

technical details of the materials, such as particle size analysis, pH and lime content? Does the company undertake regular, ie monthly, analysis of its materials to make sure it is maintaining its quality?

c) Is the material sterilised prior to delivery?

d) What reserves of materials do the company have, so that they can provide you with the same topdressing in say 5 or 10 years time? This is particularly important for the topsoil which is perhaps the most variable of the topdressing ingredients.

e) How does the supplier deliver the material and what are the back-up services available, ie is the material delivered on time in the size of wagon you require and covered to prevent it from getting wet?

It is not possible to give a definitive list of suppliers as many market their material not only under their own name but for other retailing companies.

So at the end of the day which topdressing should you use? Well



this is not an easy answer as it depends upon your particular greens, their rootzone and their current state. It is not necessarily good for instance to use a very high quality topdressing which may be very expensive if it does not match up with your existing rootzone. It is quite possible to end up with a perched water table overlaying your existing rootzone as mentioned earlier. In addition, changing from topdressing to topdressing can create root breaks occurring in the top 50-75mm of the green. This means that roots do not go into the soil itself and the whole turf can lift like a carpet when hollow cored. So is it true that you should use a cheap economy topdressing on soil based greens? Again it

depends upon the existing green and its rootzone. Any topdressing used should be naturally free draining and should not compact, so this sets minimum standards to start with. High quality, uniform topdressings may not always be the best solution, but poor quality topdressings are seldom the answer.

To determine which topdressing you should use, the important thing is to understand why you are topdressing, and what you are trying to achieve by applying this topdressing. Once you have determined this and what your existing rootzone is composed of, you can decide what topdressing is most suitable for your golf green. Ideally you should try and match the rootzone as much as

possible, although this will not be possible on soil-based greens which are probably suffering under heavy winter play. It may be that in some instances topdressing is not the answer to the problem that you have and a more radical solution may be required. Whatever you do, use the same material consistently over a number of years and do not switch from one analysis to another. This does not mean that you need to stay with the same supplier, but make sure that the analysis is consistent from year to year. It may sound like buying a topdressing is like walking through a minefield, but take heart, many of the larger topdressing suppliers are making big efforts to improve their quality and consistency and to highlight the quality differences between themselves and cheaper alternatives. There is no doubt that you will have to pay for quality, consistency and uniformity, but in the long term that additional cost is well worth paying.

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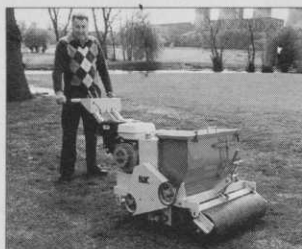
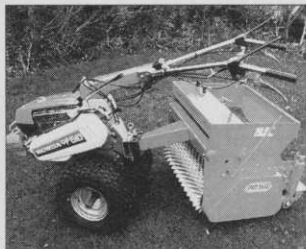
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The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, the largest trade show and education programme of its kind in Europe in 1995, takes place in the Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, from January 25-27.

The BIGGA National Education Conference takes place in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, from January 23-24. The Educational Seminar Programme, which runs concurrently with the exhibition, will be held in the Harrogate International Centre's Royal Hall – entrance from Hall C.

BTME is open from 9am on all three days. It closes at 5.30pm on Wednesday and Thursday and 1.30pm on Friday.

Entry to the exhibition is FREE but unless you have pre-registered you will need to complete a registration card at the entrance to the show.

WHAT'S ON AND WHEN

MONDAY 23 JANUARY, MAJESTIC HOTEL NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Chairman: Dr Peter Hayes, Director, Sports Turf Research Institute

8.50am: Introduction: Barry Heaney, Vice Chairman, BIGGA

9.00am – 9.40am: An Overview of European Golf Course Ecology

David Stubbs, Executive Director, European Golf Association Ecology Unit

9.40am – 10.00am: Golf Courses and the Environment – Council for the Protection of Rural England's View

Neil Sinden, Assistant Secretary, CPRE

10.00am – 10.20am: Aspects to Consider when Tree Planting on Golf Courses

Wally Grice, Woodland Officer, The Forestry Authority

10.40am – 11.20am: Managing the Ecology of the Golf Course

Bob Taylor, STRI

11.20am – 12.00noon: The Layman's Guide to Irrigation

Martin Smith, Head Greenkeeper, Ramsdale Park Golf Centre

12.00 – 12.30pm: Questions to the Panel

2.00pm – 2.40pm: Agronomy – the Seven Obstacles and how to overcome them

Andy Campbell, Course Manager, Carden Park Golf Club

2.40pm – 3.20pm: Benefits of Turf Grasses to Environmental Issues

Dr James Beard, President, International Sports Turf Institute and Professor Emeritus, Turfgrass Science, Texas A&M University

3.40pm – 4.20pm: Reconstruction of the 7th Green on the Tournament Course

Michael Wattam, Head Greenkeeper, East Sussex National Golf Club

4.20pm – 5.00pm: Putting it all into Perspective

Billy McMillan, Course Manager, Wildwood Golf Club

5.00pm – 5.30pm: Questions to the Panel

7.00pm for 7.30pm: CONFERENCE DINNER

With entertainment by the Rainbow Jazz Band, a seven piece band playing traditional Dixieland Jazz, led by Willy Hirst.

TUESDAY 24 JANUARY, MAJESTIC HOTEL

9.00am – 9.40am: Water Quality Management – Ponds and Lakes

Charlie Barebo, Otterbine Barebo

9.40am – 10.00am: Meteorological Effects
Mr RA Murray, Manager, Leeds Weather Centre

10.00am – 10.20am: Water – Use it Wisely
Geoff Bell, Water Quality Manager, NRA Thames Region

10.40am – 11.20am: Irrigation Techniques
Phillip York, Phillip York Associates

11.20am – 12.00noon: Communication – We Thought We Had it Right and then Came the AGM
Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager, Letchworth Golf Club

12.00 – 12.30pm: Questions to the Panel

2.00pm – 2.40pm: The Evolution of the London Golf Club – Natural Resource Management
Joe Paulin, Courses Manager, London Golf Club

2.40pm – 3.20pm: Perseverance, Pride and Professionalism – an overview of Patsull Park Hotel, Golf and Country Club

Geoff Allinson, Course Manager, Patsull Park Golf Club

3.40pm – 4.20pm: Working Together in Sweden
Stig Persson and Hakan Eriksson, Swedish Golf Federation

4.20pm – 5.00pm: Continuing Environmental Research and Education
James F Moore, Director, Green Section, Mid-Continent Region, United States Golf Association

5.00pm – 5.30pm: Questions to the Panel

5.30pm: Summing Up
John Millen, Chairman, BIGGA

WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY, ROYAL HALL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

9.00am: Ribbon cutting to open BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, Entrance Hall A

SEMINAR PROGRAMME – SESSION A

10.30-11.00: THE OPEN 1994

George Brown, Golf Courses and Estates Manager, Turnberry

11.00-12.00: WAS IT WORTH IT?

Kerran Daly, Master Greenkeeper, Course Manager Salisbury and Wiltshire Golf Club; Anthony Davies, Master Greenkeeper and ICI Premier Greenkeeper 1990, Course Manager Prestbury Golf Club; Bridie Redican, Toro/Lely/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year 1993, Adare Manor Hotel and Golf Club.

SEMINAR PROGRAMME – SESSION B

1.30-2.00 pm: Golf Course Management in The Highlands

Iain Macleod, Course Manager, Tain Golf Course

2.00-2.30 pm: Ashridge – the Last Five Years
Jim Cassidy, Course Manager, Ashridge Golf Club

2.30-3.00 pm: A Greenkeeper's Guide to Working with Golf Course Architects
Cameron Sinclair, Chairman, British Institute of Golf Course Architects

SEMINAR PROGRAMME – SESSION C

3.30-4.30 pm: Practical Management of a Complex Environment

James F Moore, Director, Green Section, Mid-Continent Region, USGA

8.30pm: KARAOKE NIGHT

A karaoke night will be held in The Majestic Hotel hosted by Jonathan Reece of the Fun Time Music Company, featuring an all star cast... of greenkeepers.

THURSDAY 26 JANUARY, ROYAL HALL SEMINAR PROGRAMME – SESSION D

9.30-10.00am: Budgeting for Golf Course Management

Colin Hegarty, Golf Research Group.

10.00-10.30am: A Secretary's View

Brian Carnie, Managing Secretary, Broadway Golf Club

SEMINAR PROGRAMME – SESSION E

11.00-11.30am: Rabbit and Vermin Control

Dr I G McKillop, Central Science Laboratory

11.30-12.00pm: Plant and Grass Breeding

Dr David Patterson, Turfgrass Breeder, Northern Ireland Horticultural and Plant Breeding Station

SEMINAR PROGRAMME – SESSION F

1.30-3.00pm: European Forum

Dennis Mortram, Senior Greenkeeping Lecturer, Reaseheath College; Tommy Lindelof, Chief Executive, Swedish Greenkeepers Association; Joe Baidy, President, GCSAA; Peter Shaw, Course Manager, Riedhof Golf Club, Munich

SEMINAR PROGRAMME – SESSION G

3.30-4.30pm: Health and Safety Update

Douglas Shearer, Health and Safety Consultant

7.30pm for 8.00pm: EXHIBITION BANQUET

The climax to another eagerly awaited banquet will be an outstanding cabaret starring comedian Tom O'Connor and top female vocalist Lyn Paul, former lead singer of the New Seekers, together with the City Lights Showband.

FRIDAY 27 JANUARY, ROYAL HALL

SEMINAR PROGRAMME – SESSION H

10.00-11.30am: International Turfgrass Trends

Dr James Beard, President, International Sports Turf Institute and Professor Emeritus of Turf Grass Science, Texas A&M University



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◆ Photograph taken at the East Sussex National Golf Club

WELCOME TO HARROGATE

This will be the seventh BTME and the best yet – they're already calling it the "Magnificent Seventh". Here are just some of the key reasons why you should be there:

◆ 150 exhibitors will be at the Harrogate International Centre to present the most comprehensive range of products and services to everyone with an interest in golf and fine turf maintenance. Many will be using the exhibition as a platform to launch new products. Look out for the latest from manufacturers such as Ransomes, Toro, Jacobsen, John Deere, Hayters, Kubota, Massey Ferguson, New Holland Ford and Sisis.

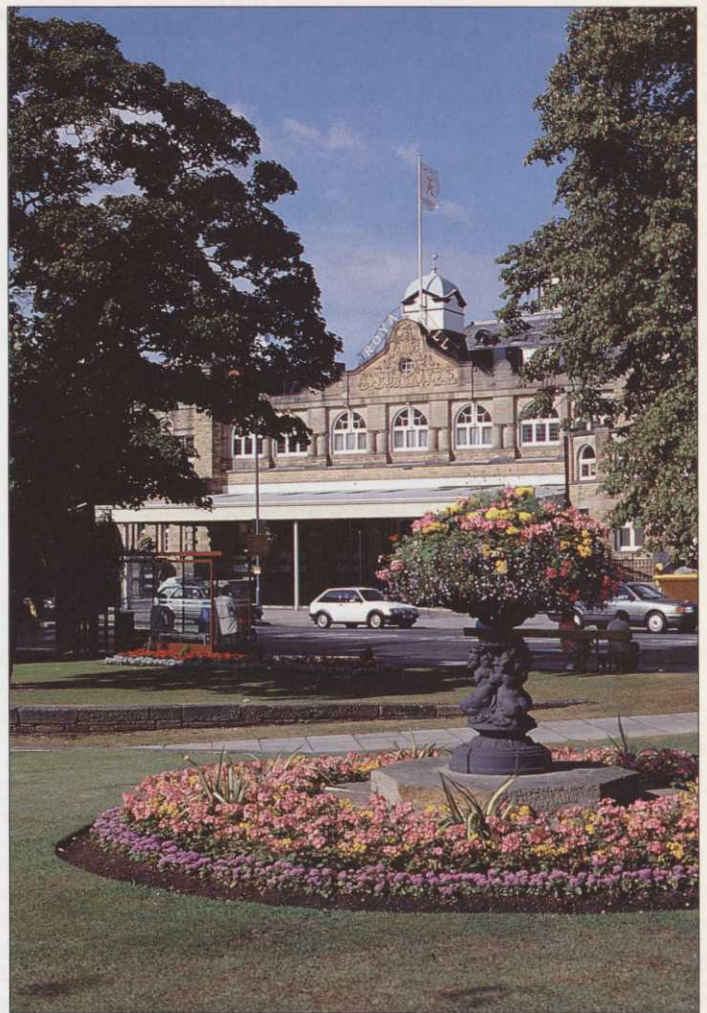
◆ Major bodies within golf will also be represented, including the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, the British Association of Golf Course Constructors, the

Association of Golf Club Secretaries, the National Turfgrass Council, the Sports Turf Research Institute, the Greenkeepers Training Committee and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

◆ The education element, which starts on Monday January 23 with the BIGGA National Education Conference, followed by the Educational Seminar Programme, features world-class speakers. Topics for discussion include ecology, irrigation, international turfgrass trends, budgeting and health and safety updates.

◆ The pleasant Yorkshire town of Harrogate is easily accessible by road, rail, sea and air. The exhibition centre is one of the best appointed in the country. All events are within easy walking distance.

◆ Members are reminded that the Association's AGM will take place on Wednesday January 25 at 5.45pm in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate. Admission is on production of a current BIGGA membership card. You are also asked to wear your BTME badges so your barcode can be 'scanned' in with a light pen. This will cut down the usual queues as members line up to sign a visitors' book. Copies of the audited accounts for the year ended September 30 1994 are now available from section secretaries.



The Royal Hall, Harrogate: venue for the BTME and Seminar programme

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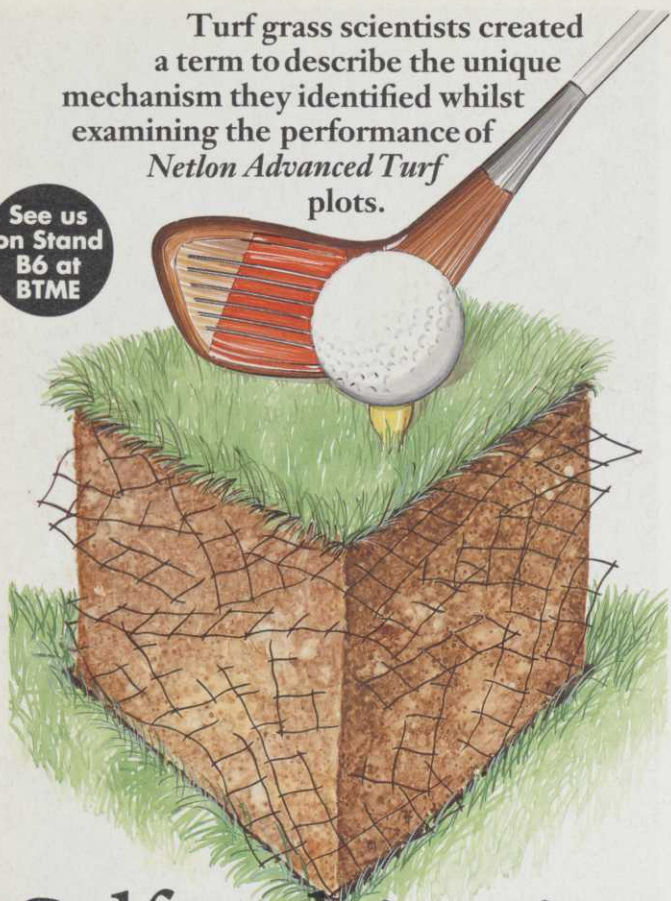
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SPEAKER PROFILES

NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

What should we look out for during the installation of a new irrigation system? How did we water our courses before irrigation? What makes a good irrigation system? These are just some of the questions that Martin Smith, head greenkeeper at Ramsdale Park Golf Centre, near Nottingham, will answer during his lecture at the National Education Conference. Martin, 42, has a unique view of irrigation since he is a greenkeeper who spent ten years as an irrigation installation engineer working all over Britain and Europe.

With the environmental issue becoming more and more important, greenkeepers cannot afford to miss ecologist Bob Taylor's talk on 'Managing the Ecology of the Golf Course'. Bob joined the STRI as an advisory agronomist in August 1989 after graduating from Sheffield University with a BSc honours degree in botany. Before going to university he worked for 11 years as a supervisory electrician with British Coal. At the STRI he advises a variety of sports clubs throughout the north of England on general maintenance but his real speciality is ecological matters particularly on golf courses where woodland management or sites of scientific interest are involved.



Want to know what the Council for the Protection of Rural England has to say about golf courses and the environment? Then don't miss Neil Sinden's talk. Neil is the assistant secretary of the CPRE.



Thinking of planting some trees on your course? Get some tips from an expert. Wally Grice, a woodland officer with the Forestry Authority (part of the Forestry Commission), has been working in forestry for 17 years. He now covers the Craven, Harrogate and Selby area. At the National Education Conference 33-year-old Wally will be covering 'Aspects to Consider When Tree Planting on Golf Courses'.

Geoff Allinson, 27, is course manager at Patsull Park Golf Club, an 18-hole parkland course. Geoff took up the post in 1993 after growing in a 27-hole pay-and-play facility close to Telford in Shropshire. Before that he was involved, as an assistant, with the growing-in of the Wisley Club in Surrey. His talk is about 'Perseverance, pride and professionalism - the three qualities every greenkeeper should possess.



The £40m London Golf Club in Kent opened to much acclaim last summer. Its courses manager, Joe Paulin, will tell delegates all about it during his talk on 'The Evolution of the London Golf Club - Natural Resource Management'. Joe is a 44-year-old American who has a BS degree in agronomy from the Purdue University. He has worked at some of the world's best courses including Clondeboye Golf Club in Bangor, Northern Ireland, and The Gleanegles Hotel in Scotland.

Irrigation consultant Philip York will explain how operating costs can be reduced with proper system design/installation and good management. The right selection and spacing of sprinklers is critical if the system is to be efficient. How to achieve a reasonably uniform application of water is just one of the questions answered in his talk. Philip began in the irrigation industry in 1962, initially designing agricultural systems for the Eastern Counties Farmers Ltd's irrigation department. He has also worked for Wright Rain Ltd and the Toro Company, rising to managing director of their UK subsidiary before leaving in 1985 to set up his own consultancy. He now specialises in irrigation for golf courses.



Two Swedes - Stig Persson and Hakan Eriksson of the Swedish Golf Federation - will explain what's happening in their homeland and how the greens section of the SGF works. They will also present their environmental pro-



gramme. Stig, 46, worked for five years as head greenkeeper at Barseback G&CC and spent another five years as an installation manager for Rain Bird in Sweden before becoming general manager of Ljunghusen GC, a 27-hole seaside course on the southwest corner of Sweden. Hakan is 33 years old and started working for the SGF as an agronomist in 1990. "In my work I give advice to about 30 golf clubs about running of the course. I am also responsible for research and experiments in course running within the Swedish Golf Federation," he tells us.

The main themes of the National Education Conference are ecology, agronomy and irrigation. Billy McMillan, course manager at the Wildwood Golf Club, will put it all into perspective for us. Billy, one of Jack McMillan's boys, has been a head greenkeeper for more than 18 years, including spells at Cray Valley GC, Badgemore Park GC, Sunningdale GC, Effingham GC before starting at Wildwood in 1991.

BTME SEMINAR SPEAKERS

Dr David Patterson is a turfgrass breeder at the Northern Ireland Horticultural and Plant Breeding Station, which is situated in the heart of County Armagh. His seminar is about plant and grass breeding. He will explain how grasses are cross-fertilised and new varieties are synthesised by crossing parental varieties which have complementary characteristics. Much of the parental material is selected from old golf courses. Dr Patterson has an honours degree in agricultural science and a PhD in applied plant science from the Queens University of Belfast.

Jim Cassidy, 35, has been in greenkeeping for 16 years and has spent 11 years as a head greenkeeper. He is currently course manager at Ashridge Golf Club and plans to tell seminar goers about his five years there, his relationship with the National Trust, the geology and wildlife on site, the management structure in the club, improvements brought about by investment in modern machinery, a new machine store and new staff facilities.

Greenkeepers may be asked to manage rabbits, badgers, squirrels, rats, moles or Canada geese. Or they may have to supervise the management operations of a pest control company. Either way, greenkeepers will encounter problems. The types of problems will be discussed by Dr Gordon McKillop of the Central Science Laboratory in Worplesdon, Surrey. He has 15 years experience of research into wild rabbits, particularly management techniques and damage assessment. He has also designed and tested the non-lethal electrified grids which have been installed in the Channel Tunnel as one means of preventing rabid animals crossing through the Tunnel from France.

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects' chairman, Cameron Sinclair, will be giving a talk entitled 'Modern Golf Course Design allied to Modern Maintenance.' Keen golfer Cameron started his golf course design career with the firm of Cotton (CK), Pennink, Steel and Partners Ltd soon after graduating from Heriot Watt University with a degree in landscape architecture. In 1986, through an association with Graham Marsh, Cameron was given the opportunity of working in Australia on the design of a new resort course. Eighteen months after construction started the result was the prestigious Palm Meadows Golf Course. Cameron was then offered a job as a senior designer with Marsh's organisation and stayed in Australia for two years designing two new resort courses in Queensland. He is now operating as an independent golf course architect based in the UK.



Joseph Baidy, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will talk about the United States' view of Europe during the third European Forum. The Forum is aimed at greenkeepers in Europe and Sweden's Tommy Lindelof and Peter Shaw, who works in Germany, are among the other speakers. Dennis Mortram from Reaseheath College will give an overview of greenkeeper training in England.

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Fax: 0536 201856

Contact: David Allett

Allett mowers will be displaying a selection of their fine cut cylinder mowers including the Shaver and Tournament models. These are extremely fine cut pedestrian machines for greens. The Gazelle and Buffalo range are more general purpose machines for boxing off tees and surrounds. Also on display will be the Conqueror ride on hydrostatic triple mower and Ranger gang mowers for use on tees and surrounds and fairways respectively.

**AMENITY LAND SERVICES LTD**

Stand No. B8

Long Lane, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire,

TF6 6HA, Tel: 0952 641949 Fax: 0952 247369

Contact: Ivan Toon

ALS supply and advise on the use of a wide range of turf related products and services, i.e. pesticides, fertilizers, seed and top dressing. All our staff are highly qualified and are always at your service. ALS "Contract Services" apply herbicides and other pesticides in accordance with the standards laid down by the NAAC and Monsanto's Quality Circle. We are widely accepted as being the best in the business and in addition to all this we carry out a full free agronomy service. Our ultimate aim is to breathe fresh life back into golf courses.

AMENITY TECHNOLOGY LTD

Stand No. C55

286 Kings Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 4HP,

Tel: 01734 510033 Fax: 01734 510044

Contact: Carl Crome

Back to the future, stand C55 will see the relaunch of Turfex traditional wetting agent, back due to popular demand.

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