

Perfect turf. No weeds. Get the point?

Spearhead

Even the most Stubborn turf weeds won't see new SPEARHEAD coming.

Containing new chemistry, SPEARHEAD is a selective herbicide with the power to strike from out of the blue in any sports or amenity turf situation.

SPEARHEAD sets new levels of excellence, and controls not only the more common



weeds of turf, but also the problem weeds such as Slender Speedwell and the Clovers.

With its approval for use on grasses as young as two months, low rates of use and clearance for knapsack application, now is the time to select SPEARHEAD - the ultimate all round weapon in the war against turf weeds.

For details of your Rhône-Poulenc distributor telephone 01277 301115.

 **RHÔNE-POULENC**

Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products, Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex CM5 0HW Telephone 01277 301115 Fax 01277 301119
SPEARHEAD CONTAINS DIFLUFENICAN, MCPA AND CLOPYRALID. READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY: USE PESTICIDES SAFELY. MAFF 07342

Spearhead. The ultimate all rounder on turf.

*Trade

GREENKEEPER

International



President
The Rt. Hon.
Viscount Whitelaw
K.T., C.H., M.C.,
D.L.

BIGGA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Chairman: Barry Heaney
Vice-Chairman: Dean Cleaver

BOARD MEMBERS

Richard Barker Patrick Murphy
Gordon Moir Robin Greaves
George Barr Chris Mardon
Gordon Child Harry Diamond

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Neil Thomas B.A.

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

John Pemberton

SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER

Bill Lynch

EDUCATION OFFICER

Ken Richardson

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES OFFICER

Sami Collins

Where to contact BIGGA

Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne,
York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF

Tel: 01347 838581
Fax: 01347 838864

GREENKEEPER

International

is the official monthly magazine
of the British & International
Golf Greenkeepers Association

EDITORIAL

Editor: Scott MacCallum

ADVERTISING

Sales and Marketing Manager: Bill Lynch
Senior Advertising Sales Executive:
Carol Dutton
Exhibition and Marketing Executive:
Louise Lunn
Telephone: 01347 838581

PRODUCTION

Design and Production Editor:
Tim Moat, telephone 01904 610611

PRINTING

Hi-Tec Print, Unit 7, Universal Crescent,
North Anston Trading Estate,
North Anston, Sheffield S31 7NZ
Tel: 01909 568533, fax: 01909 568206

**Greenkeeper International: winner
of Certificate of Merit in Magazine
of the Year category, Editing for
Industry Awards 1994 and 1995**

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.

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.

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.

ISSN 0961 - 6977

© 1995 British & International
Golf Greenkeepers Association

JUNE 1995

Contents

Fourth and final Championship

Walter Woods says he's as nervous about this, his fourth Open as he was about his first in 1978. Scott MacCallum talks with BIGGA's first Chairman, who retires later this year, on the hallowed St Andrews links **Pages 14-15**



Tackling theft and vandalism on the course

Closed circuit television, secure sheds, burglar alarms... Hugh Tilley examines a myriad of ways to keep the criminal fraternity at bay..... **Pages 8-10**

How a green committee should be run

Today's golf club membership is more active than ever before in its pursuit of even higher standards. John Hacker reports on the true role of the people who matter **Pages 27-30**

Next stop Tunisia

Vastly differing environments, extremes of climate, not to mention what's happening underfoot, makes the architect's job a real challenge. We look at what's involved **Pages 31-32**

Regular features

BIGGA in focus Neil Thomas welcomes key personnel to the Association whilst bidding a fond farewell to a staunch supporter **Page 4**

News A greenkeeper's local paper embarrassment... new appointments... new kit... and BIGGA's bid for National Lottery Fund cash..... **Pages 5-7, 13**

Education The Association's library is about to open its doors to members. Check out the impressive tomes available **Pages 40-41**

Cover

The 14th hole at St Andrews Old Course. Picture by Keith Hailey

WIN £50 CASH IN OUR
BUYER'S GUIDE
COMPETITION:
TURN TO PAGE 42

FREE READER REPLY SERVICE

Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 50 for further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the companies' Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us and we'll arrange for further information to be sent to you direct.



ADVERTISERS' INDEX a quick reference guide

	Ad Ref	Page
All Seasons	375	32
Atterton & Ellis	7	28
Bob Andrews	381	36
Blec	98	30
Charterhouse	130	24,25
D&E Turf	323	26
Dixon & Holliday	214	16
Earth Anchors	486	8
Eric Hunter	73	12
Grass Roots	479	35
Hawtree	47	16
Hayters	90	51
Jonathan Gaunt	480	31
JD Greasley	461	32
LE Lubricants	481	12
Lely	61	40,41
Lewis Equipment	10	30
Lindum	38	50
Meetens	151	37
Outdoor Power Products		
	413	16
Pattissons	35	16
Panelite	487	10
Prime Watermen	283	29
Ransomes	9	52
RCS	488	8
Rhône Poulenc	59	2
Rolawn	34	33
Rufford	5	35
Sisis	176	11
Standard Golf	421	18
Terralift	483	35
Times Mirror	462	13
Colleges		• 38,39
Buyer's Guide		• 42-46
Classified		• 47
Recruitment		• 47-49

ADVERTISING WORKS IN GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL:

“ We were so impressed with the results from our advertising campaign in '94 that we'll be doing a lot more in '95

- ROGER MOSSOP,
Marketing Manager,
Zeneca Professional
Products

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL:
Bill Lynch, Carol Dutton or
Louise Lunn at BIGGA HQ on
01347 838581.



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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 01347 838581.

GOLDEN KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS:

• Amenity Technology • ET Breakwell Ltd • Hardi Ltd
• Hayters PLC • Jacobsens • Kubota UK Ltd • Lely UK Ltd
• Massey Ferguson • Ransomes • Rhône Poulenc • Rigby Taylor
• Toro Irrigation • Zeneca Professional Products

SILVER KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS:

• Avoncrop Amenity Products • Fenchurch • Risboro' Turf • Sisis



Want to exhibit at next year's BTME? Call Louise Lunn on 01347 838581 for a comprehensive information pack

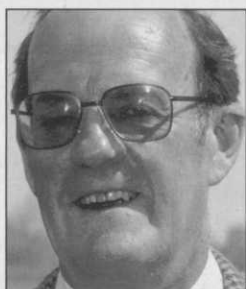
Comings and goings

It is a pleasure this month to welcome Geoff Hills as our first employee Regional Administrator. Geoff comes from a greenkeeping/secretarial background within golf and is looking forward to the tasks which lie ahead with enthusiasm and an eagerness to get involved. His appointment has resulted directly from an initiative by the South East Regional Board who felt that the time had come when the Association could no longer place the demands of regional administration upon working greenkeepers. To signify their commitment to the new appointment, the South East Region together with its constituent sections ie Kent, Surrey, London, Sussex and East Anglia have agreed to forgo their annual subscription refunds in order to part fund the post. Initially Headquarters will supply any supplementary finance that may be necessary although I know that the Region hopes to independently finance the post in total in due course. One particularly important aspect of the position will be the contact with golf clubs and the greenkeeping staff. This contact will have two prime motives ie to promote the welfare of greenkeepers and to introduce new members to the Association. For the first time a region will have an individual able to devote the time to 'grass roots' contact and I feel sure that there will be



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS



Geoff Hills: BIGGA's first employee Regional Administrator

resultant benefits for greenkeeper, golf club and indeed the Association. Geoff will have a large territory to cover and overnight results should not be anticipated. However, in the medium/longer terms I expect this appointment to have a significant impact and I know that it has been welcomed throughout the South East Region. I wish Geoff every success.

On the subject of new appointments, Scott MacCallum has now commenced his editorial duties with *Greenkeeper International* magazine. Scott has a strong journalistic golfing background and will now immerse himself in the greenkeeping world. With the change of an editor comes the opportunity to reflect on the quality, content and direction of the magazine. The magazine is very important to the Association and the prime means of contact with our membership. We do therefore need the thoughts of our readers and constructive comments and suggestions are always welcome – no more so than in the current change-over period. Please let Scott have your ideas particularly on future content and direction of the magazine. It is a members magazine and members' voices should be heard. Increasingly we hope that Scott's background and contacts

will enable us to influence a wider audience through both general golfing magazines, press and TV. This is not an easy task as the greenkeeping side of golf is usually far from media minds other than in a crisis – the incessant rain of 1988 during the Open at Lytham comes to mind as does the condition of the golf course for the 1991 Open at Birkdale. Crisis coverage is one thing, educating the golfing public in the importance of greenkeeping and greenkeepers is quite another. It is the latter which we need to tackle with increasing vigour as the vast majority of the golfing public are quite oblivious to the realities of golf course maintenance, to the technical expertise necessary to present golf courses in pristine condition and indeed to the fact that the golf club's most valuable employees are its greenkeeping staff. Part of Scott's brief therefore is to work in this area and he will be looking to members to provide practical assistance where appropriate.

This month I have covered the arrival of two newcomers as BIGGA employees and we look to them to contribute much to BIGGA's future progress and development. As we say hello to Geoff and Scott, it is time to bid farewell to the STRI's Director, Dr Peter Hayes. As Peter fast approaches retirement, I reflect back to BIGGA's beginnings in

1987 at the STRI offices in Bingley. It was Peter who welcomed us there and provided us with our first 'home'. For the 18 months we were based there, Peter and I shared adjoining offices and it was in early conversations with him and such as Jeff Perris and Mike Canaway that I was first imbued with the doctrines of greenkeeping and the vagaries of greenkeepers. How fitting therefore that as Peter leaves the STRI, the relationship of our two bodies has never been closer. We are currently nearing production of 'A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course', detailed below, which has been jointly commissioned by BIGGA and the STRI with the aim being to provide a practical source of information to the practising golf greenkeeper. This will be followed by a booklet dealing with grass identification whilst we are also cooperating on the production of a training video on the reconstruction of a green. These are all exciting projects made possible through the Education and Development Fund and for which the support of the STRI has been essential. So as Peter leaves centre stage I thank him for all his assistance over the past eight years and I suspect that he will remain a busy man. On behalf of members and staff I wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

Is it worth the risk?

As a result of using BIGGA's Legal Advice Service, a greenkeeper received £15,000 in settlement of a claim arising out of unfair dismissal – available only if you are a paid up BIGGA member. Personal accident cover up to £5,000 is also available only if you are a paid up BIGGA member. Then there's legal advice, accident cover, employment protection – vital in today's world for today's greenkeepers. Thousands of greenkeepers already enjoy the many benefits of BIGGA membership.

Can you really afford not to be a member?

Remember, payment can now also be made by Visa/Access.

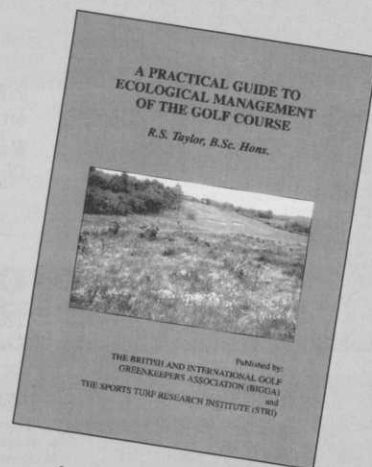
Ecology book out this month

A new book which will soon prove invaluable to greenkeepers all over the country will be available this month.

'The Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course' was written after BIGGA identified the need to assist greenkeepers, golf club officials, especially chairmen of green and anyone interested in ecology of golf courses.

Written by Mr R S Taylor, an STRI ecologist, the 103 page book, illustrated in full colour, was produced with the assistance of Jacobson E-Z Go UK Ltd and the BIGGA Gold and Silver Key members in cooperation with the STRI.

It can be purchased from BIGGA headquarters at a cost



of £3 for BIGGA members and £10 for non BIGGA members.

You can reserve your copy now by telephoning Samantha Flint on 01347 838581.

NEWS



Cynthia's marketing challenge

Cynthia Larbey, pictured, has been appointed Group Marketing Manager of Ransomes plc taking on responsibility for the marketing functions of all Ransomes' group companies worldwide.

Based at Ransomes' headquarters at Ipswich Cynthia has marketing experience in both the consumer and industrial sectors.

"Working alongside Ransomes' existing sales and marketing teams worldwide I shall be ensuring that all our marketing aims and objectives are truly consumer led," said Cynthia.

Greenkeeper backed in public slur outrage

Dunfermline Golf Club Head Greenkeeper Ronnie Cunningham had a nasty shock when he picked up the local newspaper and discovered a public notice informing members that a special meeting would be held to discuss 1. The general condition of the golf course and 2. The performance of the greenkeeping staff.

The meeting, due to be held on June 2 has been called by a group of disillusioned members unhappy with the condition and general untidiness of the course and does not have the approval of the club. According to club secretary Bob De Rose, 49 year-old Ronnie has the full support of the club's council (committee) and green committee.

"This has come from 59 members out of a total membership of 600 and it's totally unwarranted," said Ronnie, adding that he had a great deal of support from among the other members.

"My team - there are four experienced men and two apprentices - have worked extremely hard in difficult circumstances and it is disgusting the way we have been treated.

"In the three years I've been here we have continually improved the course by making the tees bigger and redoing the bunkers. We put in new sand and before we did it we got samples for the members to look at and they approved of what we were doing.

"The new sand was white and

we have also used it to fill in divots around the course and I think this is why certain members have felt that the course has looked untidy. It's been so dry that there has been no growth and every course in the area has suffered. We also have to water by hand," said Ronnie.

"I have not even been invited to attend the meeting. Is it any wonder you hear of young greenkeepers having breakdowns and attempting suicide?" he added ruefully.

"The green committee and the council are not in agreement with those who have called the special meeting but it is in the constitution that a special meeting must be held if 50 names are put to a petition," said Mr De Rose.

"It is our view that Ronnie is doing a very fair job. I sit in on the green committee meetings which are always extremely thor-

ough and Ronnie always does what he says he is going to do."

With the special meeting approaching Steve Isaacs of the STRI was invited to make an inspection of the course.

"He thought it was a real emergency when he was asked to visit but said that the course is better this year than it was last year," said Ronnie.

This was backed up by Mr De Rose who also spoke with Steve Isaacs.

His view is that the course is the same or better than every other course in the area," he explained.

"I hope that his positive view of the course will mean some of the petitioners changing their minds and that there will not be enough names for the meeting to go ahead but it is very unfortunate that the greenkeeping staff's reputation can be called into question in such a public fashion. Mud sticks."

Club President Bill Kennedy had a slightly different view of the situation than the club Secretary. It was his view that some of the Club's council were not in full support of the greenkeeper and that the same was true of the green committee.

"Those who are complaining are not in a position to discuss the technicalities of greenkeeping but are unhappy about the general untidiness of the course. I would say that there is room for improvement."

■ Wareham Golf Club greenkeeper Steven Campbell was awarded damages after winning an unfair dismissal tribunal.

The club had made him redundant after a chemical reaction killed off 11 off the greens and the club had lost £10,000 in revenue.

The club said that it could not afford to keep him on but the tribunal found that Mr Campbell had not been consulted over his redundancy and awarded him £696.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ A young English trainee has earned the once-in-a-lifetime chance hone his skills at the feet of a master.

Chris Knowles (20) of Telford Shropshire will spend 12 months in the USA by studying under one of the nine Master Greenkeepers in the World, Terry Buchan.

Chris, who earned a diploma in Turf Science and Sports Ground Management at Myerscough College, Lancashire, will work under Terry at Double Eagle in Columbus Ohio.

■ Colin Montgomerie laid the final brick at Chobham Golf Club's new clubhouse less than two years after DC Leisure first began construction of the Surrey club's course.

The new clubhouse facilities include the 'Colin Montgomerie Suite' of function rooms, a bar and a la carte restaurant, pro shop and changing rooms.

Monty's ceremonial piece of brick laying represented the conclusion of the construction phase of DC Leisure Group's first golf club management project.

■ Hayter has appointed Tim Yardley as his new Marketing



Manager. Tim, pictured, arrives at Hayter from Hunter Plastics where he was Product Marketing Manager and

has also worked with Marley Excursions. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing. Says Kim Macfie, Hayter's Sales and Marketing Director, "This is a key appointment to the Spellbrook team and Tim brings with him a large variety of relevant experience."

■ Germinal Holdings Ltd, the wholesale seed merchants group which includes Samuel McCausland Ltd in Northern Ireland, David Bell Ltd in Scotland, Germinal Ireland in Ireland and British Seed Houses in England, has appointed three new directors to the Board of Directors.

Roger Saunders, Oliver Vaughan and Michael Shannon come from the English, Irish and Scottish arms of the group respectively.

Food for thought as plans hot up for BTME

The 1995 BTME at Harrogate is already guaranteed to be a huge success. A total of 131 exhibitors have confirmed their attendance at the Exhibition on January 24-26 and they, and the visitors, will enjoy facilities, including catering, which have been substantially improved on previous years as a result of the introduction of dedicated restaurant areas.

In addition for the first time all four home Unions are being invited to attend and will be provided with stand accommodation at no cost. Hopefully they will be able to take up the offer and in doing so further enhance the growing stature of the Exhibition as an event not to be missed.

The comprehensive education programme featured in the week at Harrogate includes the National Education Conference on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23, the Educational Seminar Programme on Wednesday 24 to Friday 26 which runs concurrently with the Exhibition. New to '96 will be practical workshops allowing smaller groups to work together on specific topics

Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer said: "The programme is almost complete and will be the most exciting ever seen at Harrogate and certainly the most comprehensive anywhere in Europe in 1996."

Last year 16 companies left it too late with their applications for exhibition space and were disappointed and this year already there is only 15% of the expanded square metreage remaining.

Bill Lynch, Sales and Marketing Manager, said: "Despite introducing a new hall and increasing the size of the exhibition by 25% only 15% remains with eight months to go. In '95, 16 companies unfortunately couldn't be accommodated. If any company is thinking about exhibiting in '96 they really should contact Louise Lunn on 01347 838581 now."



Slaley Hall looks to John Deere kit

Slaley Hall has brought a range of nine John Deere machines to boost the maintenance programme on its championship course.

The equipment was supplied by local John Deere grounds care dealer Greenlay Ltd of Choppington which will be providing a full after sales and parts back-up service.

The new range includes: A

3235 lightweight fairways mower; two 2243D diesel greens-mowers; two Gator 6 x 4 utility vehicles; a 2653 utility tees mower; a 755 20hp compact tractor with 60in mid-mounted mower and two E35 lawn edgers.

"Slaley Hall is already recognised as a leading course in the north of England and the purchase of the new John Deere equipment will enhance the

course, ensuring that it remains at the top of the premier league of the golf world," said Stuart Brown, Director of Golf.

Dan Sexton, Marketing Coordinator for Britain & Europe flew to Slaley Hall from Deere and Company's Head Office in to USA to hand over the machines.

Slaley Hall is host to a number of important events this year and its Hotel will open on August 1.



It's looking good: Mike Sheehan and John Souter

As part of a £4 million development programme at Mere Golf & Country Club near Knutsford, Cheshire, a new 700 square metre putting green has been laid in front of the clubhouse.

The excellence of the new green is a tribute to the work of Mere's Course Manager Mike Sheehan and John Souter, a turfgrass consultant acting for Hepworth's Minerals & Chemicals.

Hepworth's products were supplied for the contract by distributors Moneystone Ltd and John's consultation was part of the ser-

vice Hepworth's now offer to its customers.

The green was constructed using Hepworth's Chelford root zone which is produced to USGA specification.

"We have seen over three inches of root growth in only three weeks in early Spring while the weather is still cold," said Mike. "Hepworth's service has been tremendous, especially with the assistance of John Souter, and the product itself is first class, very consistent with each delivery. I'm looking forward to creating a great surface."

Architects sign Council agreement

The recent British Institute of Golf Course Architects 1995 Conference at Wentworth saw the signing of an agreement between British, French and European Society of Architects' Groups to establish a Council of European Golf Course Architects.

The new Council which will meet initially in England in June will discuss ways of collaboration and co-operation between all bodies in golf course design in Europe, particularly in areas of education, ecology, the environment and safety.

Canada date

The 47th Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show at Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia, next year will be held on Saturday March 2 to Tuesday March 5, 1996.

Magazine collects its second 'Oscar'

Greenkeeper International again showed what a well respected magazine it is in the publishing world by being honoured at the Editing for Industry Awards for the second year in succession.

The magazine received a Certificate of Merit at the dinner held in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, and it was presented to new editor Scott MacCallum, pictured right, by Labour MP Ken Livingstone.

"The Award is a tribute to the work of Tim Moat the design and production editor and my predecessor Chris Boiling and I was delighted to collect it on their behalf," said Scott.

"I will be working hard to ensure that the magazine continues to win awards," he added.



It could be us: BIGGA applies to Lottery Fund

BIGGA has applied to the National Lottery Fund for a grant to boost the Association's recently-launched Building Fund aimed at securing new office premises.

"The Building Fund was created as a separate fund for the purposes of attracting money to be used to either buy suitable office accommodation with or without additional land or, alternatively, converting or improving leased accommodation if it is ultimately seen that this is the best option," said John Pemberton, BIGGA's Administration Manager.

The Association's needs have grown steadily since its inception in 1987 when it was based in one

small room in the STRI offices in Bingley and since it moved to the present premises at Aldwark Manor in May '89.

"Aldwark Manor suited the Association's purposes extremely well until the last 12 months when expanding activities highlighted the acute shortage of space and a need to look to the future," said John.

The Building Fund was launched with a transfer of £5,000 out of general BIGGA funds and has an initial target of £250,000.

"The Association is in the process of applying for financial support through the National Lottery Fund and is exploring other

avenues of potential grant aid. We also hope to attract donations and grants from other bodies or individuals associated with the industry," explained John.

The search for potential new premises is on-going with the ultimate purchase price dependent very much on the type and location of suitable property. It is envisaged that this will be within the current locality to avoid staff relocation problems.

The existing lease on Aldwark Manor is due for renewal in December 1997 by which time it is hoped that the Association will be in a strong position to look for alternative accommodation.

Viscount Whitelaw attends new cup competition

The inaugural Course Care Cumbria Cup got off to a wonderful start when it was honoured with a visit from BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw.

The competition, held at the beautiful Penrith Golf Club, of which Viscount Whitelaw is a member, was the brainchild of Northern Chairman Ian Holoran who knowing that there was a long established Cleveland Cup sponsored by Course Care approached the company about the possibility of sponsoring a Cumbria Cup.

"The nature of our region is



Viscount Whitelaw flanked by Philip Arundel, left, John Wood and Ian Holoran

such that it is difficult for some members to get to some tournament venues so I thought it would be a good idea to launch a Cumbria Cup. Course Care agreed and their sponsorship was a wonderful boost to the event," said Ian.

It was also Ian's initiative which

saw Viscount Whitelaw fit a visit to Penrith into his busy schedule.

"I know the Viscount's detective and that encouraged me to write and ask if he would attend. I was delighted when he agreed," explained Ian.

Course Care Managing Director Philip Arundel and John Wood, the Marketing and Development Director both attended the day and Philip presented the prizes.

Such was the excellent response to the day that it looks certain to become a permanent fixture on the golfing calendar.

The overall winner was local man Marshall Monkhouse who raked every bunker before playing in the afternoon.

Results: Cat 1. 1. B. Storey 36 pts; 2. J. Irvine 33; B. Hovarth 32. Cat 2. 1. M. Monkhouse 37; 2. J. Thompson 34; 3. G. Messenger 28. Cat 3. 1. G. Forbes 21 (on count-back); 2. A. Turnbull 21; T. Stevens 18.

Hot pot, Bill Beaumont, a folk group and golf at BIGGA's National Tournament

BIGGA's National Tournament is set to be one of the best yet with 27 prizes up for grabs over the three days as well as some excellent post golf entertainment.

With St Annes Old Links, at Lytham the venue, the occasion will have a true Lancashire flavour.

"As well as prizes for the best 36 and 54 hole scores we will have separate competitions each day so if you have an off day you can still bounce back the next day and win an excellent price," said Bert Cross, the North-West secretary who is organising the event.

Timetable

Sunday July 30: Registration.
Monday July 31: The Fison's Bowl - 18 hole medal.
Evening: Miracle Amenity Care Evening - Lancashire theme open to all the family with Lancashire buffet (hotpot, black pudding and scouse) and a Lancashire folk group.
Tuesday August 1: Standard Golf Trophy - 18 hole medal. 36 hole prize - 0-14 handicap - David Royle Cup, 15-28 handicap - Paterson Trophy. Best Gross 36 hole score - Toro Trophy. The Vitax Putting Cup - 18 hole putting competition.
Evening: Tournament Dinner with speaker Bill Beaumont.
Wednesday: William Hargreaves Trophy (Sisis) - 18 hole medal. 54 hole best Gross Hardi Amenity Sprayers' Trophy. 54 hole best Nett Miracle Amenity Care Trophy.
Wednesday afternoon: Prize giving and departure (around 5-6pm).

Anyone seeking further information regarding the event should contact Bert Cross on 0151 724 5412. Accommodation information can be obtained from Samantha Flint at Headquarters, 01347 838581.

RCS

NATIONAL
MACHINE SECURITY SYSTEM

Worldwide ©© 1991

- Protect your machines NOW! with the unique RCS security system.
- Whether you own one or several machines you are a target of theft.
- The RCS system works on a nationwide basis through golf clubs, manufacturers, dealers, hire shops, insurance and finance companies etc.
- If you would like to become part of our network please do not hesitate in contacting our office.

01753-831553

or write to: PO BOX 1455
Windsor
Berks SL4 1QR

AD
REF
488

ROOTFAST[®]

THE PROVEN ANTI-VANDAL
ANCHORING SYSTEM

VERSATILE SECURITY ANCHORS

Extend Product Life & Secure Free-standing Furniture

Suitable for a wide range of equipment

for litter/wheeled bins, seats, tables, posts etc

ANCILLARY ANCHOR
Type AA-25

25mm diameter
zinc-plated tube.

AA 25 is installed
using a 4lb. hammer.



ASK FOR OUR BROCHURE



EARTH ANCHORS LTD.

15 CAMPBELL ROAD, CROYDON,
SURREY CR0 2SQ

Tel: 0181 684 9601 Fax: 0181 684 2230

AD
REF
486

Under

Golf course security shouldn't rely on luck and a few flimsy padlocks to keep the insurance company happy, says Hugh Tilley

As a general category golf courses must rate alongside farms as the premises which are least protected from theft and vandalism. But this is a generalisation because a number of clubs have learnt the hard way that keeping what is rightfully theirs requires some thought and attention. For the majority, however, all that protects them from an insurance claim is luck and perhaps some flimsy padlocks.

In preparing this feature it seemed logical to ask the local crime prevention officer about his experience, but his good fortune was that in what is still a largely rural area the greatest risks are members' parked cars and the gaming machines in the clubhouse, and the greatest deterrents are lights and staff quarters on the premises. Nevertheless there are parts of the country where theft of greenkeeping equipment and vandalism of the course are an almost everyday occurrence, and the respective clubs take considerable precautions to minimise the disruption. For others it is easy to say insurance will take care of any loss, but insurers have become hard, upping premiums, increasing the excess and/or requiring specific protective action to be taken before renewal. There may also be small print which says that items are not covered unless actually in view or locked away. Either way if a likely investment in security prevents hassle and disruption it must be well worthwhile.

Many courses have footpaths, byways and other public access and these can be a double edged sword, they give ready access to vandals and those of criminal intent, but they also give access to potential witnesses, and there is nothing the former like less than having a witness. This suggests that the simple answer to

protecting many location is to open them up, illuminate them or even have someone living on site. Lighting for car parks, machinery compounds, and buildings is a simple deterrent, and in some circumstances such lights can be linked to passive infra-red (p.i.r.) or other sensors. Access points such as gates may also be worth illuminating. Closed circuit TV (CCTV) can also work well in conjunction with lighting, nor does CCTV need to work continuously to have a deterrent effect. Obviously sitings will be all important to effect, it is no good it there are vulnerable points which are hidden. Typically greenkeepers' sheds are hidden away beyond the ninth and have all round access with vulnerable areas such as windows at the back. Timber and asbestos cement are easy to break or remove, often so easy that putting bars over windows or locking the door is a charade. A strong steel lining inside the shed may be easy to install and effective.

Many courses use ex shipping containers, usually not very pretty ones, but nevertheless effective. There are purpose made secure buildings such as those supplied by Groundhog and another alternative is to build with security in mind. Swinton Park outside Manchester did just that, although it was not a cheap option. Their building holds all their kit as well as housing office, rest area and workshop etc. Again it is not the prettiest of buildings, with two steel doors, no windows and a solid flat concrete roof, but it is vandal proof as well as being highly resistant to theft. The vulnerability of the doors to ramming is avoided by a steel beam locked in front perhaps somewhat drastic but when you have been repeatedly vandalised and lost all

lock and key



Secure accommodation using Panelite Modulaform

your kit with all the disruption this caused, you are inclined to take drastic remedial action.

Many clubs have a 'greenkeepers compound' with a substantial fence or wall around it, this has several advantages not least of which is the fact everything is kept secure and unauthorised persons excluded, which would meet health and safety requirements too. Protection inside this compound may be easier too as it allows movement sensors and alarms to be fitted with a defined area to protect. Screening with trees, shrubs or even climbing plants growing up the fence are

easy options for prettying it up, although you may lose the advantage of it being in sight to passers by. Berberis and other thorny plants are deterrents in their own right, while blackberries provide a nice tasty pie too.

The conventional padlock provides simple and cheap security, however it has disadvantages, one is that it is only as strong as its fastenings, thus thought is needed to ensure that these are sufficiently robust and where possible protect the lock itself from hammers or bolt croppers. It is also essential that locks are re-locked, too often greenkeepers

'forget' – or simply don't bother to lock up, especially when there are many people needing to use the facility. The solution may be multiple keys, it is easy to buy quality locks with many keys and then issue these to each greenkeeper preferably with the instructions that it is to be tied around their neck and guarded as if it were gold! Putting a key under a brick is old hat, and very obvious to the professional thief.

Smaller containers may also be useful around the course for temporary tool or chemical storage while lockable boxes to fit pick-up truck, tractor linkage or turf

maintenance vehicle may ensure the safety of small hand tools, chemicals and other items which can 'walk' when a greenkeeper's back is turned. A number of firms make these.

If a compound is not an option there are other ways of protecting larger items which cannot be locked in a secure shed. The most obvious is the wheel clamp as this can be used wherever the machine is. Many of the anti-theft devices sold for cars can also be used, particularly to immobilise vehicles. Possibly the greatest risk with tractors and mowers is not so much of them being stolen so

Under lock and key

much as the probability of joyriders taking them for a scramble around the course, an occurrence which can be more expensive and have greater effect on play than simply losing the machine.

Other effective means of protection are to chain and padlock items to buildings or other substantial structure – even a post concreted into the ground, and while it may be possible to go into any locksmith or traditional ironmonger and get chain and locks, there are specialists in plant security such as Lincoln Master Products who provide proven products and technical know how. Their experience has been with the plant hire industry and contractors plant where plant theft has been rife. The plant hire industry usually lets equipment out on the basis of hirer's risk, so beware and protect hired items as if they were your own.

Increasingly modern plant, including tractors and mowers are being made vandal resistant by the manufacturer, in the past it has been too easy to steal batteries, put dirt in the fuel or otherwise render the machine unusable. If your course is vulnerable consider this when buying new equipment. Data tagging is another option offered by at least one major manufacturer, while it is possible to fit one of the tracking systems which will at least almost guarantee that the item is found. Whether these are cost effective for golf course machinery is another matter.

Simple precautions such as keeping the serial numbers of everything which you acquire will help should the item be stolen, it is also useful if ordering parts, and it may help establish both value and provide a stock check. Some clubs have little knowledge

of what equipment they actually own and what should be in the shed. The police suggest that all equipment is marked distinctively, and permanently. Many clubs have a logo, emblem or livery, use of such will help render equipment un-resaleable, thus valueless to the thief. A bright and distinctive colour may also have safety advantages on the course. It may also be worthwhile investing in proper signwriters paint brushes and seeing if anyone on the staff can make a reasonable job of painting the club's name on major items.

There are many types and systems of intruder alarm, and these have become more sophisticated and reliable with expanding demand. There are also many experienced suppliers and fitters, although there are cowboys around. A quiet word at the police station may produce some suggestions, off the record of course.

Deciding on a system and the level of protection required will depend on many factors, such as how great the risk is, proximity of staff housing and so on. There is no point in fitting elaborate electronic detection when there is a good compound, or strong buildings, or even if the location is so remote that no one would get there in time even if called. Where detection is phone or radio linked it is not advisable for anyone to attend unless accompanied with the police notified. A mobile radio is an extra asset. The major problem with any alarm system is that to be effective it need to be responded to, although just having lights go on or an alarm sounded is a strong deterrent. If there is habitation close by this may be sufficient, alternatively it may be possible to link to the clubhouse or steward directly or by telephone, or where there are no phone lines by radio. It is also possible to link to a security service or direct to the police station so that they do the monitoring. Generally such a level of surveillance is only justified for the clubhouse bar, and the chances are that with green-keeping equipment any thief would be in and out before anyone attended. Attending a break-in in the middle of the night



Earth Anchors supply a variety of anchors to secure external equipment. Their range of Rooffast anchored anti-vandal furniture is guaranteed for three years

tends only to result in lost sleep, catching someone red-handed is probably more fiction than fact.

Detection can be as simple as the common p.i.r lighting, investing a little more than the cost of a DIY shed unit will give better reliability and discrimination, or as sophisticated as a complete linked system with multiple sensors, an autodialler and video recording. Once you get to these levels you may as well include a fire alarm so you have double protection, but beware of smoking, lighting a bonfire close by or burning the bacon. The Bristol Yellow Pages lists eight pages of 'Burglar Alarms' with twelve of 'Security Services' – this is big business, so there has to be one near you! The National Approved Council for Security Systems – NACOSS – phone 01628 37512, provides addresses of approved local installers.

The local crime prevention officer is another useful, and free, source of advice, and one which should be reasonably unbiased. Advice may also be available from your insurer. But theft and vandalism are not the only reasons for 'security', security should be an all embracing concept, and if it has not been done it would pay most clubs to undertake a security audit. This should look at obvious health and safety dangers such as flying golf balls alongside public access, lakes and reservoirs and all premises to which the public can gain access, legally or not.



MODULAFORM BUILDINGS

for Quality, Choice and Style

- * TRACTOR SHEDS
- * STORAGE BUILDINGS
- * OFFICES
- * CLUB HOUSES
- * HALFWAY HOUSES



"One of the UK's Largest Manufacturers of Modula Buildings, over 30 years experience"

- Secure & adaptable.
- Designer build if required.
- Designed, manufactured, delivered & erected.
- Base laying service.
- Full mechanical & electrical package.
- Hundreds of different styles.

PHONE FOR A FREE COLOUR BROCHURE

Tel: (0113) 286 3375

Fax: (0113) 286 3377

GREEN LANE • GARFORTH • LEEDS LS25 2AE

AD
REF
487