



Best quality,
best service,
best seed.
Best talk to
Advanta.

The highly acclaimed MM sports turf mixtures and the Designer landscaping range are the flagship amenity brands from Advanta Seeds UK. The same high quality seed, proven cultivars and technical 'know-how' all remain unchanged to ensure unbeatable performance in the field. For the best known seed - best talk to Advanta.



Advanta Seeds UK, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 7HA
Tel : 01529 304511 Fax : 01529 303908
e-mail : amenity@advantaseeds.co.uk

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

Committed to Green and Valderrama Declaration

I was disappointed to see last month's articles by Neil Thomas and Gordon Child, which gave a very distorted picture of the Committed to Green programme and in particular the golf-environment summit held at Valderrama last November. The event had originally been planned as a joint meeting between the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee and the ecology officers of the different national golf federations here in Europe, along with a number of other researchers and specialists. The main purpose was to review progress on both sides of the Atlantic in terms of environmental research and application programmes (such as Committed to Green and the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program), to discuss technical aspects of biodiversity conservation, watershed management and recognition systems, and to look at future initiatives.

As the summit programme came together we also found we had the opportunity to bring together the top officials from the golf authorities and from the major environmental bodies. This led to the idea of producing the Valderrama Declaration, a statement on golf, the environment and sustainability, which could be jointly signed by these key organisations.

On the day we had the Presidents of the USGA and EGA, the Secretary of the R&A along with the Director Generals of the World Wide Fund for Nature International and European Commission Environment Directorate. Supporting statements were sent by the International Olympic Committee

and United Nations Environment Programme. You do not often have the chance to get such a gathering in one place, and it was a unique opportunity not to be missed.

All parties shared a common platform, spoke of the importance of the golf-environment relationship and the need for a positive, collaborative way forward. The signing of the Declaration demonstrates that the golf authorities recognise the importance of environment in the development and management of golf, and likewise that the environmental authorities accept that golf is a serious player in the field of sustainability and environmental stewardship. That is a remarkable coalition of support for what we are doing and it represents a major step forward for golf and for all those working in this field.

We fully appreciated the need for greenkeeping organisations to be represented at the summit and we went to considerable effort to ensure that there were two FEGGA delegates in attendance, as there were also from the GCSAA. The next step was to invite other interested organisations to offer their support and endorsement of the Valderrama Declaration, to give it further weight and momentum.

The declaration makes five essential points: (i) golf is intimately associated with nature; (ii) the growth of the modern game has exposed golf to a wide range of environmental challenges, (iii) the popular appeal of golf gives it scope to be a major force for promoting environmental care; (iv) the golf authorities recognise the importance of environmental issues

and have already been doing much work in scientific research, education and conservation programmes; and (v) golf is committed to continuing its efforts in this field through specific, tangible programmes" i.e. Audubon and Committed to Green.

The Declaration places the traditional values of golf and respect for its natural heritage firmly to the fore. There is nothing here which I can see being objectionable to greenkeepers anywhere. It is certainly not American-biased, nor was the summit, and to suggest otherwise is a gross distortion.

This is doubly unfortunate as we risk taking our eye off the real ball, when we have so much in common. The new Committed to Green Foundation shares many of the goals of the greenkeeping profession and we are certainly keen to work more closely together. I ask FEGGA and its constituent organisations to look again at the Valderrama Declaration, to consider how we can cooperate on the Committed to Green programme, and to add their support to this positive and constructive initiative.

Despite these current problems and misunderstandings I am glad to note that Greenkeeper International wishes to open a running debate on Committed to Green and environmental issues generally. Together, I am sure we can work towards a more positive understanding and achieve mutual goals.

**David Stubbs, Executive Director
 Committed to Green Foundation**

Committed to Green: Lack of interest?

I write in response to the comments made with regard to the apparent lack of greenkeeping interest shown by the Committed to Green foundation in Greenkeeper International - January edition.

I am sure that everyone expressing an interest in golf will widely accept that the concept of Committed to Green, i.e. to provide a platform and standard for European Golf Clubs to demonstrate objectively their environmental performance, is to be commended.

The Committed to Green initiative, once fully operational, will provide a very positive way in which individual clubs and the golfing industry can show true environmental commitment. Given this, it is essential that we all work to the same end, this will involve a sharing of information, of problems, practical difficulties and solutions.

There is clearly a need for greater greenkeeper representation throughout the development stages of Committed to Green. To date greenkeeping interests have largely been covered by two European representatives on the Technical Working Panel, both have greenkeeping experience, and by myself and Jonathan Smith, who, when working closely with greenkeepers on a day-to-day basis do ensure that the greenkeeping interests are being considered. I did, prior to the Valderrama summit, stress to BIGGA that I would highlight the deficiencies and make the Panel aware of the need to give greater reference to the greenkeeping body. This I did and was applauded for it by Ron Dobson, of the USGA Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programme. The Federation of European Golf Greenkeeping Associations (FEGGA)

were also represented at the summit part of their role must surely be to pass information back down to ground level.

Now that the foundation and infrastructure of Committed to Green have been put into place, it is time to consider practical issues and in particular practical solutions to a number of difficult problems. Grass clippings and grass waste disposal springs to mind and this was a case I made clear at the Valderrama summit. The newly formed Committed to Green Foundation will I hope offer a new opportunity to which greater greenkeeping representation can be built in and I do hope that personalities aside, we can all work together to promote what must be a very positive step forward for the European Golfing Industry.

**Robert S. Taylor, B.Sc. (Hons),
 MBPR, Senior Ecologist, STRI**

FEGGA's key role

Having recently received a copy of the January edition of Greenkeeper International, I must say how disappointed I was with the reporting of the recent Valderrama and FEGGA Conferences, and the implications of this on the future involvement of golf in environmental management.

The Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group contributed to both Conferences which were equally constructive in different ways. The Valderrama Conference established Committed to Green as the most influential and important tool that golf in Europe has as a means of pulling together and disseminating its environmental concern.

At the FEGGA Conference there was a great deal of support for the principles of Committed to Green, and an endorsement of how it can be broken down to Clubs and made achievable through national projects such as our own. Indeed there was a more positive reaction to Committed to Green from the delegates than either of the articles suggested.

Obviously there are some issues to be ironed out, but I think this can be achieved if FEGGA get the correct representation on the new Committed to Green Foundation. FEGGA are a vital body in this because they can coordinate the communication with national Greenkeeping Associations and ultimately help unlock much interest and enthusiasm from greenkeepers. At present it is through FEGGA that the various national Greenkeeper Associations have their voice on the Committed to Green Foundation. FEGGA have been represented on the former European Golf Association Ecology Unit for some time. It is up to FEGGA to demonstrate that they have the ability to carry out their projected role of coordinator and disseminator of information to national Greenkeeper Associations.

I suppose there may well have been some opportunities missed in terms of maximising the effectiveness of debate with national Greenkeeper Associations, but these are things which can be discussed and put right. The key issue is that FEGGA have had representation. I question whether such strong terms as those used are the best way to progress, particularly when such strong terms could undermine the positive situation that many people,

including greenkeepers, have worked hard to establish.

These comments take us back to a period of suspicion and mistrust which distract us from the greenkeeping profession's substantial efforts to learn and adapt to environmental issues.

With regard to the current level of advice available within the golfing sector, golf is in a stronger position as a result of having its own, internal advisers, who without exception are finding a huge amount of enthusiasm from Clubs, Local Authorities and Greenkeepers. However, it should not be assumed that this limited resource is sufficient to allow golf to become inward looking in relation to the environment. One of the most important things golf can continue to do in the future is maintain discussion with environmental groups at European, National and Local level to ensure all good work receives recognition. Indeed, a key strength of our Scottish Initiative is that we have widespread support and contact from across the golfing and environmental sectors, including funding from the Scottish Golf Union, R&A, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Greenbelt Foundation. This is proving to be an excellent platform for constructive dialogue, which includes input from greenkeeping organisations and greenkeepers. Such positive debate is benefiting clubs when they approach environmental organisations locally.

No doubt the outgoing Chairman of BIGGA wanted to leave an impression and stimulate thought, but it is perhaps unfortunate that in so doing he has partly undermined BIGGA's, a large number of greenkeeper's and many others excellent work relating to the environment. I only hope that greenkeepers throughout the country appreciate that their efforts are well valued, and increasingly recognised by the environmental sector, and that the best thing they can do is to continue to seek advice, learn about the environment, increase their understanding, plan their ideas and then take action. This will ensure that golf continues to command respect as one of the UK's most enlightened and environmentally sound land-uses.

Jonathan Smith
Senior Golf Course Adviser
Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group

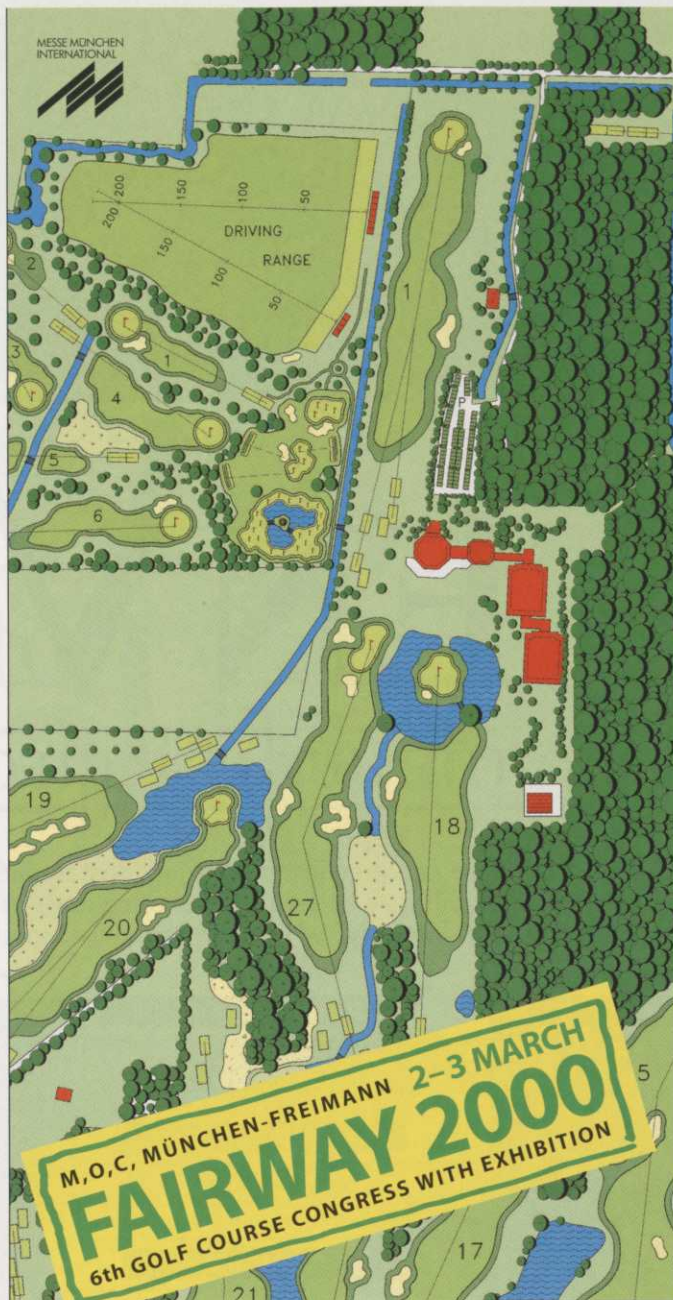
Praise for BTME2000

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in making my week at both the education conference and BTME such a memorable one. With the invaluable sponsorship from Textron and the hard work from both the BIGGA staff and the speakers it is easy to see how the week seems to get better and better every year, long may it continue! On a personal note may I thank Frank Newberry and Brin Bendon for a superb two day workshop and an excellent careers clinic. Anyone

who has not attended any of Frank and Brin's workshops have missed out on a great opportunity to develop themselves into modern managers. It is easy to see why Frank and Brin are leaders in their field as their enthusiasm in moulding us into modern managers made the workshop an unforgettable two days.

Once again many thanks, here's to 2001.
Alex McCombie, Deputy Course Manager, Parkstone Golf Club

Via email



FAIRWAY is the golf sector's most important meeting place in continental Europe. It is the decisive address for golf course planners, operators, managers, initiators and greenkeepers.

VENUE
M.O.C.
Lilienthalallee 40
D-80939 München-Freimann

ORGANISER
Messe München GmbH

INFORMATION
Pattern Ltd., London House
243-253 Lower Mortlake Road
Richmond/Surrey TW9 2LL
Tel. (0208) 940 4625
Fax (0208) 948 1442
2000@pattern.prestel.co.uk

Pattern (Ireland)
"Hawkhurst", Kenaughty
Point Road, Ardara
Co. Donegal, Ireland
Tel./Fax (075) 41741



M.O.C.
München-Freimann



Above; Turf quickly established by incorporating ENVIGRO into the soil/root zone prior to turving

ENVIGRO™

THE HUMUS RICH ORGANIC FERTILISER

ENVIGRO is the new organic fertiliser produced by the rapid composting of nitrogen-rich manures and other organic materials. ENVIGRO can be used when seeding areas of very poor soil such as shale, and sand, so avoiding the need to bring in topsoil. A fine grade of Envigro is produced specifically for use on established turf on professional sports grounds.

IDEAL FOR

INCREASING THE FERTILITY OF ROOT ZONES AND TOP DRESSINGS IF REQUIRED

A TYPICAL ANALYSIS

N-3.5%	P-2.1%	K-3.4%
ORGANIC MATTER 95%		

TRACE ELEMENTS (PPM)

OCCURRING NATURALLY				
Mg-140	Zn-175	Mo-1.5	B-8.0	Cu-80

MICROBIAL CONTENT

VERY LARGE NUMBERS OF MICRO-ORGANISMS ARE PRESENT (MORE THAN 1,000,000,000 PER GM OF FERTILISER)
--

ADVANTAGES OF ENVIGRO

High humus, good water retention, no artificial chemicals, high microbial content, need only apply every 6 months, free-flowing, slow release, easy to use, available in various screen sizes, fantastic value.



"ENVIGRO made a difference within weeks - and the difference has lasted."
 Phil Siddle, Head Greenkeeper
 Rossendale Golf Club

GROWING TRIALS PROVE THAT TURF TREATED WITH ENVIGRO OUTPERFORMS THE REST

ENVIGRO™

THE HUMUS RICH ORGANIC FERTILISER

ENVIGRO will put life back into the soil through the naturally occurring fungi and bacteria it contains

For use in the construction, re-instatement and maintenance of tees, greens surrounds, approaches and fairways. Can also be used for any problem areas suffering from overplay, compaction or poor soil conditions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL FREEPHONE

**0800
731383**

AND SEE THE RESULTS
IN 2 WEEKS

Caversham Heath Golf Club is a new venture that is being developed on 250 acres of the Mapledurham Estate near Reading in Berkshire. Robert Clive, General Manager, and Jon Scoones, Head Greenkeeper, provide an insight into the construction of the course from the design phase through the growing-in period to completion and final preparation prior to opening in spring 2000.



From design to play



Bunkers at the turn of the dogleg on the par 5, 4th hole with the green in the distance. Note the mature woodland to the right of the fairway

Once outline planning permission had been granted to build a golf course, practice facilities and a large Clubhouse, Mapledurham Estate set about creating their long wished for golf course on 250 acres of land. The site had previously been arable farmland with ancient woodland located centrally and around the borders.

The Estates' first decision was to appoint Barreldfield Golf Ltd to project manage the operation "from design to play" and beyond. David Williams was invited to design a heathland-style Championship length, quality 18-hole golf course. The topography of the area features land that is gently rolling without

being hilly or flat and therefore he had many natural features and contours to work with. The main requirements from a design viewpoint were to create a challenging course while catering for the needs of golfers of all abilities. David created a course that is 7100 yards from the Championship tees, 6500 yards from

the social and 6000 yards from the ladies. Whitnell Contracts Ltd was appointed to build the course, with the comprehensive irrigation system sub-contracted to Ocmis.

The course build started in June 1998. All the USGA greens were built and seeded in the autumn of 1998, as were all the tee complexes. The fairways, bunker surrounds, approaches and rough, which required the stone removal were all seeded early in spring 1999. When the course opens in April, the fairways and rough will have been seeded for about 13 months and the tees and greens for 20 months.

Below: Stone burying and levelling on the 14th and 15th fairway

Right: Head Greenkeeper, Jon Scoones undertaking an early cut of the double 6th/16th green



The first step of the construction process was to strip the top soil from the whole site. This involved moving in the region of 300,000 square metres of soil. Once stripped, the subsoil which had been exposed was shaped to David Williams' detailed plans. The earth moving involved construction of some 100 bunkers, 18 grass hollows and two lined lakes. The top soil that had been stripped off had all the larger stones (15mm and bigger) removed. Two methods were used, vibration screening and mechanical stone picking. This removed 4,500 tonnes of stone, but left sufficient small stones to ensure



that structure and drainage were not adversely affected. After the picked soil was returned, it was then stone buried to leave three to five inches of stone free soil on which to seed.

In tandem with the subsoil shaping and top soil stone removal, a fully comprehensive irrigation system was laid by Ocmis Irrigation. This is a fully computerised, state of the art system with over 500 rainbird sprinkler heads enabling the watering all tees, greens, approaches and fairways with the twin row system. Approximately 18 miles of piping has been laid under the course.

Although constructed on a naturally free draining soil, a 9.5 mile drainage system was laid. With the heavy recent rains, this has been fully tested and is working well. The course management are confident that it will take exceptionally heavy rains to enforce a course closure.

Jon Scoones, Head Greenkeeper, takes up the story:

The first major task on the course was to establish the sward on the greens. When I arrived in March 1999, the greens had been rolled three or four times and had just received their first cut. The greens had suffered from lack of nutrition and Damping Off had been present in some of them, so these we sprayed with a contact fungicide and overseeded at 5gm with Bent and Fescue before building nutrition levels up to

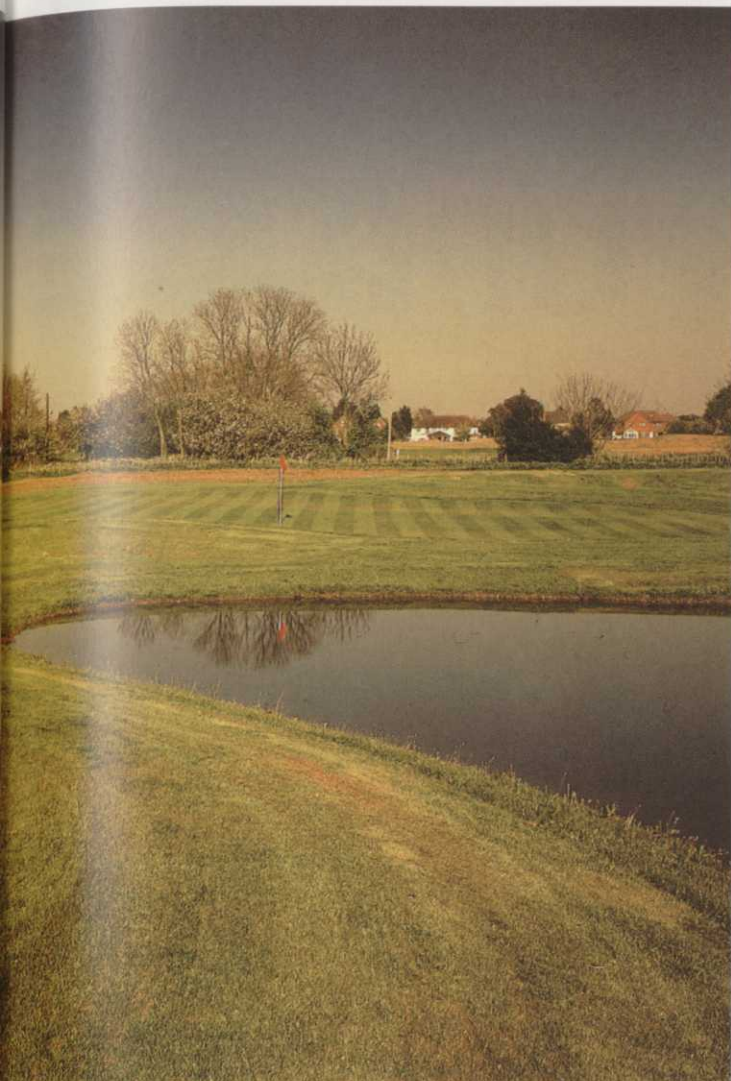
an acceptable amount. This quickly established sward density as well as promoting root growth deep into the rootzone.

The tees were in a similar condition to the greens and the fairways and semi were still being stone buried and prepared for seeding.

The next decision that had to be taken was the selection of the machinery required for the upkeep and maintenance of the course. We chose the local Textron dealers TH White Ltd as our major supplier and with the help of their Sales Manager Alun Wright and Paul Wright of Barreldfield, we specified the machinery that would be best suited to the course. At the time the only equipment we had were an Iséki 538 tractor, 2 Hayter Harrier pedestrian rotary mowers and an Allett Gazelle cylinder mower used for cutting greens. We decided on two Ransomes AR250s to mow fairways and semi-rough with the idea that the mulching decks would help to thicken the sward as well as building up a fibre layer over stony soil. This worked exceptionally well and we quickly established an excellent covering.

For the greens we chose three Greens Super 50 pedestrian greens mowers as well as having two G-Plex II's - one for the greens, one for the tees. When the machines were demonstrated to us I found them very easy to work on, especially the





G-Plex's with the swing out middle unit. We also purchased an Iseki SF300 compact out-front rotary with flail attachment, a 4 wheel Cushman Turf-Truckster with a Hardi Boss Sprayer, a Jacobsen topdresser, one Jacobsen Sand Scorpion electric bunker rake, an MF1020 compact tractor with front loader and grab plus one Ransomes Marquis cylinder mower.

By May the earlier seeded areas were starting to establish rapidly and were being topped with AR250's at a height of 50mm.

We appointed Trevor Humphrey as Deputy Head Greenkeeper and Peter McFadden as First Assistant and took on two trainees. We also kept on two experienced Whitnells staff to help with the extensive mowing required in June and July.

The fairways were shaped out during August when the growth slowed down and we were able to bring the height of cut down to 20mm leaving semi-rough at 50mm. The shaping of the fairways was determined by a number of factors; firstly the architect had his design, which we kept to religiously, only altering it to marry in with the semi-rough around bunkers and surrounds, while at the same time fitting in with the irrigation coverage.

By September the height of cut had been brought down to 18mm with semi-rough and surrounds at 40mm.

Winter was soon upon us and we concentrated our work on adding to the 1000m of paths that were put in initially by the contractors.

We have a four year wood management programme which started this winter; this includes taking out many dead elm trees as well as scrub clearance in the ancient woodland.

Through autumn and winter, phase 2 of planting progressed with more gorse, mature hardwood trees and shrubs going in, taking total planting to in excess of 60,000.

The philosophy behind the club from the very start has been "quality". The course has been designed and built to the highest standards. The same can be said for the clubhouse that is due for completion in March. It is a magnificent building that blends with the surrounding countryside and is located to maximise the wonderful views over the golf course and surrounding woods and farmland.

Naturally, putting such an emphasis on quality doesn't come cheap and there has been considerable capital outlay in the lead up to the spring opening. The members that have joined the club and who will join the club do so because they have seen that the quality of site, design, build and maintenance on the course and clubhouse are of the very highest standards. Corners have not been cut, we have been patient and it shows.

total irrigation solutions
by

TIS



BTLIA

*You're looking for the best
Now there's no need to guess*



**Turf Irrigation Services
(Scotland) Ltd**

01506 848494

**Mill Road Ind Est. Linlithgow Bridge
Linlithgow, West Lothian. EH49 7SF**

Email sales@turfirrigation.co.uk

This month, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, answers some commonly asked questions

EDUCATION UPDATE

UPDATE

Watch out for news of this year's TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition and TORO Student of the Year Competition in future editions of Greenkeeper International. Excellence in Greenkeeping leaflets will be delivered to all golf clubs in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland soon and Student of the Year Competition leaflets to all training providers shortly.

Thanks to the continued sponsorship of Amazone Ground Care and support from the R&A, the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition will run again this year. Full details will be sent to all golf clubs in Great Britain.

Launched at BTME, the BIGGA Essay Competition is open to entries from Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and their deputies, Assistant Greenkeepers/Students over the age of 25 and Assistant Greenkeepers/Students under the age of 25. The prize winner in each category wins £500. The theme for this year is "Managing without chemicals" (Is it possible, is it viable, is it necessary). Watch out for further details in future editions of this magazine.

The BTME 2000 presentation made by Bettina Schrickel, "Is the grass really greener on the other side?" was unfortunately omitted from the Video Order Form for BTME 2000. The presentation is available for sale, please contact BIGGA House for an updated Order Form.

Writing this article reminds me of the visit my wife and I made, to the recording of a Carol concert some three weeks before Christmas, when we had to imagine that it was 8.05 am on Christmas morning. My wife thought it ever so odd that clergymen could mislead the general public so easily.

I hope that I will not mislead you in the following notes, which I have written to answer some of the questions raised during the recent survey carried by BIGGA HQ. It would take me a very long time to answer each question individually and, as many of them ask the same or similar questions, they can easily be answered together.

Q. Is there a demo disk for Epani?

A. At the time the question was asked, a demo disk was not available.

However, if you visited BTME then you should have been able to get information from the Epani stand. If you still need further information then please contact me again.

Q. Where can I get information on training courses?

A. In this magazine, on the Internet, from colleges, from leaflets distributed by BIGGA, in the Developing Your Potential booklet, at BTME, at Scotsturf, at Weststurf, at Saltex, from your Regional Administrator.

Q. Do BIGGA run management training courses?

A. Yes. At BIGGA House during October and November and around the regions during autumn and spring. Leaflets distributed to all golf clubs in May/June.

Q. Why don't you run more specialist courses?

A. We try to run courses to meet demand but if do not attract sufficient delegates, ie. at least six, then they have to be cancelled.

Q. Why can't BIGGA feed money back to Sections to help youngsters go to college?

A. It is the responsibility of all employers to train their staff. However, BIGGA recognises that some clubs cannot afford to send their staff to training while others prefer to spend their money elsewhere.

Therefore, BIGGA launched a refund of fees scheme some two years ago, which, thanks to the Education and Development Fund, awards refunds of up to £250 per year to those members who have to pay their own fees.

Q. Does BIGGA sell a CD ROM which contains information on greenkeeping.

A. No, but we do sell Jim Arthur's book "Practical Greenkeeping".

Moreover, the National Education Conference and BTME Seminar Transcripts for 2000 are available on CD priced £25 each.

Q. How do my City and Guilds qualifications compare with N/SVQ?

A. There is no direct comparison as the pre 1990 City and Guilds qualifications were knowledge based and N/SVQs are competence (ability to do the job) based. However, a City and Guilds Phase 2 qualification with appropriate experience may be equivalent to an N/SVQ Level 2. A City and Guilds Phase 3 plus appropriate experience may be equivalent to an N/SVQ Level 3 but some people may need top up training to meet the National Standards.

Q. How many days holiday am I entitled to?

A. A minimum of 20 days paid holiday. Unfortunately, as the law currently stands, employers may include eight public holidays within this 20 days.

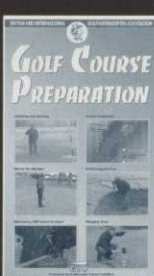
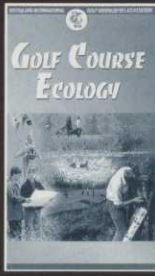
Q. Where can I get information on pesticide spraying qualifications?

A. Most colleges run pesticide training courses. BIGGA will organise courses if sufficient numbers are willing to attend (ie six delegates).

Q. What level are the current BIGGA computer courses.

A. Basic introductory level. Intermediate and advanced courses may follow as demand increases. Remember that many colleges offer Computer Literacy and Information Technology Courses (CLAIT) courses and TEC/LECS have schemes such as technology buses etc.

ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION



Golf Course

Preparation Video

£14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members

Golf Course

Reconstruction Video

£14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members

Ecology Book

£3.00 to BIGGA members
 £7.00 to non-members

Ecology Video

£14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members

Raising the Standards of Mowing

Management Video
 £14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members

Setting the Standard in Spraying

Application Video
 £14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members

THE TRUE PROFESSIONAL

For fast, easy, accurate, economical spraying of fertilisers, fungicides and weedkillers over fine turf areas, there's only one answer. The Walkover Sprayer, the true professional from Allen, designed and built in the UK.

The Allen Walkover Sprayer is right out in front for maintenance-free efficiency. Its unique pump, powered by the forward movement of the wheels, delivers a full tank at walking pace over 600 to 1,000 square yards, with no servicing, no running costs, and no problem. The model shown is the 24" Groundsman at £299.95 INC. VAT. Other models available from £199.95 INC. VAT.



PHONE THE 24 HOUR BROCHURE LINE
OR COMPLETE COUPON

0845 60 10 815

To: Allen Power Equipment Ltd., The Broadway, Didcot, Oxon OX11 8ES.
Please send my FREE Walkover brochure.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
POSTCODE: _____

WS/GK/02/00

Allen Power Equipment Ltd., The Broadway, Didcot, Oxon OX11 8ES
Tel: (01235) 515400 Fax: (01235) 515401 Website: www.allenpower.com Email: sales@allenpower.com

Ad Ref 126



WEED FREE®

- Advice • Application •
- Supply • Training

DRIFT FREE Contract Spraying
utilising our purpose built machine

The **SPRAYING MANTIS**

Freephone: 0800 068 08 78

Fax: 07000 481022

Car: 0850 300104

Unit 14, Roundshead Drive, Warfield, Berkshire RG42 3RZ

WEED FREE is a Registered Trade Mark

Ad Ref 504

North Staffs Irrigation have done it again!

State of the Art Drainage for Greens & Fairways

- ▶ Recent development of vacuum assisted fairway drainage (patent applied for) together with clay nodule green banding for round the year play.
- ▶ Forget temporary greens and closed courses.
- ▶ This system improves aeration and green structure at very affordable prices.
- ▶ Recent preliminary contracts at Priors Hayes (Chester) and Market Drayton.



North Staffs Irrigation Ltd

CONSULTING WATERING SPECIALISTS

Ivy Mill, Longton Road, Stone, Staffs ST15 8TB

Tel: 01785 812706 Fax: 01785 811747

Ad Ref 217

Over 100 new members were welcomed to the Association in December 1999 by BIGGA's Membership Services Officer Tracey Maddison...

It could be you!

Will you be BIGGA's 7,000th member? Whether you are joining BIGGA or renewing your membership you could be the 7,000th member. Watch this space for further details.

Many of you will be due to renew your membership at the end of this month. Don't forget, if you pay for your own subscriptions, you can take advantage of paying by direct debit and spreading the cost over 10 equal monthly payments. 25% of members are already taking advantage of this service, why don't you?

If you are retiring from greenkeeping at the end of this month, congratulations! However, your BIGGA membership doesn't have to retire with you. Why not apply for retired membership of BIGGA and keep in touch with your friends and the industry? Contact Tracey or Kirstie in the membership department for further details.

Once you have returned your completed renewal form, together with payment, we will send you a new 2000 Membership Renewal Pack, containing useful information and telephone numbers regarding the many benefits and services available to you as a valued member of BIGGA. Read it and keep it for future reference - one day you may be glad you did!

If you have any queries or any general enquiries regarding membership services or benefits, please contact Tracey or Kirstie on 01347 833800.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Kirstie and myself to say how nice it was to meet and chat with all those who were able to call onto the Membership Services Stand at BTME 2000 last month.



BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region

William P Bell, Central
 Paul R Brown, Central
 Euan J Cameron, North
 Brian W Duguid, East
 Paul Hay, East
 Kenneth A Henderson, North
 Qin Junning, Central
 Steven Lamb, East
 Shaun P MacDonald, North
 Stuart Muir, Central
 Duncan J Wright, Central
 Xu Xiao, Central
 Haung Ziaofeng, Central

Northern Region

Simon P Ainsworth, N West
 Andrew Billings, Sheffield
 Keith D Blaylock, North East
 Gareth Bullock, Northern
 David R Creaser, Sheffield
 Andrew Fenn, Sheffield
 Scott Greaves, North West
 Alan D Jackson, North West
 Adam P Kendall, Sheffield
 Richard Knowles, North West
 John A Longcake, North West
 Alaster H McAnaw, N West
 David A Platt, North West
 Paul Redford, North West
 Frank Shields, North West
 Daniel J Teale, Northern
 Darran Thomas, Sheffield
 Adam M Wainwright, N West
 Ian Wrightson, North West

Midland Region

Roger Ashby, Midland
 David M Ashley, Midland
 Shaun C Beddoe, Midland
 Paul R Carter, Midland
 Nicholas W Clarke, Midland
 Michael T Fowkes, Midland

Peter Gibbins, BB&O

Scott Glover, Midland
 Gavin T Heath, Midland
 Peter A Jenkin, E of England
 Andrew D Jones, Midland
 Andrew Laing, Midland
 Stephen Massingham, E of England
 Russell D Moody, E of England
 Andrew Pearson, Midland
 John M Smith, E of England
 David R Sturgeon, BB&O
 Richard D Thomas, Midland
 Alastair R Weir, BB&O
 John J Wilkes, Midland

South East Region

David Banks, Essex
 Derek P Blake, Essex
 Mark J Bugler, Surrey
 James P Celphane, London
 Richard Cook, Essex
 Robert Cox, Essex
 Gavin Cranness, East Anglia
 Gareth Dowsett, Essex
 Wayne C Eyres, Surrey
 Brian Gillespie, Surrey
 Andrew M Guy, Kent
 Andrew J P Haskell, Surrey
 Barry D Hawkes, East Anglia
 Rodney Hensby, Surrey
 Ian S Kendrick, Kent
 Christos J Kyriazis, Kent
 Ewan D McCabe, East Anglia
 James Morris, London
 Eddy Oliver, Surrey
 Mark Pisani, Surrey
 Matthew Pratt, East Anglia
 Michael J Scarr, East Anglia
 Glyn P Taylor, East Anglia
 Gareth Upham, East Anglia
 Michael Walsh, Essex
 Gareth P Weekes, Surrey
 Ben D Whelton, Surrey
 Stephen R Whitwell, E Anglia
 Andrew M Winter, East Anglia
 Gareth D Winter, East Anglia

S West & S Wales Region

Derek B Booth, Devon & Cornwall
 Christopher Ball, South West
 Simon P Bell Tye, S Coast
 Duncan Brown, South Coast
 Paul J Downham, S Coast
 Alan J Jacobsen, South Coast
 Philip R Littlehales, S Coast
 Stuart L Mason, South Coast
 Mark J Prentice, South West
 Colin Revill, South West
 Christopher I Salter, S Wales
 Ian Shaw, South Coast
 Paul Staples, South Coast
 Neil J Wright, South Coast

International Members

Andreas M Kichel, Germany
 Petri Anton, Italy
 Geoffrey H Coggan, USA
 James H Siard, USA

Associate Members

Gary A McCulloch, East
 David Samuel, East
 Martin Donbavand, N East
 Martin Gillet, Essex
 William J Sullivan, Essex

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

Maxi or mini? Trevor Downing of J Rothschild Assurance gives some useful advice on ISAs

Individual Savings Accounts – Know your limits

The introduction of the Individual Savings Account in April was accompanied by a great deal of advertising and press coverage. Since then you have doubtless been inundated by countless messages selling the virtues of the various options available. This may have left you a little uncertain as to which of these options is most appropriate for your needs.

Choosing the right ISA is critical. With the choice of 'maxi' or 'mini' plans, incorporating 'stocks and shares', 'insurance' and 'cash' elements, investors have never had such choice. However, these choices have added to the complication and confusion currently associated with ISAs. This uncertainty will no doubt be exacerbated by the reductions to the ISA

subscription limits that will take effect from April 2000.

Obviously, if you are looking to take full advantage of the increased limits during this tax year then you will need to act fast by maximising your ISA contributions before April 5, 2000 therefore the option available to you is simple, use it or lose it!

The St James's Place ISA deliberately

focuses on the 'stocks and shares' elements (both maxi and mini) and builds on the successful approach of the St James's Place PEP offered in previous years.

If you have yet to utilise this tax year's high (maximum £7,000) allowance or would simply like to find out more about ISAs as a form of tax-efficient saving, 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.