

With Scotts you call the shots



Keeping turf in good condition can be more demanding than the toughest course. Scotts is here to help, with one of the widest range of turf care products on the market. For regular feeding of fine turf look no further than Greenmaster®. With ten granular and five liquid formulations to choose from you can exactly match your sward's requirement whether it be for a balanced feed, a high K product, added trace elements or a special tonic.



The Scotts Difference®

Slow and controlled release nutrition is available from the Sierra range. Sierraform® slow release fertilizer comes in six different analyses and is particularly suitable for sand-based greens whilst Sierrablen® controlled release fertilizer is the ideal choice to save you time and work as one application will feed your turf all season. For more information about these fertilizers or any other Scotts products talk to your local Area Sales Manager or call 01473 830492.

The Scotts Company is the leader in research, manufacturing and marketing of products for professional turf care, ornamental horticulture, field and vegetable production and domestic use. From bases in the U.S.A. and Europe, Scotts sells its products in more than 50 countries worldwide.

Always read the label. Use pesticides safely. Daconil Turf contains chlorothalonil. Greenshield contains chlorothalonil and carbendazim. Intrepid contains dicamba, dichlorprop and MCPA. Maraud contains chlorpyrifos. Shortcut contains trinexapac-ethyl. Tritox contains MCPA, mecoprop-P and dicamba. Turfclear contains carbendazim

Scotts UK Professional, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4BZ. Tel: 01473 830492 Fax: 01473 830386

® Trade Marks of The Scotts Company or its affiliates.

©The Scotts Company (UK) Ltd. 01-99

NEW

SITESAFE

MODULAR SYSTEMS



...make all the difference to secure storage & accommodation units.



GARAGE



PAVILION



WORKSHOP

For further information please contact:

Irvine Weston on Tel: 01427 752058 or Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd. Park Farm, Dunsdale, Guisborough, Cleveland. TS14 6RQ. Tel: 01642 475009 or Fax: 01642 471036.



Ad Ref 56

Austin Breakwell gives some helpful hints at managing projects and looks at the very first example of the art.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The basic concept of project management is older than mankind itself. If you believe that God created the world then the extracts from The Bible would indicate that a seriously considered project management programme was used.

The seven day project was carefully ordered, no point in creating man before everything else was in place, create man before woman so a "complaints department" was established before the complainants arrived. Even "critical path" analysis was used to determine what could be created on the same day without leading to conflict or confusion. Because the elements favoured creation no time was lost, and as a result time allocated for contingencies was not needed. The project was completed one day ahead of schedule allowing the bonus of a rest day.

In its simplest form therefore, Project Management can be described as a "one-off" job which consists of a series of tasks, all of which must be completed before the project is finished. However the sequence in which they are completed has to be clearly defined. Some tasks may take place at the same time as others some cannot be started until one or more of the other tasks have been completed. The impact of not planning or managing a project correctly can vary from slight inconvenience to customers, or additional costs to you, to total financial or project disaster.

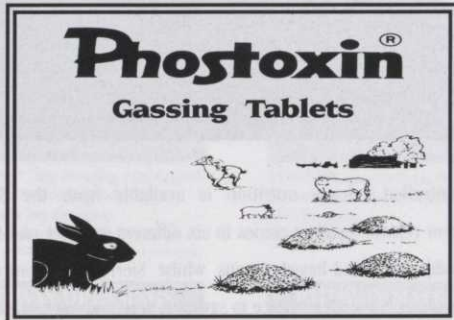
The problem is that project management is so much a part of everyday life, that no one seems to be fully aware of the point at which good planning is calculated rather than left to natural instinct. Most mornings a person will shower before putting on their clothes, there is no real need to write a plan defining the progression of events. Those who have just enjoyed a 'heavy' night are allowed to contest this philosophy. It is also understood that if you are constructing the channel tunnel one major plan with many integrated projects needs highly organised management.

It is those areas in between which need assessment. Too often a simple project such as creating several winter greens or re-organising the 17th are left to "natural ability" or experience. A slight delay or an inferior green are not catastrophic events, always assuming that The Open does not start this week, however, they still show a lack of professionalism in the job. This can be overcome by good project planning and management.

For further information on project management, health & safety and any other training issues, please contact Austin Breakwell on (01254) 679955 or Jean John on (01282) 831973.

The cost effective way to kill

Rabbits & Moles Underground!



Dispenser and "Eco-Placer" also available from



PILTLAND TECHNOLOGY Ltd. 83 Elton Road, Stibbington, Peterborough, PE8 6JX

Tel: 01780 783758 Fax: 01780 783818

visit our website to see our full range of products <http://www.piltland.co.uk>

E-mail: mail@piltland.co.uk

Always read the label before use. Use pesticides safely. Contains aluminium phosphide.

Ad Ref 189

Neil Thomas examines the current situation surrounding the GTC and confirms BIGGA's willingness to make a positive contribution towards its review...

GTC: WHERE NOW?

We have attempted to keep readers informed of developments in relation to the GTC and in the last issue of Greenkeeper International we reported on the establishment of an independent review. A meeting of the GTC planned for 25th February was subsequently postponed and our Chairman made representations that this meeting be held as soon as possible to enable GTC members to discuss the setting up of the independent review.

A meeting was subsequently set for 19th March when it was understood that the findings of the review would be discussed having been circulated to the GTC members for consideration prior to that meeting. This seemed a wholly unrealistic timescale given that the review was only implemented as of 25th February and this was confirmed in a letter from the GTC of 5th March when it was decided that due to the tight timescale for the preparation of the report the meeting would now be moved to 15th April.

It is difficult to deal with facts in an increasingly confused situation but it can be revealed that the review is being carried out by LANTRA, the National Land-based Training Organisation. LANTRA is being commissioned to examine and make recommendations in respect of:-

1. GTC's role in overseeing Greenkeeper training and its cost effectiveness
2. GTC's capability to handle modern apprenticeships
3. Monitoring and reporting mechanisms
4. Financial auditing and checking procedures
5. Roles of Committee members and staff
6. Decision making procedures
7. Procedures for communication between funding partners, colleges,

assessors, internal verifiers and, where applicable, clubs and their students.

BIGGA remains deeply concerned that this review has moved ahead without formal approval by the GTC and without that Committee being given the opportunity to comment on the LANTRA brief. BIGGA would certainly wish to see the brief widened to include an examination of the college system and its effectiveness in relation to the workings of the GTC.

BIGGA also considers that the GTC's Constitution needs review to enable a future structure to be established which would include an effective input from Greenkeepers and experts in the field probably through the establishment of a technical panel.

So much to talk about then but, as yet no opportunity to talk!

We have genuine concerns about the scale of this review and the anticipated time it will take. The timescale seems very short and raises questions over the thoroughness of the consultations which will take place. Experience of such a review would indicate a timescale in the region of four to six months but this one seems to be six weeks from start to finish and has started without any reference to the Committee who will ultimately have to accept or reject it! Time will indeed tell.

I suspect that the reader will be left with a feeling of incredulity. Yet all this is so unnecessary. Accepting that such a review is appropriate after six years of the GTC operating on its current basis, this review should surely have been conducted from within the GTC with its findings circulated to the constituent member bodies. Instead, through the avoidable actions of one of those constituent member bodies, this

matter has now reached the public domain.

Suddenly there are many "experts" on greenkeeper education and training ready to go to press and much jockeying for position within any restructured GTC which may emerge from the findings of this review. GTC affairs become matter for public debate with all the stresses involved for GTC staff who had a right to expect any such review to be conducted within the confines of the GTC with input from the constituent bodies, to whom the findings of the review will ultimately be circulated, and such other persons as LANTRA should determine. BIGGA will certainly be mindful of this as the review process develops.

BIGGA has a responsibility to inform its members fully in respect of this review as much is at stake in terms of their future education and training. This we will do through the pages of Greenkeeper International but given the lack of consultation and until the GTC finally meets and the LANTRA findings are made available, the Association cannot determine its position.

Members can rest assured that our Chairman as our representative on the GTC will strongly defend and promote the interests of our members on all matters relative to greenkeeper education and training within the ambit of the GTC. We have no intention of being bypassed in the present manoeuvrings for position. BIGGA remains ready and willing to participate in and contribute to the review.

We remain hopeful that positive benefits will emerge from this review for the greenkeeping profession. For this to happen, however there needs to be a great deal more openness, consultation and adherence to democratic procedures than is evident at the present time.



Whatever the job, Iseki has the Power of the Team

Iseki have a comprehensive range of compact tractors with the muscle and manoeuvrability to take on any task.

From greenhouse to golf course, nurseries, stables, parks and gardens, Iseki products offer economy, efficiency and long life, plus a variety of accessory options designed for the job in hand.

Iseki products are available from the Textron UK dealer network offering; the Power of the Team for sales, demonstrations, service and spares.

For more information on ISEKI products phone 0500 026208



TEXTRON
TURF CARE AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

RANSOMES • JACOBSEN • CUSHMAN • RYAN • E-Z-GO • ISEKI

Ransomes Way, Ipswich, England IP3 9QG Telephone: (01473) 270000 Fax: (01473) 276300

Bruce Stanley looks at the best methods of keeping in touch with one another when you're spread across the length and breadth of the golf course



Can you hear me mother?

ON THE RIGHT COURSE



Most Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers have a need to keep in close contact with the members of their team.

Knowing where staff are working on the golf course, how they are progressing and when they have completed a specific task are important elements in safe and efficient greenkeeping operations.

The ability to communicate instantly across the whole of a golf course not only eliminates wasted time but also enables problems to be dealt with quickly and new jobs to be allocated without one or both parties needing to return to the machinery sheds.

However, for many greenkeepers and Course Managers, keeping in touch with staff still involves driving around the golf course until you find the person with whom you want to speak. This is fine if you know where everyone is and you can be sure of finding them, but is not always a simple task on an area of 100 acres or more.

Today, with the continuing advances in mobile communication systems, there is no major reason why one should not be able to contact immediately another person working anywhere on a golf course.

Mention mobile communications and most people's thoughts turn to the mobile telephone. The companies who provide mobile phone services

boast about their excellent nationwide networks, quoting coverage figures in excess of 98% of the UK population. But there are still problems.

Mobile phones rely on repeater aerials to transmit signals across the countryside. Yet, each aerial has a limited range and it is not uncommon to lose contact suddenly and completely, particularly in lightly populated, more rural parts of the country. Mobile phones are fine if you happen to live or work near a major road, city or town, but step onto a golf course in the middle of the countryside and you may find the signal becomes very weak or disappears completely.

Then there are the running costs. Although mobile phone ownership is relatively inexpensive compared with five years ago, the basic annual charge made by a mobile service provider will rarely be less than £180. Exceed any "free" or "inclusive" talk time provided as part of the basic monthly contract, and the cost of communication quickly starts to escalate.

Although excellent in a one-to-one situation or when travelling extensively around the country, the mobile phone is not the most cost-effective solution when needing to keep in touch with several people at the same time within a clearly defined area.

Nor, for that matter, is a pager. Although inexpensive to own, they provide no voice to voice contact so

Can you hear me mother?



are of little use where instantaneous reaction or response is wanted. The pager is best employed as a simple means of alerting or "calling in" another person, for example, in a hospital or within a factory or warehouse complex.

By far the best and most economical solution for anyone working in a golf course environment is the two-way, or professional, radio. Apart from the initial purchase cost, the only regular outgoing is the annual licence issued by the Department of Trade and Industry, a legal requirement for anyone using a two-way radio.

The cost of the licence varies according to the range of the equipment, the total number of handsets in use and how many operating frequencies have been allocated by the DTI.

For a golf course with eight handsets operating on a single frequency within a three km (1.8 mile) radius, the total annual licence cost would be £100 - with no additional costs such as call charges or connection fees.

According to Sue Preater, branch manager of Swindon-based telecommunications specialist, Lincom Communications, golf courses should avoid the simplest and cheapest forms of two-way radio, commonly known as "walkie-talkies".

"Such equipment normally costs up to £180 for each handset and is fine for domestic situations, weekend scout camps and residential homes," she explained. "However, they are not sufficiently robust or powerful for everyday professional use. Because they have pre-programmed frequencies, they will need to be

returned manually in the event of interference from another user trying to communicate on the same frequency."

The recommended entry-level two-way radio for everyday professional use is the single channel unit which has been allocated its own dedicated operating frequency by the DTI. Easy to use with a basic push button and talk operation, the radio provides instant two-way communication between handset and handset or handset and base unit, and vice versa. The purchase price of such radios is in the region of £250.

As many users have found, one of the major benefits of two-way radio can also lead to problems due to the exceptional portability of the handsets. It is not uncommon for radios to go "missing" just when they are needed.

To ensure that staff can always contact the office, and vice versa, it is well worthwhile investing in a mains-powered local base station as part of the system, at a cost of around £450. On hilly or undulating terrain, it may be necessary also to install an external mast antenna to enable the base station to communicate across the complete course.

For those who are regularly on the move, there are also units available for fitting permanently into vehicles, supplied complete with an integral speaker, palm microphone and antenna. Prices range from £260 to £300-plus, depending on the range of features.

With a basic single channel two-way radio, all communications take place across one dedicated frequency allocated by the DTI. As a result, everyone on the course equipped with a radio pre-set to the operating frequency can listen in to conversations between other users.

To overcome this, manufacturers offer two-way radios which operate on a single frequency split into 16 or more channels. By allocating different channels to different users, individual handsets can be called up separately. Cost of these radios range from around £370 for a simple unit with manual channel tuning to £450-plus for models with keypad dialing and an LCD display.

The additional circuitry within these more sophisticated radios means that users have available to them an added range of facilities including a voice-activated hands-free capability when used in conjunction with optional headsets.

There are also power level adjusters to give longer battery life and, with keypad models, the ability to store commonly-used contact numbers and



display the name of incoming callers. A useful safety feature is the lone worker alert which automatically puts the radio into emergency mode if the worker does not respond to a preset warning signal. Other users on the same frequency will then be alerted.

Although the DTI requires an operating licence for each frequency it allocates, it is possible to set up multi-channel radios to allow private conversations between individual handsets or a handset and base unit, as if talking on a different frequency.

This is achieved by the supplier pre-tuning the two items of equipment to a dedicated channel which cannot be accessed by any other user, giving similar security to using a completely separate frequency.

Such a feature can be useful where, for example, the course manager needs regular communication with another manager within a hotel and golf complex or during a tournament when totally separate communications may be required with the organisers' office and the greenstaff.

Two-way radios with keypads can also be programmed to allow three or more users to communicate simultaneously.

All of the above systems are designed to work over a radius of up to 3km where there are no major obsta-



cles in the way. For difficult terrain or where greater range is required, the supplier will normally recommend a more complex base unit, known as a base repeater station. Costing in the region of £2,000, such equipment needs to be positioned in a building at a high point on the course.

If all suitable buildings are low-lying, it will be necessary to install an external antenna mast higher than the rest of the course. The important point is the availability of an electricity supply to power the repeater station.

When the equipment is to be used over distances greater than 3km, a wide area licence will be required from the DTI. This costs £140 to cover a base unit and nine handsets operating on one frequency. Cost of a single frequency wide area licence for up to 25 handsets is £250.

If aerial positioning is difficult or one does not wish to go to the expense of a wide area licence, a lower cost alternative can be to rent space on the repeater mast of a supplier of communications equipment.

Positioned at high points around the UK, such masts give local coverage over distances averaging 25 miles, enabling individual handsets within the area to communicate with each other and a base station via the repeater mast.

Lincom charges a £10 rental fee per month per handset for use of its masts but there is no other charge because users are covered by Lincom's own telecommunications licence.

Moisture is one of the biggest enemies of mobile communications equipment. For optimum protection, Lincom's Sue Preater recommends the use of a leather rather than a nylon case.

Most cases come with a belt loop, but for totally security, especially during hands-free operation, a shoulder strap or body harness are advised.

"As an authorised Motorola dealer, we have access to probably the widest range of accessories on the market," commented Mrs Preater. "These include a range of headsets with boom mikes, the most sophisticated of which conform to statutory ear-defending standards.

"Other accessories available include batteries with a life of up to 14 hours before they need recharging, single and multiple recharging units and vehicle adaptors which enable a two-way radio to be used and recharged in a vehicle, in similar manner to a mobile phone."



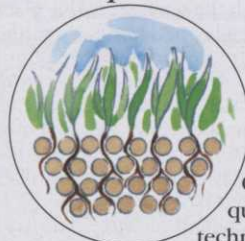
PUTTING SOIL TECHNOLOGY ON THE RIGHT COURSE

Consistency of the growing medium is the key to superior greens and tees, which is why Rufford place such importance on the uniform particle size and the quality of all our sand/soil products

Uniform size of particles is essential in resisting compaction.

from Rootzone mixes to Top-dressing mediums. With Rufford you know they must be the best, because

- Materials are constantly checked.
- All dressings are heat treated.
- Uniform particle size.
- Soil analysis service.
- Guaranteed quality.
- Professional advice.



Of course, achieving such consistently high quality products is only possible when the technical aspects of each sand/soil mix is under

the tightest control. Again an area in which Rufford is uniquely qualified, not only operating our own quarries, but with in-house laboratories constantly monitoring their output.

Call us today and find out why greenkeepers throughout the country rely on Rufford for quality and service second to none.

ENGLAND & WALES
Tel: 01260 281801

SCOTLAND
Tel: 01324 714477

Top Dressings	Fine, medium and coarse
Sands	Wide range, for bunkers to greens
Rootzone Mix	Standard U.S.G.A. or made to order mixes
Screened Soil	Fully screened and shredded
Divot Mixes	Especially blended for golf tees & fairway divoting

SOIL TECHNOLOGY
RUFFORD

John Coleman, Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner, reports back from the American trip which formed part of his prize

One heck of a ● prize



The prospect of visiting Orlando during the dreary month of February was always appealing, but to be invited as guests of Toro and as the Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner was the icing on the cake.

My Itinerary was split between attending educational seminars, attending the GCSAA show and some free time which I had pre-booked to include the Disney Parks and Universal Studios. This would conclude the first week of my trip, whereupon I would then fly up to Minneapolis and spend three days or so with Toro at their Headquarters.

The GCSAA Show lasts one full week with the seminars taking place from Monday to Thursday and the show itself from Friday until Sunday. The convention centre which hosted the show was over one million square feet in area and over a mile long in length. Yes it's depressingly true, everything does seem bigger over there!

The seminars I attended were either one day or two day's in length so they were fairly intense. I found the American Superintendents to be far more receptive to audience participation which helped break up the long hours spent in class. This benefited all attendees in that they learned as much from one another as from the lecturer. The longer sessions seemed to suit this format better and I for one feel this is something we should possibly consider for our annual conference.

Come Friday, I was looking forward to the show and arrived somewhat early, in my enthusiasm I failed to notice it didn't begin until 11am and felt rather stupid when I turned up at 9am on the dot!

However, when it finally opened I wasn't disappointed, the show was as good as I was led to believe and was quick to take advantage of the vast product range and new ideas on offer.

The thought of leaving Orlando with temperatures regularly exceeding 25°C was not appealing, especially when Minneapolis was



Above: John with Jack Copeland, his Chairman of Green

Above right: The other element of the prize was presented by Pete Mansfield, of Lely UK

minus 20°, but I was still looking forward to visiting Toro and off I went on the Sunday. I received my three day Itinerary which included a visit to the Toro Headquarters, the manufacturing plant and the production plant which was located about a three hour drive away, this was interspersed, as far as I could tell, with the eating of copious amounts of food – they really do know how to look after you!

My first visit was to The Toro Headquarters. This is where the research and development takes place, all administrative work is carried out and equipment testing is performed. This building is home to 1200 employees and has had some heavy investment (about seven million dollars) over the last couple of years.

While touring the design section of the building, it was explained to me how the new machines we use are developed. Ideas for new pieces of equipment are firstly designed on computer with the aid of technology developed initially for the aviation industry. Prototypes are then built using the latest laser profile cutting techniques. The machine will then be tested and sent out into the field, evaluated and a decision made as to its commercial value and practicality of build. If all these factors fit into place then a new machine may be put into production. It took me a full day to tour all these elements of

design, so you can imagine how much work is involved from the conception of a new machine to actual production.

On the second day I visited the manufacturing plant where all the component parts are made. This employs about 700 people and is not dissimilar to some of the factories I've visited here in Sheffield, the home of steel. Although very impressive with robotic welders, the latest CNC equipment, massive presses and all sorts of weird and wonderful machines this reinforced my opinion that I'm glad I work on a golf course.

My last day was spent at the production plant about 200 miles away in Wisconsin. This I felt was probably how a car plant would look with the bare bones of a machine at the start of a production line and the end product being driven off the end. All painting of the machines is also performed here with a state of the art electroplating dipping process being used. I must say I felt very envious seeing all these brand new machines stacked up and did try to convince them that they wouldn't miss a couple, but to no avail unfortunately.

Overall it was a great learning curve for me and I don't think I'll be quite as quick to complain when any of my machines break down in the future, well on second thoughts, maybe I will!

FLOWTRONEX

Q. WHY FLOWTRONEX?

ANSWER: *Industry Leadership*

FLOWTRONEX is the world's largest pump station manufacturer, with more installations than all of our competitors combined.

ANSWER: *Superior Control*

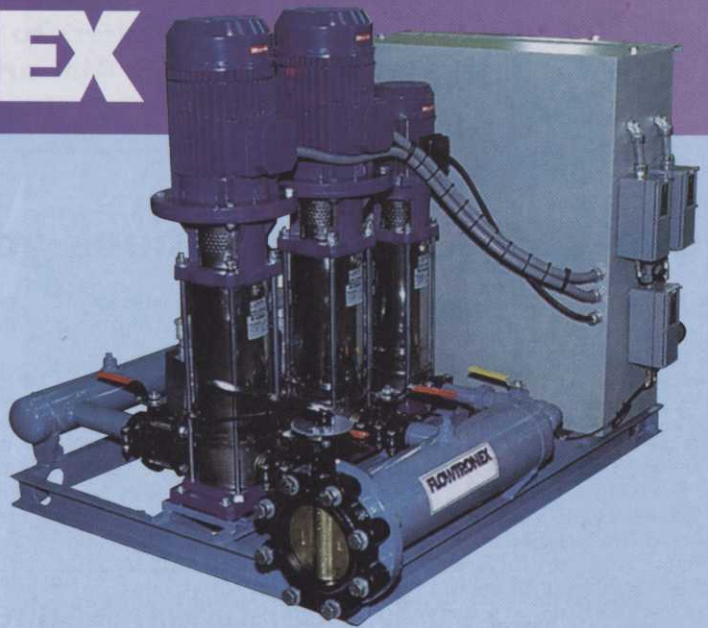
FLOWTRONEX variable speed pumping systems bring you savings of up to 50% on energy and reduced maintenance costs by integrating the latest in variable speed technology with the finest engineering, design and construction in the industry.

ANSWER: *UK Manufacturing*

Using advanced production techniques at our UK manufacturing facility in Waterlooville, Hampshire, every pump set is run-tested and pre-commissioned, ready for immediate operation.

ANSWER: *Worldwide Service*

Through the revolutionary FlowNet service network, FLOWTRONEX is able to provide fast and efficient service when you need it.



European Headquarters

Flowtronex Europe Ltd
2 Relay Road
Waterlooville
Hampshire PO7 7XA
England

Tel: +44 (0) 1705 268511
Fax: +44 (0) 1705 241263

German Office

Flowtronex Europe Ltd
Begonienweg 33
22047 Hamburg
Germany

Tel: +49 40 696 923 90
Fax: +49 40 696 923 91

FLOWTRONEX

The Complete Utility Task Force

**0%
FINANCE***
PLUS
**375
LITRES
OF FREE
FUEL†**

Don't miss this hard working, versatile double offer. Buy any new Kawasaki Mule between 1st February and 30th April 1999 and get 12 months 0% finance* PLUS 375 litres of free fuel†.

0% finance is available over 12 months on up to 80% of the RRP as a 1 + 11 monthly repayment schedule. And with 375 litres of free fuel this really is a great opportunity to complete your task force.

For full details of this excellent combined offer contact your local Authorised Kawasaki Dealer or call:

0800 500245

 **Kawasaki**



* Finance for business purposes only in the UK and Ireland and subject to status. VAT on purchase - full VAT or VAT difference due on signing finance agreement. VAT on lease - VAT due on each rental as it falls due. Terms current at date of preparation. Finance available through Humberclyde Finance Group Ltd, Northern Cross, Basing View, Basingstoke RG21 4HL. Written quotations available on request. † Free fuel is in the form of a £250 sterling cheque from Kawasaki Motors (UK) Ltd direct, redeemable on retail sales.

Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF. You can also fax them to 01347 833801, or e-mail them to reception@bigga.co.uk

QQuest for perfect spelling

Being involved in the Computer business as we are, it is always a pleasure to see people spreading the gospel in terms of trying to convince doubters that computers are not just for kids or rocket scientists.

Pleasure aside, I do have one main criticism of Ken Richardson's "A second byte" article in the February issue of Greenkeeper International and this is that he seems to be having trouble with the spelling of QQUEST - not one misspelling but two!

While writing, I should like to point out that information on the QQUEST Maintenance Management Software can also be found on, and a demo programme can be downloaded from, our Internet site, <http://www.wessexsoftware.com>.

Guy R W Coleman, Partner,
 Wessex Software Systems
 Pulborough, West Sussex

A Toro thank you

May I take this opportunity to thank all those concerned with organising my Toro sponsored trip to America. The organisation by Neil Thomas and his team at BIGGA Headquarters was second to none and all aspects of my trip ran smoothly and according to plan. I know from speaking with British Greenkeeper delegates who did not book through the association that most of them

experienced problems regarding seminars they had self booked.

Toro's organisation of the factory visitations and general hospitality was also fantastic and I feel I must thank Both Pete Mansfield and Darren Wennen for the part they played in making sure my stay was as interesting and enjoyable as possible, it certainly was.

Overall I had a great time and came

home with a much better appreciation of what's involved in the manufacturing industry of golf course equipment and will definitely be attending next years GCSAA Show in Orlando.

Again, many thanks and hope to see you all soon,

John Coleman
 Abbeydale Golf Club

Spanish help required

I am writing with regard to possible employment on Spanish golf courses.

Currently I am studying the Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management at Elmwood College. From April to October I will be taking up employment as a seasonal greenkeeper at the Kildare Hotel and Country Club, Ireland. I also intend returning to Germany in April 2000 for full time employment.

I am seeking employment from

October 99 to April 2000 and will be grateful if you could put me in contact with Spanish golf courses. My Spanish is only basic and therefore it would be ideal if I could work together with English or German speaking greenkeepers.

I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Dirk Thelen, Roesrathersrt. 543A
 51107, Cologne, Germany or
 through Elmwood College

Bettina Schrickel

Greenkeeper International would like to apologise to Bettina Schrickel, author of the "Course Closed" feature last month, for spelling her name incorrectly in the content's page. The error was compounded by the appearance of the words (Check Spelling) beside her name which was not removed at the production stage of the page. Sorry Bettina!

Just the job.

Greenkeeper
INTERNATIONAL

To place an advertisement in the Recruitment Section, call Cheryl or Jenny now on 01347 833800

Rubigan warning

I am writing in response to a letter from Stephen Okula, of Tenerife, published on page 12 of your February edition headed 'McDivot1', as I don't want any greenkeepers in the UK and Ireland getting themselves into bother over the advice given.

The letter to which I refer concerns the legalities of applying agricultural products in sports and amenity turf. The letter recommends applying Rubigan for the control of Take All Patch. I have to stress that Rubigan has NO APPROVAL for either use on turf or for the control of Take All Patch in the UK or Ireland. This means that it would be illegal to apply Rubigan to sports turf.

If a greenkeeper did apply this product, not only would he/she be in breach of the Pesticides Legislation, but also if something 'went wrong', liability would rest with the user. It is also against the Pesticides Legislation to recommend or supply a product for use in a situation where that product is not approved.

Research based pesticide manufacturers spend many millions of pounds discovering and developing pesticides for a range of uses, including use on turf grass. Products undergo rigorous tests to ensure that they are effective and

present minimum risk. The data produced in product development are subjected to critical examination by Regulatory Authorities before approval is granted. Dow AgroSciences does manufacture the fungicide Rimidin which has Full Approval for the control of Fusarium Patch, Dollar Spot and Red Thread on turf grass. There is no approval for Take-All Patch.

This brings me onto a second letter that I would like to reply on page 13 of the same issue. The letter 'McDivot 3' suggests that fungicides kill useful bacteria. As part of the extensive and exacting development work on the environmental fate of Rimidin, it was demonstrated that Rimidin is safe to beneficial soil bacteria. Trials not only looked at overall populations of bacteria, but also at the activity of specific bacteria such as Nitrobacter and Nitrosomonas.

In summary, please ensure that when using a pesticide the label is read and follow it carefully. If you follow these rules you will not only be keeping yourself on the right side of the law, but you will ensure that you have a valuable tool for modern greenkeeping in the future.

Andy Cawley
 Country Manager, UK & Eire
 Dow AgroSciences.