

## comment from the Sections

Well done to Chas Gobie on his promotion to Head Greenkeeper at West Middlesex Golf Club. Having formerly worked at Hampstead Golf Club as Assistant to Alan Lewis, Chas took over the helm on 6 April when Bob Moffat steps down.

One of the stalwarts of the industry, Bob Moffat was born into greenkeeping in 1933, his father combining the jobs of Greenkeeper, Pro and Steward at Lanark Golf Club. His first job, aged 15 was on the staff at Sandy Hills Golf Club and there he joined the Scottish Golf Greenkeepers Association (SGGA). In time he became Secretary of the SGGA when then evolved into SIGGA, one of the forerunners of your organisation, with a Committee comprising of Bob, John Campbell, Head Greenkeeper of St Andrews, and Donald Harradine, a Golf Course Architect. He held the post of Secretary of the Association for 14 and a half years. During this period in the early '70s, Bob was one of the instigators of The City & Guilds Certificate, combining with Head Greenkeeper, Cecil George and the Principal of Woodburn House College in Glasgow, Charlie Crossan, to set up the first recognised training standard. In 1972, while attending the BGGGA Dinner at Blackpool, Bob and Ransomes Sales Manager, John Wilson, decided to resurrect the Greenkeepers' International Golf Match which had been played up until the war. The following year in 1973, teams from eight countries competed, with Bob playing for the victorious Scottish Team. The Moffats moved south to England in 1976 and Bob was awarded Honorary Life Membership to SIGGA at the 1977 AGM. Continuing his support for young greenkeepers, Bob became an examiner for Practical Greenkeeping at Burchetts Green College in Maidenhead, casting his eagle eye over young fellows such as Kevin Munt, of the Bucks Golf Club, and Derek Mason, of Highgate Golf Club, when they were first starting out.

He was a founder member of the BB&O Section along with Bob Plain and Gordon Payne and was its first Chairman in 1977.

Bob has been Head Greenkeeper at West Middlesex Golf Club for seven and a half years, but now, after 50 years working in the trade has decided to take things a bit easier. I am sure all of us wish him and his wife good luck for the future.

Peter Hopkinson

### Essex

Despite the FA Cup clash between West Ham v Arsenal, with the Minnows winning by a post, 47 people turned up for the March lecture given by Dr Alan Gange titled "Biological Methods for Pest and Disease Control in Golf Turf". The subject gave for hot conversation with plenty of thought taken away for the future.

It was also nice to see so many new faces and old names on the night and let's hope it continues.

We would like to thank Dr Gange for giving up his time, our main sponsors Rigby Taylor, especially Dennis Smith and Steve Denton, Writtle College and the Caretaker for all his running around on the night and the following companies Avoncrop, Headland Amenity, Willmot Pertwee, Kings, and Grass Roots Trading for supplying the raffle prizes.

Continuing on the education front, 11 Greenkeepers attended the first day of two Management Seminars at Stock Brook Manor with our lecturer Frank Newberry covering the following topics: Learning Styles, Time Management, Motivation, Leadership, Discipline Issues and Basics of Negotiation to say "NO".

The second day will be held in November, to give the 11 a chance to try between now and then to put the topics into practice, to give feedback and sort out any problems.

Anyone interested in attending one of these courses, a second list has been formed, with 6 names already put forward. When we reach 12 the second course will run. For further information contact Martin Forrester 01245 603131.

Our next event is a golf competition to be held at Channels Golf Club on June 2, price £18 Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers, Trade and Guests with £15 for Assistants and Trainees. Please telephone Richard Pride 01268 752281 for entry.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest member Ian Mitchell from Thordon Park.

That's about it for now, see you at Channels, any queries please ring me on 01702 522202.

Dave Wells - "Hammers for Europe"

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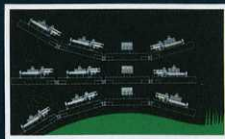
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### South West

May is now upon us and we can all wallow in the delights of summer. I hope this year's Augusta syndrome has not been too hard on you all and that you are now reaping the benefits of the winter and spring work.

It is more a case of looking forward this month as opposed to delving into the past. Hopefully you all will be reading this before the Greenkeeper/Amateur Tournament which this year is to be held at Woodlands Golf Club in Almondbury on May 13. I believe this is a first visit to Woodlands for the South West Greenkeepers Tour and so it promises to be a worthwhile one.

We also have the annual match against the South West Secretaries coming up at Ilfracombe Golf Club. If you do want to play in that one then please put your name down with Peter Baynton and ensure that you will be available when the time comes. All the matches are a delight to play in and this year we can look

forward to some witty after dinner anecdotes from our Captain, Matt Hawker, or in his absence some pure stand-up comedy from Captain of Vice Dave Bougen.

We have just run another first aid course and before that a chainsaw course. These courses always go very well and are extremely worthwhile, so if there is anyone out there who would like to attend these or any other courses then remember, just give me a ring and we will get you on the relevant list.

Available at this year's fixtures are badges for the building fund. If anyone would like to give a donation then it is £5 for a Bronze Badge, £25 for a Silver Badge and £50 for a Gold Badge. See Peter for the details.

If you have qualified for the Ritefeed Classic at St Mellion on the June 4 then here are a couple of tips for this fine course. Firstly, resist all temptations in the weeks leading up to the event and secondly, understand your water hazard rules.

Marc Haring

### South Coast

The last of our Winter Lecture meetings was held at Crane Valley Golf Club on Wednesday March 4.

Unfortunately, Gary Parker from ISS Aqua Turf Systems Ltd could

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not make it. However, he sent along two of his team, Richard Parsons and David Driver. They both gave us an excellent insight into how ISS is coping with the reduction in the number of golf course being built. Richard started by talking about ISS and how they have branched out into Garden Irrigation Systems. There was a general discussion on how we can save water and the old old topic of over-watering. He then went on to talk about the various systems on offer. This was followed by a general discussion on these systems. Next, David Driver spoke to us about the new Contract and Renovation Service that is on offer. Once again a lot of questions and discussion. We had 30 members in attendance which was quite good. However, there were some empty seats. A few more of you would have been very welcome. On completion lunch was provided, courtesy of ISS Aqua Turf Systems Ltd. After lunch a number of the members had nine holes of golf. Some even managed to get round 18 holes. Our thanks to Garry Parker, Richard Parsons and David Driver for a very interesting and enjoyable day. Also thanks to Crane Valley for the courtesy of the course and the use of the clubhouse.

For all of you who have qualified for the Ritefeed Regional Final, I would like to wish you all the very best of luck. It is being held at St Mellion Golf Club on June 4. If for any reason you cannot make it please let Trevor Smith or our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, know in plenty of time. This will then enable us to organise a replacement.

Last, but not least, our secretary Jef Drake, as I'm sure you all know, is now the Deputy Course Manager at Newbury and Crookham Golf Club. His new address and telephone number is:

9 Villiers Walk, Wash Common, Newbury, Berks RG14 6SJ.

My apologies for not including Jef's new address in last month's magazine report.

Ken Lodge

#### Devon and Cornwall

The Section's Avoncrop meeting was held at Staddon Heights Golf Club on Tuesday, March 3, unfortunately the weather was awful with heavy rain and gale force winds, it was a credit to Head Greenkeeper, Johnathan Bullen, and his team, who some how had 11 holes open so our golfing members could get their fix for the day. They must have been mad! More than 25 members battled against the elements to compete for the Avoncrop Trophy. Even more amazing was that many of our non golfing members went for the customary course walk.

After a superb lunch our

President John Palfrey gave a short presentation on Avoncrop before presenting the golf prizes for the Avoncrop Trophy.

1. Tony James, Tehidy, +3; 2. Buster Lewer, Dainton, -2; 3. Brian Ridgeway, Fingle Glen, -2.

Our afternoon educational talk rounded off the day, with Turf Consultant Robert Laycock presenting an excellent talk on grass leaf tissue analysis necessary or not. The Section would like to thank Robert for his superb presentation.

Also the Section would like to thank the day's sponsors Avoncrop for their continued support and to Staddon Heights and all their staff who made our day run so smoothly, with special thanks to Jonathan Bullen and his crew.

Richard Whyman

#### Northern Ireland

#### South East

Our Section's open workshop seminar on the March 31 was held at Cyril Johnston's, Carryduff, there was an excellent turnout at this event of over 80 people.

The speakers were as follows: Commencing with Richard Comely, of a Jacobsen/Iseki, who formally announced the take over of Ransomes by Jacobsen Textron inc followed by an informative discussion on the benefits of relief/spin grinding and a lecture on the operation and maintenance of hydrostatic systems.

Robin Blackford, of Hayter, guided us through the concept, design, manufacture, testing and marketing of a new idea (eg Mowers).

Roy Allett, of Allett Mowers, gave us biography of his company from his grandfather through to the present day. D. Johnston presented us with two speakers from his company on the subjects of equipment hire, parts distribution and back up.

The BIGGA stand was well received and quite a number of application forms distributed.

Many thanks to all the speakers and those who made the effort to attend at the busy start of our season. Special thanks to Cyril Johnston Ltd for their hospitality.

Jonathan McCabe

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**Charterhouse has grown from a company based on a single product to one which offers a full range...**

# A machinery charter

There can be little argument that the praise the greenkeeping industry has received for its progress over the last 20 years is well deserved.

In that time the sophistication required to produce premier quality golf courses has grown to the stage that it bears comparison with the jump from the pioneering work of the Wright Brothers to the warp power of the Star Ship Enterprise.

Identifying the key developments within those 20 years would obviously take in the formation of BIGGA in 1987 and the huge leap forwards in greenkeeping education, but on the machinery side there is one piece of equipment which could lay claim to being the most significant innovation over the last two decades. That is the vertidrain.

It was introduced into the UK in the early 80s by Charterhouse, a company which since then has been responsible for several other innovative pieces of equipment and grown to the extent that it now offers a product range exceeding 2,000 items. Charterhouse has also just become a BIGGA Golden Key Supporter donating money to the Association's Education and Development Fund.

It is perhaps appropriate that the Haslemere-based company has become a Golden Key supporter because, as Chairman and Managing Director David Jenkins is quick to explain, much of the company's success is down to the improved education and status of the country's greenkeepers.

"We have always recognised that the status of greenkeeping is absolutely vital as the products we sell enhance the golf course but it is imperative to understand agronomy and fine turf maintenance to recognise their importance," explained David, who added that Charterhouse's range covered compaction relief, overseeding, top dressing, scarifying and sweeping.

"These are all things which can be perceived as a nuisance by the average golfer, who doesn't think much beyond the cutting of the green. We wanted the standing of the greenkeeper to improve because, around the early to mid 80s, we discovered that many greenkeepers could understand the benefits of the vertidrain but when they went to the Greens Committee it was a closed book.

"In a lot of cases that the local solicitor, accountant or JP couldn't possibly conceive that their own greenkeeper was also a professional so when he came to the committee proposing that the club buys a sophisticated piece of machinery, costing several thousands of pounds they merely applied their own thinking with no knowledge of agronomy whatsoever."

The Vertidrain was being produced by a Dutch company in the early 80s and when David, along with Philip Threadgold, the Sales Director, set up Charterhouse they took on the franchise in the UK.

"Initially we had to persuade people that a tractor could be driven onto a green with a vertidrain because prior to that greenkeepers didn't even want trolleys on certain parts of the fairway never mind the aprons or surrounds. We had to explain that the vertidrain was taking the compaction out as the trac-

tor was being driven off the green."

The big breakthrough came when Jack McMillan, then at Sunningdale, hired one and used it on the worst piece of fairway he could find.

"He vertidraind about 50 yards and following a particularly dry summer one side of the fairway it was burnt up, the 50 yard stretch was still nice and green because the roots had gone down, and beyond that it was all burnt up again."

That experiment persuaded Jack to buy a vertidrain and he was followed by the Course Managers at some of the finest venues in the country.

"Jack is one of those characters who is so committed and enthused all the time and he was very dynamic in communicating the benefits of the vertidrain to others," recalled David.

"Somehow the vertidrain caught the mood of greenkeeping and we were very fortunate in that respect because, at the same time as we wanted to improve the status of the greenkeeper to help us sell, the leading personalities in greenkeeping were wanting to achieve the same thing."

Originally David and Philip had thought that only contractors would actually purchase vertidrains and then that perhaps the top ten or 20 golf clubs would buy but each year the level of golf club to purchase moved down. Now the market is virtually mature and most clubs have them.

"A club would perhaps hire one for two or three years then discover that the cost of leasing was not that different from hiring and it would enable the club to do the job when it suited rather than having to book the vertidrain two or three months ahead."



Above: David Jenkins and Below: Philip Threadgold



# Charterhouse Turf Machinery



Having, as David is first to admit, been "Born of the Vertidrain" he and Philip took the view that Charterhouse shouldn't be a one product company.

"We are both technical people who enjoy being creative and because of the relationship we enjoyed with the greenkeepers we found that they would come to us with ideas.

"One said that he wanted a seeder which actually got the seed into the ground so when we came across a company, again in Holland, which made just such a thing we imported it into the UK and when they stopped making it they allowed us to produce it over here.

"We also found people saying that they needed a top dresser which they could pull behind a tractor so we developed one of those. In fact, we've developed a

whole range of products all focussed on turf maintenance."

That is identified as the second thrust of Charterhouse in which it broadening out into supplying a range of products which complemented the vertidrain.

"We looked for several features which complemented the vertidrain. For instance the vertidrain is a long lasting machine so our machines had to be long lasting. We wanted original features in all our machines, just like the vertidrain, so we didn't get involved in making something unless we could see that there was originality in the new machine."

Charterhouse developed right through the 80s to the stage that when manufacturing became a problem because the whole of British industry was booming and no-one could be persuaded to make the products the company bought a plot of land in Haslemere, moved from Godalming and built a new factory.

Almost as soon as they had moved in, the recession hit, and hit hard.

"Like so many other companies we felt as though we were over-stretched. So we went to Redexim, the Dutch company which had originally developed the vertidrain, who agreed to take an interest in Charterhouse which cushioned us through the difficult times."

Charterhouse has since moved away from manufacturing its own product line and con-

tracted the work out to agricultural manufacturers.

"I met a lot of them when I was President of the Agricultural Engineers Association and they were both geared up for manufacturing on a bigger scale than us and because much of their work was seasonal they were able to offer us a facility outside of their own busy period," explained David.

It was around this time that Charterhouse moved into its third area of involvement.

"Knowing that recessions come in cycles it would be too much to expect that we would have steady growth without any downturns for the next 25 years. It is also easy for people to cross capital items off their budgets and particularly so for a golf club to not bother to buy a particular machine one year. If every golf club did the same it would create a real problem."

The answer was to increase Charterhouse's product portfolio and this they did to the tune of over 2,000 items.

"We talked to our French distributor, which ran a company supplying a whole host of sundry items, and said that now with the Channel Tunnel it was just as easy to transport goods from Paris to Glasgow as it was from Paris to Marseilles so why didn't we operate the catalogue in the UK. This is what we've done," said David, whose links with Holland have given him valuable experience of operating in an international market - "We now quote all our European and Scandinavian distributors in Dutch Guilders so the current high rate of the pound doesn't affect us."

The catalogue is circulated to every golf club in the UK each year

and all orders are administered in Haslemere, shipped out of Paris and delivered within three or four days.

"That completes the three main developments of Charterhouse - first the Vertidrain, secondly our own machinery and thirdly our own consumable products."

Last year the Anglo-Dutch partnership which had been so successful between Charterhouse and Redexim was reinforced when Redexim purchased the remaining Charterhouse shares.

"It made organisational sense because Philip and I now handle both our product lines in North America and Scandinavia respectively while the Dutch do the same in the Far East. It made a good fit and a very good use of our business acumen."

David now thinks "group" and sees the advantages of the new found size.

"I think we will grow to enhance our position of number one in the First Division, with the likes of Ransomes, Toro, John Deere, Jacobsen and Kubota in the Premier Division," said David who is quick to credit his staff and a top quality dealer network for the success the company has enjoyed.

On Golden Key, David reaffirms his belief that some of Charterhouse's success is down to an environment in which BIGGA's members are respected.

"BIGGA's progress has been very impressive and they occupy a key role in creating an environment in which their members become respected, and we felt that we should put something back into the industry. I see it as a long term partnership between ourselves and the Association."



**Naturally-occurring soil bacteria are now emerging as the unsung heroes of fine turf management. We go in search of more information by...**

# Digging deeper

Research has revealed that promoting populations of certain organisms can enhance natural disease control and improve the texture and fertility of the soil.

But with many existing chemical treatments working against, rather than in harmony, with these organisms, it is possible that applied chemicals can complement natural disease control.

In the case of the soil microflora - or the population of micro-organisms within the soil - it is now recognised that manipulating these can produce a beneficial effect on the turf.

"Beneficial soil organisms can be broadly divided into two groups," said Geoff Yelland, of Rigby Taylor.

"Some bacteria are antagonists, either producing antibiotics which restrict fungus-causing diseases such as fusarium patch or competing aggressively with them for nutrients. Others assist in the breakdown of organic matter into

simpler forms more available to the plant.

"Bacteria which inhibit disease are of particular interest as many products on the market control the disease but also kill these bacteria, causing an imbalance in the soil's natural defences. This can reduce the efficacy of the product and sometimes cause visible damage to the grass."

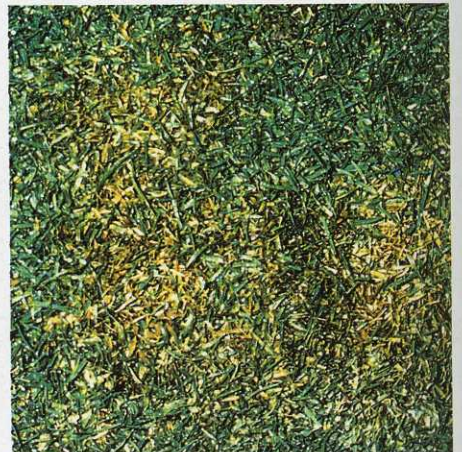
But how do soil bacteria levels stack up in greens and on fine turf?

University research recently undertaken has shown that levels were, on average, 4000 times lower than those in natural grassland.

This raised a number of important questions, such as why, how could this be remedied, and how could healthy soil bacteria populations be maintained?

One reason for the low populations on golf courses in particular appears to be the specification of many modern greens. Sand constructed (USGA) greens seem to contain very few bacteria due to their sterile nature. This is also the case in compacted, poorly aerated and waterlogged areas.

Effective cultural practices boost bacterial populations by creating an environment which favours their development. Some greenkeepers and groundsmen have been attempting to enhance this through the surface application of products designed to promote the growth of soil bacteria. These tend to contain natural compounds and aim to provide conditions which favour the colonisation and growth of beneficial organisms, provided the soil



conditions are appropriate.

Fungicides are a valuable tool for the greenkeeper in turf disease management.

It is important that the use of these products has minimal adverse effects on desirable micro-organisms.

One of the manufacturers of turf fungicides to have researched the wider effects of its products on ecosystems is Dow AgroSciences. The company has conducted tests on Rimidin (fenarimol), its amenity fungicide, to assess its effects on soil bacteria.

Not surprisingly, the company has been keen to announce its findings that Rimidin is not harmful to soil bacteria. "We realise the benefits of soil bacteria and have been working on how to accommodate this with a continuing need to control fusarium on greens," says Dr Mike Drinkall from the company.

"The end result has been the development of a product which is very effective on fusarium, kind to the turf but also harmless to beneficial soil bacteria, which increase Rimidin's efficacy against disease."

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# Day

Stories about theft and vandalism on golf courses abound. The problems vary according to the location of the course and its surrounds. Remote rural courses with few roads or footpaths within their bounds can expect few problems, nevertheless unless they are prepared they can expect a visit from the professional thief taking advantage of their quiet location to relieve them of equipment - kit which will probably be specially selected for its ability to be passed on readily - it is even suggested that some items may be selected because someone has asked for specific items. In other words equipment is stolen to order. In contrast the picture in urban areas is of a considerable amount of petty theft and vandalism - and a greater amount of disruption. Speaking to several clubs it is obvious that vandalism is considered a far worse problem, partly because it is on-going and needs constant vigilance and remedial action. Theft of equipment is usually covered by insurance although there may be restrictions and an excess - which may increase with each instance of theft. There seems to be a very fatalistic view on this with many clubs taking few precautions to protect their possessions. Fairly regular losses of small items such as hover mowers and trimmers seem to be quite widespread, but there are reports of large items such as ride-on triples or tractors having gone missing. Because these larger items are so specialised it is more difficult to find a market for them - and without a market there is little point in stealing them. Of course larger items are also more conspicuous and need larger vehicles for their transport. Nevertheless some very expensive plant does go missing - and when it does it can cause a considerable disruption of work. It is often a matter of conjecture how

some of these items are removed without any witnesses. Marking larger items is also fairly easy, for instance Kubota operate a marking system using microdots available through all their dealers. It is also possible to mark with paint or with an ultra-violet pen, however, such methods do require that the machine or item is found in suspicious circumstances, and for someone to query the ownership. A simple method is to have stencils cut with the club name and use a spray marker to put your name on all major items. Bona-fide second hand buyers should not have a problem with this.

There are many courses where the greenkeepers' shed is well away from the clubhouse with its own entry and exit to the road, these must be at greater risk. Very few of these premises are locked during the day and few have any security for hours of darkness, nor are most difficult to enter even if the doors are locked. Conventional sheds with corrugated asbestos or fibre cement sides and roofs are simple to break, and bolt croppers or a bar will remove most door locks or hinges. Common sense or help from the local police crime prevention officer may suggest a number of simple precautions which will add to security, and often these are remarkably inexpensive. But it is not only plant and equipment which goes missing, sand, fertilisers and chemicals are also known to "walk" nor is it unknown for turf to be stripped or trees



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**Theft is a growth industry at golf clubs but Hugh Tilley investigates the best ways to reduce the chances of it happening to you...**

# light robbery

removed under cover of darkness.

Vandalism is very disrupting to the daily routine, and a number of clubs have instigated dawn patrols with greenkeepers checking every green and tee to ensure that all markers, flags and other course furniture is in place before members arrive. Nor need this petty vandalism be confined to misplacing these items, more serious damage may be occasioned by cars driven over the greens and down the fairways.

Footpaths across a course are a known danger point, however, they may not be such a problem if they are purely footpaths with no bike or vehicular access. In addition, people walking dogs may be a potential disruption to golf, but they also offer unpaid security. It may be possible to ensure that vehicular access is prohibited by cementing in posts or putting up gates.

Researching this feature led to contacting a number of clubs - normally the Secretary as the person most involved in club security. This straw poll produced a range of responses from the more secluded clubs which have "no problem" - one secretary qualified this reply - "unless you leave your clubs unattended outside the clubhouse - we have occasional opportunists," to the inner city club which has regular security guard patrols around the car park during the day and around the course at night. This club which is highly security conscious, has digital locks on every external door and is in the process of fencing - with close board fence at 15 per metre - some mile of road exposed perimeter. Needless to say this club also has CCTV, floodlighting and internal monitored security alarms. The secretary commented that this is a considerable cost to the members, but experience has shown that it is essential.

Vandalism would appear to be one of the most difficult problems to solve. The comment from an assistant at one of the Birmingham clubs was that many of the things which he would like to do were illegal! - such as wholesale smacking of kids and putting an electric fence around the course. Holidays, particularly sum-

mer holidays, required extra vigilance - and a routine dawn patrol. One Merseyside club has enlisted help from an artisan group and offers policemen reduced fees. Nevertheless both of these clubs have their sheds secured and alarmed.

Further protection can be offered to greenkeeping facilities which are away from the main club complex by creating a secure fenced compound. Floodlights activated by p.i.r. or, better still, dual technology sensors makes for additional security as well as making life easier

for those who are entitled to be there. Dummy alarm boxes and CCTV cameras are a cheap first stage protection. A major problem with many alarm systems on greenkeepers' sheds is that there must be a response - or the likelihood of a response. With many such facilities situated away from habitation and the club house this can be a problem, and a flashing light or siren may not be heard - so many clubs take trouble to hide the sheds. However, there are other options such as radio or cable links to a monitoring point. To be realistic it has to be asked, who will respond? - and will they arrive within about ten minutes of the alarm being triggered. The professional thief anticipates that sort of time within which to complete his task unmolested, and expects to have left the scene within that time.

Secure buildings or compartments can provide a safe home for smaller tools, particularly more desirable ones such as strimmers, chainsaws and small mowers. Workshop tools like electric drills and grinders are also saleable, so are spanners and many other items so they need a lockable store. Ex-shipping containers provide ideal lockable stores, however, they are not very pretty - but they can be decorated or screened. Purpose made sheds are also available which look better or there is the option to get a local



builder to make something specifically for the purpose. Chemicals will require their own store. Thorny shrubs such as quickthorn, berberis and pyracantha are effective deterrents in their own right.

Removable lockable posts can be used to protect doorways and obstruct road access, and these can be used to prevent doors being rammed, or to prevent specific equipment being moved, or they can simply prevent vehicular access. There are also other types of barrier with which to prevent access. Many locks are available with multiple keys, it is also easy to add extra keys cut, while some situations allow digital locks or combination locks to be used. The more sophisticated digital locks and barriers will allow for easy changing of the number and for more than one code.

Growing use is being made of CCTV - closed circuit television - and again a dummy camera offers a cheap deterrent. The real thing needs to be carefully positioned and specified to give sufficient resolution for identification. Any reputable supplier of security equipment should be able to advise.

Manufacturers of tractors and ride-on mowers have also taken up the challenge and most modern equipment is in greater measure vandal and petty theft resistant, by such simple expedients as enclosing oil

and fuel filler points with in lockable panels. Putting sand into engine or hydraulics is common form of vandalising - but one which can have expensive consequences.

While this feature has considered security in terms of theft and vandalism, perhaps head greenkeepers and course managers need also to consider the club's responsibility for health and security as this may require security for reservoirs, ponds and other types of risk. Nor is the fact that someone has no legal right to be there a sufficient defence. Fencing and notices stating 'deep water' or similar hazard are simple means of protecting the club against later claims.

Yellow pages will yield a number of contacts for all types of assistance with security, from personnel to equipment. The best recognised qualification for installers for security systems is NACOSS - the National Approved Council for Security Systems but perhaps the better qualification is local experience and word of mouth - and an off the record recommendation from the local crime prevention officer is also useful.

To be in the modern idiom, perhaps most golf clubs need to undertake a 'security audit' and to review their arrangements on a regular basis - and to consider all aspects, course, buildings and any other risk.

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