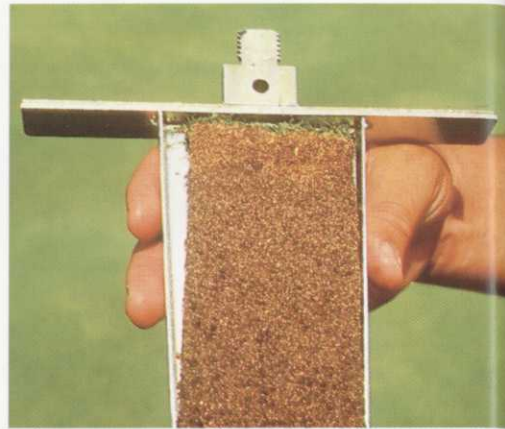




Poor soil structure results in recurring drainage problems, anaerobic conditions, weak root systems and thinning turf. Water doesn't drain, Air can't enter and Roots won't develop.

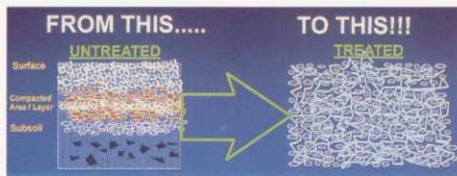
Integrate Soil Conditioner restores soil structure, improves drainage, increases aeration and promotes healthy root growth.



Why keep treating the symptoms when you can effect a cure with Integrate.

The Problem

Compaction and soil structure breakdown are ongoing problems for the turf manager. Constantly saturated soil or a build up of fine soil particles, cause the loss of air availability and this effect can break the soil structure down into even finer particles increasing the clogging effect. When these pores become unpenetrable, water and air transport stop.



The Solution

Integrate moves down through the soil profile solubilising the 'fines' that are clogging the pore spaces, drawing together the clay and organic soil particles into soil aggregates with the sand and silt. This 'opening up' of the soil structure provides an improved flow of air and water into and through the soil and, with additional pore spaces to develop pathways for deeper root growth, a more healthy, vigorous turf will be the result.

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Opening up of soil structure reduces recurring drainage problems

What is Integrate

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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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



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February 2000

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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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BTME2000 lived up to its billing

Well, the anticipation we all felt for months before BTME 2000 was certainly matched by the reality. And it's not often you can say that, now can you?

I don't think I bumped into anyone who didn't comment on it being the best Harrogate week ever.

The Learning Experience, in association with Textron, was a spectacular success incorporating a meaty Education Conference and fascinating workshops while the Seminar Sessions caught the imagination.

And the trade also had a bumper week. It's the first time I can recall us being accused of massaging attendance figures the wrong way! You can see their point. Everywhere you looked there were busy stands and to say business was brisk would be like saying the New Year gales were nothing but a brisk breeze.

One of the real highlights was Simon Weston's talk on Wednesday morning - for which many people had made a point of arriving early. Now you might ask what the connection is between a man who suffered horrific injuries during the Falklands War and greenkeepers?

The answer is simple. Life itself. Life is full of ups and downs and as individuals we find ourselves worrying about the slightest little things at home or at work. Simon Weston put all that into perspective. He has encountered problems the vast majority of us can only have nightmares about but through all the pain and anguish has come a great attitude to life. He doesn't worry about the little things that bother the rest of us any more. He has a positive outlook on life which puts us all to shame.

We were also lucky enough to welcome Sir Michael Bonallack, BIGGA's President to the Show. Sir Michael presented our Golden and Silver Key supporters with their plaques and badges before, later in the day, attending the AGM. This is a year where he is combining his role as BIGGA President with the Millennium Captaincy of the R&A, so we owe him a real debt of gratitude for being so accommodating with his valuable time.

Among our other visitors were Mark James, last year's Ryder Cup Captain, who popped in to look round the show and some of the top officials from the PGA European Tour. It really does seem that Harrogate week is becoming a firm date in the diary for more and more people and a place for the whole industry to meet up.

Elsewhere, I liked the tale of the sleepwalking greenkeeper who found himself locked out of his room and had to descend four floors to confront the Majestic Hotel's night porter wearing nothing but a pair of boxer shorts. Not so much a day dream as a nightmare.

You can be sure that we shall be working hard - we've already started - on build up on the success of BTME 2000 for next year and that from January 21-26, 2001, you will have another week to remember.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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**BIGGA
ESSAY
COMPETITION**

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45 Being There Meant Everything



Mycorrhizal structures associated with turf roots

Intelligent disease control

Harmless to beneficial turf fungi

Still effective against disease



Fusarium



Dollar Spot

Amazingly, some species of fungus are hugely beneficial to your turf.

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As a result, turf associated with Mycorrhiza tends to be healthier.

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MBE for Carnoustie's John Philp

John Philp, Golf Links Superintendent at Carnoustie, has been awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List in recognition of the tremendous work he put into preparing the course for its first Open Championship since 1975.

"It was a very nice gesture and a complete surprise," said John, speaking as he made yet more improvements to the course.

"It really is an honour and credit to the whole team here because you are only as good as your team. We must have done something right!"

During The Championship John was in the newspapers as much as some of the big name players who struggled to find a successful way of playing what is regarded as the toughest golf course on The Open rota. He fended off criticism of the height of the rough and the width of the fairways but, even from the complainants there was nothing but praise for the quality of the course conditioning.

As well as the complaints of some of the game's superstars the 1999 Open will be remembered for an amazing climax which saw Jean Van de Velde take seven down the last to drop into a play-off which was finally won by local hero, Paul Lawrie. Both have been back to Carnoustie since.

"Jean was back to film a commercial for a putter company to show how he would have got on using one of their putters to play the last. The first time he took nine but the second time he managed a six," explained John.

"He was super. He shouted over to the team 'Here I am back again boys,' and saw some of the changes we've since made to the right side of the 18th and said he'd rather play it now."

Van de Velde was referring to the fact the team had just put down around 15,000 metres of Rolawn turf on the right side of the 1st and 18th holes including Van de Velde corner.

Paul Lawrie returned when the



Hotel named one of its suites in his honour and took time to sign a few flags for John.

John has yet to learn whether he will go to Buckingham Palace to receive his honour or Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh.

"I'd really like to go to Buckingham Palace because you'd only do it once wouldn't you?" said John, who after The Championship received messages of congratulation from all over

the world including a telemessage from HRH The Duke of York.

By coincidence John, who previously worked under Walter Woods at St Andrews, attended the presentation when Walter received the BEM from Lord Elgin.

Jimmy MacDonald, the recently retired Head Greenkeeper of Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club was the last greenkeeper to be honoured by the Queen.

Mike Canaway takes early retirement



After over 25 years service at the STRI Dr Mike Canaway, STRI Chief Executive has decided to take early retirement in the Spring.

"It is with much regret that I have received Mike Canaway's resignation having worked closely and harmoniously with him since we assumed our respective positions in 1995. His work as Chief Executive in steering us through a significant programme of modernisation and expansion deserves our warmest thanks," said STRI Chairman, Roger Robinson.

Dr Canaway commented "After over 25 years of service at STRI, and approaching five years as Chief Executive, I now feel that it is time to hand over the reins. In today's fast moving commercial environment there is a need for fresh ideas and new initiatives. I will be more than happy to continue to give support to STRI in its work."

CPD embraced by BIGGA

One of BIGGA's primary, and stated, aims is to advance the profession of greenkeeping through education and development.

Therefore in common with many organisations, including Central Government, BIGGA recognises that Education and Training should continue throughout one's working life and so to encourage greenkeepers to develop their full potential, it is introducing a Certificate of Continuing Development.

"Unlike most other professions greenkeeping has always been at the forefront of the education for life - the packed education sessions during Harrogate week bear testimony to that - and so it is right that we should look to put that on a more formal footing," said BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small.

Greenkeepers will need to accumulate 20 credits in each calendar year (June to June) to be awarded a certificate. Certificates may be used as evidence for Master Greenkeeper, N/SVQ and as a guide for employers when recruiting.

Carraro offers a taste of Italy for visitors

A group of industry journalists visited the state-of-the-art Antonio Carraro factory in Padova, Italy, just before Christmas and saw at first hand the production of the unique tractors which are now being distributed in England, Wales and Ireland by Charterhouse Turf Machinery.

Carraro Tractors boast full chassis oscillation and have a driver position which can be rotated a full 180 degrees and the tractor driven forwards in both directions - this is particularly useful when deciding upon the attachments to use.

The company has also brought in several specialist technicians from Porsche to work with the established Carraro team on the assembly lines.

The newest member of the tractor family is the TTR 9400 which is aimed at the fine turf market.

The tractor boasts four equal wheel drive with low ground pressure and



wide tread and the chassis has 15 degrees of oscillation on each side which gives constant traction, stability and 50% balance on each of the front and rear. The gearbox has 64 speeds, 32 forward and 32 reverse

while the engine is a 87 horsepower diesel.

Further details of this and the other tractors in the Carraro range can be obtained from Colin Gregory, of Charterhouse Turf Machinery.

Volunteers required for the following events

Volvo PGA Championship, The Wentworth Club May 28-29, 2000

The Association will again be providing a team of 40 members for each of the above days (the third and fourth rounds). Each member will be allocated a match and will walk the course with the game, raking any bunkers found by the players. You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course and there is no provision for overnight accommodation. you may apply to help on either or both days. When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided. Helping at this event will not prejudice your chances of a place on The Open Championship Support Team.

The Open Championship St Andrews July 20-23, 2000

The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open Championship will be involved in early morning course preparation; bunker raking, while matches are in play, and evening course repair. You must be available from Wednesday evening, July 19, through to the close of play on Sunday, July 23. While all transport, accommodation and meals will be provided between these dates it is the team member's responsibility from travel from home to the venue and return. When applying please give your polo shirt size.

Full BIGGA members only may apply in writing, for either or both of these events to: John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark Alne, York, YO61 1UF. Should you require any further information John can be contacted on 01347 833800 or via email: john@bigga.co.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday March 3, 2000

In the event of there being more applications than places available then a draw of names will take place.

Toro signs five year deal with Tour

Toro has secured five-year partnership deals with two of the world's leading golfing organisations.

The move sees Toro become the official supplier of turf maintenance equipment and irrigation products to both the PGA European Tour and PGA European Tour Courses. The latter owns and operates seven top golf course venues in the UK and Europe, five of which are used for the European Tour.

As part of the deal with PGA European Tour Courses, Toro has won an £800,000 contract to supply turf machinery and irrigation products for the four courses at the high-profile new Fleesensee golf resort, near Berlin, Germany, which opens in April 2000. The deal is one of the biggest of its kind in Europe, for what will also be a European Tour location.

The agreements were signed by The Toro Company, from Minneapolis, USA, at a special ceremony attended by all parties at the PGA European Tour headquarters at Wentworth, Surrey.

For the European Tour, Toro will supply each Tour venue with full tournament support covering both turf machinery and additional irrigation requirements. Additionally, there will be full technical support, back-up and training for operators as appropriate.



"One of the main reasons we selected Toro was that it offered irrigation expertise too. We have had some concerns about the standard of irrigation at tournament venues. But with Toro on board I am confident that we can solve these problems and keep the courses in top condition," said Director of Tour Operations, David Garland.

Meanwhile, PGA European Tour Courses has teamed up with The Toro Company to purchase turf maintenance machinery and irrigation products for its seven golf establishments in the UK and Europe. The company, which has a share holding in the PGA, owns and runs five courses on the European Tour including Woburn.



Who can you recognise from this old photograph taken at Elmwood College in 1981?

Raymond on the move



Raymond Hunt has left Marriott Forest of Arden to take up a fresh challenge in the Championship links of Pyle and Kenfig in South Wales - which is due to host the Amateur Championship in 2002.

Raymond spent 12 years with Whitbread during which time he was responsible for growing in two new courses and the preparation of the Arden Course for six European Tour events including four English Opens and two British Masters. Prior to that he worked on P&K's neighbouring course, Royal Porthcawl.

"I am looking forward to returning to Championship links golf to work with an excellent club and developing a fantastic links golf course," said Raymond.

R&A supports Environment Competition

The prestigious BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, which has identified the golf club which has done most to combine excellent environmental practice with good golf course management work, moves into a fourth year thanks to the support of the R&A.



The competition will enjoy the continued support of Amazone Ground Care, under the drive of Managing Director Rod Baker, who launched the competition in 1995 and which he ran successfully for two years before teaming up with BIGGA.

In 2000 the prize structure will change giving the overall winner a cheque for £4000 to be spent on environmental projects, a trophy and a plaque with the four Regional Winners each now receiving £500 for the same purposes and a plaque. All runners-up will receive certificates/ commendations. Also new for 2000 will be a prize for the club judged to have completed the best individual environmental project.

"We must thank Rod Baker for his continued and valued support of the competition he started and also the R&A whose support this year displays the importance placed on the competition by the game of golf in general," said Elliott Small, BIGGA Chairman.

Seminar a big hit at Pencoed College

The South Wales Seminar at Pencoed College recently proved a resounding success with over 50 people attending and hearing talks from Jim Clowes, of Turf Irrigation Services - who sponsored the event; Len Dixon, of Field Capacity; Barry Gregson, of the De Vere Hotel Group, Joe Turner, of Bernhard and Co, and David Shelton, of Shelton Sports Turf Drainage Solutions.

A presentation was also made to Peter Gillard, of Pencoed College, on behalf of the South Wales Section by Ken Richardson, in recognition of his dedication to greenkeeping and assistance to greenkeeping in the south Wales area.

Also pictured are Tony Webster, of TIS Ltd; Malcolm Davies, Chairman of Education; Dennis Archer, Course Manager at Whitchurch GC, and Peter Lacey of the South Wales Section.

Thanks to Scottish Patrons



The annual Scottish Region Patrons' Lunch was held in Stirling recently to honour the winners of the 1999 Patrons' Awards.

The day was a great success as usual with all the Award winners and a large turnout of the Scottish Patrons in attendance.

Each winner received a book and a trip to BTME 2000.

The After Dinner Speaker was Ian MacPherson from East Kilbride and

I must say I thought last year's was good but this year Ian was even better.

On behalf of the Scottish Region we would like to thank the Scottish Patrons for their continued support because if it was not for their help and all the work they do these awards would not be able to be given.

So once again thanks from all of us in Scotland.

Chris Yeaman

Expansion for Toro Excellence Competition

This year sees the expansion of the acclaimed TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition which now includes Ireland who previously held their own competition run in conjunction with the GCSAI. The new format ensures a real Home International flavour with each of the four home countries sending a representative to BIGGA HOUSE in October for the grand final. BIGGA Course Managers and GCSAI Superintendents stand equal chance of winning the first prize, a TORO



Workman 2100 Utility vehicle plus all expenses paid trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Dallas in 2001, a trophy and a TORO jacket. The winner's own greenkeeping team will receive a cheque for £250 while the runners up each receive a TORO Reelmaster 1000, a trophy and a TORO jacket.

The Panel of judges, led by Walter Woods, will select four finalists ie one from each country, England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales for the National Final which will be held at BIGGA HOUSE in October 2000.

"I believe the new format creates even more interest among Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers, as well as the GCSAI Superintendents, as we go about identifying the outstanding greenkeeper of the year," said BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small.

The Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award Final will run alongside the existing Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Final. Nomination forms will be sent to all golf clubs in Britain and Ireland during February.

Honour for Jim Arthur

Legendary agronomist, Jim Arthur, whose work on Britain's golf courses stretches back well into the last century has been awarded Honorary Membership of BIGGA.

It is only the fifth Honorary Membership ever granted by the Association and Jim joins the late Viscount Whitelaw, Jim Fry, Brian Gilbert and Fred Hawtree in the exclusive membership category.

"I was taken aback when I was told. I certainly hadn't expected it," said Jim, speaking from his home in Budleigh Salterton, North Devon.

"Throughout my career I tried to push the professionalism of the greenkeeper and this award is a reflection of the work of a great many people. I have always regarded the advisor as being just one part of a team when he visited a golf course with everyone an equal part of that team effort," he explained.

Jim will be presented with his certificate later in the year.

Kay collects bunker prize

The fifth winner of the annual Great BIGGA Bunker Competition for the world's media held during The Open Championship was presented with her prize - a fabulous Hayter Harrier mower - just before Christmas.

Kay Smart, who together with her husband, Chris, cover many golf events at home and abroad for the Mid Glamorgan Press Agency, was the closest in her estimation of how many bunkers the world's greatest golfers would find during The Open Championship at Carnoustie in July.

Kay's guess of 1398 was closest to the final figure of 1474 and was a fine achievement when the vast majority guessed far too low. Carnoustie has 115 bunkers and only Royal Lytham with 185 bunkers has had a higher total in the five years the statistics have been kept. Kay was presented with her £700 lawn mower, courtesy of Hayter Ltd, by Kim Macfie at Celtic Manor just before Christmas.

Obviously delighted to have won the first prize of her life she did admit to not actually having a lawn!



Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Recently joined BIGGA Golden Key members, Avoncrop Amenity Products, celebrated 10 years in the industry with a party recently and a cake ably sliced by partners David Onions and Rod Feltham.

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

Effingham facing a spiky problem in winter

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the introduction of more and more soft spiked golf shoes onto our golf courses.

Here at Effingham Golf Club we have a policy that whenever the course is open, then the greens are always in play ie. no frost holes etc. This has never caused us any serious problems in the past yet during this and the previous winter, the spike damage that has been occurring around the hole cups has increased tremendously. This happens

especially during frosty conditions. The problem I have found, is that the frost/ice builds up on the soft plastic spikes more readily than the metal spikes, the plastic spikes resemble a 'football type' stud after only a short time of walking across frosty greens, then damage to the putting surfaces soon becomes apparent.

At Effingham we are now actively encouraging our members to return to using the traditional metal spikes during the winter months. Although this is causing a problem as now the vast majority

of new golf shoes are sold fitted with soft spikes.

I look forward to hearing from other Course Managers who have experienced similar problems or vice versa as I feel that the introduction of these soft spikes are now as much damage to the traditional British Golf Courses as the misuse of the electric trolleys has done so over the past decade

Peter Broadbent, Course Manager, Effingham Golf Club

A cautionary tale: Getting mobile got me in a real flap

Now that the "Twelve Days of Christmas" are well and truly behind us, I wondered if you could make use of the following cautionary tale although it has little to do with serious greenkeeping.

Several days ago I happened to be working near to the lake on our Avening Course when my attention was distracted by the sight of a magnificent white swan swooping low across the course. As I watched, spellbound, it made a majestic landing on the lake. I stood there in awe, thinking just how lucky I was to have witnessed this, and how glad I was not

to be cooped up in an office etc etc, when my reverie was broken by the jarring tones of my mobile phone. (Not a rhythmic Brr Brr, but more a sort of biddle-liddle beep, biddle-liddle beep.) Unfortunately this alien noise seemed to enrage the swan causing it come marauding from the water flapping its wings and hissing menacingly.

So there I am in full retreat trying to keep a respectable distance between us, and, for some reason, trying to field the phone call. On the other end of the phone is an even bigger menace — Sonia, from Alpha-Line Paints

(name changed). By the time I could get the receiver anywhere near my ear, Sonia, bless her, is well into her sale's spiel and I can hear disjointed phrases such as "another two boxes before Christmas" and "ten percent discount".

I managed to blurt into the phone, "I'm terribly sorry, I'm terribly sorry, I'm out on the course at the moment and I'm having a bit of trouble with a swan."

"A swan" she said — "oh no - what is it?"

"It's a stonking great white thing with a wing at each corner and at the

moment it's running across the grass towards me," I panted hoarsely hastily looking round for somewhere to hide.

"My God" said Sonia sounding quite concerned, "You want to be careful, they're strong enough to break your arm."

"I couldn't care less about my arm" I screamed, "It's certain other parts of my anatomy I'm more worried about at the moment".

And she hung up - Some people!

Paul Worster, Course Manager Minchenhampton GC, Glous

Elliott Small: National Chairman of BIGGA

I must congratulate Elliott Small in becoming our new Chairman for 2000, a great honour indeed. Unfortunately at the BTME Banquet it was made quite clear that Neil Thomas thought Elliott was the Scottish Chairman of BIGGA by asking all the Scottish contingent to be upstanding and welcome their new Chairman. I wonder if next year when Clive Osgood is Chairman you will ask

all the English to be upstanding to welcome their new Chairman.

The general feeling among the rest of the members is that Neil made an error of judgement on such a special occasion. I hope this matter can be rectified by Neil in our magazine.

Brian Turner, Course Manager Sunningdale Golf Club.

Neil Thomas replies: My intentions were merely to raise a real Scottish welcome for one of Scotland's sons in a relaxed social atmosphere. Elliott is essentially the National Chairman of BIGGA, heading a National Association. I thought at the time that my unrehearsed introduction was in keeping with the spirit of the occasion.

BTME tops

After just returning from an excellent three days at the BTME 2000 at Harrogate I would like, through the pages of the magazine, to thank everyone involved. I was one of the lucky winners of the Patrons' Awards in the Ayrshire Section. It being my first year at Harrogate I was made to feel so welcome by everyone.

I also made a lot of new friends through the social side of the exhibition.

To all I thank you very much.

Roland Blackburn, Southerness GC

A Yankee Doodle thank you for BTME

If you could afford me a little space in the magazine I would like to comment on my perspective of the BTME 2000.

First and foremost "Thank You" seems like an understatement for all the hospitality that was extended to both myself and my wife by the entire BIGGA staff, the Chairman and each and every member I was fortunate to spend time with in Harrogate. For an American to feel so welcome and included in the activities at BTME leaves me at a loss for a way to express how much I value the friends I have made through my association with BIGGA.

The National Education Conference was excellently planned and carried out. The Trade Show was bigger and better than ever. The talks were superbly done in a variety of subjects and the banquet was the best I have ever attended in any country. My compliments to the Staff and all the speakers.

Prior to our departure from Harrogate, I told my wife that it seems more difficult each time to say goodbye to all the friends we have made over the years in our visits to the UK. I have experienced what few people here in the States would understand.

To have made friends from around the world and have such legends in the business as Walter Woods and Jack McMillan know you by name, makes one feel honoured and proud to be a member of BIGGA and part of BTME.

In closing I would like to thank Neil Thomas, the staff of BIGGA, the Chairman and all the attendees of BTME who made us feel so welcome at the Conference and gave us such wonderful memories to take home.

William P. Montague MG, CGCS USA. Via email