

'Tailor-made' Pro-Tee golf signs from Links Leisure



Links Leisure, has extended its Pro-Tee range with the introduction of a brand new series of wooden course signs.

The new signs are the latest addition to a range of specially designed products which already includes accessories such as all-weather mats and practice nets, plus an array of course furniture such as tee markers, litter bins, divot boxes and also golf signs manufactured from various materials.

Marketed under the trade name "The Pro-Tee Collection", the range has become increasingly popular with operators who realise the need to provide on-course facilities such as directional signs, hole information, etc., but, at the same time,

want to include a corporate identity element for their own particular golf course.

A major feature of the Pro-Tee range is the fact that each product is tailor-made in detail, style, and colour to meet the individual requirements of each golf course and that many of the products can also be used for sponsorship or advertising.

The new wooden golf signs - produced from either mahogany or oak - follow the same pattern. Individually produced, the range includes entrance and finger post signs, plus a choice of teemarkers which can incorporate club and hole

For further information Tel: 01948 663002

New fertilisers are mighty 'fine'

Two new Multigreen controlled release fertilisers have joined the Greenpower range of specialist turf products distributed by Headland Amenity Products.

Known as Multigreen Fine, the fertilisers have been developed by Haifa Chemicals for turf which is cut between 6mm and 10mm - for example, close-mown golf tees, approaches, surrounds, fairways and cricket outfields. The small size of the granules used minimises the quantity taken up by mowers, and increases coverage at low applications.

Multigreen Fine 25+5+15 is for spring and summer applications, and 19+10+30 for autumn and winter. Both have a five to six month release period in the UK and are sulphur-free, with nutrients derived from potassium nitrate, mono ammonium phosphate and urea.

For close-cut turf such as golf greens and bowling greens Headland offers Multigreen Mini, which has even smaller granules and also provides up to six months' nutrition from one application.

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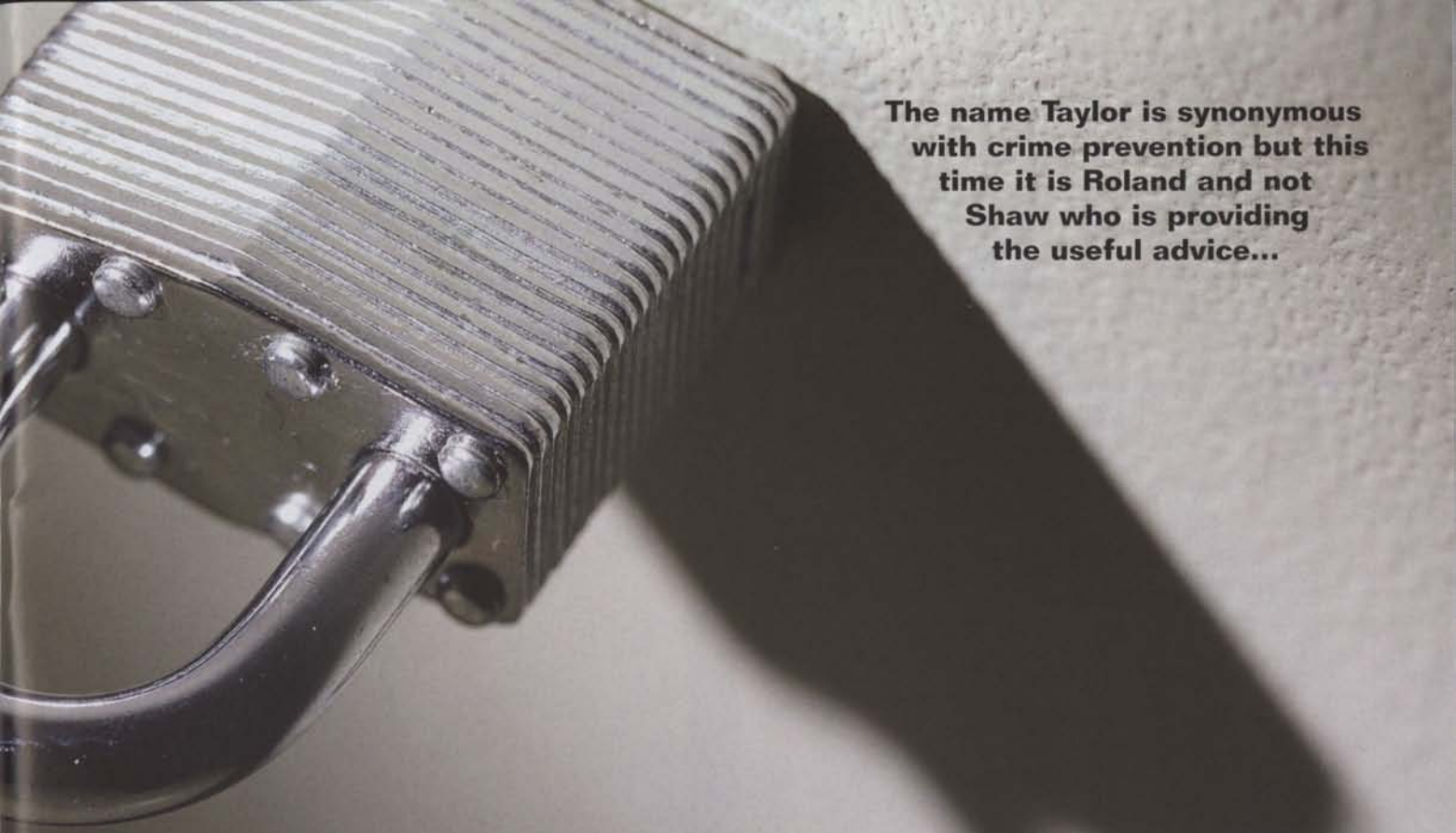
A vertical cross-section of soil is shown, with green grass blades at the top. The soil is dark brown and appears moist. A yellow, textured mat, likely a turf care product, is partially visible on the right side, showing its fibrous structure. The text is overlaid on this image.

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The name Taylor is synonymous with crime prevention but this time it is Roland and not Shaw who is providing the useful advice...

Crime stoppers

It must be a horrendous shock to open the machinery shed one morning to find it bare or looking like World War Three has started on your doorstep. Theft and vandalism are on the increase.

Not only is this very stressful, also it causes considerable inconvenience. The grass does not stop growing and you are still expected to continue producing a quality-playing surface. Police and insurance companies have to be dealt with and if the thieves or vandals are caught you may be involved in the court case. A considerable amount of time can be taken up dealing with the police and insurance company arranging the purchase of replacement machinery. On top of this, the insurance premiums will very likely escalate. If the thieves are caught and the machinery recovered then there is the question of identification and proving it belongs to you.

Not a pleasant scenario, yet it can happen to anyone. In England and Wales, (according to a Home Office survey) over a million burglaries are attempted each year. It reports that entry to premises was achieved in 60% of these cases and of this figure 30% were without force either through open or insecure doors or windows. Robbery is on the increase and reports show that, because of increased security, it has moved from banks and other money outlets. In addition, violence to staff has increased by 40%.

This report demonstrates how important it is to protect equipment and make it as difficult as possible for thieves or vandals to get their hands on it.

Like everything else in this world, it costs money and the size of the budget will determine the level of security that can be put in place.

Crime stoppers



Above: A police tracker in action

Below: Examples of secure storage solutions



The building that houses the course machinery is the first place to start. Often this is sited well away from the clubhouse and set in a secluded area of the course. This type of location is ideal for someone or a gang to gain access without being disturbed. Buildings come in all shapes and sizes and are made of a wide variety of materials. A quick analysis of your security is to determine how easy is it to gain access if you had lost the keys. It would be a good idea to call in a reputable security company to carry out a survey. They should be able to tailor a suitable system for your requirements. This may include lighting and in some cases a CCTV system. You can even buy dummy cameras.

If a new machinery store is being considered then there are companies who specialise in manufacturing a wide range of high security modular units for this purpose.

Where the overall structure of the building is questionable from a security point of view, then a possibility is to purchase interior security units for storing smaller items such as tools, chainsaws,

brushcutter, plus any other items that can be quickly removed. These units can be bolted to a concrete base or wall. The larger machines could be fitted with wheel clamps. The object of the exercise is to make nicking the items as difficult as possible. One thing the thieves do not want is to have to spend too much time trying to remove equipment - this increases the chances of them being caught.

Fuel can often go missing, so some form of security is needed. Again, there are purpose-built units on the market that help to reduce the risk of theft.

In the event of items being stolen and then recovered, it is then up to you to prove ownership. The chances are that the serial numbers and ID tags will have been removed, so something that confirms ownership will be required. Technology has come up with a solution in the form of an electronic identification device that utilises a micro-transponder. Each tag has its own 10 character alphanumeric code that can be "read" by a scanner via radio frequency. This code is fed into a mainframe computer and registered together with make,

machine model, the frame and engine identification numbers and details of the owner. In the event of a piece of equipment being stolen, incident details including crime reference, police station and officer handling the case will be fed into the computer.

The tags are very small and have been designed to withstand vibration, electrical and magnetic interference as well as an acid attack. They are unobtrusively secured to the machine with two-part epoxy adhesive. These systems are accepted by Police and Customs who have the equipment to read the tags as well as access to the supplier's main frame computer.

Another possibility worth considering, especially for triples, larger machines and tractors, is a tracking device. Up until now these have been mainly used on cars and plant.

They consist of a small homing device that is hidden on the machine and emits a silent signal that can be picked up by a police car or helicopter and followed to its exact location. For vehicles there are two systems - retrieve and monitoring. With retrieve, immediately



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Ad Ref 50

a vehicle goes missing it is reported to the police and the operator's network. The device is then activated and then can be tracked by the police. With the monitoring system the unit sends out a signal to the network that it has been moved; they contact the owner who immediately informs the police and the tracking control centre.

Security does not just entail fitting lighting, cameras, locks and other devices - there is also the human element. Making sure things that should be shut and locked are. It is no good having a sophisticated system if the doors of the machinery store are left wide open all day, or tools left in an open trailer for long periods.

A golf course is a big place to keep a check on, so members too can play their part by reporting strangers wandering around or a vehicle sighted where they are not normally seen. If anything is spotted that is out of the ordinary, it should immediately be reported to the police. Your local police can best advise on how members and staff can play their part in reducing the criminals' chances of committing a crime.

A break-in, whether it involves vandalism or theft of machinery, affects everyone. A sound security operation is made up of three areas:-

Secure the buildings and contents as much as possible.

Mark all the machinery and equipment for identification

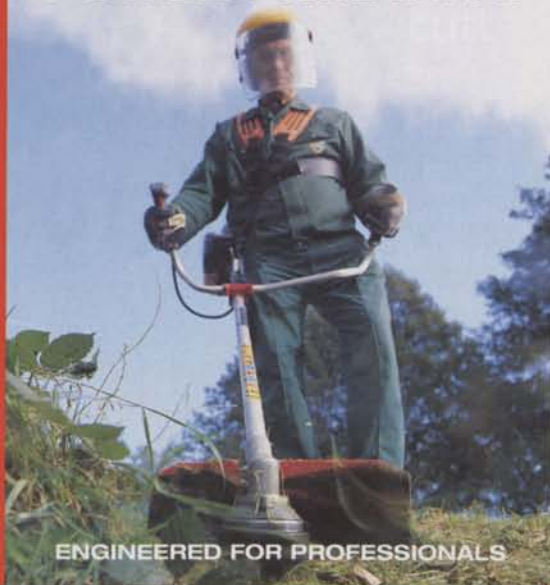
Encourage all club members and staff to be vigilant and report anything out of the ordinary.

No one should put themselves at risk by getting directly involved or "having a go". Contact the police so they can take action.

This is not a guarantee that a crime will not be committed, but it could make the thieves or vandals think twice before going ahead with their plans.

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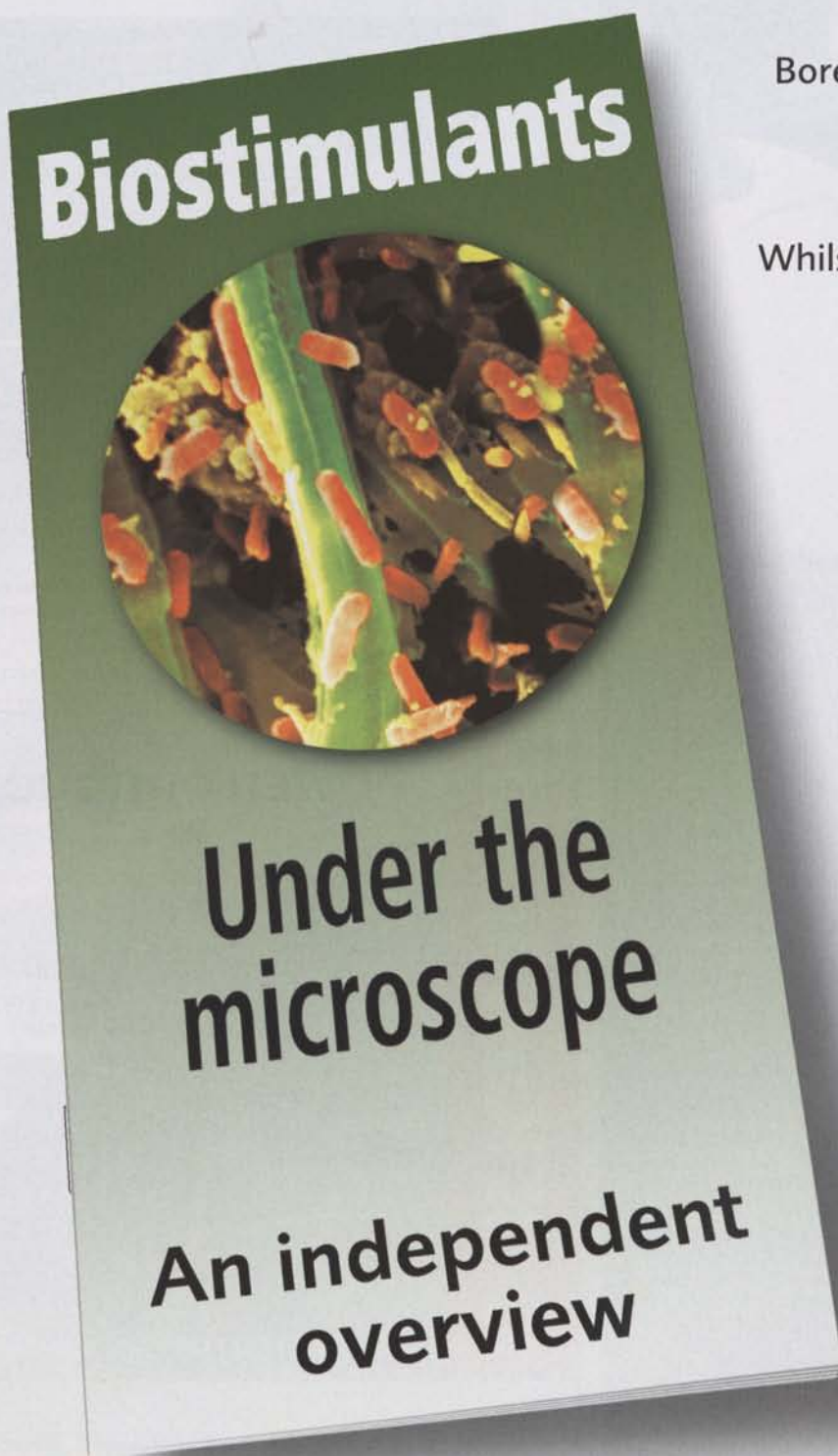
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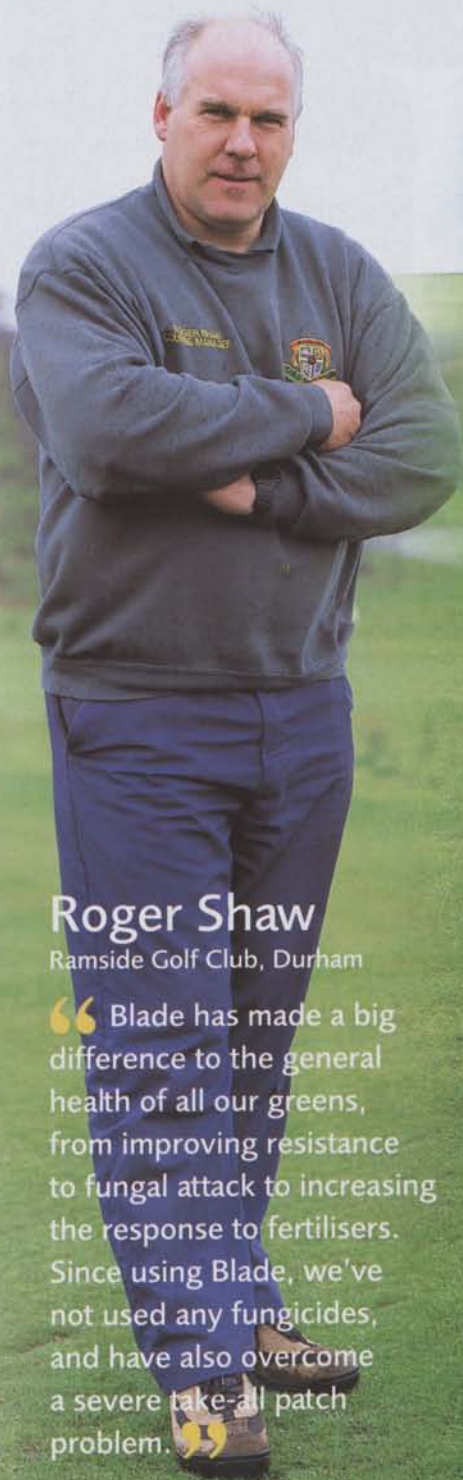
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and mycorrhiza?

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in soil bacteria management
can help you with turf
management techniques,
picking out the important
information from so much
literature can be a chore.

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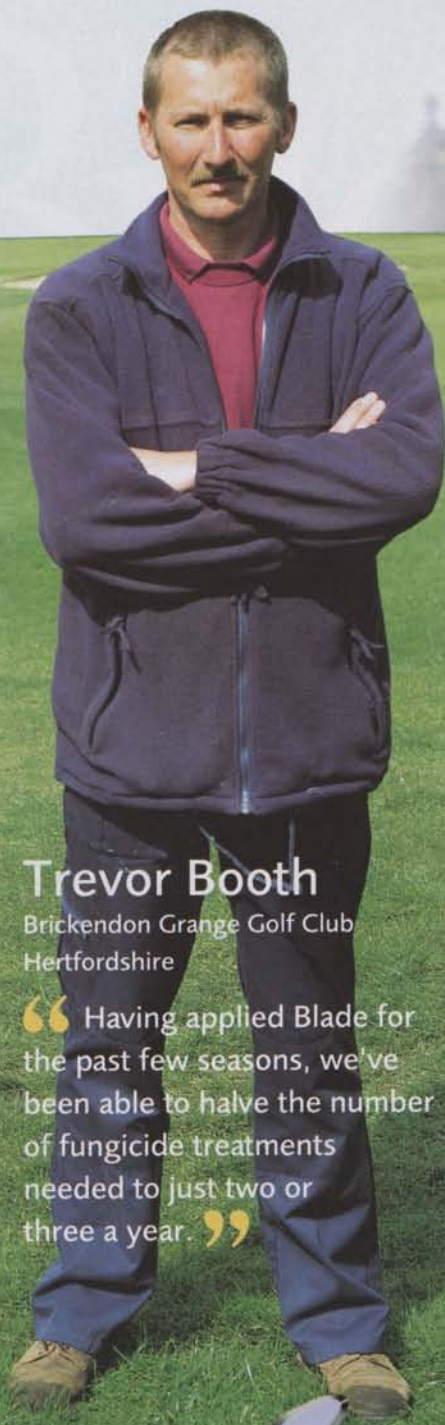
The Figures



Roger Shaw

Ramside Golf Club, Durham

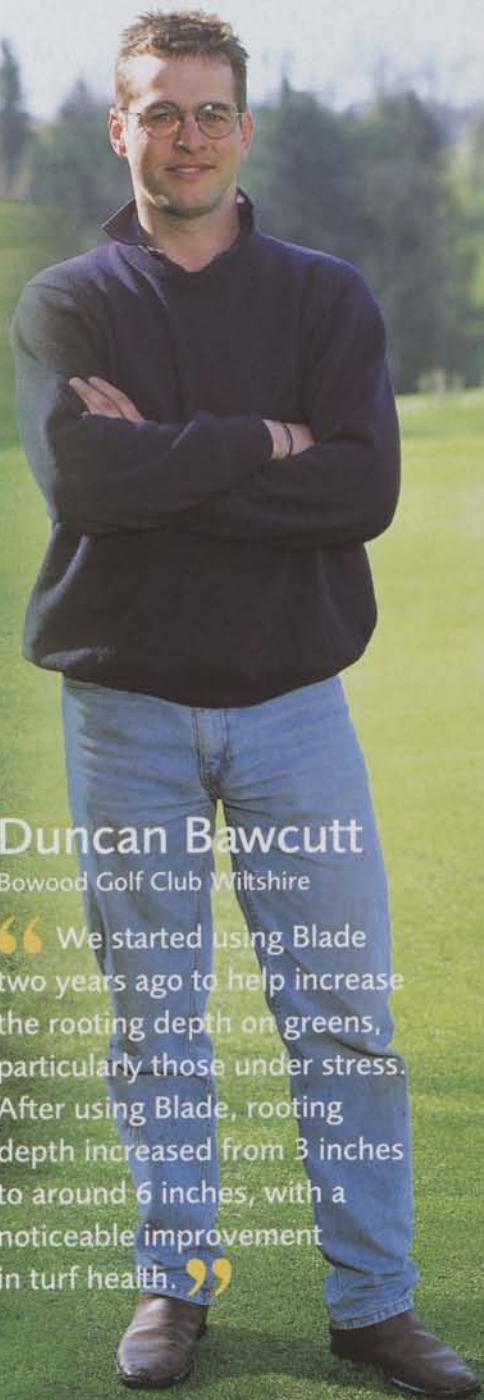
“ Blade has made a big difference to the general health of all our greens, from improving resistance to fungal attack to increasing the response to fertilisers. Since using Blade, we've not used any fungicides, and have also overcome a severe take-all patch problem. ”



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North Cornwall is some distance from Fife but a visit to Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club still made Scott MacCallum a little home sick.

Beautiful Bude



Arriving at Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club I couldn't help feeling that I'd been there before. I knew I hadn't but looking out from the clubhouse at some of the pretty houses that bordered the course it all looked very familiar.

Then it clicked. It is almost the double for some of the courses of the East Neuk of Fife, just around the coast from St Andrews.

Yes, Bude would fit nicely alongside the likes of Elie, Crail and Anstruther while, having its clubhouse and several holes right in the middle of town, it is a distinction it shares with St Andrews itself.

Yet, Bude is about 500 miles from Fife, and there is little else in the surrounding countryside to suggest any Scottish influences. The answer may be in the man who extended the

course from its original nine holes to 18 in 1893. Tom Dunn was a Scottish professional who would undoubtedly have taken the Fife influence on board when he saw the land he had been commissioned to mould into a golf course.

It certainly gives Bude a feeling of golf as it was intended to be played and Richard Whyman, the Head Greenkeeper, is a man suited to ensuring the best interests of the great game are preserved, even when modern day pressures are brought to bear.

These have involved course amendments when the growth of the town has rendered some of the holes dangerous as well as dealing with the intermittent bouts of mindless vandalism.

"We are on an extremely small site, only about 100 acres, and our safety margins are very narrow," explained Richard.

Beautiful Bude

"The only safe way is to play to the middle the whole time but when you get a big gust of wind the balls fly," he added, and a hour later when walking the course you discover that wind is not in short supply.

But like many courses of an earlier vintage - it celebrated its centenary in 1991 - it doesn't rely on length to protect its dignity.

"There are plenty of blind shots. The 14th comes to mind with a blind tee shot and a blind second and it's only 320 yards. The greens can be tough as well with sever slopes which means you've got to take care to get the ball on the right side of the hole."

The increased need to consider safety has affected the course however and one hole that suffered from the need to play within the margins

was the 18th, a superb finishing hole of 540 yards, which got the juices running when a good card was all but in and signed.

"You really had to get the tee shot over the burn and then you'd be home and dry but houses came into play and balls would drift over," explained Richard, who has been at Bude for 14 years.

As a result the hole was altered as was another, a short driveable par-4 which offered up dreams of birdies and eagles but nightmares of 8s if the tee shot landed on the road.

"We had to close it because we couldn't get insurance cover for the hole. You'd hit a tee shot when it was clear but by the time the ball came down there would be cars going along the road and in danger."

The other problem brought about by the growth of the popular surfing centre has been the vandalism.

"It comes in phases. We can have a period without any, and then a spate when we'll have a problem.

They usually start ripping up the greens around the hole because it's a weak area," revealed Richard, who prior to arriving at Bude worked at Saunton - a course, he still regards very highly, and Lee-on-the-Solent, where he played golf with a 14 year-old Steven Richardson

"They just dig away with the flag and there is obviously a lot of effort involved. They also dig out the cup and chuck it away. Another of their favourite tricks is to get hold of the top of the flag stick and bend it down as far as it will go which will force the bottom of the cup up through the surface."

The club get through at least a set of flag pins a year and it has meant Richard and his two full time and one part-time staff showing ingenuity when it comes to cutting costs.

"We make our own tee markers as we get through about 72 of them a year. We use down pipe, filled with concrete, put nails in and paint them.

Below: Richard with the rest of the team



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