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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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Greenkeeper International:

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

ISSN: 0961-6977

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April 1999

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Reader Reply Card

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

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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact BIGGA on 01347 833800



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Call Jenny now, on 01347 833800 to reserve your stand at BTME2000!



Photo: Alan Birch

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Has anyone else got webbed feet?

There have been times over the last few weeks that I found myself thinking that I had JR Ewing for a brother.

No, bear with me, there is a degree of logic to what at first glance might seem to be an outrageous suggestion. After all the only time I've been to Dallas I got no where South Fork but was stuck in the airport for a mind numbing four hours. But no. Who was JR's brother? Bobby. And who was Bobby? Patrick Duffy. And who was Patrick Duffy? The Man from Atlantis!

Yes, over the last couple of weeks I'm sure that, if I look closely, I can see the gaps in my toes joining up. You wouldn't believe it but I'm getting webbed feet.

Well, you should believe it because I live in the part of North Yorkshire which was badly hit by the flooding of the River Derwent. Fortunately our house was unaffected but my route to work was cut off and I had to set off in the wrong direction some time earlier than usual to get to BIGGA HOUSE.

It hadn't even been raining particularly heavily but the water table has been so high it didn't take too much to tip it over the edge.

With similar problems, if perhaps to lesser degrees, occurring all over the country it must be causing you all sorts of problems. I know here at Aldwark the golf course was closed for a while and it did result in some disconsolate golfers.

Multiply that around the country and there is an army of club golfers, who have brought clubs down from the attic, dusted them off and like coiled springs are ready to start their season. But they can't. They've got no outlet for their frustration... unless at the man who is "stopping them from playing".

Yes, unless you have a particularly enlightened membership, or work in one of the few areas to avoid record rainfall, you have no doubt been getting it in the neck.

It just brings it all home that you can be the best greenkeeper in the world but you are only as good as nature lets you be. Let's face it, it wasn't two years ago that I produced a Drought Special for the magazine and looked at the best ways to save and store rainfall. Since then, and I do accept the blame, it has barely stopped tipping it down. The new garden furniture we bought last year is damp, rusting and barely used.

All you can do is arm yourself with facts and statistics about rainfall levels to bombard the Green Committee, or anyone who traps you in the bar. They needn't be delivered in a defensive way but a 'You will just not believe how much rain we've had...' may be enough to nip any potential criticism in the bud.

In the meantime I've got to remember just what happened while I was in that shower. And who was it again who shot JR?

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Scott MacCallum

Greenkeeper

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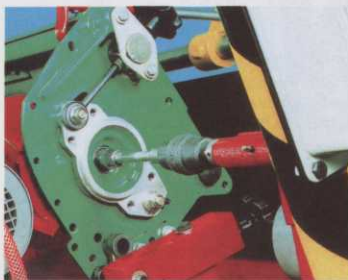
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New MD at Textron

Textron Inc. has announced the appointment of Harold C. Pinto as Managing Director of Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products-Europe. In this role, he has responsibility for manufacturing operations and sales facilities in England, Germany, France, Italy and Australia.

Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products includes a range of familiar names including Ransomes and Jacobsen turf care equipment and Cushman utility vehicles.

A native of Brazil, Harold, 47, has been promoted from Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products Americas.

"Harold's extensive knowledge of the global turf care equipment market will be a great asset to our international operations as we continue to integrate our Jacobsen, Ransomes and Cushman product lines and increase the sales of these leading products worldwide," said Textron Golf, Turf Care & Specialty Products Group President, Carl Burtner.

Harold joined Textron in 1992 as Vice President of Sales of Jacobsen Textron. In 1994, he was promoted to Vice President of Sales and Marketing. In 1998, following Textron's acquisition of United Kingdom-based Ransomes PLC, Pinto was named Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing of the expanded Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products -Americas.

Prior to joining Textron, from 1978 to 1989, he served in various management positions with Sperry New Holland in Brazil and Ford New Holland in Pennsylvania.

From 1989 to 1992, he was the Product Director of J.I. Case Company in Wisconsin (USA).

Textron Golf, Turf Care &



Specialty Products, part of Textron's Industrial segment, is a leading manufacturer and designer of golf cars, utility vehicles and turf care equipment, including such internationally recognised brands

as E-Z-GO, Cushman, Ransomes and Jacobsen.

Textron Inc. is a \$10 billion, global, multi-industry company with market-leading operations in Aircraft, Automotive, Industrial and Finance.

Sisis acquire Huxleys

Over 120 years of home grown British experience in the manufacture of turf management equipment manufacturers have been combined with the news that Cheshire-based Sisis have acquired Huxleys.

The purchase by Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd, who were founded in 1932, was completed by the beginning of March and includes Huxleys grass machinery manufacturing, sales, service and hire business.

Huxleys, which has been associated with the grass machinery business since 1946, are retaining the Huxley Golf Division, which specialises in the supply and installation of all-weather surfaces. Six employees, including the Huxley brothers, will continue in that business which will be conducted from the Huxley premises in New Alresford, Hampshire.

"Although in the past Sisis and Huxleys have been rivals in the market place we have always respected them as a company and have the highest regard for their products. We have every confidence that our acquisition of the Huxley grass machinery business will benefit customers of Sisis and Huxley alike," said Sisis Joint Managing Director, William Hargreaves.

Manufacturing of the Huxley range will be transferred from New Alresford and Broxburn, West Lothian, to Macclesfield in stages and Sisis wishes to assure all Huxley customers of continued after-sales service and support.

"Sisis are a fine British manufacturing company with a first class reputation in the specialist golf course and sports ground machinery business," said Paul Huxley.

"They are a bigger company than us, with greater engineering resources, and are well placed to develop the sales of our own high quality British equipment and maintain the Huxley reputation for after-sales service. We wish Sisis every success."

John Deere scheme evaluated

A new service evaluation scheme has been introduced for all John Deere's commercial & consumer equipment (C&CE) dealers in the UK and Ireland, underlining the company's commitment to first class parts and service support for the full John Deere product range.

A total of 42 C&CE dealer service departments will have been evaluated by Spring 1999. Each can achieve a Gold, Silver or Bronze award, after being assessed on a range of important service features.

Areas under the spotlight number 16 in all, and include specialist equipment, workshop condition and size relative to the number of staff employed, service vehicle presentation, technical training, warranty procedure, marketing and service management.

Full dealer training on all aspects of parts and service support is

available at John Deere's new training centre at Langar, Nottingham. Upwards of 5000 training days are provided each year for dealer personnel, including around 3500 days for service technicians - all designed to ensure the best possible service to customers throughout the UK and Ireland.

"Our aim as a business is to provide the most advanced and reliable machines possible, backed by efficient and knowledgeable product support," says Managing Director Alec McKee.

"The John Deere brand name means quality, combined with industry leading investment in research and development, manufacturing facilities and spare parts distribution - all aimed at providing customer satisfaction and genuine value right across the product range."



Contact us

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Fax: 01347 833801

E-mail: reception@bigga.co.uk

Internet: www.bigga.org.uk

www.rpal.co.uk

Rhone-Poulenc Amenity has launched its all new website giving useful information about the company and its products.

Log onto www.rpal.co.uk and you will be taken to the site which includes the award-winning technical manual on-line. It includes full details of the product range but also provides lots of other information together with reference pictures to help aid weed, pest and disease identification.

Links to a number of Rhone-Poulenc main distributor sites are also included so that customers can find out where and how to obtain the products they want.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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

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



Name: Glyn Davies

Club: Chester GC

Position: First Assistant

Age: 30

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
15 years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
None

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Construction - tees, bunkers etc

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Bunker edging

5. What job other than green-keeping might you have ended up doing?
Landscape gardener

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
Stuart McCall, Head Greenkeeper at Chester

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
Try to get committees to understand

8. What are your hobbies?
Golf, rallying, gardening and keeping fit

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Educational Seminars

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
Hopefully in charge of my own course

Doing it by the book with Kubota

A free, pocket-sized guide to the safe use of tractors and their attachments has been produced by Kubota.

Although written primarily for owners and operators of compact tractors, much of the advice contained in the Kubota 'Tractor Safety Code' applies equally to those using larger tractors within farming, grounds and highways maintenance, construction and civil engineering.

The booklet begins by highlighting 10 basic rules of tractor safety before guiding the reader through the essential points which should be observed to ensure optimum safety during tractor operation. Areas covered include dress sense, operator training, tractor maintenance, safe working practices, driving on public roads and trac-

tor shutdown. There is also a section on the safe operation of common attachments and implements such as front loaders, rotary tillers, mowers and backhoes.

The Kubota 'Tractor Safety Code' can be obtained by phoning the Kubota literature request line on 01844 268169 or by e-mailing tomb@kubota.co.uk or by faxing 01844 216685. The Kubota web site, which contains a wealth of information on the company, its product range and national dealer network, can be accessed at www.kubota.co.uk



Terry wins Depot Manager of the Year

The Rolawn Depot Manager of the Year award is made in recognition of the contribution made to the business by Rolawn's Depot Managers. This year it has been given to Terry Carter, depot manager at the Company's Bristol Depot.

Terry, a recent recruit to the business took over the running of the depot in October 1997 and handled its relocation in March 1998.

Terry is a native of the West Country and is married with two children. He lives in Winterbourne and is a keen Liverpool supporter.

Gift vouchers and a certificate of recognition were presented by Terry Ryan, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director, to Terry at the Company's head office in York.

"Rolawn has 15 turf depots throughout the UK, all manned by Rolawn employees. It is always a difficult decision to make but I am delighted to award it this year to Terry who has quickly established himself and the depot by building excellent relationships with our customers in the Bristol area," stated Terry Ryan.



Claire's new job



Claire Andrews has been appointed Turf Administrator for Sovereign Turf Ltd.

Gibraltar-born Claire, who will be based in Suffolk, arrives in the turf industry from the leisure industry where she worked for a travel company and in hotels.

"I really enjoy the job and find it very rewarding," said Claire, whose responsibilities include taking orders, liaising with Sovereign's harvesters and logistics.



Sunningdale Golf Club has signed a five year exclusive partnership deal with Toro for turf machinery with the investment expected to be approximately £250,000.

Sadly missed, Frederick Ten Hage

News has reached us that the popular Dutch greenkeeper Frederick Ten Hage has died suddenly. He was 50. Frederick, who was one of Holland's first rally drivers, was a regular at BTME in Harrogate most years although he was missing this year and will be sadly missed by his many friends in the industry.



Section Secretaries from all over the country converged on BIGGA HOUSE for a two day briefing session on the workings of and developments within the Association. They were subjected to intense lectures on everything from the new BIGGA Stylo work wear, accounting, Greenkeeper International, the Charterhouse/Scotts BIGGA Golf Championship; membership and education as well as having the opportunity to get their own back by grilling staff on any matter they wished.

Mommersteeg catalogue out now!

The 1999 catalogue of MM amenity grass seeds mixtures has just been published, in a new, easy to use format. It is available free of charge by ringing the Mommersteeg Main Line number - 01529 302500.

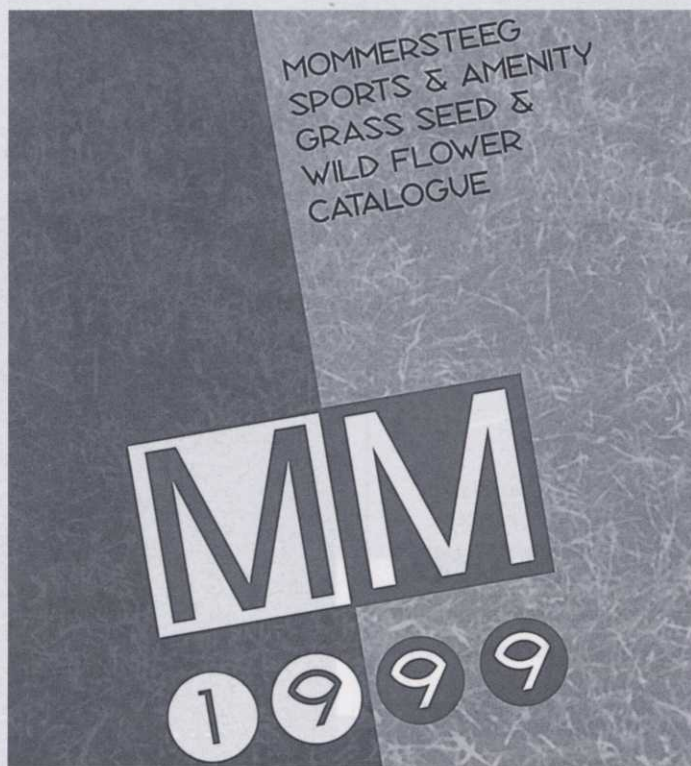
A table at the front of the booklet shows the range of Mommersteeg mixtures and quickly points the reader towards the right MM mixture for use on golf courses, on winter and summer sports grounds, and for landscape and other specialist situations.

For each mixture a clear graphic shows the percentage of each constituent cultivar.

For example, it shows that MMI I has 40% each of the Chewings Fescues, Enjoy and Waldorf, with ten per cent Sefton, six per cent Egmont and four per cent Tracenta, the last three being Brown Top Bents.

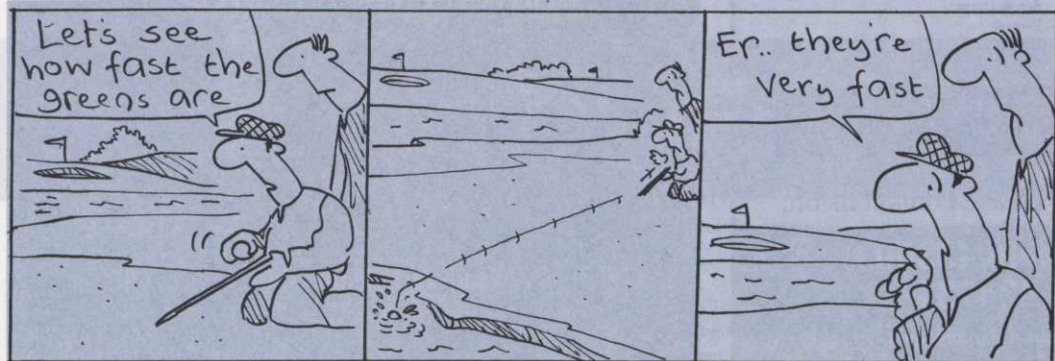
A concise summary accompanies the graphic for each mix highlighting its strong features and the ideal situation for its use.

Towards the back of the booklet is a section on mixtures to use on problem soils and sites such as areas of low fertility or high salinity. There is also a comprehensive listing of Mommersteeg's wildflower mixes.



Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Sybron acquire Green Releaf

Green Releaf Biotech Inc has been bought by the American-based Sybron Chemicals Inc. Sybron had enjoyed a long-term relationship with Green Releaf as the supplier of microbes and as a technical advisor in the formulation and application of products.

"Sybron has always been a member of the Green Releaf team," said Ted Melnik, Vice President of Sybron's Biochemical business.

"We're simply stepping up to the plate to accelerate the benefits greenkeepers and superintendents can reap from the technology that we believe is the future of turf maintenance. Green Releaf's success in the field to date is the perfect foundation to build on."

Green Releaf products include microbial soil inoculants, plant nutrients, and natural amendments that stimulate plants and enhance plant vigour.

Sybron will immediately consolidate Green Releaf's manufacturing, research and development and administrative operations into its sales facility.

Peter's two left feet?



Midland Regional Administrator, Peter Larter, has discovered that his daring deeds as an England and British Lions Second Row forward have not been forgotten.

In the wake of Jonny Wilkinson's fine kicking display in England's match against Scotland at Twickenham Frank Keating, sports writer for The Guardian, found himself looking back at previous left footed kicking performances.

Low and behold the following appeared.

"Dodge's left foot logged one conversion and three penalties during his 32-cap run for England. Before him, the solitary left-footed penalty of his England career by the RAF basketball player, the bean-pole lock, Peter Larter (v the All Blacks in 1967) remains one of Twickenham's memorable one-off strikes."

Well done, Peter. But "bean-pole"?!

Toro aim for home market

B&Q has reached a supply arrangement with Toro Wheel Horse to stock two of Toro's pedestrian Recycler mowers this season.

Toro is the largest brand of quality lawn mowers in the USA, but in the past, its Recycler mowers have only been available through specialist lawn mower dealers in the UK, however due to the Recycler mower's rapid increase in popularity, Toro will supply machines to B&Q warehouse stores and therefore make them more accessible to the general public.

Scottish date

The BIGGA Scottish National Championship will take place this year at East Kilbride GC., Lanarkshire, of Wednesday June 16 by kind permission of the Captain and Committee.

Played over 18 holes the Championship is open to all BIGGA Scottish members. Cost is £16 and entry forms can be obtained by contacting Scottish Administrator Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440.

All entry forms will also be available at all Spring Sections meetings in the Scottish Region.

How on earth could that happen?



Stanley Glover, of Wrotham Heath Golf Club, in Kent, and his colleagues were cutting down some leylandii on the course this winter when they came across half a golf ball inside one of the trees. "The trees had been planted around 1963 and the ball had obviously fallen between some branches and as the tree grew the branches got forced together to become fused into one trunk," explained Stanley.

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BUNKER SANDS

Moneystone (white)
Leighton Buzzard washed white
Redhill 30 (cream)
Leighton Buzzard Primrose (yellow)

ROOTZONES

FENDRESS Rootzone (to USGA)
Economy Rootzone with Soil/Fensoil
MS5 Rootzone
Divot Mixes

PATHWAY MATERIALS

Cockleshells
Wood Chips/Granite Chips

PLUS

Tees Dressings
Sandy Loam
Fensoil
Topsoil

NATIONWIDE DELIVERIES FROM SEVEN PRODUCTION DEPOTS THROUGHOUT THE UK

For all your bulk supplies, please contact us on;

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Fax: 01858 434734

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this...

...and your renewal date
was February 1999, and you
haven't yet renewed...

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of Greenkeeper International.

Call Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer,
now on 01347 833800