



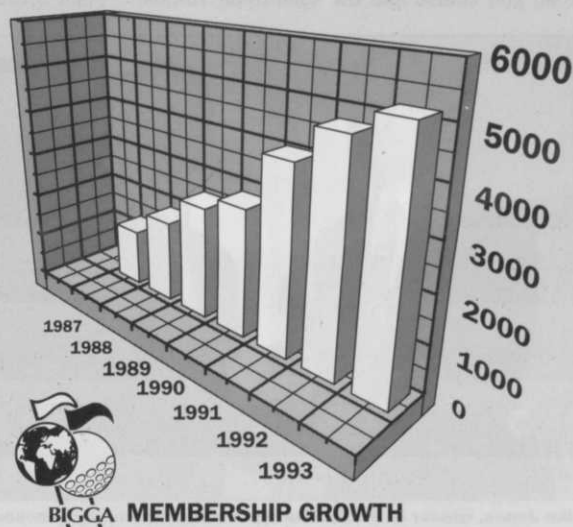
HAVE YOU DONE THE RIGHT THING YET?

With 5,162 members in 1993, the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association has continued its impressive growth into a powerful, professional and influential body within golf.

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a huge success. We now know how Money-stone bunker sand is manufactured. My thanks go to Andy Law of Martin Brothers who arranged everything for us.

The golf venues for this year are Bingley St Ives GC, Wetherby GC, Harrogate GC, and Aldwoodley GC. The Roses Match venue is the pleasure of the North West Section this being Motram Hall GC. Let's hope we can still retain the trophy away from home. The Roses Match will be run on the same format as last year – by invitation – the date being Wednesday August 10.

All members should now have in their possession the notice for the above golf venues – please fill them in and return to me with your deposits as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Any member requiring further information, or have any contributions to this column, please contact me on 0274 568128 or 49 Cornwall Road, Gilstead, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 4RL.

New members this month include: Paul Thresh, Normanton GC; Richard Smith, Shipley GC; Stephen Dalton, Knaresborough GC; Neil Horton, Moortown GC, Michael Rooks, Fulneck GC; Christian Martindale, Halifax GC, Melvyn Guy, Mountains Mowers; Robert Barnes, Mark Campbell, Paul Gawthorpe, Gary Dangerfield all from Sand Moor GC; Raymond Jackson, Bradford Moor GC; Stephen Capel Selby GC; John France, Garforth GC; Paul Hunter, Garforth GC; Robin Oxendale, Pike Hills GC; Simon Payn, Northcliffe GC; Mark Ainley, Mid Yorks GC; Daniel Regan, Dewsbury & District GC; Jacob Kay, Mid Yorkshire GC; Paul Mitchell, Otley GC; Gerald Smith, Wakefield GC; Richard Hartley, Baildon GC.



PAT MURPHY

SOUTH WALES

February was a quiet month as far as section events were concerned, but the lack of fixtures was made up for by the quality of the event that did take place. That was the education evening at Pencoed College by Jim McKenzie, formerly of Wentworth GC and now course manager at the biggest golf club development in South Wales, namely the Celtic Manor Hotel Golf and Country Club.

By far the largest attendance we have had to date at the evening lecture programme. Forty listened intently to a truly fascinating talk about the development of the 18-hole Roman Road golf course and the soon-to-be 18-hole

Around the Green



Coldra Woods course.

The development has been hampered somewhat by the appalling weather of '93 and won't now be ready until the summer, when a trip to the club will be organised. Then you will be able to see for yourself the delights of one of the largest, most secure, ultra-modern sheds, workshop, maintenance buildings in the country.

Some facts about the course to whet your appetite: it's a par 70, 7010-yard long championship course, designed by Robert Trent Jones; it boasts a 10-million gallon reservoir, various streams and a lake; and Ian Woosnam is to be the touring pro.

April is set to be a busy month, so don't forget these dates: April 17 – South Wales seminar at Pencoed College, mechanisation on the golf course; April 20 – Spring tournament and Hayter Challenge Qualifier, Newport GC, 1pm prompt; April 27 – Westurf, Long Ashton, Bristol.

PETER LACEY

NORTH SCOTLAND

The planning of the one day conference in Aberdeen on December 1 is progressing well. The venture is being co-sponsored by Greens of Scotland, Morayshire Tractors, Stewarts and Watermation. The brochure is currently being printed and below is a brief description of the speakers and their subjects.

The conference will be opened by Eric Thain, a director of Greens of Scotland. First speaker is David Roy, head greenkeeper of Linlithgow Golf Club speaking about "Wildlife and Conservation on the Golf Course". He will be followed by Steve Cadenelli, past president of the GCSAA and course superintendent at Metedeconk National Golf Club, Jackson, New Jersey, who will give us the benefit of his knowledge from across the Atlantic. The third speaker is Greens of Scotland's Raymond Morris talking on "Drainage and Construction". After a coffee break we have J D Patterson from the Northern Ireland Horticultural and Plant Breeding Station in Armagh giving us a

lecture on "Breeding Turf Grass Varieties". Our final morning speaker will be John Hacker of Professional Sportsturf Design talking on "Golf Course Presentation".

After lunch we start with a lighthearted look at the "Rules of Golf" presented by David Rickman, assistant rules secretary at the R & A. Our penultimate speaker is Tom Mackenzie, a native of Dornoch who is part of the Donald Steel Design Team. His subject being "Golf Course Design in the Highlands". People planning to enter the Scottish Greenkeepers Competition next year will find this talk very

interesting as there will be a lot of slides of the Carnegie Golf Course at Skibo on view, the venue for the outing. Last but certainly not least is Mr Robert Laycock of Karsten Golf Science with a talk on "Turf Pests and Diseases".

There will be a question and answer session in the morning and the afternoon and Master Greenkeeper Certificate credits can be obtained for attendance. All in all a great day in prospect, so be sure and return entry forms quickly to ensure attendance.

The Spring Outing is at Forres next month on Thursday the 12th. Entry forms will be out this week and a large entry is anticipated for a day out to this lovely course set amongst the trees above Forres.

A glut of new members to welcome this month. Head greenkeeper John Mowat, Reay Golf Club; Assistant greenkeepers Stuart MacGregor, Panmore Golf Club; Gordon Fraser, Tain Golf Course and apprentice greenkeepers Mark Ross, Elgin Golf Club; Bryan Cocker Jr, Alyth Golf Club and finally Paul Fiske, Moray Golf Club. Gordon Fraser is the last of my staff to join! How many other head greenkeepers



can claim total staff membership to BIGGA? Brian Cocker Jr is following his father's footsteps into the business. Bryan Snr is head man at Alyth.

IAIN MacLEOD

EAST OF ENGLAND

Eleven section members attended the enjoyable and enlightening trip to Hardi Sprayers, Leicester. Chris Hale, Mike Williamson and Simon Bloefield from Sherriffs must be thanked for their hard work in making the event run smoothly.

Thanks must also go to Bill Oliver, Colin Gregory and their team at Hardis for their hospitality and presenting a series of informative talks clearing up the often misunderstood aspects of spraying technology.

If any section member has any suggestions for places to visit or people they would like to hear speak, then please pass them on to me or to a member of the section committee.

Finally, some dates for your diary: May 11 – PGA Trophy, Burghley Park GC, Stamford; May 26 – Purdeys Trophy, Stoke Rochford GC (Hayter Qualifier).

If any section member does not receive any posted information on these tournaments, then please call me on 0832 274409.

MIKE FINNEY

EAST SCOTLAND

I am proud to welcome the following new members: Christopher Murray, Stuart Townsend, David Miller, Mark Pagan, James Manuel, Allan Shaw, Brian Strachan, John Reid, Ian Cunningham, Paul Miller, George Asher, Andy Birrell, Graham Ferguson, Gary Tusler, David Bridges and James Little.

We hope to see you all at section events, where a big welcome awaits you. So far that is 16 new members, but I am sure there are many more to come. So, as I said in my last report, let's all make a big effort this year to make everyone a member of the Association.

I know it's not the done thing to blow your own trumpet, but I am very proud to have been nominated by our new Scottish Region chairman, Gordon Moir, as his vice chairman. This is not just an honour for myself, but also the section as I am the first East section candidate since BIGGA was set up; and you can bet



Mike Jones, winner of the Pro-Turf-sponsored matchplay knockout competition receives his engraved silver trophy from sales manager Julian Driver.

I will give my usual 100% to our cause.

I have just returned from a two-day secretaries meeting at Aldwark Manor and again this proved to be a very enlightening affair. These meetings give the secretaries the opportunity to put their sections views across; and I for one was delighted with the response.

Next on our busy calendar is the Spring outing on April 12 over Gullane No.2. By now you should all have your entry forms; providing your subscriptions are up to date. This is also the qualifying for the Hayter Challenge and a big entry is anticipated. The regional finals this year will be held at Duddingston Golf Club on May 24.

A full calendar of all section events will soon be in all members' hands very shortly. It is hoped that this year everyone will make a special effort to attend. The social committee are at present working very hard on your behalf, but there is nothing worse than organising these events and only a handful turn up. We as a committee have always said 'tell us what you want and we will do it (within reason)'.

In conclusion, may I wish everyone another successful greenkeeping season; hopefully, the weather and golf club committees will be kind to us all again this year. I would also be grateful for news of any kind; this is your magazine and Association, so let us use it. Also remember to get these non-members to join our ever-growing BIGGA.

WILLIE BLAIR

SOUTH COAST

Our winter programme of lectures concluded last month with a talk by David Whitaker from the Wisley Golf Club. His subject was course maintenance.

The February lecture was delivered by Paul Hobden as Ken Barber was unable to attend. Paul is the assistant course manager at the East Sussex National Club and ably covered the subject of the maintenance there. Sometimes it is possible to view clubs such as East Sussex and Wisley as the elitist end of our trade. Paul was at pains to dispel this image, showing them as providing a specific product for a specific market, there for us to learn from and test new ideas. It was good as well to have the head greenkeepers of the two courses at East Sussex in attendance. The behind-the-scenes drama came in the form of a temperamental projector and extension lead, but in the true style of the theatre, 'it was alright on the night'.

April is a busy month for the section with the spring tournament at the Test Valley Golf Club on the 21st and Westurf on the 27th. The spring tournament is a qualifier for the Hayter Challenge and all enquiries should be directed to our tournament organiser Bob Cully on 0489 782976.

Westurf is now well established on our calendar and we are hoping for a record turnout from the industry this year. Call Ken Lodge, our chairman, on 0329 282362 for travel information. Be there!

With education becoming more industry led and the GTC and BIGGA being in place and geared, the section is looking to be more involved with the training of our young greenkeepers. Already several course managers in the section are undertaking training as NVQ assessors. With levels 1-3 of the Training Manual in place and level 4 aimed at head greenkeepers in production, greenkeepers are well placed to lead their industry. Level 5 giving

Around the Green



general manager status will be available to those wishing to take their careers that far in the future.

ALAN MITCHELL

MID-ANGLIA

A full day's first aid course was held in February at the Family Golf Centre. It was a great success for the ten delegates who attended, giving them an introduction into basic first aid.

After discussion at the last committee meeting, it was agreed to try and include a visit to a course in next year's programme, as well as a possible talk from a greenkeeper.

If any member is interested in doing such a talk, could they please contact Gerald Bruce or myself and it will be considered. It was also felt that a lecture involving machinery would be of benefit, and this is being looked into at the moment.

The Lodgeway Fourball Tournament is being run again this year by Chas Ayres, with some slight changes to the format. The initial stages of the competition will be on a regional league basis, the winners of which will go on to quarter finals where a knockout format will be adopted. All entries should be in by April 29 using the appropriate form. The final will be played once again at Brockett Hall on October 7.

There is still time to enter the Spring Tournament at Harpenden GC on Tuesday April 26. Tees are booked from 8.30am and this will be a section qualifier for the Hayter Challenge. Entry is by the usual form with an enclosed cheque for £20.



PAUL LOCKETT

KENT

Our Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier will be taking place at Mid-Kent Golf Club on May 10, you should shortly be receiving more details and your entry forms through the post. The other notable date for your diaries is June 29, the South Turf Exhibition at Motspur Park. We expect the event to be well attended and it will give you a chance to meet your greenkeeping colleagues and your local dealers and suppliers.

We will be arranging a summer afternoon's golf and an Autumn Tournament, although venues and dates have yet to be finalised. We will be looking for a venue towards the east of the county for at least one of the events. Any suggestions or willing hosts? On to perhaps more important matters, the section is now in possession of the long awaited career video, "Keeper of the Green". This is an excellent presentation and an ideal introduction to career opportunities for your young members of staff, junior golfers and local schools. The video is available to you on loan, or if you feel you can collect a small band of budding course managers together for an evening's viewing and a brief talk, please contact me on 0322 664547 (eves) or 0322 523746 (days). Further to educational matters, next winter

we will be looking to promote monthly, one day/afternoon/morning seminars or "teach-ins". Perhaps there are some topics you feel should be covered. Should we, for instance, be running more first aid courses, health & safety courses, would this be of benefit to you, your staff and your clubs? Never forget that this is YOUR Association and your input is most welcome. Like most things you must put something in if you are to get the best out of it. With this in mind, we will all be required to comment on the national BIGGA five-year plan. You may have read about this in Neil Thomas' article in the February magazine. There are some very tough decisions to be made and you will be given the chance to make them. More details at a later date.

PAUL COPSEY

SOUTH WEST

Ever played 18 holes, come off the 18th and it's felt like 36? That's what my legs were telling me and I should think many others felt the same way after playing in the recent winter competition at Castle Combe Golf and Country Club. One or two contemplated using one of the fleet of available buggies but such were the frowns of disapproval from the majority, that not wanting to seem the odd ones out any thoughts of an easy round were soon forgotten. Anyway, whoever heard of a greenkeeper using a buggy?

Joking apart, in an idyllic setting, with brilliant sunshine, the course was in excellent condition and a credit to course manager Guy Woods and his staff. Thanks are also extended to general manager Paul Ware and Castle Combe for their hospitality, to Lloyds of Letchworth for their afternoon lecture and last but by no means least to the caterer for some excellent home-made steak and kidney pies!

The event results are as follows: 1, Paul Godwin, Tracey Park; 2, Ian Hazel, Clevedon; 3, Marc Haring, Cumberwell Park, 4, Andrew Johnson, Saltford.

If you are keen, be seen at Westurf this year. April 27, Long Ashton Golf Club, 10am-5pm to be precise. Your presence is invaluable and there are even opportunities for a stint on car park gate duty! Interested? Give me a ring to secure an hour session.

As reported in the February edition of Greenkeeper International, a five-year plan to review and improve the Association's continued growth is to be formulated this year. The opportunity for any section member is there to voice his/her opinions and submit ideas. If you feel you have something to raise, either put it on paper and send it to me or give me a ring on 0272 793127.

Congratulations to Martin Townsend of Avoncrop Amenity Products and his wife Lesley on the recent birth of their son Roger Martin.

Finally, Chippenham Golf Club is the venue for the Hayter Challenge Regional Qualifier on April 21 - book early and I'll see you there.

KEVIN GREEN

BERKS, BUCKS & OXON

Only a few reminders to report this month. The Spring tournament and Hayter Qualifier is at Mill Ride GC on June 1. You should have received your fixture cards for 1994 by now, if not let me know.

If anyone has any ideas for this year's win-



RAY CLARK

ter lecture programme, could they let Mark Chesman know on 0734 440225 and if you have any news for this column please call me on 0628 829208.

SURREY

It was nice to see the winter lecture so well attended. The lecture, on Surrey heathland, was presented by Dr McGibbon and Ian McMillan – thanks to both of them for a most interesting and beneficial lecture.

Thanks also to Clive Osgood and Steve Shaw, head of greenkeeping at NEScot, for organising the event.

The South East Region's Annual Gentlemen's Dinner at Walton Heath was also well

Around the Green



attended. Thanks to Doug Smith and David Wood for all their hard work. Thanks also to all members of the trade for their involvement in the day's proceedings and to Clive Osgood and everyone at Walton Heath GC.

The winners were: Gross – J Jackson, 39pts; Handicap 0-8 – 1, S Haynes, 38; 2, J Tiexeira, 37; 3, L Bingham, 36; Handicap 9-16 – 1, D

Wilson, 41; 2, S Antolk, 40; 3, B Walsh, 40; Handicap 17-24 – 1, J Millen, 33; 2, M Mewett, 27; 3, D Coomber, 27; Guests – 1, D Taylor, 41; 2, C Town, 41; 3, R Elderfield, 39; Longest drive 13th – G Barr, R Pride, T Dunstan; Nearest pins – S Haynes, R Glazier, R Watts; Putting – J Jackson, 32 putts.



The most popular hole at Walton Heath during the South East Section's Annual Gentlemen's Dinner – the watering hole.

Is anyone interested in a dinner-dance in the near future? If you are, please contact any of the committee members listed on the front of your fixture lists. An amended telephone number on this list – David Gibbs – 0737 832015.

A belated thank you to Ian Kerry for supplying our section with a coach to the BTME.

Any member with any news, please contact Roger Glazier (081 394 1493) or me.

Two forthcoming events: June 1 – the Cresta Cup, Laleham GC; June 29 – South Turf, Motspur Park.

DAVID GIBBS

HAYTER QUALIFIER

The Scottish Region North Section held their Hayter Qualifier during the Autumn Outing at Kirriemuir last September. The reason for this is that the North members felt that qualifying at the Spring Outing in May is only a couple of weeks prior to the Scottish Final and some could not get the time off. The following members qualified:

Class 1 (Scr-9) – 1, George Paterson, Fortrose; 2, Alisdair McLaren, Abernethy; 3, Gary Tough, Montrose (BIH); 4, Eoin Riddell, Royal Dornoch (BIH).

Class 2 (10-18) – 1, Steve Simpson, Fraserburgh; 2, Sam Morrison, Royal Aberdeen; 3, Kevin Fowler, Fortrose; 4, Stuart Robertson, North Inch, Perth.

Class 3 (19-28) – 1, Robert Allan, Hazelhead; 2, Stuart Hogg, Fortrose; 3, Tom Simpson, Murrayshall; 4, Colin Burgess, Forres.

These 12 will represent the North Section in the Scottish Finals in May at Duddingston Golf Club.

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Risk assessment: how to get started

Jon Allbutt kicks off a new series of health and safety tips

To have an up-to-date statement of safety policy that gives details of the general arrangements for health and safety at work is not enough to fully comply with modern health and safety legislation. It should be the beginning of a process to produce what will become a safety manual which contains all the work necessary to comply with the regulations introduced under the 1974 Act and also the new EU/HSE Regulations which came into force on January 1, 1993.

In effect, the safety manual is a clear account of what should be happening in the workplace, setting the safety standards for each area of the work. To be fully effective the manual must reflect the actual working practices and is therefore a working document and not an academic dissertation on each subject! In fact, inspectors will compare what is stated in the manual with their observations of what is happening 'on the ground'. The safety manual is an essential reference for the employer, manager and employee and must be available for all to use where necessary.

It will not be possible to complete the work in one exercise. The safety manual may in fact never be completed as it will be altered, revised and will include new material as work practices change.

The term Risk Assessment is the new 'buzz' phrase which conjures up a picture of difficult technical operations requiring special skills. Whilst this may be true for some of the tasks, eg noise assessments, the majority of the work requires only a good knowledge of the work, the relevant guidance, a fund of common sense and a heightened sense of safety awareness! The manager who has a detailed knowledge of the work and experience in carrying it out is the best person to carry out the risk assessment process. He does however need some training or guidance so that he develops 'health and safety eyes', that is the ability to see the workplace

in terms of its hazards. The blindness of familiarity is a major obstacle and some help is necessary to help the assessor to 'see' where the hazards are. A fellow manager from a neighbouring course will be able to help, or the club could call in independent expertise to get the process started. If the club decides to use a consultant, remember to follow the guidance in the HSE leaflet 'Selecting a Health and Safety Consultancy'.

Before commencing the risk assessments, plan how the job will be done, allocate time each week and sort out how the information will be recorded and stored. The use of computer software will provide greater flexibility and allow for alterations with the minimum waste of time. Organising a directory (Health and Safety) which is divided into sub-directories to take account of each area of work (Manual Handling, Noise, The Golf Course, Machinery) and then individual files for each assessment is the best system. There is no special software available for this, the use of a good quality word processing software will be sufficient for most needs.

Manual systems can be used and many of the documents give suggested formats for conducting assessments. There will be a lot of paperwork, so plan carefully and create files to separate the information and avoid a confused pile of paper!

When deciding on where to start, suggest that the Management Regulations are used to check out existing arrangements and also to identify hazards that are not already covered by specific regulations, eg there are no 'Risk of Being Hit by Golf Balls Regulations'! To have a set of the Regulations is very important. New Health & Safety guidance leaflets will be available from the GTC mid-May, but there will be a charge for these. tel: 0347 838640. Some free leaflets are available from the Health and Safety Executive Information Centre, Broad Lane, Sheffield S3 7HQ. Tel: 0742 892345. Fax: 0742 892333.

Norwich greenkeeper Ray Wigley (deputy head at Costessey Park GC, Parklands) says he follows these five steps when formulating a risk assessment:

- 1 Ensure all relevant risks or hazards are identified. Do not concentrate on trivialities. concern yourself with what actually happens in the workplace not what should happen; think about non-routine operations; consider interruptions caused by outside activities, the weather, golfers etc.
- 2 Ensure that all groups of employees and others who might be affected are considered; think about the golfers, greenkeepers and visiting reps.

- 3 Take account of any existing measures. Do they work? Are they properly maintained? Can you remove the hazard altogether by use of different equipment? If not, how can you minimise the risk? Only use PPE when there is nothing else that you can reasonably do.

- 4 If you have five or more employees, you must record the significant findings. For example, "Fuel storage facility checked - signed to remind no smoking naked flames within 50 feet."

- 5 Review the assessment from time to time and revise if necessary. Timings are not important but suggestions are to carry out a review quarterly.

■ *With the US Masters nearly upon us, Alan Mitchell, South Coast Section secretary, has this timely warning:*

The Greenkeeper's Lament

The story true is often told,
Of Percy once a greensman bold,
As a bloke was not contentious,
But at his job most conscientious.

Twenty summers came and went,
While Percy often did lament,
How can I make my greens sensational,
Just like those at Augusta National?

For you must dear reader pity,
Perce who had a greens committee,
Who yearly saw the National greens,
All lighted up on telly screens.

Looking at this turf like lightning,
Really could be rather frightening,
For Perce knew after the Master's fleeting,
The committee quickly would call a meeting.

"Perce!" they'd cry all tongues a-lashing,
"From the members we get a-bashing,
They want us for it is fashionable,
To get our greens like Augusta National."

So they went and gave to Perce,
And now you'll see things getting worse,
I think the man's first name was Peter,
Who gave to Perce the dreaded Stimpometer.

With this tool they would stand tall,
And have greens to beat them all,
Slick and green with curvy bends,
On which they could impress their friends.

Well Perce tried hard to tell the facts,
But it availed not, they wanted acts,
"Give us greens like we desire,
Or Percy you we'll surely fire!

Then Perce left the meeting site,
Though he had put up quite a fight,
They didn't want to know the reason,
Augusta looked so good each season.

So here stood Perce quite all alone,
To the vagaries of English climate prone,
Take-all patch and dollar spot,
Fusarium wilt, he'd got the lot.

No USGA spec greens for him,
What could he do just for this whim?
He reduced the height to speed the ball,
And in three months had lost them all.

With greens all sad and looking sick,
The committee the fault with Perce did pick,
And so they sent him soundly packing,
For they thought that he was lacking.

And now Perce doesn't tend his course,
He rather goes with cart and horse,
And feeling like the committee to throttle,
At each front door leaves a fresh milk bottle.

An even spread

27 ➔ the air. Lack of compensation will create over-application and wastage.

Because all fertilisers display differing spread characteristics in different machines, the only sensible way to determine the accuracy and consistency of spread is by a tray test. SCS carries out tray tests nationwide on all types of spreaders, including spinning disc machines and Vicon oscillating spout units. A national test service is offered also by Amazone, but only for its own spreaders.

To tray test a spreader, it must first be set up and calibrated for the required application rate, according to the manufacturer's recommendations in the operator's manual. The machine is then driven at working speed over a row of collection trays placed on level turf and spanning two complete bout widths.

The fertiliser collected in each tray is emptied into a row of test tubes corresponding to each tray to show the actual spread pattern across the bout width achieved. The measure of uniformity of the pattern across this width is known as the coefficient of variation (CV).

Under ideal test conditions and with the spreader set up accurately to suit the material, a CV of less than 10% should be the aim. In practice, this can rise to 15% depending on turf conditions and wind speed. A CV of more than 15% is not acceptable, says Mr Crooks.

"Striping due to under or over application does not normally become visible until the CV exceeds 20%. So a CV in excess of 15% will produce significant wastage and variable grass growth without any visible warning signs," he explained. "Even if striping highlights a problem, it is often too late to take corrective action. It is better to tray test and calibrate a machine to achieve the lowest possible CV in the first place."

One drawback with the CV method of uniformity measurement is that it irons out single narrow variations within the overall bout width to produce an average figure which can appear quite acceptable. It is important, therefore, to examine the material placed in each test tube after a tray test for any major peaks or troughs across the spreading

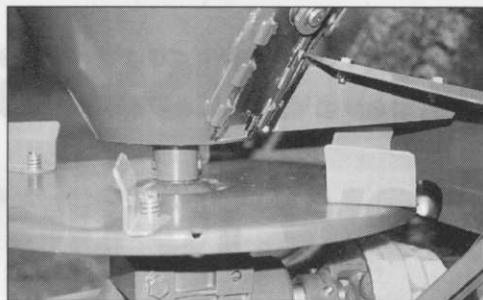
width. Individual variations of 20% from the average can indicate a mechanical problem with the spreader or in its specific setting for the material being applied.

Because of the difficulty in maintaining a consistent width of spread on golf courses due to undulating and sloping fairways, trees, bunkers and other obstructions, the ideal spread pattern is a gradually tapering pyramid from the centreline of the tractor, points out Mr Crooks. Providing the operator achieves an overlap on each pass, this pattern will permit quite large variations in driving width without seriously affecting the overall rate or evenness of spread.

An undesirable pattern is of a rectangular shape with a marked cut-off, leaving little margin for any deviation from one fixed driving width.

Wind speed is another factor which is often overlooked. As a rule of thumb, if it is considered too windy to spray, then it is too windy to spread fertiliser. Humid

Check the working components of the spreader for damage or wear prior to going to work.



conditions can also affect spreading, as damper materials have reduced flow rates.

Accessories and special attachments are available for most spreaders to prevent fertiliser being thrown into ditches, ponds and hedges. They limit the spread to one side of the machine and help prevent wastage and pollution. Similarly, there are special agitators for powders or damp materials to maintain an even flow from the hopper.

One of the most important points is the cleaning of the machine. This must be carried out at the end of the season using a good flow of water. After drying, all exposed metal parts should be lubricated and the spreader examined for wear, damage or faults before being stored carefully ready for the next time it is needed.

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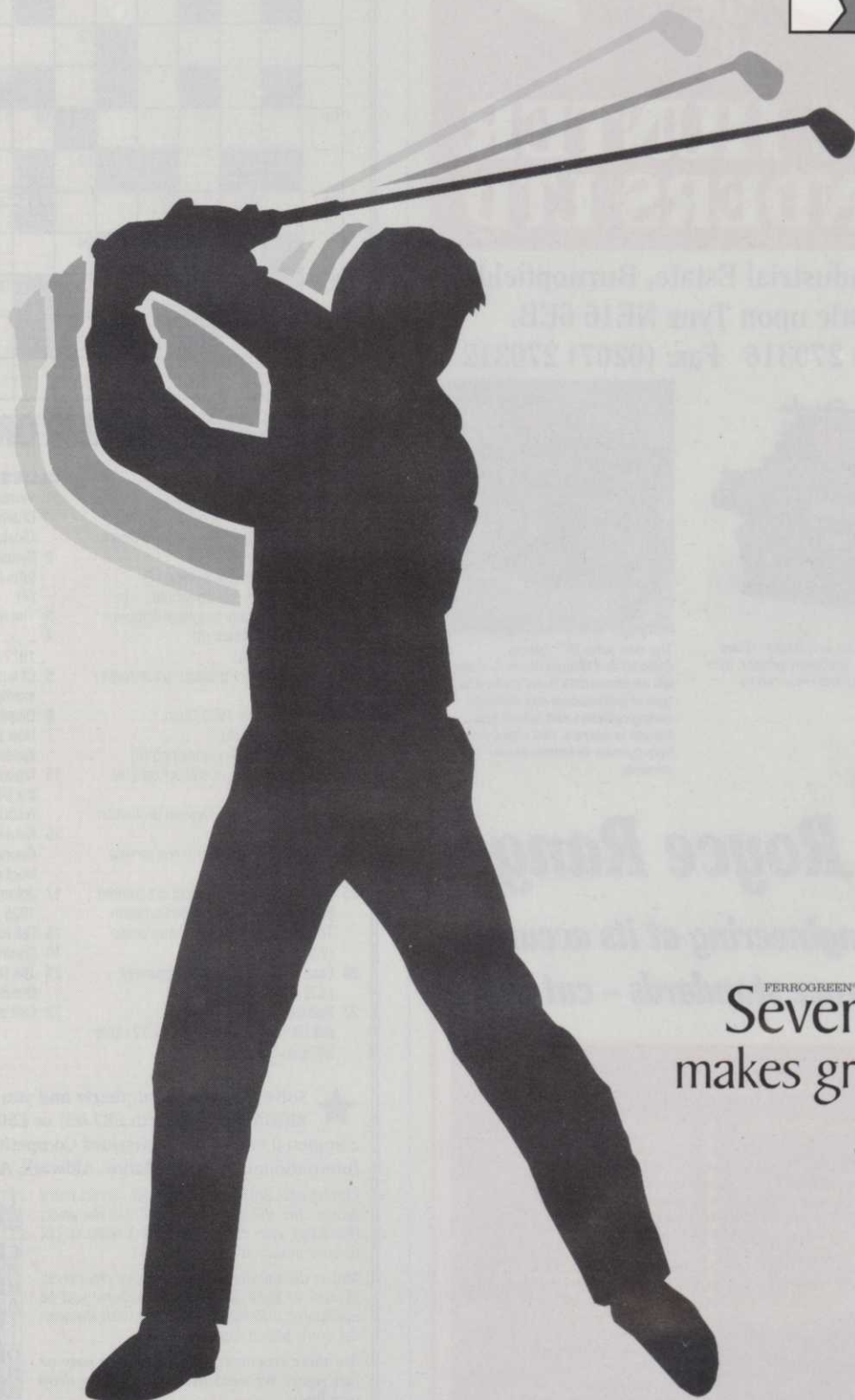


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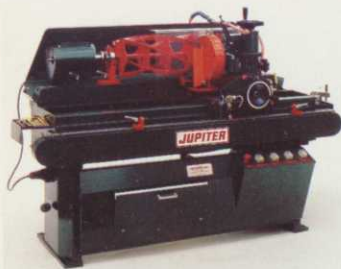
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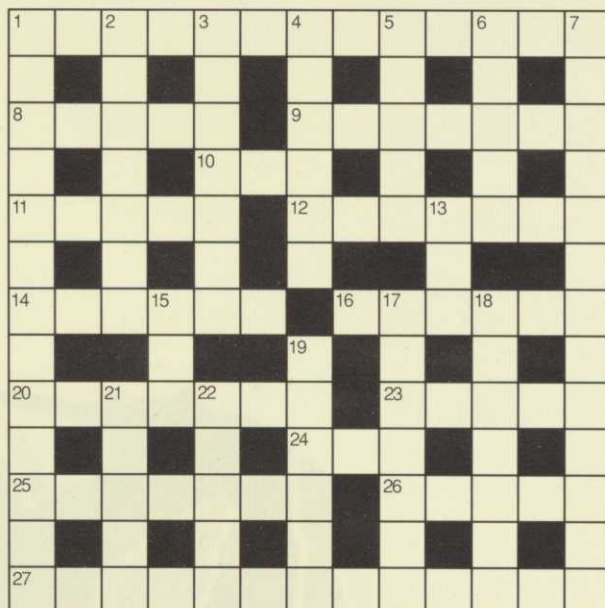
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GREENKEEPER'S CROSSWORD

Compiled by Mark G Smith, assistant at Frilford Heath GC



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Ideal tee shot (8,5)
- 8 Frank Zoeller Jr or "Fuzzy", the 1979 US Masters Champion is also in town! (5)
- 9 The old name for a 2 wood (7)
- 10 Rule 25 states that snow and be treated optionally as casual water or loose impediments (3)
- 11 Raise a flag (5)
- 12 Wood treatment product (trade name) (7)
- 14 Surname of the 1981 Open Championship (6)
- 16 Boring tools in the workshop (6)
- 20 Compacted layer of soil beneath the surface (4-3)
- 23 Golf headwear used as sun protection (5)
- 24 Hole number at Royal Troon named "Black Rock" (3)
- 25 Golf complex near Murcia in southern Spain, for many years the European Tour School's final qualifying venue (2,5)
- 26 Ease the pressure on an opponent (3,2)
- 27 Relative position of player A (68,69,70) to player B (69,72,72) after 54 holes (3,5,5)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Venue of the 1994 USPGA Championship CC, Tulsa, Oklahoma (8,5)
- 2 Synonym for "Marcelling" where grass tufts are left above the height of cut (7)
- 3 The role of the spark plug (7)
- 4 Green, US Open Champion in 1977 (6)
- 5 Of what are Moat, French and Mole examples (5)
- 6 Dispense parts from stock (5)
- 7 How properly mown greens should appear (6,7)
- 13 Mountainside courses in Europe and the US sometimes double as these resorts in winter (3)
- 15 Name of the 19th hole on the Old Course, St Andrews, the last on the front nine (3)
- 17 Johnny USPGA Champion in 1935 (7)
- 18 Fail to find one's peg after driving (4,3)
- 19 Complete, like the perfect hole plug (6)
- 21 The Dock Genus of weeds, eg. (L..... Obtusifolius) (5)
- 22 Golf shot played low and with force (5)

★ Solve the crossword puzzle and you could win either a BIGGA blazer (worth £87.95) or £50 in cash! Send completed entries to: Crossword Competition, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF.

Closing date April 25, 1994. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win the prize. Photocopy your entry if you don't want to cut up your magazine.

This is the solution to last month's crossword. Because of tight deadlines, the winner will be announced next month, together with the winner of the March competition.

Are these crosswords too hard, too easy or just right? We need to know – please drop us a line.

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If I'm the winner, please send me ☐ £50 cash or ☐ BIGGA blazer, size

Desert island risks

When your golf course is bounded by water on all sides, bringing in even the most fundamental supplies can be a logistical nightmare...

The problem for Walter McDonald is not what he puts on his course or how he spreads it, but how he gets it there.

The King James VI Golf Club is on an island in the middle of the River Tay.

When Walter first came to the course on Moncreiffe Island, Perth, Scotland, a small boat was used to ferry things across from the mainland. "But that was bloody dangerous," says 56-year-old Walter, who came to the course 15 years ago.

The head greenkeeper at the time loved his boat and used it to transport fertiliser, top dressing and beer (the essentials) to the course.

One day the boat's small out-



How the course will look in May - with the hawthorne bushes in flower. The 11th and 13th greens and 12th and 14th tees at the southern end of the pear-shaped island are built outside the flood bank and regularly get swamped with the wash from big ships coming in and out of Perth Harbour.

board engine packed in - and there were no oars in the boat, so the head greenkeeper had to use his hands to paddle the craft and supplies ashore. "I thought, that's not for me," said Walter. And when he became head greenkeeper he got rid of the boat.

Walter uses the small footbridge that runs alongside the railway bridge. His three-man

team carry the essentials up the steps and load them onto a four-wheel buggy which was specially made to fit on the footbridge. Once across the river they can throw the goods down to the waiting tractor/trailer (or carry them down, depending on how fit they feel).

"There's less chance of hurting yourself carrying the barrels up

the steps than lifting them in and out of a rocking boat," adds Walter who remembers stripping down a Sisis Hydromain 14 13 years ago and carrying it over bit by bit - wheels, chassis, engine...

In the summer they can drive a small tractor/trailer (under 10-ton) across the river at low tide. There are concrete blocks set in the riverbed at the narrowest

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Walter McDonald faces up to his problem – how to get goods across the river from Perth

point from the north of the island to a car park on the east bank of the river. But it means careful planning of deliveries.

"It's all about arranging with the contractor and getting them to deliver at a certain time before the tide comes in or just after the tide's gone out. If you have to wait an hour you could be in big trouble, especially if you've got 30-ton of sand in the car park on the other side. You've really got to get rid of it out of that car park pretty sharp, although the town understands our predicament," says Walter.

The path can be exposed for six

to eight hours but if high tide is mid-day it means they can't do anything from 10am-2pm. The path can be seen six months of the year and sometimes in the winter when heavy frost halts the water higher up in the mountains.

Just after the path had been put in, and before it had time to settle, King James VI club lost a tractor off it – the engine was still running when the path disappeared into a hole. Even Walter couldn't get it going – and he was a mechanic in his pre-greenkeeping days.

He worked for a construction

company, "But I got sick of being away from home and I'd not long been married."

His uncle was a greenkeeper at Alyth and had offered Walter a job before he became a mechanic. It got him thinking about the profession when he was looking for something else to do. Walter's first greenkeeping post was as the first full-time greenkeeper at nine-hole Dunkeld. While there he started going to college and collecting his City and Guilds and Scotvec qualifications.

He came to the 700-member King James VI club as first assistant, and after about a year got the head greenkeeper's job. He is in charge of another qualified greenkeeper (his first assistant), a tractor man and an apprentice.

"Being a trained mechanic comes in handy, very handy at times," says Walter.

Getting things to the course will become easier next year when another, wider footbridge is erected (to take walkers to a new picnic area on the island). Walter believes he (and the allotment gardeners with whom he shares the island) will be able to drive a compact tractor and trailer across it.

This will make life much easier for him when he receives his deliveries of half a ton of fertiliser in spring (1 1/2 a year), 80-100 ton of top dressing, and bunker

sand. They are turving the bunker faces at the moment and replacing the quarry sand with yellow sand (it's what the club members wanted). They have done about 14 of the course's 30 greenside bunkers at the moment, so more sand will have to be brought in.

How to get these things to the 97-year-old, Tom Morris-designed course is not the only problem. The course has been flooded twice in the last four years. But it's an ill wind... last year's flood washed away the greenkeepers' small wooden shed – and now they have a new one, built on higher ground. But they had to bring all the upfill and concrete over by hand. "We were days on end bringing that stuff over," remembers Walter.

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Information and Advice: Carol Borthwick, Head of Greenkeeping Section
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