

now around 20-25 millimetres," he explained.

While being SSSI means a prohibition on spraying of insecticides and weed killers and that written permission must be sought before using certain fungicides it doesn't preclude the installation of more ponds on the course.

"The reason we have SSSI status is that we have invertebrates and crustaceans in the dyke system and anything we can do to stabilise the water level in the dykes is welcomed by English Nature. By digging a pond, and we've put in five, it enlarges the catchment area and the water holding capacity so the surface levels don't fluctuate as much."

The National Tournament, sponsored by Miracle Professional, competitors will face a fine test of golf and one which has faced some of the greatest players ever to wield a niblick. The venue for many challenge matches in the early days no less a figure than James Braid described it as "a good sporting course" while the other two members of the Great Triumvirate Vardon and Taylor also played Cooden. Famous golfing members have been Harold Hilton, two time Open Champion and the greatest amateur until Bobby Jones' arrival who also was the first Editor of Golf Monthly magazine and, still a member, Joyce Wethered now known as Lady Heathcoat Amory, whom Bobby Jones described as being the best golfer he'd ever seen, male or female.

The Professional was once Fred Robson, who played in the first Ryder Cup match and who twice was runner-up in The Open. He was instrumental in bringing Walter Hagen to the course for a challenge match which Robson won. It is fair to say that every big name in golf played the course in its early history.

Conceived by the 8th Earl De la War, who had originally intended it to be a motor racing circuit, it was designed by Herbert Fowler who designed Walton Heath.

It is still an extremely traditional course and one of the few remaining "foursomes clubs" in the country although the rules have been relaxed slightly in recent times.

"The fairways are very generous and the rough it set at a height that an aging membership can get out of but we may tighten it up a little bit for the greenkeepers - we might forget where the mowers are for a week or two before they come!" joked Stefan.

Water comes into play on three holes but there are holes that are bounded by dykes.

Every hole is an individual and on all but a couple of them you could stand in the middle of the fairway and hit a driver in any direction and not touch another hole.

"There are 246 acres of which 232 are SSSI - only the clubhouse and the small practice area are not."

The 9th is regarded as perhaps the finest hole on the course but Stefan has made a few alterations to the 8th and lengthened it to around 530 yards making it another to remember.



"The highest part of the course is the 13th green which is level with the ground floor of the clubhouse and from the 13th you can get a lovely view of Eastbourne and Beachy Head.

Although set low wind is a large part of the course's armoury.

"There were only eight days last year when we could spray which meant wind speed of under 5mph. I don't think the greenkeepers would play on a course where there wasn't a wind," laughed Stefan.

As a marker to how windy it gets Stefan uses quarter rather than half tee flags as the wind pulls the half flags out of the hole.

"I'm really looking forward to welcoming the National competitors. Greenkeepers are generally far more understanding of the problems that we face than the average golfer. There is no greater critic than the person who is paying your wages."

Bexhill-on-Sea offers much for the holiday-maker. The De La War Pavilion theatre has shows most nights in the summer, there are two nightclubs while a short train ride to Ashford sets you up for a trip through the chunnel to France for the day.

With Brighton and Eastbourne not far away and the Battle of Hastings country for any history buff to explore the 1997 National Tournament sponsored by Miracle Professional is an attractive proposition for BIGGA members and their families.

## 1997 NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Cooden Beach Golf Club

Cooden Beach, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex

4th, 5th and 6th August 1997

Sponsored by

# MIRACLE

Miracle Professional

Anyone wishing to enter the  
Tournament should contact Karen  
Conroy at BIGGA Headquarters  
Tel 01347 838581





# Monitoring the weather

**R**eliable weather forecasting is a fundamental part of every greenkeeper's day-to-day operations. The ability to determine with accuracy the expected weather over the coming hours and days has increased greatly in importance due to the growing number of weather-critical tasks being carried out on the golf course.

Fortunately, there is now plenty of help at hand. The launch of a series of earth-orbiting and stationary weather satellites over the past 10 years has removed the need to guess what the weather will be doing the day after tomorrow or having to stick one's finger in the air to determine if rain is on the way. Beaming information continuously to ground stations, these advanced satellites track weather conditions day and night, giving forecasters the ability to provide a clear and instant picture of what is in store for different parts of the country for a week ahead, and sometimes even longer.

This long-range information is freely available to anyone able to watch BBC 1's weather forecast for farmers at noon on Sundays. It is also provided in regularly-updated text format on the BBC's Ceefax service, where maximum and minimum temperatures and weather conditions for five days ahead are given for 12 principal cities around the UK.

Similarly, ITV's Teletext provides a concise 48 hour regional weather forecast and also offers viewers the opportunity to call a premium rate number - Tel: 0981 333123 - at any time to obtain a detailed seven-day forecast for different parts of the country. The cost is 50p per minute.

Most of the weather information broadcast by national and local TV and radio is provided either by the Meteorological Office or another specialist commercial operator such as Oceanroutes.



**The Environmental Monitoring Station provides reliable and cost-effective methods for recording meteorological and environment data**

In common with Oceanroutes, the Met Office offers customers a detailed regional weather forecast costing 50p/min. Known as MetCALL and MetFAX, the service provides a constantly updated five-day forecast available by phone or fax, the latter also delivering surface pressure charts and satellite images. Further information on the range of services available, together with free index cards, can be obtained by telephoning the Met Office's Helpline - Tel: 01344 854435 or Fax 01344 854018.

Additional Met Office services include MORECS which produces a calculation of soil moisture and evaporation for all parts of the United Kingdom, essential for anyone wishing to gauge their irrigation requirements. Costing from £10 a week, this service includes a record of past and pre-

sent soil moisture status highlighting both averages and extremes.

A personal telephone consultancy is also available from the Met Office, enabling callers to speak directly to a weather forecaster local to their area. Prices will vary according to the level of information required and the frequency of the calls. Further information on the data available and the likely cost can be obtained by calling your local weather centre - the number will be found under Meteorological Office in the phone book.

Visit any number of North American golf courses and it is not unusual to see a computer screen on the Course Superintendent's desk displaying moving satellite images cabled or beamed in from the local weather station.

Although the majority of British

courses are some way from achieving this level of sophistication, it is now possible to access up-to-the-minute weather information using a desktop computer connected to the Internet via a modem and standard telephone line - all for the cost of a local phone call. The Meteorological Office, for example, has its own Web site which can be reached at the following address: <http://www.met-office.gov.uk>.

Having accessed this address, computer users will find an additional charged-for service available to commercial users who require more information than is provided by a free public service. Known as MetWEB, the service presents a host of information including weather records, current weather reports, satellite images, rainfall radar pictures, surface pressure charts and detailed five day forecasts.

Access to MetWEB can be achieved by buying a "book" of tickets by credit card from the Met Office's Web site. £10 buys 20 tickets which allows the user to access various services costing between 50p and £1.50 according to their complexity and the depth of information supplied.

Although not dedicated totally to the weather, Farming On-line's Internet site is also able to provide highly detailed, localised weather data from 96 sites nationwide run by Oceanroutes. Updated twice daily, the service offers both hour by hour, daily and 6 day forecasts. The operators plan to improve accuracy in the near future with the introduction of site-specific information, covering the immediate area of the subscriber.

For an annual fee of £234, Farming On-line gives subscribers worldwide access both to farming information and the Internet, the ability to send Email to other computers and to place classified ads, as well as access to detailed weather forecasts.

# GOLDEN AND SILVER KEY MEMBERS... OPENING THE DOORS TO GREENKEEPERS' EDUCATION



In 1997 the companies named below will between them make a major contribution to BIGGA's Education Fund. Golden key members contribute a minimum of £3000 per year while Silver Key members contribute a minimum of £1000 per year.

#### **BIGGA will utilise the money to:**

- Subsidise Management supervisory courses.
- Produce Educational posters
- Provide Field Guides
- Provide an Education and Training Opportunities booklet

The Golden and Silver Key scheme has been in operation for six years. In that time members' contribution to BIGGA's Education and Development Fund have facilitated the following association membership benefits and services:

- Management supervisory courses at reduced rates.
- Golf Course Preparation Video
- Golf Green Reconstruction Video
- Golf Course Ecology Video
- A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course Book
- Field Guide Booklets

Golden and Silver Key members continue to share a commitment to the future of the greenkeeping profession, raising its profile and educating its members.

## **BIGGA THANKS THEM FOR THEIR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO GREENKEEPING**

#### **GOLDEN KEY**

AMAZONE GROUND CARE  
BAILEY'S OF NORFOLK  
BARENBRUG  
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#### **MOMMERSTEEG INTERNATIONAL**

OCMIS IRRIGATION UK LTD  
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RIGBY TAYLOR LTD  
RITEFEED  
SUPATURF PRODUCTS LTD  
THE TORO COMPANY  
WATERMATION



#### **SILVER KEY**

AVONCROP AMENITY PRODUCTS  
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MINERALS &  
CHEMICALS LTD  
H.PATTISSON &  
CO LTD  
ROLAWN LTD  
SISIS EQUIPMENT LTD





# Monitoring the weather

Anyone with an Internet computer connection and an interest in the weather can keep an eye on developments using one of the recognised Internet "search engines" such as Yahoo, Infoseek or Alta Vista. Simply tap in the key word "weather" and you'll be presented with a host of web sites featuring this topic which can then be explored.

There will, of course, be managers, greenkeepers and assistants who have sufficient interest in the subject to undertake their own forecasting using specialist instruments installed in a suitable position on the course.

Dorset-based firm, Sutronics - Tel: 01929 426400 - offers a selection of weather forecasting equipment ranging from a simple desktop digital weather station costing less than £100 up to the WM918 professional weather station at £445.50.

Incorporating a thermometer, hygrometer, barometer, wind speed and wind chill meters, rainfall counter and dew point meter, this collection of instruments is claimed sufficient to provide advance notice of the predicted weather conditions over the coming 12 to 24 hours.

Symbols are presented on the WM918's main digital display panel to provide the weather outlook "at a glance". The unit also has a built-in memory and manual alarm settings to warn of the approach or occurrence of severe

conditions. There is also an optional PC connection enabling weather data to be recorded and stored on a desk-top computer.

Environmental monitoring specialist, ELE International - Tel 01442 218355 - produces a range of professional instruments able to record and display a full range of meteorological and associated data.

Of specific interest to golf clubs will be ELE's standard weather station which has sensors for wind speed, wind direction, air temperature, relative humidity, rainfall and barometric pressure, all linked to a battery-powered four channel data logger which records and displays the information transmitted by the sensors. Complete with support frame and data logger, this unit costs a little under £4,000.

Alternatively, customers can choose to design their own weather station, selecting from a "library" of high quality sensors capable of monitoring wind, air, solar radiation, rainfall, soil, water and gas.

Add-on options include a portable computer for downloading data, a modem and a remote collection device.

All ELE environmental monitoring stations come with computer software designed to guide the user through all of the operations required to operate a monitoring station and the processing of the collected data.

Anyone with an Internet computer connection and an interest in the weather can keep an eye on developments. This is from Farming on-line



## Save yourself some **STRESS** this summer



Applying Levington® wetting agent and liquid feeds in combination this summer will help keep your turf free from stress and in the best condition.

Aquamaster® can be safely tank mixed with both Levington Seafeed® and Greenmaster® Liquid and applied at an application rate to suit you.

- Aquamaster wetting agent increases water penetration in dry soils and combats dry patch without the risk of scorch.
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ALTOGETHER AN UNBEATABLE COMBINATION.



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N. England, Scotland & N.I. - Richard Walton  
Tel: 0378 603091 (mobile) or 01977 662187

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AD REF 102

**P**esticide drift is a hazard to the environment and a waste of money, but what can we do to minimise the risk.

Pesticide drift contributes to environmental pollution, incites public concern, it wastes chemical and is often the cause of variable control of the spray target. What may not be realised however is that drift is not a local problem, in some instances pesticides can carry up to half a mile from the site of application if wind or application conditions are just right.

The two types of drift that are responsible for off-target application are – particle drift and vapour drift. To compare the difference between the two types just visualise a pile of dry leaves that have been raked together in a park. A gust of wind will easily scatter the leaves throughout the park but the majority will be blown downwind. This illustration describes particle drift; Just like the scattered leaves, pesticide particles are actually carried on the wind and land in a different, though usually localised area.

Particle drift is caused when the wind, and/or inaccurate application procedures, scatters the actual spray droplets away from the application target onto adjacent areas, including shrubberies, ornamental plantings and neighbouring domestic gardens.

Now consider that same pile of leaves, heaped together and set on fire. In this instance it is the smoke column, not the leaves that drifts over the park.

# Don't get my drift...



Like smoke from a fire, chemical vapour moves unpredictably and over a much greater distance.

Because of the high risk from Vapour drift, extreme caution is needed when applying highly volatile chemicals, such as those manufactured as ester formulations.

These formulations containing 2,4-D and dicamba were particularly volatile in the summer when temperatures exceeded the mid eighties.

Today, the majority of chemicals manufactured for the amenity industry, are formulated as low-volatile ester and amine formulations and are much less likely to evaporate during spraying. To prevent vapour drift it is essential to check the label to make sure the pesticide brands you select are amine or low-volatile ester formulations.

## Controlling Particle Drift

Unlike vapour drift, the formulation of the pesticide doesn't affect particle drift and spray operators can exercise control by following some basic principles and application procedures.

## Read the label

It is considered that the majority of drift cases are caused by operators not following the directions on the label or applying the spray through the wrong nozzle. To help ensure a safer, more accurate use of pesticides it is important to remind all operators to read the product label before each and every application.

## Check weather conditions

Wind speed and direction are the most critical factors affecting drift. Check both before spraying. If at all practical plan

the spray operation to take place early in the morning and late in the afternoon when the air is more still. Wind gusts of up to 3-4 metres per second (m/s) are manageable, but don't consider spraying if winds exceed 5 m/s. If the wind direction is likely to blow the spray towards sensitive areas, leave an area of at least a 60 metres as a buffer zone.

## Minimise fine droplets

Reducing the number of 'fines' in the spray is likely to be the single most important thing you can do to reduce particle drift. The larger the spray droplet, the less likely it is that pesticides will drift off-target.

## Select the right nozzle

Some manufacturers make available nozzles that have been designed to reduce drift during turf pesticide applications. To ensure the correct nozzle is selected it is important to understand the role of operating pressure.

The pressure exerted at the inlet valve is what causes the liquid going through the nozzle to atomise. At low pressures the result is the formation of heavier droplets, while at high pressure, smaller, more atomised droplets are formed.

## HTC18 PROFESSIONAL SCARIFIER/COLLECTOR

- Unique floating head mechanism allows ground contours to be followed accurately.
- 1.8m working width.
- 1.8m discharge height.
- Large capacity hopper.
- Easily converted into a sweeper collector.
- Can be fitted with fine finish grass cutting flails.

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The right choice

AD REF  
496

## RAYCAM HI-LIFT TRAILER



Specially designed for easy loading by one person...

- ◆ direct into all types of top dresser
- ◆ no hand loading
- ◆ saves time
- ◆ turf saver tyres
- ◆ hydraulically operated controls
- ◆ unrestricted operator viewing

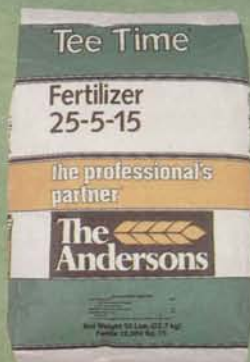
...just some of the benefits, to know more contact:

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# THE ANDERSONS

QUALITY TEE TIME PRODUCTS FOR THE GOLF COURSE PROFESSIONAL.



# Quality Tee Time® Products for the Golf Course Professional

## Tee Time® Premium Fine Turf Spring Fertilizers

PRODUCT ANALYSIS	SIZE GUIDE NUMBER	RATES			kg/NUTR/hect*			NUTRIENT SOURCES		SPREADER SETTINGS		
		gms/m <sup>2</sup>	kg/hect	bag/hect	N	P	K	NITROGEN	MICROS	LESCO	SCOTTS R8A	AMTEC 50
13-2-13 w/ 100% Ammonium Sulfate	100	20	200	9	26	4	26	13.00% Ammoniacal N	18.3% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	D 1/2	I 1/2	3 3/4
19-5-19 Spring Starter w/ 25% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	38	10	38	1.95% Ammoniacal N 12.88% Urea Nitrogen 2.44% SAWSN* 1.73% WIN**	6.5% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	D 1/2	I 1/2	3 3/4
25-5-15 w/ 50% Nutralene®	125	20	200	9	50	10	30	1.96% Ammoniacal N 12.14% Urea Nitrogen 6.40% SAWSN* 4.50% WIN**	5.1% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	F	L	4 1/4
14-28-10 Seed Starter w/ 50% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	28	56	20	5.60% Ammoniacal N 2.27% Urea Nitrogen 3.59% SAWSN* 2.54% WIN**	3.4% S	E	J	3 3/4
18-6-15 w/ 65% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	36	12	30	2.35% Ammoniacal N 5.41% Urea Nitrogen 6.00% SAWSN* 4.24% WIN**	5.1% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4

## Tee Time® Premium Fine Turf Summer Fertilizers

22-0-22 w/ 65% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	44	0	44	9.3% Urea Nitrogen 7.5% SAWSN* 5.2% WIN**	7.5% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4
18-6-15 w/ 65% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	36	12	30	2.35% Ammoniacal N 5.41% Urea Nitrogen 6.00% SAWSN* 4.24% WIN**	5.1% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4
21-3-16 w/ 97% Nutralene®	100	25	250	11	52.4	7.5	40	1.18% Ammoniacal N 1.97% Urea Nitrogen 10.45% SAWSN* 7.40% WIN**	5.4% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E 1/2	J 1/2	4
15-0-30 w/ 100% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	30	0	60	1.87% Urea Nitrogen 7.69% SAWSN* 5.44% WIN**	10.04% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4

## Tee Time® Premium Fine Turf Autumn and Winter Fertilizers

10-5-25 w/ 50% Nutralene®	125	20	200	9	20	10	50	1.95% Ammoniacal N 3.67% Urea Nitrogen 2.57% SAWSN* 1.81% WIN**	8.5% S	E 1/2	K 1/2	4 1/4
14-0-24 w/ 65% Nutralene®	125	20	200	9	28	0	48	6.05% Urea Nitrogen 4.66% SAWSN* 3.29% WIN**	8.16% S, 2% Fe, 5% Mn	E 1/2	K 1/2	4 1/4

## Tee Time® General Purpose Fairway & Sports Grounds Fertilizers

28-3-10 w/96% SCU	215	20	200	9	56	6	20	1.12% Ammoniacal N 26.88% Urea Nitrogen 26.88% CSRUN***	14.29% S	F 1/4	M 1/2	4 1/2
37-0-0 w/100% SCU	215	15	150	7	55.6	0	0	37.00% CSRUN***	15% S	H	L 1/2	4 1/2

\*Slowly Available Water Soluble Nitrogen

\*\*Water Insoluble Nitrogen

\*\*\*Coated Slow Release Urea Nitrogen

**NOTE:** Tee Time spreader settings were established using the standard equipment available from the spreader manufacturer at swath widths and speeds typically used within the industry. It is recommended that all spreader equipment be calibrated at the time of application to achieve the desired application rate.

•Bag Weight = 22.68 Kilos

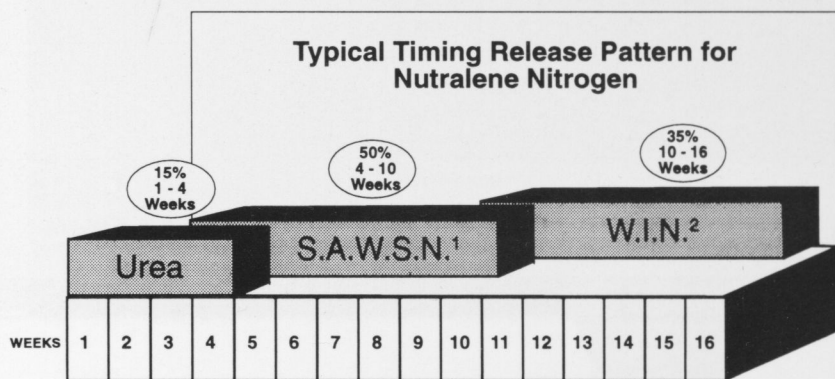




The Andersons range offers comprehensive formulations of both slow release and conventionally available plant nutrients. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS!** The Andersons offers the flexibility to choose your fertilizer based on the needs of the turf at all times of the year. As we know, the weather is not always as predictable as we would like. Here at The Andersons, we offer products with various amounts of slow release nitrogen so that the nutrients are best utilized at the time of application.

### THE HIGHEST QUALITY NITROGEN SOURCE IN THE INDUSTRY TODAY

The Andersons Tee Time® with Nutralene® formulations incorporate the industry's ideal nitrogen source together with advanced, mini-granular fertilizers. Nutralene methylene urea nitrogen offers the advantages of "tri-phase" technology – designed to give short, medium and long term release. Nutralene releases both by hydrolysis and microbial activity which means that this methylene urea is not solely dependent upon either soil moisture or temperature for its ideal release pattern.



This chart demonstrates Nutralene's fractional release availability over time. The water soluble portion, slowly available water soluble portion and water insoluble portion have overlapping release to provide efficient nitrogen availability as plants require it.



Nutralene - Trademark of Nu-Gro Corp.

<sup>1</sup> Slowly Available Water Soluble Nitrogen

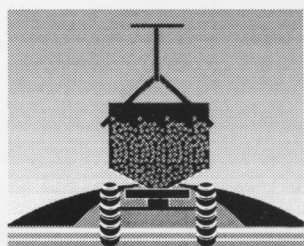
<sup>2</sup> Water Insoluble Nitrogen

### NOT ALL PARTICLES ARE CREATED EQUAL

The Andersons precise screening and processing ensures that all particles are consistently uniform in size. As a result, we've been able to eliminate the majority of variability and resultant "speckling" that can occur due to the "flight path" of particles. You can count on getting an even application of product that you need for your fertilizer program to be successful.

The Andersons offer you three particle sizes, defined as "size guide number" or "SGN", ranging from GREENS GRADE 1 mm (SGN 100) to 1.25 mm (SGN 125), and FAIRWAY GRADE 2.15 mm (SGN 215). The Andersons greens grade fertilizers (SGN 100) will apply 16 particles per square inch, MORE THAN ANY OF OUR COMPETITORS! Product uniformity and precise sizing of particles ensures that the fertilizer gets under the turf canopy where they can't be seen, picked up by a mower, or deflect the path of a ball.

#### Application Uniformity

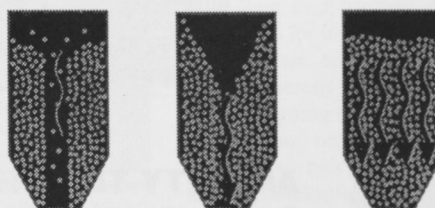


Trajectories For Several Sizes Of Granular Raw Materials (Granular Urea)

- 3.3 mm / 6.2 ft.
- 1 mm / 5.2 ft.
- ▣ .5 mm / 4.2 ft.

The importance of uniformity in application is demonstrated here if a wide disparity exists in particle sizing the risks of uneven - and improper - product coverage increases.

#### Application Flow Through



Ratholing      Severe Funnel Flow      Uniform Flow

The Andersons greens grade product uniformity helps deliver the product to the turf consistently for maximum effectiveness.

**Having the technical expertise  
to produce the finest particle size  
in the business is one thing.**



**Applying that expertise  
particle after particle, after particle,**

is an entirely unique achievement in advanced formula  
product production for performance consistency



*The Andersons.  
Uniformly the best in the business.*



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# A Tour de Force



**The PGA European Tour recently became a Golden Key supporter and Scott MacCallum visited their Headquarters to find out more about the importance they place on sound greenkeeping.**

The European Tour is one of sport's great success stories of the last 25 years. Over that period it has grown from a division of the Professional Golfer's Association to the extent that the overall standard of golf played can rival the US Tour, which was historically the benchmark for any golf Tour.

The truest measure of that is the Ryder Cup which was an enjoyable picnic for the American superstars until the early 80s, since when Europe has held the famous Trophy from 1985 to 1991 and again from '95 to the present day.

The beauty of the European Tour is its diversity and any player who succeeds must show an ability to adapt his game to any number of different conditions, while at the same time coping personally with the different cultures, languages and food with which life on Tour brings him into contact.

To highlight the point let's count the countries the 1997 European Tour visits. 1. Australia 2. South Africa 3. Dubai 4. Morocco 5. Portugal 6. Spain 7. Italy 8. England 9. Germany 10. France 11. Ireland 12. Scotland 13.



**Helping hand: John Paramor, right, with Bernhard Langer and his family**  
CHARLES BRISCOE-KNIGHT

Holland 14. Sweden 15. Czech Republic 16. Switzerland. Of course if you take into account Approved Special Events you can add the United States to that list.

While there are so many variables one thing the Tour likes to keep consistent is the condition of the course. The responsibility for that falls to the Director of Tour Operations, John Paramor, who works closely with the Director of Greenkeeping, Richard Stillwell.

It could be said that Richard is a little like Peter Mandelson. While the acknowledged architect of Labour's election win is now the Minister without Portfolio Richard is the greenkeeper without a course. Like Mr Mandelson, though, Richard's influence is all pervading and he ensures that when the professionals arrive on the week of the tournament the conditions are as near ideal as is possible in the circumstances.

It was in a brand new suite of offices at the Tour's Headquarters at The Wentworth Club that John and Richard described what the Tour looks for in a venue.

"What we are trying to produce is firm greens whereby if a professional misses a fairway he's going to have the devil's own job to stop the ball on the green but if he hits it on the fairway he's going to be able to provide enough backspin to stop it on the green," explained John, speaking just a week away from one of his main duties of the year – Tournament Director of the Volvo PGA Championship.

Wentworth is anything but a typical venue for the Tour. It's right on their doorstep and in Chris Kennedy they know they are dealing with a Course Manager who knows exactly what is expected for the flagship event of the Tour's season.

A more typical venue for the Tour would

involve Richard, the Tournament Director and usually the Tournament Promoter visiting the course just as soon as it has been chosen as a venue.

"We would check the whole course with the Head Greenkeeper, Course Manager or Superintendent depending where in the world we were," explained Richard.

"We cover every aspect from tee to green as well as the practice ground. One of the most important things is to get the tees level and weed free. However, we can't just demand what we want done because it may be that the greenkeeper already has a policy of his own.

"All these things have to be taken into consideration but you generally find the more talented the greenkeeper the more likely he is to welcome you with open arms. The less talented see you as a threat."

The usual requirements for a tournament are level tees, firm fast putting surfaces and a specific depth of sand in the bunkers.

"We ask for an inch of sand or, abroad, we normally ask for half a golf ball. It's a nice, easily understood yardstick.

"We then put in a programme of what we recommend should be done with the single biggest problem usually being the eradication of thatch. If the club agrees we would go back nearer the time to make sure it was done," said Richard.

Depending upon the expertise on tap at the club the Tour might put in one of their own greenkeepers to work on the course in the run up to the tournament. They are Roger Stillwell, Richard's son, Mark Lewis and Martin O'Rourke. At the Moroccan Open in March a Tour greenkeeper was on site seven days a week for five weeks and was joined for the final fortnight by another.

The Tour also receives great support from Ransomes and Levingtons. Ransomes indeed supplied a container load of machinery for the Moroccan Open and greenkeepers have a direct line to Ipswich for any assistance they require while Levington have been particularly important with regard to soil analysis and preparing papers on



**I believe that BIGGA should be all over Europe and feel that is where the Tour can help the Association**

European legislation for each country the Tour visits.

"Each golf course is an individual and you treat the greenkeeper in a different way. If I go to The Oxfordshire I ask him how he's doing and we go for a coffee before having a walk round the course. At other courses you have to cajole them, bully them, but the main thing is to become their friend and be close to them. We are there to help."

Richard is in his 11th year working on the Tour, having previously been Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl, and he can still remember his first brief.

"It was that we must never take credit and we are never there at the prize giving and never there to say 'we did it'. Once the greenkeeper has learned that you are not going to pinch his kudos, or his job, he welcomes you the second year.

Our communication level is very high. We get endless phone calls from foreign greenkeepers asking our advice and we pick up loads of information helpful to other greenkeepers. Guys get very worried when an event is coming to their course," said Richard.

"I believe that BIGGA should be all over Europe and feel that is where the Tour can help the Association. If we want information we know we can contact BIGGA and ask for it," said Richard.

Some of that worry might be generated from the reputation the Tour acquired for killing golf courses – demanding perfection for the one week of the year and to hell with the other 51.

"Some years ago a greenkeeper might prepare his course by cutting everything down, stopping watering, all sorts of strange things, just to get it right. Then the course would die and he'd blame the tournament. That's how reputations like that get around.



"The truth is now we make it very clear that we are removing the thatch. We never turn off the water - we may use judicious amounts of water but we do not turn it off and we rarely cut below 3.5 mil."

John reinforces that view by saying the Tour is very much of the opinion that they don't want a greenkeeper to kill his course.

"Our main priority is to provide a fair golfing test. We want the greens smooth and if that means 9.5 on the stimpmeter instead of 10 we'd say to the players 'That's it guys. That's the best we could get' We will get the maximum speed provided it doesn't affect the smoothness of the putting surface," explained John.

What is achieved is often a revelation to the Course Manager himself.

"I'd say that at 60% of events, at some stage during the week, they come along and say this is fantastic how can we keep it like this," said Richard. "They could, the greens would have to come up a bit but from tee to green it could be. 'Most people could do what we do if they used the correct technique and managed their man power to the best of their ability.'"

From his position John is well placed to comment on greenkeeping and greenkeepers.

"I get very frustrated when I see the Chairman of Green at private member clubs, without any formal training in soil, grass or irrigation, trying to tell someone who has spent his life learning the job what to do. Somewhere along the line that is not right," said John. "I like to think that where we go we try to raise the profile of that greenkeeper," he added.

While the quality of greenkeeping has improved over the last few years so has the interest level and knowledge of the players.

"The average member plays something like 25 tournaments on Tour but taking in the other courses he plays and other events in the rest of the world he plays a great many courses.

"He wants to learn why he putts better on certain greens. Is it the speed, the smoothness, the climatic conditions or the grass plant?" said John.

Richard added, "I worked for a year on the Tour and no-one knew who I was. Now the players just love sitting down and talking with me in the evenings. A lot of players are getting involved in the business and I know Rodger Davis, for example, has his own turf nursery."

The downside is that detrimental comments occasionally appear from disgruntled players in the press.

"I do feel that the players are put on pedestals nowadays. Some generally believe that it must be the golf course's fault if they miss a putt and unfortunately they say it to the press and get headlines for it," commented John.

What advice would the Tour give to a BIGGA member who learns that his course is to host a European Tour event next year?

"I'd say to the greenkeeper enjoy it and I know that he will enjoy it. He'll meet a whole lot of new people and everyone is extremely friendly," said Richard, who added that it was normal practice to invite a greenkeeper to another event before his own so he can learn how things operated.

"He'll also come out of the event with an awful lot more than he went in whether that be more machinery or a better watering system. Personally they also benefit. There is a Spanish greenkeeper who has written a book on how to prepare a course for a tournament and now works for the King in his botanical garden as a sideline," revealed Richard.

The Tour also holds a Greenkeeping Conference in Penina, Portugal every other year.

"It is a way of getting all our tournament greenkeepers and some club officials together and getting them to communicate in a social atmosphere.

"There is a universal language of greenkeeping and this is tremendous because as well as the formal lectures much of the information is exchanged in the bar afterwards," said Richard.

"It is the brotherhood thing as they are all in the same boat - in charge of tournament venues," he added.

## CD REVIEW

# Into the computer age

The management of turfgrass diseases has entered the computer age with the arrival, on the market, of a Compact Disk ROM which can help you to identify diseases, determine causes, discover cures and introduce management techniques to prevent further attacks. Details of the package are:

### CD ROM

#### Turfgrass Diseases, Diagnosis and Management

by Gail L Shumann and James D McDonald

Published by the American Phytopathological Society

Cost \$310 (single user), \$410 local network

### Hardware Required (PC)

486 processor or higher

8Mb RAM minimum

VGA colour monitor

Double speed CD ROM Drive

Mouse

with Windows 3.1 or Windows 95

### Hardware Required (Mac)

68030/25 Mhz processor or faster

8Mb RAM minimum

VGA colour monitor

Double speed CD ROM Drive

Mouse

with system 7.0.1 or higher

The hardest part of using this programme is the meaning of *Phytopathological*\* but once I had looked that up in the dictionary, the rest was simple. The CD looks like any other and has a title sheet which gives instructions on how to install it. I used a Macintosh Powerbook running system 7.5.0 but PC operation is also straightforward. Once the disk was in, I double clicked on Main menu and I was presented with the Introductory page. This page gives access to all parts of the package, simply by clicking buttons and lets you select a number of options. Clicking on the Non Infectious diseases button gives you access to two other buttons, Biotic Agents ie Algae, Black Layer, Insects and Moss and Non Biotic Agents. Clicking on Non Biotic Agents gives access to three more buttons, Chemical, Mechanical and Physical. Clicking on the chemical button lets you select more options ie Pesticides, Animal urine/salts, Fertilisers etc. Each selection gives you access to the identification, control and prevention of each type of agent. The final button in the Main Menu list is Other Diseases and Disorders. This button gives access to Endophytic Fungi, Mycorrhizae, Primitive Organisms, Bacterial Diseases, Nematodes and Viral Diseases. Further buttons give access to identification aids, disease development information and references for each disease/disorder.

The second part of the main menu is titled Short Cuts. This section is sub-divided into: Diagnostic Guide to diseases, Diseases of Specific Grasses, including Annual Bluegrass, Bentgrass, Fine Fescue, Ryegrass etc and a Turf Grass Identification Guide. For each grass selected, either from the Specific Grasses Menu or through the Turfgrass Identification Menu, you can view a calendar, which shows when various diseases may be present, you can then take a closer look at the various diseases, see how the diseases develop and look at suggested management techniques.

Despite some American spellings and a few American terms eg Annual Bluegrass (Meadowgrass), this is a very useful guide for anyone wanting to learn about diseases or needs to identify a particular disease. It contains some very clear pictures (most of which may be enlarged) and allows fast and easy access to a wide range of information. The disk would be a very useful asset for colleges and for any golf course manager with access to a computer which has a CD ROM drive.

\* *Phytopathology* - the study of plant diseases

■ The CD is available from APS Press Europe Branch Office, Broekstraat 47, B-3001, Heverlee, Belgium Tel: 32 16204035 Fax: 32 16202535. E-mail apspress@pophost.eunet.be

■ Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ, Tel: 01347 838581, can be contacted for further information on the CD.

**KEN RICHARDSON, EDUCATION OFFICER**

# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small  
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### North

My first report of the summer yet, while I am writing this, there is a blizzard outside and I am wondering if I will make Stirling for the Scottish Executive Meeting tomorrow! After quite a good spring we do seem to have gone back to winter instead of forward to summer. Fingers crossed that this is just a blip and good weather is round the corner.

This month we have the Scottish National at Craigmillar Park in Edinburgh and the North is going for the Team Trophy for the third year in a row. So a good turnout of members is needed. Talking of golf competitions, next year Scotland hosts the BIGGA National Tournament and they will be in our Section at

Letham Grange so we can look forward to that in August 1998.

I have been organising some golf for a couple of friends coming over from the States and would like to thank the helpful colleagues that have fixed up times for me. In recent weeks I have played at Royal Birkdale, Royal Dornoch and Nairn which, if I had not been a BIGGA member, would have been a great strain on my wallet! Yet another great reason to renew membership to the Association.

A correction from my April notes – the Management Courses will cost £75 and not £50 – but this is still amazing value.

Last month I attended my first Board of Management meeting at Aldwark Manor in my capacity as Deputy Member for Scotland and I can honestly say I was really impressed how well the Association is being run by both

staff and Board Members. We are in safe hands as long as they don't call me in if Jim Paton can't make a meeting!

Finally, members take note, last month's outing at Duff House Royal (details to follow) was full up and some people did not get in! Make sure future entries are in quickly if you want to guarantee a place.

Iain Macleod

### West

Talk about election campaigning. Who has been out for the West Section? Someone has obviously been pushing BIGGA. New members this month are Donald Robertson, Scott McLeod, both Ralston GC; Ken Siems, Loch Lomond GC; John O'Donnel, Kenneth Love, both Cowal GC; Stuart Taylor, Gleddoch CC, Stuart Pirie, Higgs Castle GC; Colin MacFarlane, Mount Ellen GC;

John Caldwell, Stewart Donald, both Renfrew GC; Stuart Crossan, Craig Winters, both Pollock GC; James McNicol, Blairbeth GC; Brian Forrest, Andrew Priestley, both Dumbar-ton GC; and finally Lee Jenkins, Kilmacolm GC. A couple of famous names there – nice to see such an encouraging intake of new members and long may it continue. Hope to see you all at future events and don't forget we are open to activity sugges-tions.

The results of the Spring Meeting held at Eastwood GC are as follows:- Gross – S. Taylor, Killermont, 72; Cat 1. 1. C. Goodall, Balmore, 77-4-73; 2. C. Wyllie, Killermont, 81-8-73; 3. I. Smith, Drumpellier, 80-7-73. Cat 2. 1. A. Wilson, Kirkhill, 87-14-73; 2. I. Wilson, Hamilton, 90-15-75; 3. S. Brawley, East Kilbride 92-16-76. Cat 3. 1. R. Grainger,

## TAKE A LOOK AT THE WORKMAN 3000 SERIES.

