.

CDA sprayers, on the other hand, are light, ergonomically well designed and lead to less operator fatigue during operation. Manufacturers claim, in fact, that they are up to ten times lighter than conventional knapsack sprayers.

But it is particularly in the area of lessening hazards during spraying where the CDA system really scores,

both to the operator and the environment. It is this, sometimes quite unfounded, fear which has persuaded some local authorities to eliminate spraying verges, open spaces and other areas used by the public altogether. Yet as a survey by the British Agrochemical Association has shown recently, the costs of returning to manual weed control can be quite horrendous.

BAA compute that the additional costs per km of non-chemical treatment are around £64 for roadside weed control, £180 for site boundary maintenance for schools and recreation grounds, and £230 for pavement weed control. They say the total increase could come to nearly £1 million for 'the average county area'. In addition, the actual costs of roadside weed control are quoted by one county council as £7.26 per km with chemicals, increasing nearly ten times to £70 per km using non-chemical methods. Figures to make any treasurer ponder.

The answer, therefore, is not to eliminate the use of herbicides and other pesticides, but to reduce considerably the risks. This can be done partly by using the safer products now available, those carrying full Government Approval, and partly by using safer equipment to minimise the risk of environmental damage.

Public opinion is, of course, often against any use of pesticides at all. Essex County Council, who changed to the CDA system two years ago, say that the public were initially apprehensive but had given a positive response once the situation

Sample the Sun,

the Sand  
and the Surf...

in Anaheim and  
San Diego, California, whilst attending the

## GCSAA CONFERENCE AND SHOW 1993

TRAVEL WITH BIGGA to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's prestigious annual Conference and Show next January – and while you're there, enjoy the holiday of a lifetime!

If you're ready to catch the magic, Anaheim, California, is ready for you! BIGGA has this year joined forces with Thomas Cook to transport you to 'the Magic Kingdom', with the option of a four day trip to San Diego after the GCSAA Conference – sun, sand and surf!

We have this year chosen two outstanding luxury hotels:

◆ **The Anaheim Hilton and Towers**, a superior first class hotel, is situated 50 feet from the Anaheim Convention Center and two blocks from Disneyland. Guest rooms have climate control, colour cable TV and radio. There is an outdoor heated pool and four jacuzzis, full health club with sauna, massage, tanning beds, steam room, exercise equipment and aerobics, games room, and beauty salon. There's also a vast range of entertainment and dining facilities – sample Italian, Japanese and of course Californian cuisine.

◆ **The Hyatt Islandia**, another superior first class hotel in San Diego, located on Mission Bay. Guest rooms are air-conditioned with private bath, remote-control colour cable TV, radio and phone. The Islandia Bar and Grill offers fine Mediterranean cuisine with bay views at lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. There is a heated outdoor pool, whirlpool, tennis courts, sail boat rentals, windsurfing, water-skiing, snorkeling, scuba diving and parasailing and whale watching (in season!).

Details of the GCSAA programme will be available from headquarters at a later date.

### ◆ Package 1

25th January to 5th February 1993

London Gatwick/Los Angeles on Virgin Atlantic – 25th January  
Transfer to Anaheim Hilton  
6 nights Anaheim Hilton – 25th January-31st January  
Transfer to San Diego – 31st January  
4 nights Hyatt Islandia – 31st January-4th February  
Transfer to Los Angeles Airport  
Los Angeles/Gatwick on Virgin Atlantic – 4th February (to arrive in UK on 5th)  
Cost: Twin Room £842 per person  
Cost: Single Room £1,266 per person

### ◆ Package 2

25th January to 1st February 1993

London Gatwick/Los Angeles on Virgin Atlantic – 25th January  
Transfer to Anaheim Hilton  
7 nights Anaheim Hilton – 25th January-1st February  
Transfer to Airport  
Los Angeles/Gatwick on Virgin Atlantic – 1st February (to arrive in UK on 2nd)  
Cost: Twin Room £689 per person  
Cost: Single Room £1,004 per person  
Insurance: Anaheim/San Diego £42.95;  
Anaheim only £34.80.

## BOOKING FORM

GCSAA Conference and Show, Anaheim

Please return to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF

Full name: .....

Address: .....

..... Telephone: .....

Name(s) of additional passengers: .....

### PACKAGE 1: ANAHEIM/SAN DIEGO

Twin Room: £842.00. Number of persons: .....

Single Room: £1266.00. Number of persons: .....

### PACKAGE 2: ANAHEIM

Twin Room: £689.00. Number of persons: .....

Single Room: £1004.00. Number of persons: .....

Insurance: Anaheim/San Diego £42.95 • Anaheim only £34.80

GI.11.92

I shall/shall not\* require Insurance (\*delete as applicable)

### CANCELLATION PROCEDURE

If cancelled more than 42 days before departure date: cancellation charge will be the deposit; 42-29 days before departure: 20% of total holiday cost; 28-15 days before departure: 30% of total holiday cost; 14-4 days before departure: 55% of total holiday cost; 3-1 days before departure: 70% of total holiday cost. No refund for non-appearance. Under certain circumstances, cancellation charges are covered by the comprehensive travel insurance policy. As cover is provided by the insurance company from the date of purchase of the policy, insurance premiums are not refundable and are excluded from the total holiday price for the purpose of calculating cancellation charges.

I enclose a deposit of £100.00 per person plus insurance payment (if required).

Total enclosed: .....

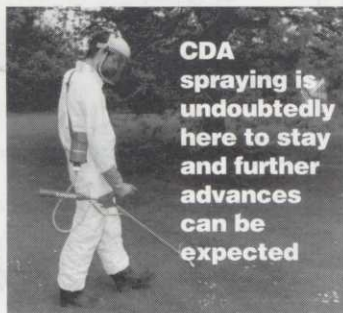


# 'Safety for operators is enhanced by a fan-shaped spray pattern projected forward of the operator - reducing the 'wet welly' effect'

7 was explained to them. Any local government supervisor who has had to negotiate damage claims through over-zealous pathway spraying creeping into gardens will know the problem. On the other hand, we know that the public will be the first to complain about weedy, untidy pavements and verges.

The safety of the CDA system comes first, from directing a relatively small amount of pesticide on to the target area - with little wasted into the surroundings; second, through being a low pressure system; third, and probably most important of all, the uniform droplet size which the sprayers produce. Conventional sprayers produce a wide range of droplet sizes. Many of the larger ones will bounce off the plants being sprayed to give uneven results. The smallest droplets, on the other hand, are easily carried away on air currents. This can also cause uneven results, certainly with total herbicides, plus considerable damage to adjacent areas.

CDA equipment is designed to produce a very narrow range of droplet sizes. The Lancelot sprayer, for example, uses only droplets in the 200-300 micron band, no matter what width of swath is being



**CDA spraying is undoubtedly here to stay and further advances can be expected**

sprayed. This size is not only the best for 'stickability' on plants, but gives the lowest risk of inhalation by spray operators.

The rates of application with CDA are also low, ranging from 5-30 litres per hectare, which in itself reduces the amount of unwanted pesticides entering the environment. This is especially important for insecticides and fungicides, where excessive and uncontrolled application can lead to a loss of beneficial predators and an increase in pesticide resistance. Safety for operators is enhanced by a fan-shaped spray pattern projected forward of the operator - reducing the 'wet welly' effect.

To eliminate the risks still further, ready-to-spray formulations of pesticides are now available for using

straight from the bottle, and where even the bottle itself is screwed directly on to the CDA application equipment.

One innovative company has introduced this system with a range of their chemicals, all of which can be used through a variety of CDA sprayers. Their own sprayer incorporates a bleed valve and allows air to replace the liquid as it leaves the screw-on container. This ensures a steady flow through the feed tube without 'glugging'. It results in a totally closed system which avoids any manual emptying of containers - again reducing any risk to operators and the environment. Designed for ease of operation, it comes as a complete kit including a holster to contain the bottles of spray liquid. Loading consists of inserting the container and replacing the bottle top with a cap containing the air bleed valve connected by a feed tube to the end of the lance. The bottle is held inverted and the liquid fed to-the spray lance by gravity. A second built-in container holds a set of six different sized nozzles for different spray band widths.

The heart of any CDA sprayer is the spinning disc which produces the spray droplets. Typically this is powered by an electric motor run by

three U2 batteries carried in a special compartment at the top of the lance, handy for the operator. A set of long-life batteries should last for one day's spraying, but a rechargeable battery and charger is also available.

There are therefore only three controls: an on/off switch for the liquid through the feed pipe, a switch for the motor and a width controller on the spraying head to adjust the band being covered. The correct dose is also partly dependant on the walking speed of the operator. Although simple to use, CDA sprayers are not idiot-proof. Like all precision machinery, they rely on using the right pesticide for the job, correct calibration and proper use to get the right results. Most sprayers are robust in construction, though light in weight, and they should stand up to the rough-and-tumble of practical handling conditions.

For both recreational and industrial use CDA spraying is undoubtedly here to stay and one can expect further advances in the technique in the future.

♦ The author, Geoffrey Ellis, is an independent consultant and writer with some 30 years experience of the agro-chemical industry. He runs a small nursery specialising in the production of wild flowers.

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AD REF 29

When you first think of Sweden, you may not necessarily think of it as a leading golfing country. It might therefore surprise you to learn that Sweden boasts the biggest golfing nation in Europe outside of the British Isles when compared to its total population.

Sweden has a population of approximately 8 million people and right now there are about 325,000 golfers. There are around 320 courses, representing around 1000+ members per course, which is a very high number when compared with Great Britain. The first Swedish golf club was founded in 1902 and not surprising it was the British who first brought the idea of golf to our attention. The Swedish Golf Federation was founded in 1904.

#### The golfing season in Sweden

It will probably also surprise you to learn that several courses can be played year round on regular greens. Of course this is only possible in the southern part of Sweden and also on the western coastline up through Gothenburg. The latitude of the southern part of our country is about the same as that of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Conversely, the northern most golf course is about 2000 km north of that (approx. 1200 miles), the course being a 9-hole layout that sometimes does not open until the last week in June and closes during the first part of September. There is a bonus, however, in that on three such courses golfers can play 24 hours a day under the midnight sun.

In the north we find several problems in maintaining golf courses, educating greenkeepers and so on, since the circumstances are so very different. However, most of Sweden's courses are situated in the southernmost third of the country, where the golf season and maintenance programmes are most similar to northern Britain, rather than extremes found in north of Sweden.

#### Grass species

All the familiar species known to flourish in cool season countries may be found in Sweden. Looking specifically at our greens, we have a major problem with *Poa annua*, which we try to fight; live with, and fight again – but we still have it! We look toward traditional British greenkeeping practices in introducing more fescue and bent species on our greens, with the most popular mixture for seeding being approx. 90-95% red fescue and 5-10% bent grass. Creeping bent is sometimes used, but this is not as dominant as the mixture. We have also witnessed some courses being seeded with pure bent grass, and I guess in these cases they are convinced that they have used the only right thing!

Tees are generally seeded with fescue-bent and fairways either with fescue-bent or Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). Rye-grass is not used very much, unless somebody wants to effect a very quick repair on some areas.

#### Machinery trends

Ransome, Jacobsen and Toro are the biggest brands, though of course we have many other machines, mainly imported from GB or the USA. Greens are usually mown with triplex ride-ons, though some greenkeepers use walk-behind mowers for big tournaments. Tees and aprons are also mown with triplex greens mowers or other fine cutting machines. Fairway are cut with Ransomes 350's or similar, though we now see quite a few courses changing over from 7-gang tractor-pulled fairway mowers to 5-gang self-propelled machines. The new generation of light mowers for fairways have also found their way into our country and these will no doubt soon find great popularity.

Machinery used on Swedish golf courses is generally quite new and modern. We are also fortunate in having pretty good storage buildings and workshops for maintenance. I think that Swedish

# Golf 24 hours a day, in the land of midnight sun



STIG PERSSON on greenkeeping in Sweden

greenkeepers would rather ride than walk, so we have many transportation vehicles!

#### Crews, wages and the cost of living

Generally a 18-hole course will have between two and five full-time staff, supplemented in the season with temporary workers as an average 5-7000 working hours for a 18-hole course is quite right.

Working time in Sweden is typically 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. All other work is overtime and it is not unusual for several hundred hours of overtime to be logged annually in order to mow greens seven days a week, change the holes and all those other jobs that have to be done, not least on Saturdays and Sundays.

Working titles in Sweden are similar to those in Britain: We are using the English title for the head greenkeeper and use a Swedish translation for course manager. In addition, those persons known in the English tongue as greenkeepers are known similarly, though this also is translated into Swedish.

Wages in Sweden are, I think, more uniform than in Great Britain, though it is always difficult to relate wages and other differentials from one country to another, especially as tax programmes, insurance and many other things are different. One thing is very common though, everybody thinks they pay too much in taxes! Living expenses are high in Sweden, especially for the basics of life like food and beverages.

#### How is golf organised in Sweden?

Sweden has always shown a great interest in being properly organised, of that there is no doubt when one looks at how our golfers, golf courses and golf clubs are organised. Every golfer is registered as a member of the Swedish Golf Federation through their club; and we have no real municipal golf courses. The first pay-and-play course has opened close to Gothenburg and in the Federation there is a programme for expanding and/or creating alternative golf course constructions. These can be Par 3 courses, or driving ranges with possibilities for changing practising direction; length, and so on. The tables show how we are organised.

#### The Swedish Greenkeepers Association

In 1978 the Swedish Greenkeepers Association was formed, and everybody who works on a golf course can be a member. Today the SGA has

more than 700 members and is second only to BIGGA as the biggest greenkeepers association in Europe. Our SGA works very closely with the Green Section of the Swedish Golf Federation in all programmes concerning the education of greenkeepers, chairmen of green committees, constructors and so on. The Green Section has eight advisers/agronomists in different regions and every golf course in Sweden is entitled to at least one free visit from their agronomist each year. This is paid for through a subscription made to the Federation by every club member, a fee of about £10 per year. Our Swedish agronomists are also involved as teachers at those colleges which have greenkeeper education programmes, as well as giving lectures and presentations at conferences and seminars promoted by both the Swedish Greenkeepers Association and the Swedish Golf Federation.

#### Our own greenkeeping magazine

Greenbladet is a magazine for Swedish greenkeepers that is issued four times a year and has 56-60 pages, mostly 4-colour. The magazine was founded by me and I am the editor. The aim is for the Swedish Greenkeepers Association to head the magazine from 1993. It is, of course, written in Swedish and thus its only readership interest outside Sweden is in the Scandinavian countries. Each issue has a circulation of 3000 copies.

#### The international connection

We have found over the years that we have much to learn from British greenkeepers (maybe something to bring back), so we have tried to participate in your programmes at conferences and meetings. Not surprisingly, we enjoy a very close and positive relationship with BIGGA. We also try to get international speakers to our conferences and thus far we have enlisted the skills of Jimmy Kidd, Jack McMillan, Eric Shiel and Neil Thomas, all of whom have visited Sweden as speakers. We have also been represented several times at BIGGA conferences and we think this is a good way of transferring experience from one country to another.

In many ways we can see that golf course maintenance is very much the same – with the same joys and sorrows – all over the world. We all belong to the wonderful greenkeeping world!

◆ The author, Stig Persson, is the editor of *Greenblat*, the magazine for Swedish and Scandinavian greenkeepers.