

August Around the Green. While writing about Effingham Golf Club we can congratulate Peter Broadbent and his lovely wife Karen on the birth of their fourth child Alfie who weighed in at 9 lbs and in Karen's own words "at that size they make your eyes water!"

Another Golf day that I'm sure will produce a large attendance is the McMillan Tankard which will be played for on 6 August. If you have not got an entry form, please contact your Surrey Section Secretary Ian Sellers on 0181 393 8078 or mobile 0976 709145 ASAP.

We are hoping that the Turkey Trot this year will be held at West Hill Golf Club but this will be confirmed at a later date.

I have just noticed in June's edition a mistake that I wish to correct. Young master Evans is called Euan and not Evon.

Brian Willmott.

Kent

Our first golf event was held on 24 May at Chart Hills GC and this was the Section qualifier for the National Championship. Before I list the results I would like to say a big thank you to all of the trade companies who sponsor these events and make it all possible and secondly to thank Chart Hills GC for the courtesy of the course and the excellent meal which was provided. Also I'd like to personally thank Paul Hobden and his staff for the excellent condition of the course which I know they all worked very hard to achieve.

The results were as follows: Best Nett, N. Gillem. Best Gross, D. Kelso. 2. Nett, P. Copsey who also won the nearest to pin competition. 2. Gross, J. Fullager, 3. Nett, G. Debenham, 3. Gross, J. Nolloth, 4. Nett, K. Diamond and the trade guest was G. Ogleby. There was an excellent turn out of 58 entrants, which was very good to see



and it was a very enjoyable day, especially as the weather held out.

Now I'm afraid I've got some very sad news as Trevor Hindmarsh, our Chairman, has been taken seriously ill with some form of cancer of the blood. So from everyone who knows you, I'd like to send you our best regards and wish you a speedy recovery.

Lastly I'd like to know how many people would be interested in a golfing/social weekend away at the end of the summer. The destination is unknown yet but if anyone is interested or has any suggestions, then contact me and leave me your name, number and any preference of a venue.

Also if anybody has any news or comments for the magazine, then please don't hesitate to contact me on 01474 879200.

Kneale Diamond



South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Devon & Cornwall

The Section would like to take this opportunity to thank PJ Flegg Ltd for their generous sponsorship of the fixture cards over the last two years. Many years ago the section committee decided that the sponsorship of our fixture cards should be on a two year basis to allow all companies the chance to sponsor. It is with great pleasure that I can announce that Rigby Taylor has kindly agreed to take on the sponsorship of these cards for the next two years.

The Section would like to congratulate Kerran Daly on his appointment as Course Manager at the Gog Magog Golf Club. Kerran has been a great ambassador to the greenkeeping profession within the South West Region. His input on the Regional and National Boards will be missed. I recall a wet February day in

1992 at Bigbury Golf Club when Kerran presented his afternoon educational talk on computers. Kerran had spent some time preparing his overhead transparencies for his talk only to have a leak in the roof land directly onto them causing the ink to run. Kerran completed his talk like a true professional.

Best wishes Kerran from all your friends and we look forward to seeing you at Harrogate next year.

I finish this month's report on a sad note after hearing that a fellow Head Greenkeeper within our Section has felt it necessary to resign from his position after extreme pressures put on him by his committee, including cutting the greens through the winter at an extremely low height of cut. We wish him well for the future.

Richard Whyman.

South Wales

Our thanks to Southerndown Golf Club and to Gary Johnstone and his staff for yet another enjoyable day for our spring tournament. Thanks to the sponsors: Softspikes, Scotts and Avoncrop. Thanks also to the caterers, Jan Williams and Vice Captain Geriant Davis.

Best Nett and winner of the Cardiff Cup - Steven Lloyd from Burghill Valley GC, Nett 70. Winner of the John O Gorman Cup - Henry Stead, Net 72. 2nd Best Nett - Alan Crichton. 3rd Best Nett - John Borga. 2nd Best Gross and the Browns Shield - Gary Johnstone.

The best Nett and Gross scores of the day - Steven Lloyd and Gary Johnstone both qualified for the Charterhouse/Scotts sponsored National Championships to be held at Carden Park from the 3rd - 5th October.

Unfortunately the match BIGGA versus Pencoed College was cancelled on 2 June but hopefully will be re-scheduled for another day.

On the 17 August BIGGA versus

the South Wales PGA will take place at St. Mellons GC Cardiff.

Richard Hatcher - 01656 742761

South West

Tall Pines Golf Club was the venue for the Greenkeeper Amateur event which was held on May 18. Despite conditions being rather wet underfoot, the course was still playable even though a number of local courses were forced to shut.

The erratic weather conditions also led to some erratic driving on the course, not so much in the golfing sense of the word but more the buggy driving. An unnamed source has informed me that Duncan from Chippenham GC was seen "bombing" down a hill at the wheel of a buggy in Formula 1 style.

Unfortunately he didn't notice a large hole looming ahead of him until the last split second. Somehow he performed an incredible swerving manoeuvre and just avoided disaster. However, his golfing partner and passenger Keith Milton was not so lucky. Keith was catapulted out of the side of the buggy and was seen tumbling out of control to the bottom of the hill. Les Johnson was first onto the scene but was unable to offer first aid because he was still wetting himself with laughter.

Anyway the result of the competition was as follows:- 1. J. Cooper & J. Hennes, 44 points; 2. C. Tozer & G. Fox, 40 points; 3. N. Kelson & C. Ashworth, 39 points. Thanks go to Marc Rossiter and the rest of the greenkeeping staff for all their hard work in getting the course into great condition. The next event is the Summer Tournament at Lilley Brook GC on July 22. This will also be the Section qualifier to see who will gain a place for the National Championship at Carden Park in October, so get your name down for that.

There is still no news on the disappearance of the Region's team T-shirts. However, brand new shirts have arrived which have been sponsored by Rolawn.

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Turning to education and training. The one day first aid courses being held at Cumberwell Park on August 17 is almost full. Those of you that have asked to do the course should have received a booking form, which should be returned to me. Other courses taking place include a PA1 on September 22 and a PA6 on October 13. I hope to run a number of other courses shortly including abrasive wheel and fire safety. If you want any more information, please contact me on 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham.

South Coast

Our Spring Tournament was held at Canford Magna Golf Club on 4 May. The results were as follows. Division One. 1. (Huxley Shield) Simon Ridland;

2. Mark Grogan; 3rd Darren Miller. Division Two. 1. (Avoncrop Trophy) James Krzyzanowski; 2. Ian Noble; 3. Phil Wentworth. Division Three. 1. (Roffey Cup) Alan Rideout; 2. Sid Cutler; 3. Don Friend.

The winner of the Best Nett under 25's for the Christopher Fry Trophy was David Lyons. The winner of the Best Nett over 55's for the Nita Stimpson Trophy was Sid Cutler.

The Lowest Gross Score was Mark Grogan and the Lowest Nett was



Simon Ridland. Both Mark and Simon go forward to the Charterhouse/Scotts National Tournament. Well done to all those who took part and congratulations to all

the winners.

We would like to thank the owners of Canford Magna for allowing us the courtesy of their superb golf courses. Also to Pete Lovel and his staff who presented the courses in such pristine condition. Thanks to the bar and catering staff who kept us well fed and watered. Last but not least, thank you to our sponsors for the day. They were Avoncrop, Roffeys and Huxleys. They provided us with the prizes and trophies. We are very grateful to you all. Lastly, thank you to all of you who participated in the Tournament.

Just a reminder for our Summer Tournament at Rowlands Castle on 22 July. All details were in the June magazine. For those of you who have not yet got your entries in, get them in to Fred as soon as possible.

We had a very happy event on the 14 May. Fred Deamen's wife, Susan, gave birth to a baby boy, Luke Bernd Oldale. I hope I have got those names right Fred. Mother and son are doing well. As far as I know, father isn't

doing too bad either. Congratulations to you both. What a nice way to end July's report.

Ken Lodge.

Northern Ireland

North East

Sorry for nothing in last month's issue, but I had nothing to write about. So come on, anyone who has any news or has anything they think deserves a mention, give me a ring 01574 276001. It has been a very busy time for us here at the moment with the opening of our new Golf Course, which is called The Golf Club Stakis Park. We expect this to change any day now as we have been taken over by the Hilton Group.

We would like to wish Royal Portrush and their staff all the best for the staging of the up-coming of the seniors. Finally, Massereene GC has recently signed a deal and has taken delivery of £110,000 Toro machinery kit.

Eamonn Farrell.

South East

The Section would like to pass on best wishes to Tommy Bradshaw on his retirement after many years service at Malone Golf Club. Welcoming new members to the South East Section, joining this month are: Ian Harrison, Head Greenkeeper at Bangor GC and Paul Lappin, Assistant Head, also at Bangor GC. Also joining as Associate Member is Joseph Paulin from Golden Eagle Agronomy.

Our Summer golf event will be held at Bangor GC on Thursday 8 July. Tee-off at 2.30 pm and we would welcome all members to attend.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Ken Henderson, Allen Park GC, and Alison Sloan, Ballymena GC, on being selected to the Greenkeeper support team for the Open Championship at Carnoustie GC. Well done.

Jonathan McCabe

See you all next month!

Membership Regions

BIGGA incorporates five Regions and 28 Sections, ensuring that there is a steady flow of information between grass roots level and the administrative headquarters.

Each Region has its own Board consisting of a representative from each of the Sections and is serviced by a Regional Administrator as follows:-



Peter Boyd -

Regional Administrator for Scotland.

Covering Ayrshire, Central, East, North and West.

Tel. 0141 616 3440



Douglas Bell -

Regional Administrator for Northern England. Covering NorthEast, North West, Northern, Cleveland, Sheffield and North Wales.

Tel. 0151 431 0433



Peter Larter -

Regional Administrator for the Midlands. Covering East Midland, Midland, East of England, Berks, Bucks and Oxon and Mid Anglia.

Tel. 01480 437507



Derek Farrington -

Regional Administrator for the South East.

Covering Surrey, Kent, Sussex, London, East Anglia and Essex.

Tel. 01903 260956



Paula Humphries -

Regional Administrator for the S West and S Wales. Covering South West, South Coast, Devon and Cornwall and South Wales.

Tel. 01288 352194

BIGGA also has two Sections in Northern Ireland



For more information on the many other benefits that BIGGA membership can offer you, and for an application form, contact your local Regional Administrator, or Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer, at BIGGA HQ on 01347 833800



THE CHARTERHOUSE/SCOTTS
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
 FOR THE BIGGA CHALLENGE TROPHY



Congratulations to all the qualifiers so far in the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship for the BIGGA Challenge Trophy.

Keep those results coming in, and we'll highlight the winners every month.

Qualifiers to date...

The following members have so far won places in the Charterhouse/Scotts National Golf Championship at Carden Park, October 3-5

William McMeikan
 Keith McCartney
 Shaun McMillan
 Kenneth Stirling
 Craig Pennycuik
 Kenneth Mail
 Scott Williams
 Mike Wilson
 George Barr
 Tony Bremer
 Dave Cuthbertson
 Kenneth Rutherford
 Richard Castle
 Michael Nolan
 Dave Collins
 Roger Bielby
 Andrew Wood
 Anthony Burge
 Andrew Lomas
 Paul Neve
 John Humphreys
 Robert Lewis
 Dave Leatherland
 Stephen Tolley
 Robert White
 Graeme Macdonald

Tony French
 Ross Wilson
 Simon Clark
 Mark Whittle
 Brian Turner
 Gareth Rogers
 Duncan Kelso
 Neil Gilham
 George Barr
 Tony Bremer
 Larry Eden
 Ian Semple
 Nicholas Brewster
 Terry Moreton
 Steve Cox
 Chris Ward
 Mark Grogan
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 Gary Johnstone
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GREENKEEPER

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses. This guide shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green coded colleges are approved to train greenkeepers beyond craft level. The introduction of vocational

qualifications into industries, has caused the colleges to re-think their training policies and the GTC will be issuing guidelines for the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be supporting. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640.

NORTH



ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York YO23 3FR. Contact: The Registry Tel: 01904 772211. National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



REASEHEATH COLLEGE Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF. Tel: 01270 625131 Fax: 01270 625665. E-mail: rheath1@reaseheath.ac.uk Website: www.reaseheath.ac.uk Full time: BTEC First Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 1 year. BTEC National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part-time: HNC Golf Course Management - Distance Learning. NVQ Level 1 Greenkeeping - Day Release. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping - Day/Block Release. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping - Day/Block Release. C&G Phase IV Greenkeeping - Block Release. IOG National Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture - Day Release. IoG National Diploma - Day Release. Short Courses: FEPA Chemical Safety; Safe Lifting; Chainsaws; Off-Road Vehicle Driving; First Aid. NVQ Level 4.



HOUGHALL COLLEGE Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan. Tel: 0191 386 1351. Full time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 years. Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management Level 2 - Day release; NVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture - Afternoon-Evening. Short Courses: Health & Safety Legislation; Turfcare; Machinery & Mechanisation. All courses contribute towards NVQ Levels 1 and 2.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE Bilsborrow, PRESTON, Lancashire PR3 0RY. Contact: Course Enquiries Tel: 01995 640740 Fax: 01995 640842 Email mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk WWW http://www.myerscough.ac.uk. Full time courses: BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science - 4 years; HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management - 3 Years; ND Turf Science and Sportsground Management - 3 years; National Certificate Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping - 1 year. Part time courses: NVQ Level 2 and 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance (plus Fast track option); Higher National Diploma Turf Science and Golf Course Management; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation; FEPA short courses.

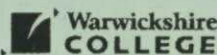
MIDLANDS



RODBASTON COLLEGE Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5PH. Contact Nigel Foskett. Tel: 01785 712209. Courses offered: NVQ Level 1,2,3 and 4 by Day Release. FEPA and chainsaw training.



BROOMFIELD COLLEGE Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 01332 831345. NVQ Level I and Level II Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9x 3-day blocks or day release or APL service. Also available TDLB, Pesticides, Chainsaw and First Aid Training.



WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE, Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9BL. Contact Brian Cook. Tel: 01926 318268. Greenkeeping courses - NVQ levels 2 and 3 (day release), NVQ levels 2 and 3 underpinning knowledge only (block release), NVQ level 4 (block release), IOG National Intermediate Diploma (evening class), 2-year ND in Horticulture with turf culture option. We also offer short courses in FEPA, Chainsaw, First Aid etc to cater for individual and company training needs: Call us to discuss your requirements.



THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA offers a range of programmes for Greenkeepers including NVQ Levels I, II and III. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact our Milton Campus on 01223 860701 or Student Support at King's Lynn on 01553 761144 Ext 271.

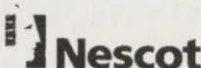


BROOKSBY COLLEGE Brooksbys, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE14 2LJ situated on the A607 between Leicester and Melton Mowbray. Contact Ann Hurt/Jo Lees Tel: 01664 434291. Day release Level 2/3 Greenkeeping, includes GTC training manual. Short courses available in arboriculture/chainsaw work, FEPA spraying and machinery maintenance.

SOUTH EAST



HADLOW COLLEGE, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Tony Leach Tel (01732) 850551. First Diploma Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf Option). NVQ Level II and Level III. Part-time Day Release or evenings. Level II in Groundsmanship evenings. NVQ III Golf Greenkeeping. Centres at Hadlow, Canterbury, Maidstone and Nottingham.



NESCOT North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 0181 394 3220/3049. NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.



PLUMPTON COLLEGE, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE. Contact: David Blackmur. Tel No: 01273 890454 Full time courses: National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (options in Landscaping and Sportsturf); National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture; First Diploma in Horticulture. Part-time courses: NVQ Level 1, Level 2 Amenity Horticulture in Decorative, Nursery, Hard Landscape and Sportsturf, Level 3 Amenity in Decorative and Sportsturf, Level 4 Amenity. Also available are RHS General and Diploma and IOG National Technical and National Diploma (Int). Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw courses.



OTLEY COLLEGE Otley College, Otley, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EY. Contact Course Enquiries. Tel: 01473 785543. ESF Bursaries may be available for full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture, option in Sports Turf Technology. Part time NVQ 2 Golf Greenkeeping and NVQ 2 Groundsmanship, NVQ 3 Sports Turf Management. IOG Intermediate and Final Diplomas (Evenings). NVQ Horticultural Mechanics. FEPA Courses PA1, PA2, PA6. Otley College * Developing individuals * Achieving more.

TRAINING

A GUIDE TO THE COLLEGES AND COURSES AVAILABLE

KEY TO COLOURS

Currently GTC approved at Regional Training Centres, offering courses at Craft, Supervisory and Management levels

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Supervisory level

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Craft level only

Pending GTC approval for all courses

Please note that all the college details published in this guide were supplied by the colleges themselves. Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided. Contact the college directly for prospectuses and comprehensive information.

SOUTH EAST



OAKLANDS COLLEGE Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 01727 737000 Fax: 01727 737752. Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, Modern Apprenticeships. Evening courses: leading to NVQ Levels 3 and 4. Short courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw, Greenkeeper Mechanics.



Berkshire College of Agriculture

BERKSHIRE COLLEGE Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR. Tel: 01628 824444 Fax: 01628 824695 Full-time courses: BTEC First & National Diploma. Part-time courses: GTC Manual - NVQ2 and 3 Amenity, Sports Turf (day & block release); Short courses: FEPA, Horticultural Machinery, Chainsaws, Greenkeeping for Golfers *Regional Centre for Leisure and Land based Industries & Professions*



Merrist Wood College

MERRISTWOOD COLLEGE, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE. Contact D I Rhodes. Tel: 01483 884003. Fax: 01483 884001. E-mail: info@merristwood.ac.uk. Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management. Part time courses: NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 1, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 2, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 2 (block release), NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3 (afternoon/evening release), Higher National Certificate Turf Science (subject to approval) 1999. Various short courses throughout the year.



WRITTLE COLLEGE, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR. Tel: 01245 424200 Fax: 01245 420456 **SPORTSTURF PROGRAMMES** (Contact - Stewart Brown) NVQ Level 2 - Sportsturf: (Options in Greenkeeping (GTC) or Groundsmanship (IOG) NVQ Level 3 - Sportsturf Maintenance. NVQ Level 4 - Amenity Horticulture. HNC - Sportsturf Science. HND - Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes: First Diploma. National Certificate. National Diploma (with Sportsturf Option). BSc (Hons) Horticulture. BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering. FEPA. Chainsaw. Tractor Driving



EALING TERTIARY COLLEGE - Norwood Hall School of Horticulture, Norwood Green, Southall, Middlesex UB2 4LA. Contact Declan Gallagher Tel 0181 231 6295; Fax 0181 571 9479; E-mail declan.gallagher@ealingcoll.ac.uk. Full Time courses National Certificate Sports Ground Management, National Diploma in Sports Ground Management. Part Time courses NVQ Levels 2 & 3 Sports Turf Management and Maintenance; IOG Intermediate and National Diploma in Turfculture; FEPA PA1, PA2a, PA6a.

S WEST



Cannington College

CANNINGTON COLLEGE Cannington Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Contact Terry Horne: 01278 655083. BTEC Higher National Diploma in Sports Science (Golf Option). BTEC National Diploma in Sports Science (Golf Studies), Higher National Certificate Golf Course Management, BTEC First Diploma, BTEC National Diploma in Golf Course Management, BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management (inc. European Studies) NVQ Level I and II Golf Greenkeeping, NVQ Level III Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management, NVQ Level IV Greenkeeping Management, FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off-road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics.



Sparsholt College

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF. Contact Ray Broughton. Tel: 01962 776441. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA: Short courses, Chainsaws. All courses other than Phase IV are offered on block release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt college provides education and training in the land-based industries.



HARTPURY COLLEGE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
University of the West of England

HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury House, Gloucester GL19 3BE. Hartpury Marketing Tel: 01452 830065 Fax: 01452 700629. Courses available: First Diploma Horticulture, National Certificate Horticulture, National Diploma Landscaping, First Diploma Greenkeeping, Certificate in Greenkeeping, National Diploma Greenkeeping, National Diploma Golf Studies, Modern Apprenticeships, Route 2 Work, NVQs available in Amenity Horticulture, Commercial Horticulture, Amenity / Turf, Amenity / Sportsturf, Decorative Horticulture, plus RHS General Examination, City & Guilds Certificate in Gardening, TDLB Assessor Awards and a full programme of amateur, leisure and day release courses.



GOSTA TRAINING LTD

GOSTA TRAINING LTD Unit 2B, Clydeaway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow G3 8JU. Contact Chris Bothwell. Tel: 0141 248 2772. Fax: 0141 248 2453. svq II in Amenity Horticulture will all options including Greenkeeping and GTC Training Manual. Available Day/ Block Release from November- February. Evening classes also available. Short courses including pesticide training, noise assessment, chainsaw and health & safety courses, SVQ III in maintaining sportsturf - Mixture of block and day release. SVQ IV in Amenity Horticulture available from Winter 1998.



elmwood COLLEGE

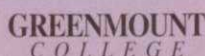
ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB. Contact Carol Borthwick. Tel: 01334 658910. Fax: 01334 658918. Craft Level courses. Full time National Certificate, Block-release, following SVQ Level II and the GTC Training Manual. Six week specialist modular programme (January-February), including Golf Course Construction, Pesticide Application and Plant Protection Procedures. SVQ Level III Block Release and SVQ Level IV coming soon. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full-time, block/day release and distance learning. FEPA, COSHH and Health & Safety short courses also.



Oatridge Agricultural College

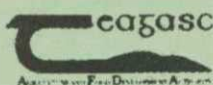
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SCOTLAND



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IRELAND

The big red machines of BIGGA Golden Key Supporter Toro are a common sight on golf courses all over the world but, as Scott MacCallum found out, the talents that have to be combined to produce them are anything but common.

T-time



How often have you gone to BTME and bumped into a colleague who's said "See Toro have a new machine out.?"

More than likely you will have replied "Oh yeh? I'll maybe take a look later on... Heard whose got the so and so job?"

No doubt you would see the new Toro at some stage but such is the frequency of the release of new machines from Toro and the other big machinery manufacturers these days the announcement of yet another innovation is hardly earth shattering. Is it?

But if you knew what went into producing just one new piece of kit - the concept, design, manufacturer, testing, marketing etc - you would be far more likely say "Wow!" than merely "Oh yeh?".

Walk into Toro's worldwide Headquarters in Bloomington, Minnesota, and you'll witness scenes that wouldn't look out of place at NASA. The technology involved in producing the latest turf maintenance machinery, its irrigation and consumer products is cutting edge and the brains involved in making sure this is put to good use are high browed and plentiful.

You are quite likely to find someone poring over a computer screen displaying a three dimensional image of a cutting deck electronically testing the stress levels from every angle or bump into the mechanical display showing off the qualities of the new Workman 1100 with its jointed chassis for a smoother ride. You might even see Igor the robot which travels throughout the building delivering mail.

A visit to Minneapolis is a treat the winners of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award and Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year experience and this year John Coleman and Sally Doherty have already made the trip.

Over 1000 are employed there alone while the overall Toro staff number just under 4000 which gives you just a taste of the sheer scale of the operation.

"We say that the sun never sets on

the Toro empire - I wonder where we got that line from," said Barry Beckett, the ex-pat Brit who is Toro's Worldwide Marketing Manager.

"But it's true. 24 hours a day someone is using Toro product. When we're asleep it's being used in the Far East or in Europe," he said before explaining about the inherent difficulties this causes but which have been eased by advance of the Internet.

"If someone somewhere in the world is having a problem we have "Frequently Asked Questions" on our Website and all the users have to do is click on the appropriate national flag and the information appears in their own language."

It is that sort of attention to detail and depth of thinking that has ensured Toro's name is so frequently to be seen in golf course maintenance facilities across the world.

The complications of dealing in a universal market are emphasised by Barry when he talks about providing products on a worldwide basis.

"There are different regulations in place in different countries so that means standardisation is difficult. Also the Japanese for example tend to be a different shape from, for example, the Germans so seats have to be different sizes and set differently to take account of this. Everything has to be produced in different languages from on-board instructions to the operator manuals."

Toro started out by making agricultural tractors to pull ploughs in Minneapolis in 1914, before being recruited to produce munitions for the first world war.

"In 1922 we were approached by a local Golf Course Superintendent who had still been using horses to pull his gang mowers but who thought it might be possible to hook his mowers to one of our tractors. They tried it and it worked and from those humble beginnings we were launched into the golf business," said Barry.

"In the mid 1960s Toro took the significant step in acquiring an irrigation company, and the product lines have increase markedly since then, through in-house development

as well as acquisition, to the extent that Toro is so comfortable that it is the one-stop shop for every potential need outside of the clubhouse building the phrase "Total Solutions" is the Toro mantra

This covers fine turf products and services such as irrigation equipment,



reel and rotary mowers, utility vehicle, sprayers, consumer and contractor equipment, site management software, infra-red grass diagnostic services..., the list is ever growing. Indeed one of the latest additions to the stable is Multicore, whose products are currently being integrated into the Toro family.

"We are always thinking five to ten years ahead. You can't jump over a high bar from a standing start. You have to take a run up," said Barry.

"It's not always a smooth path. Things go wrong, the industry changes, competitors do different things but we know this is the only way to go because you can't do everything at once, you have to plan in stages.

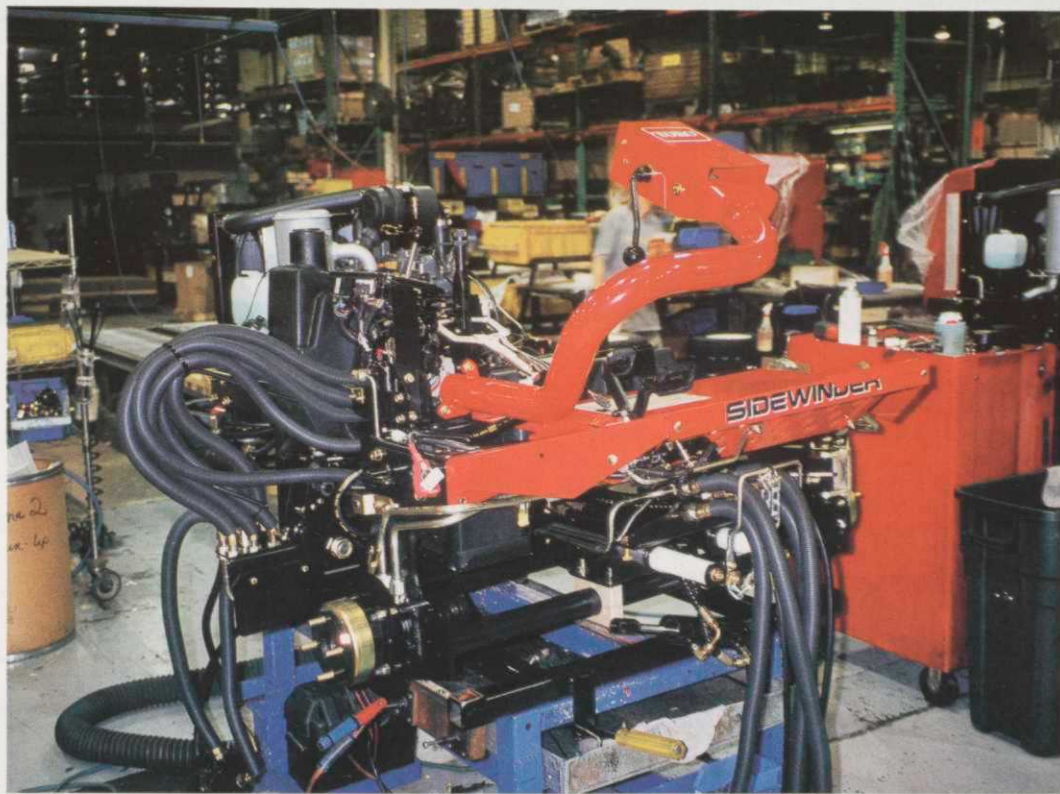
"The list of things you want to do is always longer than what you can do. With people, time and money you can do anything but there isn't enough of all of them. Quite often it isn't the money part which comes up short it's the people and the time."

Toro has built up an exceptionally close relationship with the distributor in each of its major markets and

Sally Doherty and John Coleman, the reigning Toro winners, visited the Toro facilities earlier this year



A sidewinder is assembled in Tomah



in the UK it is Lely (UK) Ltd.

"We have been with Lely for about 16 years now and we have done well in the UK because of Lely's commitment to building the business. In fact the average length of the relationship of Toro with each of its European distributors is 27 years and in the case of Switzerland it is 52 years.

Lely and Toro are in touch at least once a day and with the advent of e-mail that communication has increased.

"Wherever I am in the world I can attach spreadsheets and send and receive information from Graham Dale or Pete Mansfield. Electronic communications have really helped us a lot in terms of being able to keep on top of business. We have video conferencing facilities which allow us to get a lot of people in the room at this end and the same at the other and we can get a lot of work done quickly as a group."

The main manufacturing base for the commercial market is 180 miles from Bloomington in Tomah, Wisconsin, where all the familiar products are assembled-including the Sidewinder and the Dingo which were launched last year.

The Tomah factory has a staff of around 600, the majority of the assembly workers being women who appreciate the nine month working year with the summer holidays off.

"We wind down in June and start up again in September and during the down time we clean the entire plant," explained Plant General Manager, Don Yahnke, a man whose pride in his factory shines as brightly as a spanking new red machine which has just emerged from the 15 stage paint process.

At its peak there are several production lines working at any one time but such is the sophistication of modern day machines, and the care that is put into their assembly, the number produced per day is surprisingly low.

"We can make 13 workmen a day; seven Fairway 6000 series; 22 Sidewinders and the same number of Dingos," explained Don, and when you consider such output is to ser-

vice the entire globe you can appreciate the reasons behind the occasions when there might be a delay before a dealer can get one to you.

With such a large company it would be easy to lose the personal touch and in that regard Toro works hard to ensure that its distributors and dealers work to the same high standards.

"We want customers to appreciate that when they deal with Toro there is an expectation of what they are going to receive in terms of parts and general support," said Barry.

"Anyone can sell a piece of machinery to a golf course but it is when it goes wrong that the acid test is applied. Where is the parts back-up? Where is the technical back-up? Who do you call to help figure it out? Where do you get an operator trained? It is the after sales service and support that is the key to the second and third purchase.

"You've got to get the people who have purchased product once or twice to buy again next year, and in five... ten years time. If you have a bad experience you're more likely to try one of the other companies next time."

To ensure that doesn't happen Toro has people who travel the world checking the standards of distributors and dealers.

"They arrive at a distributor and say they are going to do an inventory or they might ask what the part's fill rate is. Or they might give an order for ten parts and see what they can supply off the shelf. We have a criteria that they have to meet. If they are bad they can be literally put under notice and told that if they want to keep the Toro franchise they must start investing in whatever is needed to put it right."

That's not to say that no-one at Toro ever puts a foot wrong.

"We're not perfect. We're a people orientated business and someone will

press the wrong button or insert the wrong number on a part's order. It's human error but how you recover the situation is the key."

So looking down the line what can the BIGGA member expect from Toro.

Director of Public Relations, Don St Dennis, believes the greenkeeper of tomorrow will be tapping into satellite technology but is aware of the need for cost effectiveness.

"Satellite global positioning is now being used in golf carts to speed up play etc. We can share that same technology and map out the course for spraying and chemical applications so that they can be more cost effective and environmentally sound. People will be able to keep detailed computer records of what was applied, what the wind speed was at the time etc so when the inspectors visit all the information can be supplied at the touch of a button."

Having said all that the size of the fine turf industry is small and that

puts limitations on what can be achieved.

"Our industry is relatively small in the scheme of things and a lot of development of the new technology and materials comes from the automotive business and the people who are developing new plastics and polymers. We tend to piggy back on them.

"We could produce the world's greatest lawnmower with ten computers on it, satellite navigation etc but it would cost half a million so whose going to buy it. You have to wait for other industries to do the ground breaking development first - remember how expensive the first computers were."

So there you have it. So the next time you hear about the latest new product released by The Toro Company you'll have a better idea of the immense work that goes into it and be more inclined to say "Wow!"



TALKING

This month, Greenkeeper International's bi-monthly series featuring Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers from every Region profiles Competition Preparation

Competition Preparation

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Name: David Gower
Course: The Oxfordshire
Region: Midland
Course Type: Parkland
Number of Holes: 18
Staff: 12 summer, eight winter



Name: Ivor Scoones
Course: Long Ashton GC
Region: South West and South Wales
Course Type: Heathland and parkland
Number of Holes: 18
Staff: Course Manager plus five



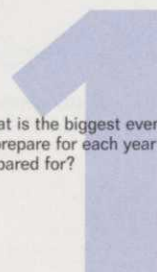
Name: Robert Patterson
Course: Royal Aberdeen
Region: Scottish
Course Type: Links
Number of Holes: 36
Staff: Nine



Name: Simon Heppenstall
Course: Howley Hall
Region: Northern
Course Type: Parkland and moorland
Number of Holes: 18
Staff: Five plus seasonal in summer



Name: Steve Jones
Course: The London Golf Club
Region: South East
Course Type: 18 holes inland links,
18 holes US style parkland
Number of Holes: 36 (four loops of nine)
Staff: 30 in winter and up to 38 in summer.



1. What is the biggest event you have to prepare for each year – or have prepared for?

The Benson and Hedges International Open each May. We also hosted a regional round of the Anderson Consulting World event for two years and we have also had the English Open Ladies' Championship

The Martini in 1967 when the joint winners were Peter Alliss and Bill Large. We have had the Carris event, the Coca Cola young professionals and the national girls championship.

We had the Northern Open last year and we also had our club bi-centenary (the club opened in 1780) in addition to our spring and autumn club medal events which are important on our calendar.

The Howley Hall Scratch 36-hole tournament, one of the North Region Order of Merit events. When I was at Fixby we had the Laurence Batley Seniors.

We had the London Masters Senior event two years ago won by John Bland, but now it is mainly club competitions.

HEADS

2

2. How far in advance you you start thinking about it and how much preparation goes into the event?

We work on problem bunkers the previous October, but we begin thinking about a plan of work in August. We don't do a lot of extra work, apart from working on finer details, such as striping fairways. Our members expect fast greens all the time.

Twelve months before, although nowadays you try to get the course to its highest possible standard every day of the year. Obviously we tweak it with top dressing, striping etc for a big one.

Six months in advance preferably. But we try not to peak the course and would like to think we have it ready for a competition at any time.

As this is a members club I try to get good conditions all the year round, but two weeks before our scratch event we top dress, double cut the greens and get the fairways nicely striped or diamond cut and bring it to a peak.

A year in advance if possible but at any event as soon as we get notice of it. We feel we can reach tournament conditions in four weeks.

3

3. Are there any special requests made by the organisers?

We haven't had many special requests, excepting greens of a 10ft stimpmeter reading. We have ours at eight to nine feet regularly in any case.

The Martini wanted five yards of semi-rough and then jungle and this left quite a few problems in getting back to normal again. Ladies are very particular about measurements and length of course. All want fast greens.

Not really. We are left to set up the course as we think. We are happy for people to come and play our course as it is a good challenge.

At Howley Hall I don't get special requests, but at Fixby the European Tour people specified height of cut and pin positions etc.

We have received many special requests in the past, most of them too late to act on. I recall being asked two days before an event for a stimpmeter reading of nine feet when we had them at 10 feet. All greenkeepers would like a lot of notice of special requests because it gives you time to work on them.

4

4. Do you think more carefully about pin positions and sometimes give them a few tricky ones?

The European Tour choose pin positions, but we had very windy conditions on an open course for the three years before this year and even the Tour officials found difficulty in finding suitable positions.

Yes. I operate on the usual 6-6-6 principle but would give them an odd crazy one if you like, particularly on the last day. Our course is 105 years old and partly built on rock so even for a major event it wouldn't be possible to pins anywhere as there are places on some greens where you can't put them.

The PGA decided for the Northern Open and I had no control of where the pins went. But they took note of advice on different positions and places to avoid if there was heavy rainfall. Generally it's 6-6-6 so there is something for everyone.

As there are plus handicap players in the event I try to make pin positions a little more difficult on a course set up to its maximum length. As a general rule I follow the usual greenkeeper's practice of six hard, six easy and six average.

For a major event you are told by the PGA where they want pins and they mark them with a tee peg. We have little input for club events I follow the accepted pattern of six easy, six difficult and six average.

5

5. Do you enjoy the excitement of preparing for large events? Would you like to hold an Open/Tour event or prefer to work on producing excellent conditions all the year round rather than peaking?

I would say it's a buzz rather than enjoyment. A lot of effort has gone in but, until this year, we have had three very disappointing years from a weather point of view and so it was tough for the staff and their morale.

Yes, it keeps you on your toes and it's a nice feeling when you get the course absolutely right. It is also good for green fees following a big event. But I prefer to try to produce the best possible standards all the year round for our members.

Yes, I do like to put our work on show as it were and to have the course tested by top players. But to be frank I like top quality on a regular basis because the most important people, as far as I'm concerned, are our members.

Yes, it's nice to see the course laid out in the best conditions as it is being played by very good players and you hope for positive feedback but I prefer working on producing excellent conditions for our club members, rather than for a Tour event.

Yes. It gets the adrenaline going. I like to produce good conditions all the year round, but we certainly also peak for special club competitions.

BUYERS' GUIDE BUYERS' GUIDE BUYERS' GUIDE

Buyers' Guide

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