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Great praise for Honorary award

My reason for writing to you is two fold. Firstly, I would like to congratulate Mr Jim Arthur on his award of Honorary Membership of BIGGA. For some of us the name of Mr Jim Arthur is British and international golf greenkeeping and as such this is a most fitting award.

Secondly, I would like to thank the association for giving this award.

During my time in greenkeeping I have noted on many occasions that either verbally in discussions with or when I have read interviews with some of our most respected Course Managers, they would be very strong in their praise and respect for Mr Arthur. This respect I believe comes from their many years working with Mr Arthur and watching their courses improve under his guidance.

We, as an industry, are very fortunate and owe a huge debt to Mr Arthur for writing his book for all of us to study and benefit from. Now with this award, I hope we will have many opportunities to discuss greenkeeping for many years to come with the man in person.

Gordon Irvine MG,
Mill Ride GC

Experience of a lifetime in Canada

Gordon and I have just returned from Ottawa. Because we made so many friends at the CGSA in Toronto last year, we were determined to return and renew our friendships. Now, we are equally determined to visit Vancouver in 2001. I shall start saving up now because for me the trip is well worth it.

The ladies' programme is an extremely good way to meet people and at the same time enjoy new experiences. They are a great bunch of people who make you feel very welcome. If you have the opportunity try to get on the trip with your partner. I am told that the education programme was excellent and would be very good for UK greenkeepers, largely due to the fact that the Canadian Superintendents are working with the same cool climate grasses as we do. As for Vancouver, I'm told it's a very beautiful place and quite spectacular, definitely an extremely popular venue with all the regulars from around Canada and America, and now the Swedish. The dates are February 24-27, 2001.

Marion Child,
Churston

Environmental: Not eco-warriors

With regards to the Environmental Summit at Valderrama and the world attention in general on green issues, I believe we, the golf industry, are at the centre of what is a very important and emotive subject.

It is generally accepted that controls over chemical usage are being tightened and will continue to be so, therefore one must accept a need to use other means. An environmental approach is an avenue that may serve all parties; by encouraging wildlife which in turn can be incorporated into an integrated pest management programme and so be seen to be doing the right thing.

However, management of this style

does come at a cost, and with budgets becoming ever tighter, environmental issues seem to be placed well down the list of priorities. The general planning and carrying out of such actions are left to enthusiastic individuals who use their own time and efforts to achieve results. This situation must change for us to go forward.

For these changes to become mainstream, we have to embrace a wider environmental educational programme, not just for greenkeepers, but for the golf watching public. The media are quick to show the negative side of golf courses, maybe this can now be turned around and golf seen in its true light.

We can, and should, embrace a more environmental approach and not think of it as long haired hippie types, in open-toed sandals, waving peace banners, but as a sound practical tool that can be used to great effect. Whether we like it or not, things are changing environmentally and we have to adapt to the challenge.

There are many programmes on TV about wildlife, but how many feature a golf course? Perhaps the powers that be would like to redress the balance.

Well who knows?

Simon Coles, Greenkeeper,
The Kendleshire Bristol

New Canadian friend offers BTME thanks

I can't express my thanks for the hospitality that was extended to Dean Piller and myself at BTME 2000 in Harrogate. It was truly an unforgettable experience. The Conference itself was educational and professionally managed in its entirety. The BIGGA Staff could not have been more accommodating, and the genuine friendliness of all the BIGGA members, both Superintendents and industry personnel, was overwhelming.

The invitations to all your social activities really made me feel like an

honoured guest. The wind up banquet could not have been more fun (what a party). When I returned home I could not believe the collection of business cards that I had from many European countries. Truly your conference is an international event. I will tell everyone to find a way to make the trip to participate in future BTME's. The value this experience gave me will help guide me through the next three years of service with the CGSA.

I look forward to seeing the many

new friends I made and please extend my thanks to the rest of the BIGGA staff for looking after me. In closing, I would just like to say how optimistic I am about the challenges that face our associations and its members when we discuss things together and the direct result of the trip for me is that the world has become a much smaller and friendlier place.

Jay Leach, Secretary/Treasurer,
Canadian Golf Superintendents
Association

Icy solution to winter greens damage

I have just glanced through this month's edition of Greenkeeper International and saw Peter Broadbent's letter regarding spike problems. I wrote to him direct and included details about myself that may have been of interest to him. Below is my answer to his query.

Playing in frosty conditions is an emotive issue, but I never found any damage of green surfaces which were frozen hard, that could be attributed solely to such play. Although blackening of turf was noticeable on semi rough, fairways and tees etc I very rarely found any such marks on green surfaces. It is my view that as golfers walked on spikes and the surface was usually hard, their shoes stayed clear of the closely mown sward of a green. I never mowed higher than 3/16" (5 mm) I could never see the point. However the sward on a fairway for instance, is mown at 1/2" (12 mm) or more. A golf shoe therefore does come into contact with individual grass blades, thereby causing bruising damage, which is manifested as blackening.

I have also noticed the phenomenon of rapid (sometimes within 2 or 3 steps) build up of slushy frost and

ice on golfers shoes. Especially one morning last winter, whilst playing in the winter league at Willesley Park GC. I noticed the build up of ice on my shoe studs and I had to tap my shoes regularly to remove it. On reaching the green I was horrified to notice large stud sized holes and immediately realised what was causing them. By this time however it was past nine o'clock and a large number of golfers had already gone out. To suspend play now would be pointless as; 1 The damage had already been done. 2 It would mean contacting all the golfers on the course and asking them to stop play. 3 I could imagine the outcry, as most golfers resent any interruption to their game and rarely understand the reasons you give for such a request. 4 As the phenomenon would only be short lived, would it be a lot of effort for very little gain.

I also noticed that it only seemed to happen when the frost was not severe: - the temperature was hovering at, or just below, freezing point. This could be because of (*see note) water's unique property of expanding (or becoming less dense) between 4 and 0 degrees centigrade. Therefore it has far more bulk than would other-

wise be the case and builds up rapidly on golfers' shoes. As you mention it forms a lump of soft ice on each stud, and, unless golfers remove all traces of it, before walking on the golf green, it can, as you say, cause severe damage.

It is worth noting that the slush can still form on studs whilst on the green. In my experience it seemed to form readily on metal studs and I cannot think of a reason for it to form more readily on plastic studs. Unless of course it is linked to the fact that plastic is not as good a conductor of heat as metal. This could mean that the warmer plastic initially adds to the thawing of the frost.

P.N.Bettenshaw

(*Note) As far as I know, water is the only liquid that has such properties. All other liquids become denser until finally solidifying at their respective freezing points. The only other exception to this rule is Helium, which only liquifies at 4.2 degrees Kelvin (-269 degrees Centigrade). It never solidifies even at absolute zero, unless subjected to high pressure, i.e. 25 atmospheres.

Erosion issue questioned

I am surely not alone in questioning the dogmatic forecasts of impending doom on our links courses as expressed at the St Andrews' Conference 'On course for Change,' let alone statements which are debatable, such as that sea levels around our coasts have risen 15-20 cm in the past twenty years ie; less than one centimetre per year. I am sure that someone will tell us how such minute rises are measured – on the same lines as greenkeepers stating that they set their height of cut in terms of fractions of a millimetre!! Even in these computerised days, how can they measure such microscopic differences?

One thing is certain – that such pessimistic forecasts that climatic changes will destroy our famous links are made by "experts" on weather who know nothing about golf and less about coastal protection. No one denies that there are changes in weather patterns but there always have been for centuries. Prophets of doom and gloom all throughout the ages have virtually always been confounded by events. At regular intervals over the past 200 years we have been told that there will be mass starvation as this earth of ours cannot produce enough food to feed exploding populations. Yet, today, the problems are all to do with distribution and very little to do with production. Whatever happened to the millennium bug?

The most sensible comment on weather changes was made to me by a senior officer at the Met office who said that we were dealing with imponderables and that rash forecasts of disaster based on straight line graphs were certain to be proved wrong by events.

Coastal erosion, by wind as well as waves, has been going on for centuries as for example at Dunwich in Suffolk where no less than eight churches lie beneath the advancing sea – the first going back to 800 AD and clearly that had nothing to do with global warming.

Virtually all coastal erosion is due to man's activities, varying from destabilisation of dunes by pedestrian traffic and scrambler bikes, to off-shore or estuarine dredging, the construction of long jetties; uncoordinated defence schemes (which merely transfer the problem along the coast) and to altering the course of rivers. Global warming simply does not enter the equation.

It is simply not true to say that properly planned and comprehensive protection schemes are ineffective, though gales breach them. As someone who has been involved in such golf links schemes for over thirty years, I am the first to admit that in

some cases I had to say that there was no answer, eg; where a huge jetty had been built 20 miles away so altering the set of the tides that little could be done to save the sand, while in other cases the astronomical expense of a fully comprehensive scheme ruled it out, but in the main most schemes have worked well – especially where pedestrians have been banned.

One statement that our famous links will inevitably lose holes and have to migrate inland is demonstrably utter nonsense! In many cases there is nowhere to go. Furthermore our links courses have stabilised the dunes – and where this has not occurred, fairways have been buried in wind-blown sand. Talk of courses migrating inland as new dune structures cover the old are fiction, because not only would the courses be covered but also agricultural land and even housing.

Nearly all the evidence produced by these experts is capable of different interpretations is nothing new and will be contradicted by events. Almost always, unforeseen inter-related balancing influences reduce extreme effects.

Congratulations are due to those practical men who observe the effects of wind and tide and devise schemes which trap blowing sand or stop it being washed away and which work despite the scarcely concealed derision of the boffins. Admittedly, such schemes have to be planned on a broad scale and need regular attention but they work. The biggest worry is the sheer cost, though chestnut paling is far better than gabions in many cases and vastly cheaper. Here's a toast to such eminently practical stalwarts as George Brown at Turnberry and Cyril Sutherland at Brancaster whose effective measures have harnessed those very elements which threaten their courses. I have always valued the ideas of practical men and experts should do the same instead of dismissing them as amateurs. They should remember the first precept of problem solving namely correct observation, followed by correct deduction.

Many are good at the first but hopeless at the second. Of course we must note what is going on but the doom and gloom brigade need to accept that nature is a very tough and resilient old bird and can be constructive as well as destructive. I speak from a lifetime of working as a team with practical men on the ground as well as learned academics, some of whom were man enough to go round with me and admit that an ounce of practice is worth a ton of theory!

J.H Arthur, Budleigh Salterton
East Devon

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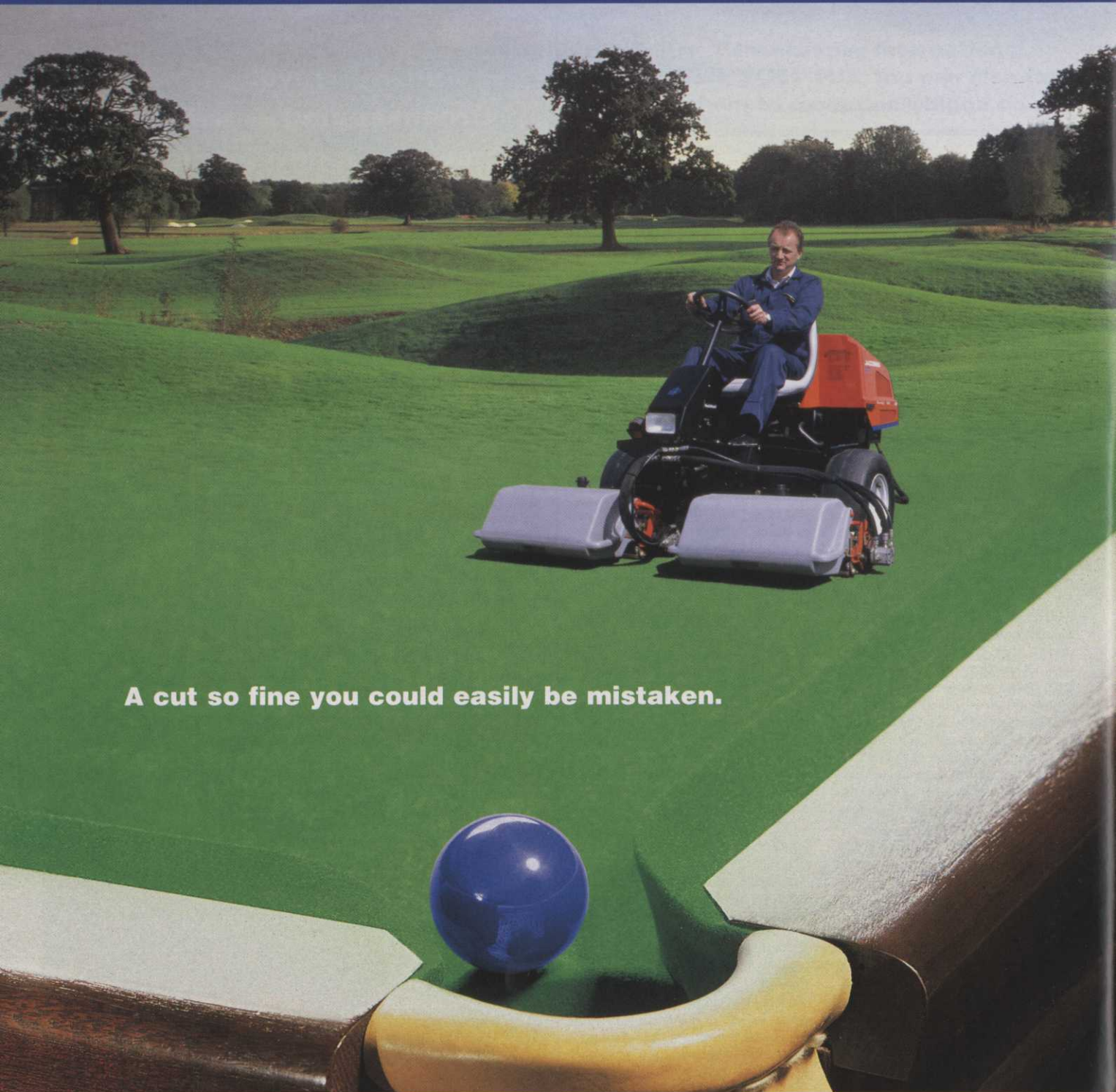
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RANSOMES JACOBSEN CUSHMAN RYAN E-Z-GO ISEKI

Heather Mackinnon is Head Groundsman at Murrayfield in Edinburgh, the home of the Scottish Rugby Union. Here in this Learning Experience article she compares her work at one of the world's leading sporting arenas to that of her colleagues in the golf sector



This way that way



Above: Although the turf maintenance regimes are similar to golf, on match days, Murrayfield gets some concentrated wear and tear

The Scottish team have just finished training and are packing their bags ready to travel to Italy for their very first Six Nations Championship match. It has been rather hectic for the last few days with extra training sessions for the under 18's, under 19's, under 21's, the A squad and the National squad. It's a great challenge; never did it occur to me when I was working at Ratho Park Golf Club as a youth trainee greenkeeper that I would aspire to such a prestigious job.

When at school I detested the thought of working in offices or any form of indoor vocation. I wanted to work on turf, especially on a football ground. Unfortunately, when I left school, I could not find any opportunities in groundsmanhip but was

informed of a trainee greenkeeper position at Ratho Park Golf Club. Walking up the drive for the first time was rather daunting but it looked very impressive. The straight lines on the greens, the general presentation, I was hooked, I wanted to learn all about it and do all the operations a greenkeeper was expected to do.

I worked at the golf course for a year and found the job extremely varied and interesting. However I wanted to gain more knowledge and after making enquiries at my local college, Oatridge, I elected to go on a full time course for a National Certificate in Golf Course and Sportsground Maintenance and Management. While at Oatridge I was introduced to the Institute of Groundsmanship

through Beverly Stevens, one of my lecturers. She encouraged me to attend the local branch meetings, which is where I first met Bill Elwood, the former Head Groundsman at Murrayfield, now the Facilities Manager. It was through attending meetings and showing an interest that I was given a chance to continue my career at Murrayfield after completing my studies at Oatridge.

Working at Murrayfield I was able to compare the practices that were carried out previously at Ratho and I found them to be very similar. Demands are very similar, although the games of rugby and golf are obviously very different; the principles of management, maintenance and presentation will be equally high on both

This way
that way



Right: The immaculate playing surface at one of Scotland's premier sporting venues - Murrayfield

the Head Greenkeeper's and the Head Groundsman's agenda. Both managers will be striving to ensure that their turf is at its absolute best at certain times of the year. Perhaps for greenkeepers it revolves around the club championship or the open week and for Groundsmen it may be towards an important cup match. More often than not a rugby Groundsman's life is spent trying to produce a quality pitch in the most adverse weather conditions, due to the season in which the sport is played. At the end of the season there follows an early summer renovation period, which is not without its difficulties.

The Greenkeepers event calendar, however, mainly majors around a busy summer with renovations in the spring and autumn. The principles and practice of aeration and feeding continue for both sets of managers throughout the year, although as you would expect differences have to be allowed for, such as sward composition, pH levels, soil type and so forth.

After three years at Murrayfield I thought I needed to broaden my knowledge and gain experience in varying aspects of the industry. I have been very fortunate to work not only in maintenance of golf courses, but also in golf course construction and had the opportunity to work with some very large equipment. I was involved with the development of Elmwood College golf course and the initial maintenance of Strathmore Golf Centre. I then returned to main-

tenance with an appointment at King James VI Golf Course.

My time at Stewarts of Dalkieth was beneficial in realising the huge range of materials that are available for our industry. It also emphasised the value of communication and record keeping which is vitally important in my present role.

Murrayfield consists of 54 acres of land near the centre of Edinburgh where the climate is fairly dry compared with other parts of the country. I returned to the stadium in November last year and am enjoying the fresh set of challenges and problem solving. Since the introduction of professional contracts there has been a huge increase in the use of the training facilities, which in turn places increased demands on the staff. We regularly work many hours above a normal working week to meet the demands placed upon the ground staff.

The work schedule includes the maintenance of five rugby pitches plus an international pitch within the stadium. The outside pitches were rebuilt in 1995 using the Netlon reinforced turf system to facilitate car parking on match days or when concerts are held at the stadium. Three members of staff, including myself, maintain the pitches. The maintenance staff for the whole complex totals 14, made up of plumbers, joiners and painters.

The international pitch sits within a 67,500 all-seater stadium, which creates its own problems such as shade, airflow and humidity. As well as Rugby



Union, the pitch is to be used for the Rugby League finals, American Football and concerts. Indeed, between March and May, out of nine weekends, only two see the International pitch not being used. The variation of events requires a great deal of line marking and blanking out depending upon the fixture. Posts require erecting and removing due to the alternating games from week-to-week between League, Union and American Football. The accuracy required for marking the American football pitch will be very demanding but the final presentation of the marked out pitch, complete with logos, will make it very worthwhile.

The available machinery and equipment has recently been given a terrific boost since the recent agreement between the Scottish Rugby Union and Textron. This means that we have the latest range of equipment with modern technology and engineering at our fingertips. We have access to a full range of Textron equipment whenever we require it. The machinery we keep at Murrayfield includes a 45 BHP Iseki tractor; two 25 BHP Iseki tractors, one with a front loader. Other equipment includes a Jacobsen LF-3810; a Jacobsen Triking; a Cushman Turf-Truckster with a range of attachments; a number of E-Z-GOs; two new Ransomes Mastiffs and a range of aeration equipment. We also have a 55 BHP Renault tractor complete with turf tyres and loading bucket. We com-

plete all our own pesticide control, using a Hardi sprayer for fungicides, insecticides and herbicides.

The responsibility of the international pitch is a big challenge but I am very fortunate in having Bill Elwood, the Facilities Manager, with his vast knowledge of groundsmanship and especially Murrayfield, should I have any queries. In the run up to an international match we start preparing the pitch two weeks before by single rolling every day, using the Ransomes Mastiff mower. This operation produces a resilient surface suitable for the game of rugby. The week before the match the pitch is double rolled each day. On the day before the match the pitch is double rolled, as usual, and then all the cross markings, solid and broken lines are marked in. On the morning of the match a single roll is given across the pitch. The two touch-lines and the five and fifteen broken lines are marked in. All lines are put in using a string line to ensure accuracy. The broken lines are marked in with a board and strings. The pitch is then flagged and the posts padded and sand buckets placed out for the kickers and that completes the preparation.

Throughout the match we stay on hand to deal with any emergency that may occur. After a match there will be repairs to the pitch. This is completed immediately the match has finished so that the divots repair easier and heal quicker, which is crucial with a busy

Below: Head Groundsman, Heather Mackinnon with members of her team





fixture list. On the day after the match we will use the soil reliever onto the pitch set to a depth of 150 mm (6 inches) to ensure we do not reach the under soil heating pipes. This will aid the recovery by removing the compaction caused by the rolling.

I am very fortunate to be able to drive into work and feel a great sense of pride, to be involved with the preparation at an International stadium and view the pitch in all its glory. The continuous increase in fixtures and demands upon the pitch ensures that we cannot sit back. The pressures are

always there and we have the challenge to provide the best possible pitch for every occasion. My job as Head Groundsman to the Scottish Rugby Union, like any groundsman or greenkeeper, is extremely rewarding, though not without its pressures and difficulties.

It has taken me a couple of days to put this article together, the Scottish team are back after a defeat in Italy - I've heard it was the fault of the ball! I'm sure I have a great deal more to learn about rugby groundsmanship... and rugby players.

Below: Training plays an important role with the SRU/Textron agreement



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This month, Ken Richardson, promotes the BIGGA Essay Competition 2000, gives details on Learning Experience transcript options, and advises on 'On the job' training

EDUCATION UPDATE

BIGGA Essay Competition

The winner of the Head Greenkeeper/ Course Manager category in the BIGGA Essay Competition 1999 appears on page 63 of this magazine. This year could be your turn to win £500 and have your essay published in Greenkeeper International.

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The Manager: Trainer and Coach

Regular readers will remember that I wrote several articles during 1999 on the Management Responsibilities of Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and one area of responsibility was training. Most training that takes place on the golf course is 'on the job' with many Golf Course Managers already running training sessions for their staff and, in some cases, assessing competence on the completion of training.

What is involved in 'On the Job Training'?

The first thing to ask is What do my staff need to know? This involves the use of a technique known as a Task Analysis. This simply means breaking the job down into its component parts and may be simple or more complex depending on the job. For example, Cutting a new hole is a straightforward process which requires few decisions except where to cut the hole. On the other hand, applying fertiliser can require a number of decisions to be made eg. when, how, what, why.

There are some basic steps that you need to take when you are conducting a training session. These are:

Introduction

1. Put your staff at ease. Conduct training in comfortable surroundings (if possible). Encourage them to ask questions and take part in any discussions. Let them know that training is taking place and not assessment.
2. Tell them why the training is taking place and how your training session relates to other training sessions and other jobs.

3. Check what they know already and identify gaps in their knowledge and skills.
4. Get them interested by explaining why the training is important.
5. Show them all the new tools, equipment and materials that they will use and give them a list of 'buzz' words.

Content

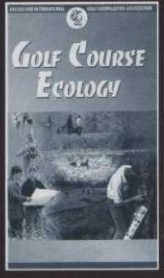
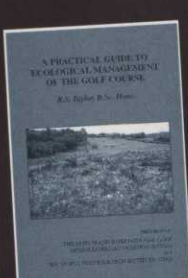
1. Show your staff how to complete the task, using the procedure that you identified in your task analysis.
2. Put all of the component parts into context and try to give your staff a mental picture of what is required.
3. Explain the critical points as you progress.
4. Keep checking that they understand.
5. Show staff how to do the first stage of the job, stressing key points as you progress.
6. Let staff practise the first stage and make sure that they can explain their actions.
7. Continue until each stage is mastered.
8. Let staff complete the whole process, giving feedback and encouragement where needed.

Conclusion

1. Summarise the whole procedure
2. Issue any notes, manuals, operating procedures
3. Point out the best method of doing the task and why
4. Review the required performance in terms of time, standards and safety requirements
5. Check if there are any questions.

If all of the above seems to be common sense then think about what can and does happen in training sessions or, far worse, in the use of untrained staff. How many of you have been told to 'Go out and cut the first three greens' when you have not been trained on the mower, do not know the height of cut, do not know what to do if players approach, have not been given health and safety brief etc? Watch out for further articles in future editions of Greenkeeper International.

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A fantastic figure of over 270 joined the Association in February. Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, would like to welcome them on behalf of the Association and highlights how YOU could be a winner!

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You will stay in one of ninety nine rooms - all with en-suite facilities, colour TV, hairdryer, trouser press, welcome beverage tray and direct dial telephones.

REMINDER - What do you have to do to win this fantastic weekend break? Just introduce at least two new members to the Association, make sure your name goes on their application form as the person who referred them and leave the rest to us!

If you would like to contact The Monkbar Hotel for details of their facilities, please contact them at St Maurice's Road, York YO3 7JA or on Tel: (01904) 638086 Fax: (01904) 629195 Email: colin.gardner@monkbar-york.freeserve.co.uk



(The weekend break is subject to availability and excludes Bank Holidays)

Good Luck!

BIGGA welcomes...

Scotland

John W Aitken, Central
Derek W Barbour, Ayrshire
James D Bone, Central
Stuart Bryceland, Central
Graham D J Burnett, East
Philip M Butler, Central
Stephen Cairns, Ayrshire
Grant Clark, North
Andrew M Donnelly, Ayrshire
Grant W Dunlop, East
Trevor Fleming, West
Russell Horne, North
John W S Houston, Ayrshire
Raymond Jackson, Ayrshire
Ian Jarvis, Central
Ian Kinley, Central
Graeme Lornie, North
Robert Lynas, East
John A Mac, Ayrshire
Michael Mann, North
Robert Marshall, Central
Keith Martin, Central
Gary McCandless, Central
Nick McKay, North
Scott W McKnight, Central
Aaron J McWilliam, Ayrshire
John Merchant, Central
Fraser Murray, East
William Nisbet, Central
Leslie D Philip, North
Will F Phipps, Central
Andrew Priestley, West
Clark D Riddick, Ayrshire
William Ritchie, West
Stephen Turner, Central
David R Watt, West
Gary Wilson, Ayrshire

Northern

Peter Adderley, North West
Ronald Ardron, Sheffield
Robert P Bayliff, North West
Damon Beverley, North West
David Bickerstaff, Cleveland
Gary M Britton, Sheffield
Lee Burton, North West
Gareth Butler, Northern
Ed J Cartor, Northern
Michael P Cavanagh, N West
James A Clinch, N West
Lee A Connell, North West
Paul A Drennan, North West
Brian Dragan, North West
Andrew Edwards, North West
Steven Feeney, North West
Carl A Flavell, Sheffield
Lee Flint, North West
Tom Foxles, North West
Joel P France, Sheffield
Lee J Garrad, Northern

Steven Gibson, North West

Nigel B Graham, Northern
Anthony J Grayson, N West
David Griffin, Northern
Jamie L Hainsworth, Northern
Richard Hankey, North West
Michael T Hannaway, N West
James Hewitson, Northern
Raymond Hewitt, North West
Darr Haine, North West
Richard Jones, North West
Paul Legg, Cleveland
Paul J Lowe, North West
Michael Malakouti, N West
Laurence G Marsden, N West
Kenneth Munro, North West
Terence W Neal, North West
James A Neve, Sheffield
Christopher J Peddie, N West
Michael Pinfield, Northern
Matthew Pooley, North West
Colin A Pringle, North East
Sid Peter Pugh, North West
George W Reid, North East
Mark A Richards, North West
Simon Robinson, North West
Tony E Robson, North East
Berry Rogers, North West
Marcus D Sewell, North West
Paul T Smith, North West
Kenneth G Smith, N Wales
James Stevens, Sheffield
John C Stone, North West
Paul S Thistleton, North West
Paul Thomas, North West
Derek Topham, Sheffield
Lee Trotter, North West
Kenneth D Weaver, N West

Midland

Steven Baldwin, BB&O
Stephen Battelbury, Mid Anglia
John Blair, Mid Anglia
Ian C Brown, East Midland
Lee Carrist, East of England
Matthew Cheshire, Midland
Paul A Clarke, East of England
Paul R Compton, Mid Anglia
Coad Daley, Mid Anglia
Matthew B Davis, Mid Anglia
Matt Donaldson, BB&O
Frederick R Finch, Mid Anglia
Wayne J Flynn, Mid Anglia
Andrew Fossitt, Mid Anglia
John C Freeman, Mid Anglia
Robert I Groves, Mid Anglia
Jonathan J Gubb, BB&O
Robert B Hester, BB&O
Dale Housden, Mid Anglia
Craig M Howard, BB&O
Dave A Hunsdon, Mid Anglia
Gary Jarvis, BB&O

James Jones, BB&O

Simon Lidgard, E of England
CG Murdoch, Mid Anglia
James Newbold, Midland
James A Newport, BB&O
David C Plicher, Midland
Andrew Pledger, Mid Anglia
David John Quinn, Mid Anglia
Alan Quarrierman, Midland
Tony Stephens, BB&O
Ian R Stewart, BB&O
Richard Stockfield, BB&O
Robert J Taylor, Midland
Geoffrey Turton, Mid Anglia
Richard C Wallis, BB&O
Garrett S Watkin, E of England

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Graham G Arnold, Surrey
Glen R Arnold, London
Stephen Austin, Surrey
Simon J Bates, Kent
Matthew J Berry, Surrey
Terry A Brown, Surrey
Michael Buck, East Anglia
Steve M Buckley, Surrey
Kevin Bulman, Surrey
Terry Cash, Surrey
Jarrod H Cohen, London
David Cox, Surrey
David Dalton, Kent
Andrew Darwell, Essex
Rodney E Deves, Surrey
Luke Dormer, London
Derek Foreman, Surrey
Paul Giles, London
Paul Gordon, London
David P Hailes, Surrey
Neil Hains, Surrey
Ian Howell, Surrey
Bradley J Hudson, London
Liam A Hughes, London
Philip E Jerry, Surrey
Neil Lambourne, London
Geoffrey D Lewis, Essex
Benjamin J MacLeod, Surrey
Sam Mazurek, London
Scott Mitchell, Surrey
Matthew J Mead, Surrey
Derek J Mitchell, Sussex
George Morley, Sussex
Graham A Norris, Surrey
Steve J Patchinsky, London
Daniel S Pelling, Surrey
Jay Richards, Surrey
Peter C Snell, Surrey
Darren Stone, London
Anthony D Taylor, London
Jonathan R Thompson, Kent
Stephen Thompson, Kent
Julian V Thorpe, Sussex
Daniel Watt, London

Stephen Weir, Surrey

Christopher G Wright, Essex
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SJ Bradley, Devon & Cornwall
James A Brown, South Wales
Richard C Cartwright, S West
Nigel Dart, Devon & Cornwall
Ben E Davies, South West
Mark L Davies, South Coast
Jason Dement, South Coast
Robert C Dixon, South West
Mark I Eggbeer, South Coast
Ian Fisher, South West
Adrian D Hicks, South West
Cerrith O Jones, South Wales
Darren Jones, South Coast
Jody Kitchin, South West
Robert A Lane, South West
Ian Langston, South Coast
Chris Lawford, South Coast
Ben J Lock, South West
Rhys D Morgan, South Wales
Nicholas M Nargrove, S West
Philip North, Devon & Cornwall
Colin Palfrey, South Wales
Steffan Palfrey, South Wales
David Roberts, South West
Dean A Roberts, South West
Wayne Scurlcock, South Wales
Steven A Shutter, South Coast
William Smith, Devon & Cornwall
Gary J Taylor, South Coast
Mark S Thistleton, S Coast
Steven C Thomas, S Wales
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James M Wade, South West
Michael Watts, South Coast
Jamie Wilkins, South West
Mark L Withner, South Wales

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Timothy D Debel, USA
Dean Greenes, USA
Dick Gray, USA
David L Johnson, USA
Patrick S Krikacemnitia, USA
Patrick Sisk, USA
Bruce Williams, USA
Gerry Conway, Canada
Daniel P Okholm, Canada
Robert Stanic, Australia

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Jonathan Kitchen, Midland

James Towner, Midland

Paul David Thornton, Midland
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Andrew Brown, South Coast
Matthew Greay, South West
Antar Hayes, South Coast
David Rogers, South West
Martin Townsend, South West

Republic of Ireland

John Cribbin,
Mike Francis (Sean) Faherty,
Patrick Finbar Hayes,

Check out May's edition for March's new members!



Trevor Downing of J Rothschild Assurance examines progressive unit trusts

Progressive trust hits top spot!

Launched ten years ago, the St James's Place UK & General Progressive Unit Trust has provided investors with consistent, above-average long-term performance and is ranked first out of 151 similar funds over the ten year period to 1 October 1999. An investment made at the launch of the fund would have shown an exceptional return of more than five times the initial sum invested.

The table (right) illustrates the return from investing £10,000 on 2 October 1989 (launch of the fund) compared with the average UK savings account. The sum of £10,000 has been inflated in the first column to reflect movement in the Retail Price Index (RPI) over the period.

Not only has the fund achieved outstanding performance over the ten year period, out-performing the relevant sector average by more than double, but it is also ranked in the top quartile of all similar funds over the one, three and five year periods to 1 October 1999.

The fund aims to maximise returns,

comprising of both income and capital appreciation by investing principally, but not exclusively in the United Kingdom. The manager of the fund, Taube Hodson Stonex Partners Ltd (THSP) operate a thematic approach to investment. Put simply, this means that whilst stock markets in individual countries are often efficiently priced, significant valuation anomalies continue to exist between comparable companies quoted on different stock markets. With ever cheaper and better communications, these anomalies will increasingly come into focus.

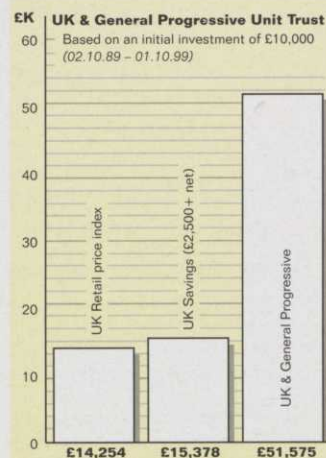
Cable & Wireless is a stock which fits in with the manager's telecommunications theme which they apply on a global basis. Cable & Wireless is the biggest cable company in the UK and the second biggest telephone company (incorporating Mercury). With the onset of digital television and a variety of options available through fibre optic cables, the market is strong for cable

companies and relevant stocks, such as Cable & Wireless, have done well and are expected to do better still.

Another current theme is media stocks, with companies in the portfolio including Hit Entertainment, which produces children's TV programmes such as 'Bob The Builder' and related merchandise, BskyB which is at the forefront of digital technology and Eidos which is responsible for the highly successful 'Tomb Raider' computer games featuring 'Lara Croft'. The managers feel that entertainment, and particularly the Internet, is one of the few areas world-wide where consumers are spending more of their disposable income.

The UK & General Progressive Unit Trust is also available within the St James's Place Individual Savings Account and to those investors wishing to transfer accrued General PEP holdings to the St James's Place Unit Trust Group.

If you would like more information or advice relating to this or any other investment matter, please contact Trevor Downing on 01959 500427.



Representing only the J. Rothschild Assurance Marketing Group (members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and/or IMRO) which takes responsibility for its representatives only in respect of advice given on, and the sale of, life assurance, pensions and unit trust products of members of the Marketing Group.

Sources: Standard and Poors Microfund, offer to bid, net income reinvested to October 1, 1999. Note the five year equivalent performance figures are £11,462 (RPI adjusted figures), £11,421 (UK Savings) and £20,437 (UK & General Progressive). The value of units may go down as well as up. This performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.