

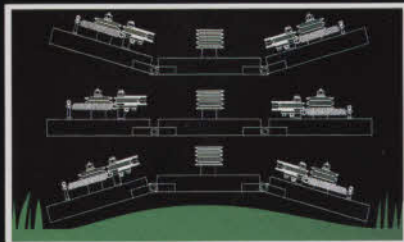
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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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the British & International Golf
Greenkeepers Association

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September 1998

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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.

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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



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Will you be at BTME99?
Look out for your pre-registration card appearing in Greenkeeper International, or contact the BTME hotline on 01347 838581 for more details



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Let's hear it for the Nine Holers

I have a great affection for nine hole golf courses. I learned my own golf on one, and not just any one. Established in 1855 Cupar Golf Club is the oldest existing nine hole golf course in the world.

Built on the side of a hill and only around 2500 yards long it was a great place to start the game... At least I thought so at the time. While I became adept at playing shots with the ball either above or below my feet and punching in little chipped approaches to the par 4s I was horrified to discover when playing away from home that I might need 3 or 4 irons on par-4s!

Many happy summer holidays were spent going round and round Cupar, often playing four or five times in a day, always trying to beat my personal best score. I recall that 50 was a real physiological barrier. I once stood on the tee of the short downhill par-4 9th having played a mere 40 shots but took another 10 more to hole out. I was distraught.

However, once I had that particular monkey off my back - "The Best Player in the World not to have broken 50 round Cupar" my scores tumbled and it was not too many years before I was aiming for level fours. I do believe my PB does stand at 36. Not bad for someone whose handicap has never bettered the teens.

I also recall a super story told by the speaker at an Open Championship dinner about 12 years ago. He said that he was trying to get his own course accepted onto the Open Championship Rota and that 49 pieces of correspondence had been exchanged between himself and the R&A - 48 from him and one from St Andrews, but he was no nearer a satisfactory answer. He could only conclude that the R&A had something against nine hole courses.

It was a great joke, but like so many great jokes it had a grain of truth in it. Nine hole courses are seen as the poor relation.

I suspect that members of nine holers are thought of by others to be merely waiting until they're accepted at proper, grown up, 18 hole courses or, by a freak of geography, are unfortunate enough not to live in an area with any full size courses.

Nine hole courses deserve more credit. There are some superb nine hole tests of golf in this country and many towns and villages would be without golf at all if it wasn't for their nine hole course.

This month we feature two nine hole courses - Tolladine and Fingle Glen. Both are superb golf courses expertly maintained.

And they need to be. With twice as much traffic nine holers require supremely skilled greenkeepers and many are fortunate enough to have just that.

Let's give credit where credit is due to the courses and the people who look after them.



Editor:
Scott MacCallum

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

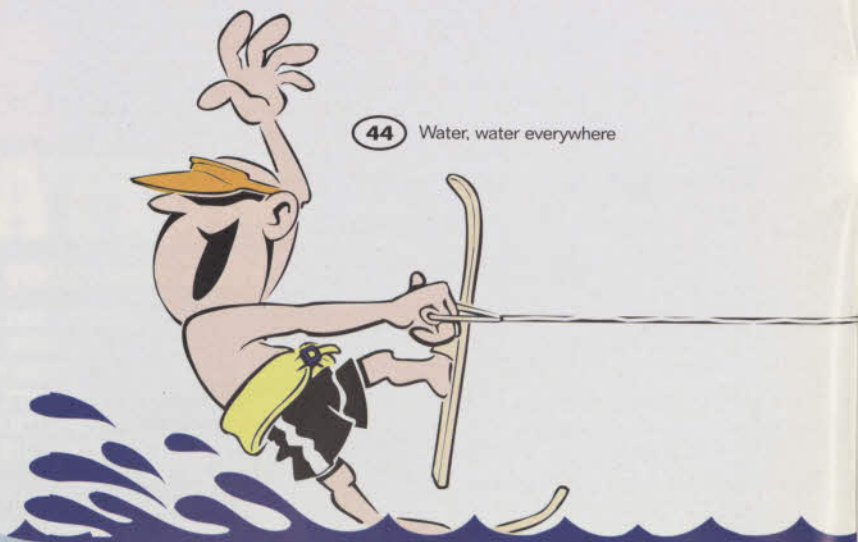


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Facts

not

fiction

More than 100 Golf Courses have chosen a Rain Bird Central Decoder Control System in the last three years in the United Kingdom alone to insure reliability.

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The Turf Gator's unique combination of toughness and quietness make it perfect for the golf course. Toughness comes from uni-body construction and one-piece forged axles. Quietness comes from a large volume silencer, internal sound absorbing material, and golf-car-style transmission.

The 220A is the latest addition to John Deere's quality line of walk-behind greens mowers. 220A improvements include an isolation-mounted engine for reduced vibration, improved operator-presence safety system, and an easier-filling grass box design.

Add superior parts support and our existing line of quality mowers, tractors, aerators, root zone injectors and utility vehicles and you see why John Deere is the fastest growing golf and turf equipment name in the world. Talk with us soon for a first-hand look.



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Royal Opening for BIGGA HQ

The official opening of BIGGA's new headquarters by H.R.H. The Duke of York will take place at Aldwark Manor at 4.30pm on October 21. In addition to invited guests, members are welcome to attend the opening ceremony. However, it is essential that any member intending to be present notifies Headquarters in advance in order that appropriate arrangements can be made. Members will need to be present by 4pm and prior notification should be given to Sarah Sowerby.

Prince Andrew pictured here when he attended BTME in 1993.



The following golf clubs have helped ensure that the BIGGA Building Fund is now nearing the £40,000 mark.

The Association would like to thank all the golf clubs which have contributed towards the building of the new BIGGA Headquarters.

Addington Palace	Valley
Alton	Bush Hill Park
Alwoodley	Canterbury
Arcot Hall	Cardigan
Army	Chestfield
Ashton-in-Makerfield	Childwall
Baildon	Chipping Norton
Banchory	Chorlton-Cum-Hardy
Beaconsfield	Churston
Bedale	Clitheroe
Beeston Fields	Conwy
Berkhamstead	Cooden Beach
Bingley St Ives	Coombe Hill
Birchwood	Coombe Wood
Bishops Stortford	Copt Heath
Blackmoor	Coventry Hearsall
Brancepeth	Coxmoor
Castle	Crompton & Royton
Bristol & Clifton	Doncaster
Brokenhurst	Dore & Totley
Manor	Dunfermline
Bromborough	Edenmore
Bungay & Waveney	Enfield

Epsom
Erewash Valley
Fairhaven
Fishwick Hall
Flamborough Head
Gerrards Cross
Glenbervie
Goodwood
Goring & Streatley
Haberley
Haggs Castle
Halifax
Haltwhistle
Ham Manor
Hampstead
Handsworth
Hankley Common
Harpenden
Hawkstone Park
Haywards Heath
Henley
Hickleton
Hindhead
Ipswich
Kilmarnock (Barassie)
Kirby Muxloe
Knole Park
Knowle
Letchworth
Lincoln
Little Aston
Littlestone
Loch Lomond
Long Ashton

Longniddry
Macclesfield
Malone
Manchester
Mapperley
Masham
Meltham
Mendip
Merrist Wood
Moor Hall
Moortown
Moray
Mullion
Murrayfield
Nairn
Newbury & Crookham
Newcastle-Under-Lyme
Normanby Hall
North Hants
North Oxford
North Wilts
Northenden
Penrith
Peterborough
Milton
Pollok
Potters Bar
Purley Downs
Pyle and Kenfig
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Ravelston
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Royal Birkdale
Royal Burgess Golf Society
Royal Cinque Ports
Royal Guernsey
Royal Liverpool
Royal Mid-Surrey
Royal Porthcawl
Royal Portrush
Royal St Georges
Royal West Norfolk
Royal Wimbledon
Sandy Lodge
Scarcroft
Seacroft

Seaton Carew
Sedburgh
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St Andrews
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Thorpeness
Tidworth Garrison
Tulliallan
Turnberry
Tynemouth
Tyrrells Wood
Uttoxeter
Wakefield
Walmley
Walton Heath
Wentworth
West Byfleet
West End Halifax
West Essex
West Sussex
Whitchurch (Cardiff)
Whitley Bay
Whittington Heath
Willingdon
Wisley
Woburn Golf & Country Club
Woking
Woodbridge
Worcestershire
Worksop
Wortley
York

Johnsons Seeds sold

Perryfield Holdings Ltd has expanded its business with the purchase of Johnsons Seeds, less than two weeks after the Boston-based company was forced to call in the receiver.

"We worked all week and occasionally through the night to complete this purchase which shows how keen we were and how pleased we are," said Perryfield Managing Director Roy Harris.

"Johnsons is a household name whose retail and amenity seed strengths fit neatly alongside our existing seed operations," he added.

Mark Shires, of Price Waterhouse Coopers, the official receiver, expressed his delight that the business had been bought as a going concern.

"As expected there was considerable interest because of Johnsons' reputation and market share - both of which were at risk if a sale could not be agreed quickly. I now wish every success to the 70 staff who remain and thank them for their support in a difficult time," said Mr Shires, who had been forced to make considerable redundancies from within the original Johnsons' workforce.

It is anticipated that the Johnsons' name and the company's brands will continue to be marketed by Perryfield Holdings.

Ernest Doe & Sons become Silver Key supporters

The south east based Textron dealership Ernest Doe and Sons have become Silver Key supporters of BIGGA.

"We are delighted to become Silver Key Supporters of BIGGA in what is our Centenary Year," said Field Sales Manager, Adrian Kersley.

"We have always supported BIGGA at a local level but we are pleased to be extending that support nationally as the only machinery dealership which are Silver Key supporters," he added.

BIGGA's Sales and Marketing Manager, James McEvoy, was pleased to welcome Ernest Doe into the fold.

"We are delighted that Ernest Doe have chosen to become Silver Key Supporters of the Association and boost the Education and Development Fund.

"Money raised by the Fund is used to assist with the education and training of the country's greenkeepers and it says much for Ernest Doe's desire to support the industry that they have decided to become a Silver Key company," said James.



ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

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: George Mitchell

Club: Newmachar GC

Position: Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Age: 26

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

11 years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

None

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

Cutting Greens

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Strimming ditches

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

Professional golfer

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

Dale Robertson, Head Greenkeeper at Newmachar and Sam Morrison, formerly of Royal Aberdeen but now of Bothwell Castle

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

I would make a club rule to penalise golfers who don't repair their divots or pitch marks.

8. What are your hobbies?

Golf, darts and gardening

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Golf outings, magazine and meeting other BIGGA members

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

Head Greenkeeper

John Deere in Wonderland

In an age when international companies supply equipment all over the world it is easy for dealers and customers to feel that they are a very small cog in a large wheel. This is often compounded when the brand name has a very high profile in another field.

One would suspect that John Deere might have been sensitive to this fact when they elected, for the first time, to introduce a new range of products in Europe - Disneyland Paris to be precise - prior to their launch in the United States. In addition, their latest LX and LTR lawn tractors have been specifically designed for Europe where Deere claim that 15% of their commercial and consumer equipment sales are made.

An interesting aspect of Deere's presentation was the company's willingness to show machines that will be launched within the next two of years. Three of these prototypes are of interest to the golf market.

When it came to designing the new 2500 professional triplex greens mower it was back to the drawing board. This type of machine is generally used for long periods at a time and requires a high degree of concentration by the operator. In this situation fatigue has to be kept to a minimum and this would appear to be a major factor in the design-brief for this mower.

Deere has incorporated an new command arm which is attached directly to the seat, so is automatically adjusted to suit each individual operator. All controls are within easy reach and a lever with an option of foot pedals controls the cutting units if preferred.

The mower configuration is offset with the rear unit to the left because research showed that operators could see it better in this position. This feature is designed to help cut down wear on the turf. By travelling in opposite directions each time a green is mown the tyres are in a different position thus giving the turf a chance to recover between cuts.

There will be the option of either 20hp John Deere 220 diesel, or 18.7hp Kawasaki liquid-cooled petrol engine. Other features include on-board diagnostics as standard and an optional hydraulic leakage detection system. The 2500 will be available during 1999.

In recent years, there has been an influx of utility vehicles for golf course applications and the new Turf General 2000 series is being introduced to cater for this market.

This heavy-duty unit carries two people plus load carrier and will have a 23.5hp diesel engine plus option of two or four wheel drive. Synchronised transmission provides five speeds up to 19mph and front and rear suspension



smooths out the ride.

In addition, there is the facility for unitising the unit's hydraulic and mechanical take-off systems to operate a wide range of attachments. These include sprayers; fertiliser spreaders, top dressers and other turf care equipment. A cab can also be fitted to provide all year round operator comfort.

Cutting up to 76 acres a day is what Deere are claiming their WF1655 wide-area rotary mower can achieve. Powered by a 51hp Yanmar diesel, the three heavy-duty rear discharge mowers have a cutting width of 3.35 metres and it is claimed that the unit has a top cutting speed of 8.5mph.

The WF1655 will be available commercially within the next two years.

For 1998, Deere is launching their 4000 series of compact tractors with Yanmar diesel engine from 20hp to 43hp.

There is a choice of gear or hydrostatic transmission on most models and standard features include oil cooled disc brakes hydrostatic power steering front wheel drive and differential lock. The dual gear pumps are said to ensure excellent hydraulic performance.

For operator comfort there is a contoured deluxe suspension seat and a choice of Roll guard protection or optional cab

The tractors will be available this autumn

In addition to the new products, Deere demonstrated a satellite (GPS) system they are working on for selective spraying of golf and turf applications.

All products shown are the result of a \$334million capital and R&D investment the company has made over the last three years.

For further information Tel: 01949 860491

Devon hotel calls upon Alliss

Peter Alliss Golf Design Ltd has just completed an 18 hole putting course for Gidleigh Park Hotel in Devon.

The course is 1,100 feet long, a par-52 and, unlike most putting greens, each hole has an identity of its own. It actually has two par-2s and one par-4 on each nine and is laid out around 150 year old oak and beech trees, four ponds and a stream.

The longest hole is the 90 foot 6th while the course opens with the relatively gentle par-2, 30 foot 1st.

Those playing the course are presented with their own score card which list the local rules among them being "A ball in a pond or flower bed is to be replaced on the fairway, one yard from the hazard, with a one stroke penalty".

The course was the idea of, Kay and Paul Henderson, owners of Gidleigh Park Hotel, who were impressed with the "Executive" putting green the found at a hotel while on holiday in Hawaii.

They called in Peter Alliss, who has been a client of the hotel since it opened in 1978, and he designed a nine hole course. Such was its popularity among visitors it has now been extended.



Paul Henderson, Peter Alliss and Head Gardener, Keith Mansfield

Huxley launch Campbell Greens

Following the introduction last year of Campbell Turf for tees, pathways and practice grounds, Huxleys are now launching Campbell Turf Greens as a premium quality, minimal maintenance

alternative to natural turf on golf greens.

Designed primarily for use on pay-and-play courses, hotel and leisure resort installations and chipping and putting practice greens,

the sand-filled, multi-fibre material duplicates the look, feel and density of precision-mown grass on a traditional golf green.

However, unlike normal turf, the only regular attention required by a properly installed Campbell Turf Green is a light brushing and rolling to maintain its appearance and to vary surface speed to suit the standard and demands of golfers.

The British launch of Campbell Turf Greens represents a further development of the close partnership between Huxleys and well-known former Irish amateur golfer, Tommie Campbell, which led to the introduction in 1997 of the original Campbell Turf from Huxleys.

For more information Tel: 01962 733222.



Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Jeans for Genes Day

The third National Jeans for Genes Day is being held on Friday, October 9. A national appeal led by Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, all proceeds go to projects around the country carrying out research into genetic disorders which affect children.



The staff at BIGGA HQ will once again be supporting Jeans for Genes Day by paying just £1 each and wearing their Jeans to work.

If you, your staff or your club wish to participate please phone the Jeans for Genes Hotline on 0800 980 4800 for your free information pack. Alternatively if you wish to make a donation through BIGGA, please send them for the attention of Sami Collins, Jeans for Genes Co-ordinator, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York, YO61 1UF. Please make any cheques payable to BIGGA.

Rain bird to land on Southport

Southport and Ainsdale has chosen Rain Bird to supply its new irrigation system. The former Ryder Cup venue and Open qualifying course has opted for Rain Bird Eagle valve-in-head sprinklers for greens, approaches and fairways with Falcon sprinklers on the tees. The system will be controlled by a Rain Bird Nimbus Windows operated Control System. The irrigation system will be installed by Arden Lea Irrigation.

Am Tech gobble up new range

Amenity Technology has launched the Sustane range of organic fertilisers and thatch control.

The products from the Sustane range are derived from aerobically composted turkey litter which undergoes a specialised 26 week composting process. This ensures that all the litter is fully composted, destroying harmful pathogens and providing a rich stabilised nutrient source which is highly biologically active and has little or no odour.

The range offers products for greens, tees and fairways and all the products claim to give a rapid sustained green-up without excessive flushes of top growth and with a very low scorch potential.

For further information Tel: 0118 951 0033.

Rotoknife gets a slice of the action

A new machine designed to reduce thatch and blacklayer is about to be launched.

The RotoKnife is based on flat metal discs of high quality tensile steel, which slice into the soil producing a continuous slit.

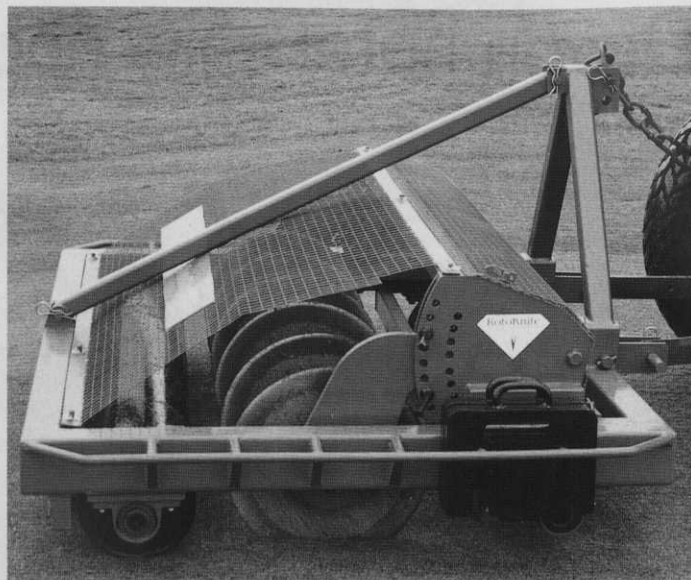
It is calculated that at 4" depth the RotoKnife allows over 600 litres of air per 500m² into the soil, which is over 13,000 litres per hectare. The RotoKnife can be set from 25mm down to 1.75mm without tools.

Another benefit of this approach is root pruning.

Because the RotoKnife operates at to 20mph and makes no mess, slitting can be carried out very frequently at different angles and depths, creating a completely homogeneous rootzone, which cannot open up. It is normal to slit 18 greens in two and a half hours and a whole course (100+ acres) in two days.

The Rotoknife was created and developed by agronomist Philip Harper and is priced at £4,600.

For further information Tel: 01722 716188.



BIGCA 1998 International Conference to be held at Wentworth

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects will hold their 1998 International Conference at the Wentworth Club on November 17 and 18.

With a theme of "Our World of Golf - by design" the Institute anticipates up to 100 delegates at the Conference, with a gathering of architects from throughout the world, together with constructors,

agronomists, consultants as well as golf course developers and operators.

The Conference will be preceded by the Barenbrug Trophy and the Conference Dinner, to which a celebrity speaker has been invited to give the after dinner speech.

Both will be held on Tuesday, November 17.

Wednesday, November 18 is

Conference Day and speakers from Japan and America will present papers on their experiences in their parts of the world, together with those from Europe and the United Kingdom.

Gary Player, himself a highly successful architect as well as tournament player, has been asked to give the keynote speech.

Television and the media, and its

influence on golf and golf course design will feature also in the programme.

The Conference is sponsored by The Toro Company and Barenbrug.

Full details of the Conference and booking forms are available on request from: Kim Mercer Secretary BIGCA Merrist Wood House Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, Tel: 01483 884036

Problems with rabbits, moles and other pests?

ADAS will be delivering training courses on the management and control of rabbits, moles, other rodents and the safe use, handling and storage of pesticides for green-keepers and managers of sports turf. Courses will be held at Guildford, Letchworth, Berkeley, Manchester, Edinburgh and Wetherby from October '98 to March '99.

The training will cover the use of Strychnine, Aluminium Phosphide, Hydrogen Cyanide and non chemical methods. The legal requirements for the purchase, storage and use of these approved pesticides will also be addressed.

The training courses are all registered, certificated and attract BASIS points.

For further details and to register contact:

Jan Pullen on 01626 892639 or Ed Allan on 01303 863948

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