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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

## March 1998

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

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

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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

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Golf Greenkeepers Association

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## 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



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



66 As I see it...



65 Sandy McDivot



## Why Pick on Lawnmowers?

You haven't by any chance been following the debate about the admission by the manufacturer that faulty replacement hips have been fitted to unwitting patients over the last few years and how these poor people are going to have to go through the pain and stress of having them removed and replaced?

Now you may be wondering what on earth I'm doing using your magazine to talk about hip replacements. I wouldn't blame you and, believe me, I wouldn't have chosen to open with such a subject if it hadn't been for something I read in a paper recently.

A health spokesman was quoted as saying that there was more quality assurance involved in the manufacture of a lawnmower than there was in the production of a new hip.

My first thought was to think what good publicity it was for all the makers of grass guzzlers among our friends in the industry - at long last a bit of recognition.

Then I thought a bit longer. Why were lawnmowers chosen to make such a comparison? Surely they could have said the same about television sets, or washing machines, or even bicycles.

Then it dawned on me. To the general public the comparison, "there is more quality assurance involved in the manufacture of a Rolls Royce than there is in the production of a new hip" would have carried no weight. "So what" would have been the cry. It needed to be something deemed frivolous to make the analogy work.

Why was a lawnmower used? Because, obviously by some, it is perceived to be a mundane, bog standard, piece of garden machinery with no real importance in the scheme of things whatever. That's why.

I'll put money on the fact that the person who brought lawnmowers into the debate about hip replacements knows nothing about what it takes to produce the machines which cut late 20th century grass. If he did, he would have chosen something else with which to make his perfectly valid health safety point.

The sophistication now employed in even the most basic of mowers would leave John Logie Baird and Isambard Kingdom Brunel gasping in admiration while, if the idea for hydrostatic drive had popped into Archimedes' brain while in the bath, he may have leapt out and charged through the town, dripping and naked, shouting "Eureka!" for a totally different reason. The lawns of Syracuse would have been the most manicured in Sicily. Who says I don't do any research!

Additionally, isn't the fact that you can have seven or eleven blade reels spinning at blurring speed on modern mowers reason enough to ensure that quality assurance and health and safety is uppermost in the production process?

The domestic and amenity machinery industry, a multi-million contributor to Britain's economy, deserves more than to be used as the stooge in an unrelated argument.

Pick on something really pointless next time, like roller blades or virtual reality games.

Editor: Scott MacCallum



# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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45 Icing on the cake



19 Cold comfort





39.0.0

28.5.5

PLUS IRON

27.5.5

PLUS IRON

15.0.22

PLUS IRON

38.0.0

25.5.12

21.0.20

15.0.29

40.0.0

22.5.10

PLUS TRACE ELEMENTS

0.0.45

19.26.5

18.9.18

PLUS IRON

16.0.15

PLUS IRON

15.0.30

28.5.18

PLUS TRACE ELEMENTS

20.5.30

PLUS TRACE ELEMENTS

28.5.18

PLUS TRACE ELEMENTS & SEAWEED

34.0.11

PLUS TRACE ELEMENTS & SEAWEED

STEP

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Scotts can figure it out

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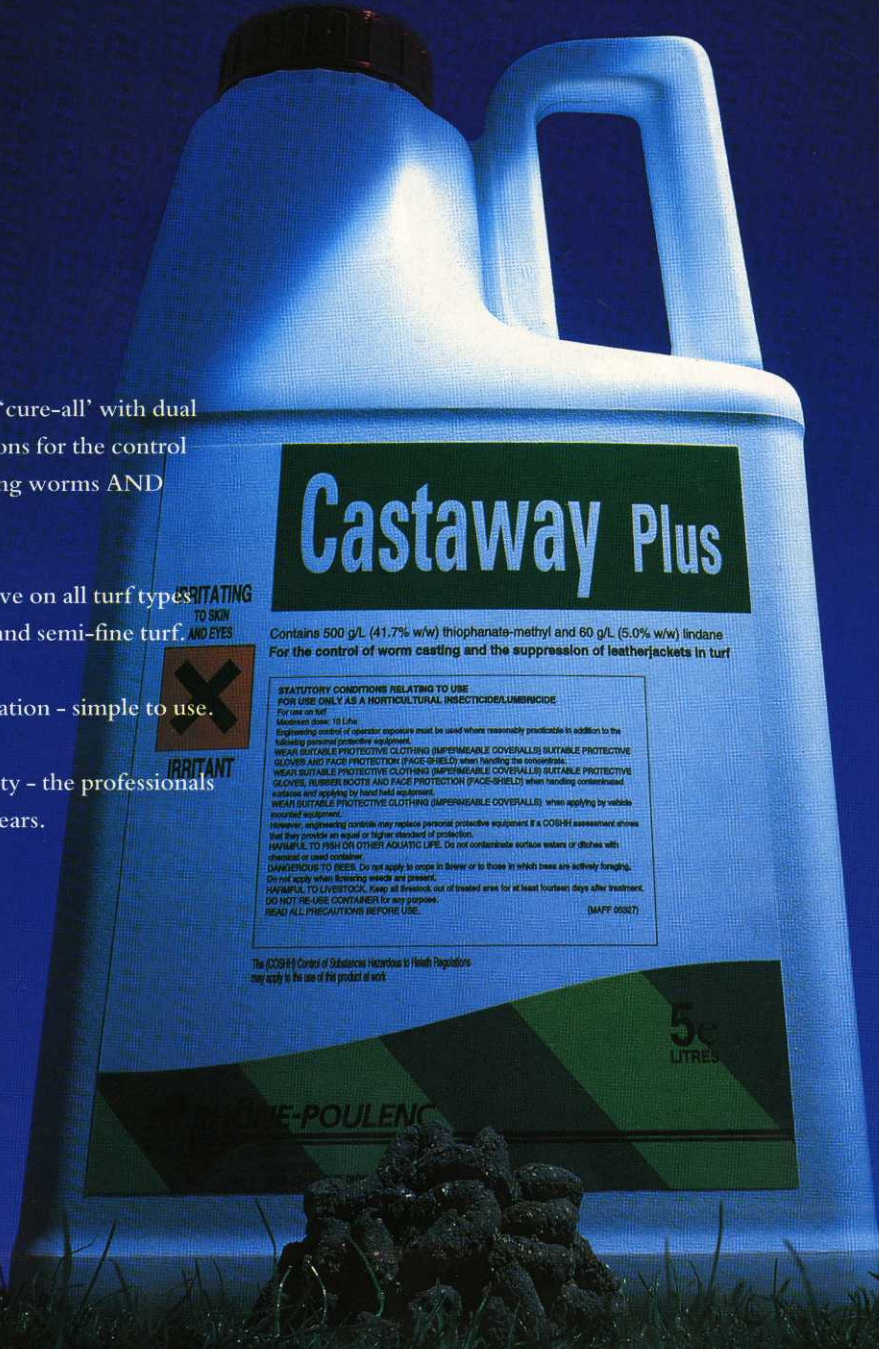
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AD REF 54



# They won't wriggle out of this one...

- Turf managers 'cure-all' with dual recommendations for the control of surface casting worms AND leatherjackets.
- Safe and effective on all turf types including fine and semi-fine turf.
- Unique formulation - simple to use.
- Proven reliability - the professionals choice for 10 years.



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**For the control of worm casting and the suppression of leatherjackets in turf**

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 For use on turf  
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 Engineering control of operator exposure must be used where reasonably practicable in addition to the following personal protective equipment:  
 WEAR SUITABLE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING (IMPERMEABLE COVERALLS) SUITABLE PROTECTIVE GLOVES AND FACE PROTECTION (FACE-SHIELD) when handling the concentrate.  
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 However, engineering controls may replace personal protective equipment if a COSHH assessment shows that they provide an equal or higher standard of protection.  
**HARMFUL TO FISH OR OTHER AQUATIC LIFE.** Do not contaminate surface waters or ditches with chemical or used container.  
**DANGEROUS TO BEES.** Do not apply to crops in flower or to those in which bees are actively foraging.  
 Do not apply when flowering weeds are present.  
**HAZARDOUS TO LIVESTOCK.** Keep all livestock out of treated area for at least fourteen days after treatment.  
 DO NOT RE-USE CONTAINER for any purpose.  
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# Lasting memory for the BIGGA library

BIGGA's library was further enhanced when Gerry Wilkins, Chairman of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association (BTLIA), presented two copies of the 'Turf Irrigation Manual' to BIGGA Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, during BTME. BTLIA make an annual award to selected organisations, each year, in memory of John Shildrick, who had a great influence on the development of the Association, the Turfgrass Industry and on the development of formal education within the Industry.

In thanking Gerry, Ken stated that the books would do much to help in the education and training of greenkeepers, help to develop the links between BIGGA and BTLIA and to ensure that John's name would be long remembered into the future.



Norman Robb, National Chairman of the IOG, is pictured (left) with Ken Richardson, (right) and Gerry Wilkins.

## Parker Hart acquired by Rigby Taylor

Rigby Taylor has acquired the sales operations of its sister company, Parker Hart of Worcester Park, and will fully integrate the business in the South of England. The combined business will trade as Rigby Taylor with immediate effect under the direction of David Morgan, Regional Managing Director of Rigby Taylor Limited.

Parker Hart will continue its sportsground contracting and turf machinery repair activities from its existing premises at Worcester Park, Surrey.

Various changes in management responsibilities within the Southern region of Rigby Taylor take place as part of this reorganisation. Bernard Tomlin is promoted to the position of Regional Sales Director and Rodger Bowles to Regional Field Sales Manager. Mike Ring and Chris Sharp are promoted to the position of Area Manager. Clive Williams, having tendered his resignation, has left the Company to pursue other interests.

Commenting on the moves

Bernard Hedley, Chairman of Rigby Taylor said "We are confident that by combining the sales and distribution operations of Parker Hart with those of Rigby Taylor we can further improve the already excellent service we offer to customers in the South of England and further strengthen our ability to bring innovative products to the market for both amenity turf use and industrial weed control through our relationships with the world's leading chemical companies."

## Outstanding efforts rewarded at Hayter Awards dinner

The fifth Hayter Awards dinner was held on Tuesday 20th January, the eve of BTME, at the St George Hotel in Harrogate.

This popular event has fast become one of the highlights on the dealer calendar with Hayter dealerships being represented from throughout the world.

Overseas guests were welcomed from Italy, Holland, Sweden and USA, and various guests from BIGGA. Executive Director of the Association, Neil Thomas, accompanied by his wife, Elaine, took time out of a busy week to attend, together with Gordon and Marion Child.

Gordon, as incoming Chairman of BIGGA presented the awards.

UK Top Dealer of the Year award went, for the second time running, to Gibson Machinery Sales, with Stuart Mercer accepting the award on behalf of his company. Runner up in this category was Douglas Ewan of Powershift.

The Overseas Award for 1997 was presented to John O'Flynn and Pat Geaney in recognition of their considerable success in Ireland with the Hayter product.

The Outstanding Dealer award is always widely contested, and is presented to dealers whom

Hayter feel should be recognised for their work on our behalf over the year. This opens the category up to all sizes of companies and is not judged purely on sales. This year's award went to Geo. Brown Implements, of Leighton Buzzard, with special mention to their representative, Steve Lee.

Further awards were made during the ceremony in recognition of the work and dedication on our behalf by several individuals during 1997. These were Steve George of BS Mowers in Bristol, Michael Smith from Irish Farm & Garden and Ernst Myer based in Germany.

## STRI join forces with Robin Hume

STRI Ltd have formed an alliance with Robin Hume Associates to provide a comprehensive irrigation consultancy to complement their existing turf agronomy services.

Irrigation has always been an important aspect of managing sports turf but with the droughts and water restrictions in recent years coupled with rising water costs, it has become a major issue for many golf clubs. The new irrigation consultancy service is particularly appropriate for golf clubs contemplating expansion or improvements to their existing systems but it will also be applicable to other sports facilities. STRI Ltd and Robin Hume Associates can provide a full appraisal of irrigation needs and the associated agronomic factors to ensure efficient and cost effective use of the water available.

## Dick's Bourne free

Dick Reid, Director of Bourne Amenity, is going it alone.

He explained that he has learnt a great deal about the industry over the last seven years and he believes that has enabled him to offer the range of quality products and services that the industry demand.

The trading address for Reid Amenity is: Sherne Cottage, Kildown, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2RT. Tel/Fax 01892 890666

## Congratulations!

Derrick Johnstone, of Cardross Golf Club, has been named Student of the Year at Langside College. Derrick, 20, is currently doing his HNC in Golf Course Management at the college.

## Back together...

All companies within the Inturf Group have been amalgamated and now trade as Turfgrass Services International Ltd. For more information contact Inturf, Regent Street, Pocklington, YO4 2QN Tel: 01759 304101.

I use **RiteFeed** because



It's tailor-made to suit my needs

Steve Dixon, Kingsknowe GC



# Rain won't stop play

The Duke's Course at St Andrews has released information about how it improved the drainage on the course.

The site is at an altitude of 200 feet, north-east facing with a South-west prevailing wind. Formerly arable land, the soil is predominately clay with low infiltration rates. Existing drains were dug by hand, well over 60 years ago.

The challenge posed by the conditions was to collect non-travelling surface water and to intercept sub-surface water resulting from collapsed original drains.

Involving an investment of £235,000, designer Peter Thomson's two-stage solution was the installation of perforated drainage and sand-banding. Work was scheduled for the end of the second season of play, to allow time for observation and to prevent contamination of the sand and gravel by clay particles. Only fairways and surrounds of greens and tees required attention: greens and tees are constructed to USGA standards - free draining, sand based.

Stage One intercepted sub-surface water and prevented water travelling into areas of play. The Duke's received hole by hole analysis and treatment: 100mm pipe was installed at a depth of 350mm, covered by 250mm of pea gravel and 100mm of choker sand. Additional areas were drained with 60mm of pipe at a depth of 300mm with 200mm of pea gravel and 100mm of choker sand.

Stage Two involved the digging of trenches 30mm wide and 225mm deep filled with choker sand. These "Sand-Bands" are positioned between one and two metres apart and have maximum length of 10 metres before they are intercepted by 60 - 100mm perforated drains.

The combined result: 12 month play on a course which previously would have faced significant closures due to rain. Indeed, during Winter '97 (the wettest for many years) not a single day's play was lost.

I use **RiteFeed** because



It satisfies the needs of both myself and the course

Fraser Ross, Renfrew GC

# An award with a silver lining

AT BTME Allen Power Equipment Ltd was presented with a plaque by the National Mower Company, USA, in recognition of 25 year's of National/Allen association in the UK.

National design durable grass cutting machines specifically for the golf course market and their range includes National 84 powered by a Briggs & Stratton 16hp twin "Vanguard" engine and National 68DL with a 7.5hp Kawasaki 4 cycle engine.

Peter Jefferis, Managing Director of, Allen Power Equipment Ltd (Left), and Lance Bassett, Sales Director (Centre) receive a plaque from Stan Rinkead, General Manager, National Mowers, USA, (Right). The plaque marks 25 years of distribution of National mowers in the UK through Allen's national network of dealers.



# New company launched

A new company name, but with familiar faces, was introduced for the first time to the Amenity industry at BTME. Twose Turf & Spray Limited (TTS) is a venture between Twose of Tiverton and the previous management and staff of Hardi Limited, Colin Gregory, Bill Oliver and Richard Tyas.

TTS has already attracted exclusive distributorships of the Greencare range of aerators, the Rogers Windfoil, drift control spray booms and Root Zone Injectors and, from Woodbay, the GreensIron greens roller.

In addition, the company has entered into agreement with the Italian sprayer manufacturer Gambetti Barre to develop a range

of specialist sprayers for the Amenity market.

Operating from a central location in the East Midlands, TTS will also be distributing the range of Twose Amenity products which have built up an enviable reputation over many years.

Commenting on this new venture, Colin Gregory, Managing Director stated, "The Amenity industry demands a better service than it has been given by companies who see it as a 'Cinderella' relation of the Agricultural market. TTS has a strategy to develop and introduce, through its network of specialist dealers, an exciting range of new products for the UK and Ireland Amenity industry."

# Computer controlled?

Merrist Wood Golf Club has just taken delivery of the newly-released Qquest Maintenance Management Software for Windows. Installation and system setup was carried out by Wessex Software Systems, the Qquest Authorised UK Dealer.

The Qquest system, which can be found at a significant number of golf clubs throughout North America and other parts of the world, was developed as a computer based system to simplify and speed up many of the facets of maintaining both equipment and facilities on a golf course.

Managing and scheduling regular maintenance tasks one of the benefits afforded by the programme. Integral with the system is both the control of inventories of spare parts and consumables and also labour costs. Other features include chemical application tracking, departmental budget management and access to electronic parts imaging systems such as Powercom, PartSmart and Plus!

"We intend to use the Qquest system not only for running our maintenance operations at the club, but the College's greenkeeping students, by using the Qquest programme, will gain greater exposure to the necessary administrative aspects of greenkeeping" say Tom Smith, Head Greenkeeper at Merrist Wood.

Guy Coleman of Wessex reports that Wessex is developing a special educational establishment pricing package for Qquest Maintenance Management Software.

For further information Tel: 01798 831020

# Training initiative for Wales

A new training initiative from the Welsh College of Horticulture combines training agency skills with the academic excellence provided by the College tutorial staff.

SDA Training limited became an integral part of the College during 1997. This partnership delivers their unparalleled expertise in training, counselling, support and assessment to form a unique link between the Welsh college of horticulture and commercial operators in their NVQ programmes.

Heading the land-based industry section is Phil Davies N.D.T. who joins the Company from Mommersteeg International, where he was Amenity Product Manager.

Phil's experience spans more



than 20 years both as Head Greenkeeper and in the turf Management industry. His primary responsibility will be for Greenkeeper training and support, but will also encompass Landscaping, Commercial Horticulture, Floristry and BAGMA Engineering.

# Are you over the limit?

Paul Bishop, Course Manager at Manor House GC, in Castle Combe, telephoned the magazine to pass on a cautionary tale which resulted from his run-in with the local constabulary.

Paul was stopped by the police as he returned to the course after filling 10 jerrycans with petrol.

"I was told that the maximum amount of petrol you are legally allowed to carry, without having

'Hazchem' signs at the front and back of the vehicle, is one gallon," said Paul. "And these signs have to be removed when you are not carrying petrol.

"You also have to carry a fire extinguisher in the cab and have another larger one fixed to the back of the truck," he added.

Paul was allowed to carry on with no more than a warning but he has since been on a course in Petrol and

Handling Petrol, while his mechanic has built a special frame for the truck which will safely hold up to 10 jerrycans and which allows them to be strapped down securely.

"We have 40 buggies at our club which all require fuel but at most golf clubs the staff often have to fill three or four jerrycans," said Paul.

"If they have been unaware of the regulations I hope that my tale will be of interest to them."

## All change at Hardi UK

Nick Tremlett has been appointed as Managing Director of Hardi Limited.

"Nick will have responsibility for our UK operation and has been appointed to Hardi's Strategic Planning Executive to continue to ensure that all our UK customer requirements are integrated into our current and future product development plans, strategies and initiatives - we could not have wished for a better start for 1998," said Sten Kjelstrup, Sales and Marketing Director for Hardi International A/S.

Nick worked for Massey Ferguson for 11 years where he held Sales and Marketing positions both in the UK and overseas. Prior to leaving he was their Business Operations Manager responsible for AGCO's interests in Southern Africa.

For the past two years Nick has been working for UFB Humberclyde (the French based European Financier UFB Lacabail's subsidiary), developing their manufacturing relationships in the UK.

Summing up his reasons for joining Hardi, he said, "The opportunity of heading up Hardi Ltd is an exciting and challenging prospect, the company has established an enviable global reputation with its products and in its commitment to meet customers requirements."

## Multi-core aerator opens up the market



Multi-core has added a two metre wide model to its range of tractor-mounted aerators.

Developed to enable greenkeepers, groundstaff and contractors to carry out fast, effective aeration of large, open turf areas, the British-built MC 20 aerator complements the existing one metre and one and a half metre wide machines in the Multi Core range.

All three aerators can be equipped with a choice of solid, coring, slicing or chisel tines to suit specific

turf needs and seasonal aeration requirements.

Aeration pattern is variable depending on the specific tine head and forward speed selected.

The MC 20 is able to aerate from the surface down to a maximum 125mm deep, quickly and easily adjusted without tools on a large diameter fill width front roller. Indicator markings on the machine assist with accurate depth setting.

For further information Tel: 01937 843281

## New Midland Help Line

The Midland Region has set up a support group on a six month trial basis. Because of the many factors involved in forming such a project, it was thought advisable to begin with a trial which would serve as a learning time, allowing us to assess demand and costs before embarking upon further training for support group (members) for other regions.

"The formation of this project comes from the many concerns we have about the high percentage of greenkeepers who are suffering from stress as a result of pressure at work. This often has a knock-on effect, leading to more serious illness, thus affecting families and also places of work," said BIGGA Past Chairman Paddy McCarron.

"We are also aware that the demands on today's greenkeepers are many and varied and ever-increasing with all-year-round golf. People's expectations at times are too high for the greenkeeper to deal with and because of financial constraints and course limitations and/or poor communications, difficulties build up. It may be that the golf club and the greenkeeper are just not compatible," explained Paddy.

"It is also a concern that too many greenkeepers are looking to change their jobs, often for the wrong reasons as many may be suffering from stress during the time that their grievances are developing. What we are saying is: Talk to us first.

"Our desire is to see more greenkeepers happy in their work and more golf clubs happy with their greenkeepers. We do not promise success - that depends on you, but we are there to talk to," said Paddy.

The service will be totally confidential and the only cost to the caller will be that of the telephone call. Appointments will be necessary if someone wishes to talk in person.

"Thanks to A.L.S. Amenity Land Services for their financial support of this worthy cause," said Paddy.

Telephone: 0116 2739189 or 01480 437507

## Go West this April

Westurf '98, on April 29, at Long Ashton Golf Club is offering the opportunity to meet and chat with experts in many industry fields.

The "Meet the Experts" Marquee will have representatives from Symbio, Astara, Scotts, Supaturf, EBA, STRI, Avoncorp, Breton Precast, BIGGA as well as Sparsholt, Hartpury, Pencoed and Cannington colleges.

The show, will also boast a wide range of machinery and equipment, a pitch and putt competition while for the first time there will be full catering and a licensed bar.

Jim Arthur will also be at the show to sign copies of his book "Practical Greenkeeping" to be sold at a special exhibition price.

The show starts at 10am and runs until 4pm.

## Make mine a Bailey's!

After the success of last year's golf competitions Bailey's of Norfolk have decided to hold two competitions this year. Both to be played at Royal Cromer G.C. on April 21 & August 11. Entry is free and includes a carvery meal at the evening prize giving. Each competition will be divided into 0-14 and 15 - 28 Handicap categories. Prizes for each event will be worth in excess of £500!

For further information call Bailey's on 01603 754607

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It suits my course  
Alastair Tough, Muckhart GC



## Seaweed success for Maxicrop

Maxicrop launched ProGreen Spi, a formulation of Seaweed Extract, iron (6%), nitrogen (2%) and a Spray Pattern Indicator at BTME. This new product is recommended for use prior to tournaments to provide a rapid green-up response, or when long-term in-season greening is required.

Containing a non-staining Spray Pattern Indicator, ProGreen Spi ensures that the spray operator can apply an easily seen, uniform and consistent spray pattern on the turf.

As a Plant Growth Stimulant, Maxicrop ProGreen Spi will assist in restoring the natural microbial population balance in the soil and, when applied as part of a Plant Growth Management programme, will 'kick start' turf growth, boosting health and vigour, additionally, applications of ProGreen Spi will impart a natural 'green-up' appearance to the turf and promote the growth hardening process.

For further information Tel: 01536 402182

## Early bird set to fly down under

Ten years of unflinching service to Turfand was recognised on the retirement of George Slobon from the company.

Having never had a day of sick in his time at the company time cards prove that he clocked in at 7.02am every morning for his 7.30am start and he took a genuine pride in his work.

With daughter about to give birth to twins in New Zealand the retiring present of two return tickets Down Under, for himself and his wife Joan, could not have been more welcome.

The tickets along with other gifts were presented to George by Janet Watmore of Turfand.

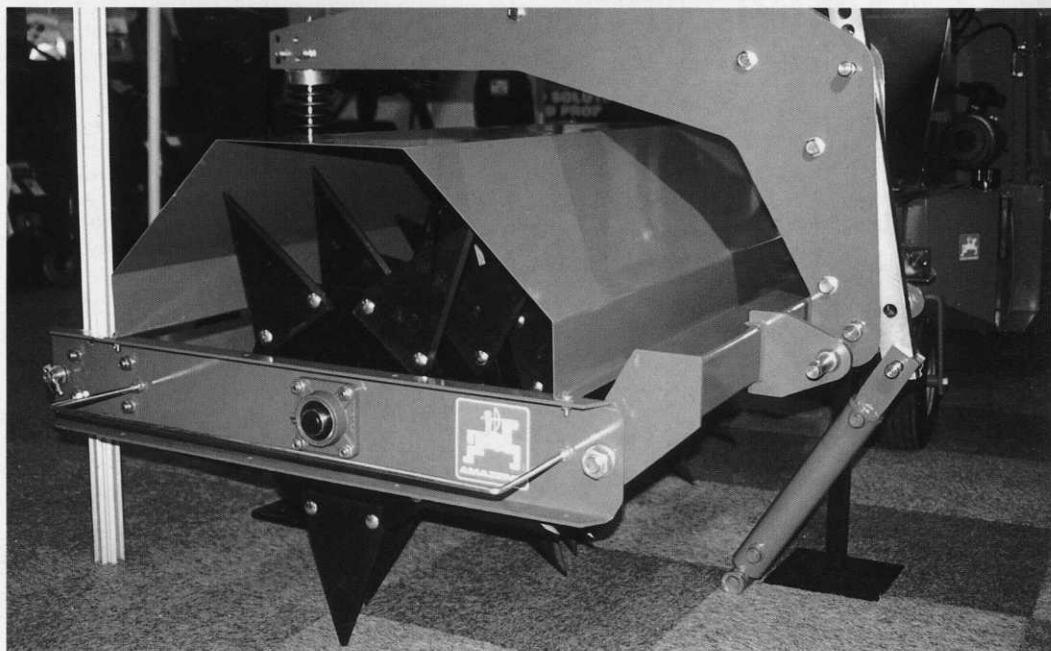
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Chris Yeaman, Swanston GC

# The pressure point



Amazone Ground Care marked its return to BTME with the unveiling of the pre-production models of two of its new four-model range of slit/aerators. They incorporate a unique blade configuration that ensures high point pressure across the full width of the implement at high operating speeds, while exerting 91kg/point pressure for entry into the thickest thatch.

Designated the Amazone SL, SLC

and SLS series, all are three-point linkage mounted and will be available in working widths of 1.2 metres and 2.4 metres. SLS models also feature a new contour following system.

The SL forms the base of the new range and is intended for working on flat ground.

Its fully enclosed 1.2m-wide ground-driven rotor is fitted with 40 blades, each of which, uniquely,

is mounted with a 10 degree offset.

With that pattern all the points in contact with the surface penetrate the ground to an equal depth when the slit is driven forward - so eliminating the 'walking' effect associated with some blade layouts - and ensuring the implement remains level at high forward speeds.

For further information Tel: 01579 351155.

## New soil reliever from Huxley

Huxley's new Soil Reliever 72 makes vertical deep tine aeration a much faster and easier and more economical operation.

Like the successful Soil Reliever 60, the Model 72 requires a 35hp tractor, and yet its maximum output is 20,000 square foot per hour - almost 50% more than the Model 60.

The 72" operating width covers most tractor tyre tracks, and makes the Soil Reliever 72 an ideal aerator for larger areas such as sportsfields and golf course fairways - but without the need for a large tractor.

Although a heavy duty machine, the Soil Reliever 72 is also gentle enough to aerate greens, where a clean, immaculate finish can be achieved.

Easy adjustments and low maintenance requirements are important features of the machine. Even the tine operating depth is simple to adjust by control of the optional hydraulic top link from the driver's seat.

For further information Tel: 01962 733222.

