

# Tough on turf disease

- Rapid contact action.
- Immediately effective against a wide range of turf diseases including Fusarium patch, Red thread, and Dollar spot.
- Will not scorch or damage turf.
- Unique rainfast formulation allows application all year round but especially useful during the cooler months.
- Available in 1 litre and new 5 litre containers.
- The No 1. choice for turf professionals for over 11 years.



NOW  
AVAILABLE  
IN 5L  
CANS



*Tender on  
turf*

Ad Ref 59

 **RHÔNE-POULENC**

Rhône-Poulenc Amenity, Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex CM5 0HW. Telephone 01277 301114 Fax 01277 301119.  
ROVRAL GREEN CONTAINS IPRDIONE. READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY: USE PESTICIDES SAFELY. (MAFF 05702)



For details of your nearest Rhône-Poulenc distributor, call 01277 301116



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

**BIGGA Board of Management**  
Chairman - Gordon Child  
Vice Chairman - George Brown  
Past Chairman - Patrick Murphy

**Board Members**  
Richard Barker  
George Barr  
Robin Greaves  
Jim Paton  
Ian Holoran

**Executive Director**  
Neil Thomas B.A.

**Administration Manager**  
John Pemberton

**Education Officer**  
Ken Richardson

**Sales & Marketing Manager**  
James McEvoy

**Membership Services Officer**  
Tracey Maddison

**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 for such content, advertising or product information that may appear.

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £36 per year; Europe and Eire £46. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

© 1998 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

## Editorial

Editor: Scott MacCallum

## Advertising

Sales & Marketing Manager:  
James McEvoy

Sales & Marketing Assistants:  
Jenny Pantou, Cheryl Broomhead

Tel: 01347 838581 Fax: 01347 838864  
E-mail: bigga@btinternet.com

## Design

Design & Production Editor: David Emery

## Printing

Hi-Tec Print, Units 9-10, Houghton Road,  
North Anston Trading Estate, North  
Anston, Sheffield S25 4JJ

Tel: 01909 568533 Fax: 01909 568206

## Origination

R C Bailey & Sons, Half, White Cross  
Road, Haxby Road, York YO3 7JR

Tel: 01904 658480

## Contact us

You can contact The British and  
International Golf Greenkeepers  
Association in any number of ways.

**Post:** BIGGA, Aldwark Manor,  
Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF

**Tel:** 01347 838581

**Fax:** 01347 838864

**E-mail:** bigga@btinternet.com

**Internet:** www.bigga.org.uk

# June 1998

Your next issue of  
**Greenkeeper International**  
will be with you by July 3

## Regulars

### News

Pages 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13

### 14 The Learning Experience

The Daily Grind. Ensuring a fine putting surface should be top of everyone's priority list, so making sure that green's mowers are well maintained is of paramount importance

### 34-41 Around the Green

### 44 Money Matters

Geoff Steel takes a look at PEPs

### 44 Health & Safety

Tony Rees gives some valuable information about assessing risk

### 45 Education

Ken Richardson answers some much-asked questions about assessment and assessors

### 58 Features Listing

Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International's previous articles

### 58 As I see it...

BIGGA National Chairman, Gordon Child, takes on London's answer to a Big Dipper, and survives just...

## Reader Reply Card

Use our post-paid reader reply card to obtain further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the company's Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us, and we'll arrange for further information to be sent direct to you.

Advertiser	Ad Ref	Page
AgriLand	84	29
Amenity Technology	431	39, 60
Anchor Industries	588	25
Richard Campey	496	34
Charterhouse	130	36-37
Dixon & Holliday	214	10
Green Releaf	563	15, 41
Greensward	312	25
Hydroscape	475	59
Lely	61	20-21
Marlwood	501	34
Oomis	360	33
Pattisons	35	12
Rhône-Poulenc	59	2, 30
Sisis	176	18
Stihl	230	5
SupaTurf	164	9
Symbio	510	26
TIS	153	35
Twose Turf & Spray	586	11
Wyles, Hardy & Co	589	10

## 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, please contact BIGGA on 01347 838581



### Golden Key Circle Company Members

Amazone Ground Care, Barenbrug, Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, Hayter Ltd, Jacobsen E-Z-Go Textron, John Deere Ltd, Kubota UK Ltd, Levington Horticulture Ltd, Scotts Turf & Amenity, Mommersteeg International, Ocmis Irrigation UK Ltd, PGA European Tour, Rainbird, Ransomes, Rhône-Poulenc Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Supaturf Products Ltd, The Toro Company, Watermatation

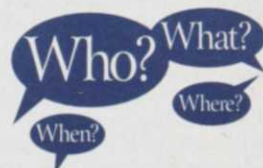
### Silver Key Circle Company Members

Avoncrop Amenity Products, Lambert/Fenchurch UK Group Ltd, Rolawn Ltd, Sisis Equipment Ltd, Weed Free

We're already taking orders for exhibition space at BTME99! To make your booking or for further information call 01347 838581 now!



58 As I see it...



45 Education: Assessors



44 Money Matters: PEPs

## A potential cast of thousands

In last year's June magazine we had a special report on the drought being experienced at the time and examined water conservation and what was being done by the irrigation companies to ensure that maximum use was made of the little water that was available to us.

Since then it has barely stopped raining and, outside of the south east, water levels are now back to where they should be.

While not expecting Greenkeeper International to be credited with another dramatic major success, this year's June magazine is taking an extended look at the earthworm problem. With the increasing likelihood of bans being imposed on the existing deterrents, earthworms could become the major headache for greenkeepers over the next few years.

The spur for this in-depth Greenkeeper International Investigation came from a meeting with Nick Park, Vice Chairman of the R&A's Advisory Panel and Chairman of its Research and Advisory Working Party, which has already directed substantial sums of money into researching the earthworm situation.

Nick, whose interview also appears in this issue, has singled out earthworms as an area which could have a catastrophic effect on the game of golf in this country.

"I have a horror that we could at some point head back to the sort of mayhem we saw in the 1920s when fairways became muddy footpaths for much of the year," said Nick, adding that as a consequence it could shut golf down for a substantial portion of the year.

With that in mind in this magazine Dr Stephen Baker gives an update on the work the STRI is doing into the problem while three of the big chemical companies, Rigby Taylor, Rhône-Poulenc and Scotts, have reported on what they plan to do to combat the problem, when at any given moment they know their best weaponry might just be taken away from them.

The R&A Advisory Panel, which incidentally includes Walter Woods and George Brown, must be applauded as it does a power of, often unheralded, work all for the good of the game.

With that in mind, please take a few minutes to assist the Panel by filling in the tear-off freepost card which appears in this magazine. By doing so you will be assisting in the formulation of a database which will give an invaluable insight into which problems cause you, the people who have to face them on a daily basis, the most grief. As a consequence the panel will be able to identify the areas which are in most need of research funding.

Only through research will solutions be found for some of the more common golf course problems and, although usually long term, the benefits are potentially significant.

Obviously the more people who fill in the card, which you can be assured protects the identity of the individual sender totally, the more accurate this database will be.

It is a great chance to assist the R&A and do some good for the industry.

**Editor:**  
Scott MacCallum

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

## Features

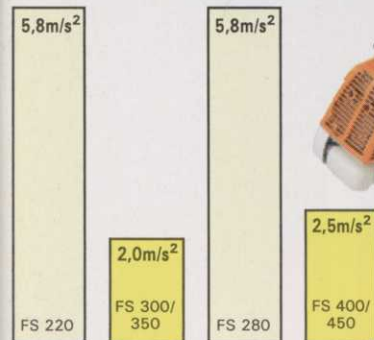
- 16 Nick Park Q & A**  
Scott MacCallum meets Nick Park, Vice Chairman of the R&A Advisory Panel, and discusses its work, earthworms and how greenkeepers can help with the gathering of research information
- 19 Access All Areas**  
Roland Taylor takes the mystery out of All Terrain Vehicles - ATVs
- 23 Braving The Elements**  
Royal Porthcawl is one of the finest links courses in the country. Michael Bird went to visit Course Manager, David Ward, and his team
- 27 Opening a Can of Worms**  
Dr Stephen Baker and Daniel Binns, of the STRI, reveal some of the results of a survey conducted into the earthworm problem
- 31 A Cast of Thousands**  
Rhone Poulenc, Rigby Taylor and Scotts UK Professional are trying to come up with new ways to combat the earthworm problem
- 43 Scotts Support the National Tournament**  
The National Tournament at the Letham Grange Resort has a new sponsor but a familiar face at the helm. Scotts UK Professional, and Richard Minton, aim to make it a superb event
- 46 Better than Ever**  
The BIGGA Golf Day, sponsored by BT Mobile, has attracted some celebrity guests and should prove to be one of June's highlights



28 Opening a Can of Worms



19 Access All Areas: ATVs



\*The vibration values of the clearing saws FS 400/450 are 57% lower than those of the previous-generation models. The values for the FS 300/350 clearing saws are roughly 60% lower.



# STIHL...the best is always getting better!

The new generation of STIHL clearing saws take another giant step in proving the ongoing superiority of Stihl design and engineering.

A new and completely unrivalled range offering exactly the power you need for your specific applications. Each model sets new standards for its class with vibration levels 60 per cent lower\* than comparable old models. New STIHL deluxe harness design reduces fatigue by greatly improving comfort and completely freeing the chest area of straps that impair breathing and restrict movement.

Ergonomically designed, fully adjustable mowing handles with integrated fingertip controls take user comfort into a new dimension with soft handles to reduce hand pressure even during prolonged use.

An 'Easy Start' system with decompression valve and fuel pump together with a 'long life' filter system are among many other STIHL innovations. Complete the FREEPOST coupon or FREEPHONE 0800 137574 for full details.

To Stihl Ltd., FREEPOST, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3BR  
Please send me the new 16 page clearing saw brochure and catalogue

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_



GI.6.98

Ad Ref 230

S11

**STIHL**<sup>®</sup>

So you think you're the best?

# Prove it.

Letham Grange.

August 3-5, 1998.

We'll be waiting...

  
THE  
**NATIONAL**  
GOLF TOURNAMENT

**BIGGA IN ASSOCIATION WITH SCOTT'S**

CONTACT SARAH ON 01347 838581 FOR MORE DETAILS

# What's in a name?

With building work on the new BIGGA Headquarters and Training facility now past the half way mark, thoughts turn to the task of finding a suitable name for the new building.

With the Well of Inspiration running out after one lonely suggestion - Thomas Towers! - it was decided to throw the job over to the members.

A superb prize of B&B accommodation and entry to all seminars of the Learning Experienced in association with Ransomes at both the National Education Conference and BTME as well as a ticket to the banquet will be available to the person who comes up with the most appropriate name for the new building or, if there is one name which has proved overwhelmingly popular and is the one selected by the Board of Management, a draw will be made from all the winning selections.

To give you some information to go on:-

- The new Headquarters and Training Facility is sited 50 yards from the current offices at Aldwark Manor Hotel and Golf Club.

- The Association's long standing President, Viscount Whitelaw,

retires in the year the new building opens.

- While a proportion of the funding for the building came from an R&A grant, a significant amount was raised by members through the "Buy a Brick" raffle and a fund raising drive through the golf clubs.

- For anagram purposes the initial letters of Christian names of the current board of management are - G, G, P, J, I, R, G, R.

- For anagram purposes the initial letters of Christian names of the past Chairmen are - W, J, P, I, G, R, J, J, B, D, P.

- For anagram purposes the initial letter of Christian names of the staff members are - N, D, J, J, C, K, S, S, S, R, J, T, A, P.

Can I apologise for the lack of vowels!

While we all enjoy a good laugh, suggestions which you could actually see being used on a new building, of which we are all very proud, would be preferable.

Entries should be sent to the current BIGGA Headquarters at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, nr York YO61 1UF by Monday July 5, or via your Section Secretary or Regional Administrator.

# A BIGGA thank you!

Over 60 golf clubs have so far responded positively to the letter sent by BIGGA President, Viscount Whitelaw, asking for a contribution towards the building of BIGGA's new Headquarters and Training Facility.

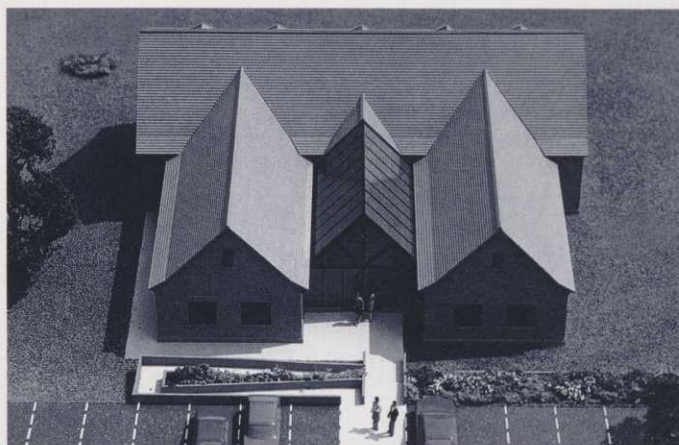
The Association would like to thank the following golf clubs for their donations.

Clubs who donate £250 or more will each receive a plaque in recognition of their generosity, while each golf club which makes a donation will appear on a Roll of Honour within the new building.



Banchory GC  
Beaconsfield GC  
Bedale GC  
Birchwood GC  
Bishop's Stortford GC  
Blackmoor GC  
Bromborough GC  
Cardigan GC  
Chestfield GC  
Chorlton-Cum-Hardy GC  
Clitheroe GC  
Conwy GC  
Cooden Beach GC  
Coventry Hearsall GC  
Crompton & Royton GC  
Dore & Topley GC  
Dunfermline GC  
Goodwood GC  
Habberley GC  
Haggs Castle GC  
Halifax GC  
Ham Manor GC  
Hampstead GC  
Haywards Heath GC  
Hindhead GC  
Kilmarnock Barassie GC  
Kirby Muxloe GC  
Little Aston GC  
Longniddry GC  
Manchester GC  
Moor Hall GC  
Nairn GC

North Oxford GC  
North Wilts GC  
Potters Bar GC  
Purley Downs GC  
Pyle and Kenfig GC  
Ranfurlly Castle GC  
Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh  
Royal Cinque Ports GC  
Royal Guernsey GC  
Royal Liverpool GC  
Royal Porthcawl GC  
Royal St Georges GC  
Royal Wimbeldon GC  
Stand GC  
Sundridge Park GC  
Sunningdale GC  
Tandridge GC  
Temple GC  
Tenterden GC  
The Wisley GC  
Thorpeness GC  
Tulliallan GC  
Tynemouth GC  
Tyrells Wood GC  
Uttoxeter GC  
Wakefield GC  
Walton Heath GC  
West Byfleet GC  
Whitley Bay GC  
Worcestershire GC



# 'Cool Britannia' assists sales for Huxleys

Huxley's new Greenstar, the only British manufactured ride-on Greens mower, is setting record sales for the Hampshire based company. Recent orders include those from Burnley Council, Southampton City Council, Wakefield Council, Ascot Authority, Newbury Racecourse, Newbury and Crook ham GC, Winter Hill GC (John Lewis), Torphin Hill GC, Goodwood GC, Langley Park GC, Vale of Leven GC, Pains wick GC, Ashton and Lea GC, Ashley Wood GC, Cook ridge Hall GC, Andover GC and Southwick Park Naval Recreation Centre.

"We took a lot of trouble to get the specification right for British conditions by asking British Greenkeepers what they wanted. Standard features include permanent all wheel drive, exceptionally quiet operation, 11 knife cutting reels, steering mowing units with quick detach facility and optional groomers, turf combs and rear roller brushes," said Director Paul Huxley. "We made sure that the price was very competitive. It's pleasing to find that a lot of customers prefer to 'Buy British' provided they are getting good value for money."



ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER  
**Profile**  
 ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club.

Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



**Name:** Iain Smith

**Club:** Drumpellier GC

**Position:** Apprentice

**Age:** 18

**1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?**

Two years

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**

Level 2 SVQ

**3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?**

Cutting greens

**4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?**

Strimming Bunkers

**5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?**

Assistant professional golfer

**6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**

My big brother

**7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?**

Double the standard rate of pay for an apprentice greenkeeper

**8. What are your hobbies?**

Golf, football, running

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**

Monthly magazine, finding out about new technology and meeting other greenkeepers at social functions

**10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?**

Course Manager at Drumpellier

# New recruits at BIGGA

The two newest members of the BIGGA Headquarters Staff are Cheryl Broomhead and Sarah Sowerby.

Cheryl, who joins the Sales and Marketing team, would certainly give Mel C of the Spice Girls a run for her money when it comes to all things sporty.

She has represented North Yorkshire at netball and now plays both league tennis and badminton. When she's not doing that she's into aerobics and swimming and she takes every opportunity she can to enjoy the outdoor life.

"I must confess, however, that the one and only time I've played golf I managed to hit a car," revealed Cheryl (30).

Cheryl, who lives in York joins the Association with experience of both advertising sales and exhibition organising, having worked on the Peterborough Evening Telegraph for the former and a Harrogate based exhibition organiser for the latter.

Since leaving college, though, she has packed a lot into her life having been a Thomson's holiday rep working in Spain, Greece and the Canary Islands as well as managing an Arts and Crafts Gallery.

Her desire to see the world has also taken her to Australia and Hong Kong during which time, despite being afraid of heights, she experienced the thrill of a bungee jump from a bridge.



New recruits, Cheryl (left) and Sarah (right)

"I'm really looking forward to working for BIGGA. From what I've seen so far it's a growing Association and the job really attracted me," said Cheryl.

Sarah (24) is the new Secretary/Administrator and arrives at the Association after a spell working for Yorkshire Television in Leeds.

While acting as secretary to the Group Controller of Commercial Affairs she regularly bumped into familiar faces including Nick Berry, of Heartbeat fame, and those two legends of afternoon television Richard Whiteley and Carol Vorderman.

Sarah, who lives in Ripon, boasts an honours degree in Modern Languages (French and Spanish)

from Manchester Metropolitan University and she added to that by completing a secretarial course at Park Lane College in Leeds.

As part of her degree she spent five months studying in Murcia, in Spain, and a further five months in Dijon in the Burgundy region of France. While in Spain she acted as an au-pair in Marbella.

She is a regular in the gym while her interest in both playing and watching tennis takes her to Wimbledon at the end of this month where she is hoping to catch a glimpse of either Tim Henman or Pat Rafter.

"I am thoroughly looking forward to working at Aldwark Manor," said Sarah.

## Who says that romance is dead?

Everyone who knows BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, must be aware of the fact that there can be few greater enthusiasts for the greenkeeping profession than him.

However, even Gordon can become a little carried away. Let his long suffering wife Marion take up the story.

"A couple of nights ago, after a hard day at work, my husband took me out to a romantic place for a candle lit dinner.

"I had just begun my starter when Gordon suddenly said, and I quote, 'What do you know about dry patch?' With fork poised, I froze, and I didn't know whether to laugh or cry," explained Marion.

"I told him what I knew, which isn't a great deal, but I'm not entirely ignorant of such matters - and anyway it makes a change from poa annua or fusarium.

"I have taken the incident as a compliment and I think that maybe my 'retired' husband looks upon me as one of his experienced greenkeeper friends after all these years and not just any old wife."

## Hayter International Cup

BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, will have the tricky task of moulding the most international group of people ever to come together under the same banner in any sportin history when he captains the Rest of the World team which competes in the second Hayter International Cup match, to be held at Cherokee Town & Country Club in Atlanta, Georgia, in October.

Sounds a little over the top? Well you can't get more international than 12 different players representing 12 different countries from as far afield as Finland and Australia. So you might find Gordon attempting to enlist the services of Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, to act as Vice Captain!

Gordon will be attempting to win back the trophy which the Americas clinched in a closely fought inaugural match at West Lincs Golf Club, Liverpool, in 1996.

The countries represented are, in alphabetical order:-

Australia, England, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales.

### Rest of the World Team.

Non-Playing Captain - Gordon Child, England

**Australia** - Peter Frewin

**England** - Andy Sheehan, Bentley GC, Essex

**Finland** - Jorma Eriksson

**France** - Remy Dorbeau

**Germany** - Andreas Kauler

**Ireland** - Nick Webber, Portstewart GC, Co Antrim

**Norway** - Atle Revheim Hansen

**Scotland** - Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside GC

**Spain** - Eugenio Rezola

**Sweden** - Martin Sternberg

**Switzerland** - Pierre Ambrosin

**Wales** - Russell Lewis, Northop, Country Club, Flintshire.

The Hayter International Cup will be played in the week beginning October 11, 1998.

The Americas team to defend the cup will be announced shortly.

# Carnoustie links up with Toro for the 1999 Open

Toro and Carnoustie Golf Links have signed a three-year working partnership deal that includes the supply of Toro turf maintenance equipment and on-site support for the 1999 Open.

The preferred-supplier agreement will see Carnoustie taking delivery of a wide range of Toro turf care machinery for maintaining all three golf courses at the renowned Scottish "institution", which is owned by Angus Council and run by the Links Management Committee.

Carnoustie Golf Links' Superintendent John Philp, said "I chose Toro based on my past experience. I know the products and am particularly keen on the greens and fairways mowers. They give a superb quality of cut, are very reliable, well engineered and hard to beat.

The courses are supplied by Edinburgh Toro dealers A M Russell.

Under the agreement, John Philp's ever-expanding new Toro fleet will include seven GR3200-D greens mowers, one RM2300-



D utility mower, two GM5300-D fairway mowers, a GM3000-D for cutting semi-roughs and five of the new GR1600 pedestrian mowers for tees and greens collars.

There are also six GR500 pedestrian greens mowers on order for The Open.

In addition he is purchasing

three Workman utility vehicles - two provided with top dressing units and one with the hydroject 4000 water-injection aerator with on-board tank, which he says is an important aeration tool, not just on the greens and tees but on the high parts of fairways which are prone to drying out.

## The Italian job for Peter



Peter Bradburn, former Courses Supervisor of The London Golf Club, Kent, has been appointed Assistant Superintendent of The Arzaga Hotel and Country Club, Italy.

Peter will be joining Sylvain Duval, Golf Courses Superintendent and formerly of Hanbury Manor, to aid the development of the project from growth to opening preparation of the Jack Nicklaus II and Gary Player courses, which are set in the magnificent hills surrounding Lake Garda. The Nicklaus course is scheduled to open in July this year and the first nine holes of The Player Course in Spring 1999.

Steve Jones, Golf Courses Superintendent of The London Golf Club said, "It is sad to lose Peter after five years at the Club, but we wish him well with this marvellous challenge."

Peter, a former Diploma Graduate of Myerscough College, previously worked in turf research and agronomy in New Zealand. He has also worked as a Contract Manager in Grounds Maintenance in the UK and as a Groundsman at The All England Lawn Tennis Club.

## TGA appoint new Chief Executive

The Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) has appointed David Clarke as its new Chief Executive.

David is a chartered management accountant who has served as a Finance Director and Company Secretary in the agricultural sector for over 30 years. His strong organisational and professional skills will enable the Association to move forward into the millennium and further develop benefits for Members.

At the Association's last All Members' Meeting Mr Clarke reported an exciting year ahead for the TGA. Forthcoming events, continued input from the Association's Members and

Turfgrass users is clearly underlining the value of the TGA and its quality standards.

The Association's Mission Statement, which in part states "the sharing of knowledge for the benefit of the customer" is continuing to bring growers much closer together for the regular exchange of information and ideas to achieve its goal of constantly improving standards in production and business practices.

The recent wet weather will not give a picture of complacency for the TGA - the next All Members' Meeting on July 8 will have a speaker from the Environment Agency to discuss



Water Management and how water users can benefit from forward planning and good management practices.

### Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



## The Ritefeed Classic, 1998

Please note the following official statement from the Association with regard to the Ritefeed Classic 1998.

With effect from May 5 1998, BIGGA is no longer associated with the Ritefeed Classic 1998.

**THE FACTS**  
~  
**NOT THE HYPE**

"I HAVE USED PRIMER 604 SINCE IT CAME ON THE MARKET - WITH GREAT RESULTS. IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN MY PROGRAMME FOR 1998"

MARK CHESMAN  
COURSE MANAGER  
SONNING GOLF CLUB

**PRIMER**  
PRIMER 604 IS MANUFACTURED IN ENGLAND BY SUPATUFF PRODUCTS LTD UNDER LICENSE FROM THE AUSTRALIA CORPORATION OF AMERICA. TEL: 01488 234677

Ad Ref 104



Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF. You can also fax them to 01347 838864, or e-mail them to general@bigga.co.uk

Dear Sir,  
 I reply to Sandy McDivot's article "Field of Experience" Greenkeeper International - May 1998 which I read with interest - twice.

Before addressing the issues raised I would like to be up front and open about my own identity and assure you that I have no hidden agendas, just a desire to challenge and give balance to the content of the article.

I have been employed in the turf grass industry for some 25 years, have received education both in the UK and USA, worked with a number of consultants at the various golf courses where I was employed and since February this year have formed my own independent consultancy service - I also do not believe I fall into any of the four categories as described in the article.

Firstly, there are some points raised in the piece with which I wholeheartedly agree: Education is better now than ever before and there are some good and some not so good consultants currently working in our industry. I suppose it would also be fair to add that there are a good many clubs out there who have yet to really embrace and encourage training and development for their

staff who are, therefore, not accessing the education and also some Head Greenkeepers who feel that training and development no longer applies to them as they have been there, done that and got the certificate.

However, I would think there are few industries which have experienced so many changes both in terms of new products and work practices over the last decade which means the learning never really stops - something which the Chairman also referred to in his article - May issue.

May I also be bold enough to suggest that there are some good and not so good Head Greenkeepers out there who could really benefit from working with an experienced consultant and, given the right pairing, might even welcome the opportunity.

Just by changing the focus and being positive and optimistic rather than suspicious and somewhat defensive we can also change the perception of the role of the consultant from agitator to partner for, I believe, it is only through open and honest partnerships that progress can be made. There is little or nothing for

anyone to gain from an "us and them" scenario and I do not believe that any consultant would wish to work in such an atmosphere.

I make no excuses for the fact that, as a consultant, I question and challenge work methods, look over machinery and equipment, review staff training and request copies of budgets, records and reports in order to gain a better understanding of each organisation I work with. In return, I will offer independent advice, guidance, support, suggestions and recommendations which will all be given without prejudice and within a no blame framework - for it is all too easy to point the finger and neither party should fall into this trap.

A well chosen consultant will increase confidence and motivation just by reinforcing what is already known and by offering guidance and support through times of change and development if, or when, this is required to achieve higher standards and better quality for this would be the only reason to suggest change.

There will, undoubtedly, be the occasions when the not so good consultant gets it wrong and Sandy McDivot gave examples of this.

However, is this reason enough to alienate an outside influence and risking a missed opportunity for the times when the consultant gets it right!

All clubs should spend time in researching and selecting the right consultant for their course and have some way of measuring the impact of that consultant on the goals which have been set. However, I do not agree with the suggestion that the best consultant is one who will not question the Head Greenkeeper's actions, as this assumes that, in all instances, there is no room for change, progress or improvement - this shows no respect for the integrity or intellect of either parties.

As an individual I believe I have much to offer today's progressive Head Greenkeepers, both in terms of knowledge and experience, but also support and I have yet to work with any fellow professionals where this has been rejected.

Perhaps, therefore, the challenge is to try to establish a network of tried, tested and trusted consultants who really can offer a service to the industry.

Ken Barber  
 On Course Consultants

# 'PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES'

## WITH A KNAPSACK MOWER FROM DIXON & HOLLIDAY

THE SAFE AND EASY WAY TO MOW BANKS, SLOPES AND SMALL CONFINED AREAS

ALLOWS THE OPERATOR TO HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL, MANOEUVRABILITY AND BALANCE

TRIMS, MOWS, HEDGE CUTS, CULTIVATES AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

### DIXON & HOLLIDAY LTD

UNIT 2, SHEPPARDS FARM, DRAYCOTT FOLIAT, SWINDON, WILTSHIRE SN4 0HX TEL: 01793 741173 (works)

SALES: 01462 700547 FAX: 01793 741020

On instructions received from the Directors of T. Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Ltd. T/A Parker Hart Due to Re-organisation of their Continuing Business

## FOR SALE BY AUCTION

of  
 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE, GRASS CUTTING, TURF CARE MACHINERY & WORKSHOP EQUIPMENT, ETC.

To include

New, Recondition and Ex-Hire Equipment comprising of ISEKI and SHIBAURA Compact Tractors; JCB Loadall 520 HL; FERGUSSON 35X Tractor; Tractor mounted implements by GREENCARE, "VERTIDRAIN'S", CHARTERHOUSE, WESSEX, HOWARD; JACOBSEN T422 Turfcut Flail Head Ride On Mower; Range of SISIS Trailed & Mounted Equipment.

JACOBSEN 154 Sweeper/Collector; Self Propelled Equipment by TASKI, GREENCARE, RYAN, RANSOMES, PATTINSON, SISIS, HAYTER, SABO, etc., etc.

Three IFOR WILLIAMS Twin Axle Beavertail Platform Trailers; Workshop Equipment; Grinders, Compressors, Sheet Metal Fabrication Equipment, Welders, Engine Cranes, PUMA 75KVA Generator, etc., etc.

On Tuesday 23rd June 1998, commencing at 11.00 a.m.

At T. Parker & Son (Turf Management) Ltd., Malden Green Farm, Worcester Park, Surrey

On view Monday 22nd June 1998, From 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and Day of Sale from 9.00 a.m.

Catalogues, Etc., Contact Matt Hardy & Terry Madden

### WYLES HARDY & CO

Ley Hill Road, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3

Tel: (01442) 832234 Fax: (01442) 834342