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Board Members
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Executive Director
Neil Thomas
E-mail: neil@bigga.co.uk

Administration Manager
John Pemberton
E-mail: john@bigga.co.uk

Sales & Marketing Manager
Steve Hardy
E-mail: steve@bigga.co.uk

Editorial Media
Scott MacCallum
E-mail: scott@bigga.co.uk

Education & Training Manager
Ken Richardson
E-mail: ken@bigga.co.uk

Membership Services Officer
Tracey Maddison
E-mail: tracey@bigga.co.uk

Contact us

You can contact The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in any number of ways:

Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF

E-mail: reception@bigga.co.uk

Internet: www.bigga.org.uk

Tel: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801



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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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March 2000

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by April 6, 2000

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Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Editorial

Editor: Scott MacCallum
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801
E-mail: scott@bigga.co.uk

Advertising

Sales & Marketing Officer: Jenny Pantou
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
E-mail: jenny@bigga.co.uk

Sales & Marketing Assistants:
Cheryl Broomhead, Diane Bray
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
E-mail: sales@bigga.co.uk

Design

Design & Production Editor: David Emery
Tel: 01347 833800 ISDN: 01347 830020
E-mail: david@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Hi-Tec Print, Units 9-10, Houghton Road,
North Anston Trading Estate, North Anston,
Sheffield S25 4JJ ISDN: 01909 550561
Tel: 01909 568533 Fax: 01909 568206

The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the April 2000 edition of Greenkeeper International is Wednesday, March 15, 2000

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Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear.

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £36 per year, Europe and Eire £46. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

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Water, water everywhere?

It has often been said, and is again later in this issue, that water will shortly become our most valuable asset. The repercussions for golf when this happens will be great.

I was interested, therefore, to stumble across the latest issue of Environment Action, the official publication of the Environment Agency, which devoted its centre spread to the subject of water and water conservation. It made some interesting reading and, while not directly mentioning golf, offered up some information that may be of interest to more than a few of you.

Apparently there are 48,000 licensed river and underground abstractions in England and Wales alone but there are changes proposed in the licensing system to help ensure that authorisations contribute to the sustainable management of water resources. Included in these proposed changes are that all new authorisations will be time-limited and existing licences will be converted to time-limited status while in cases where abstractions are shown to be causing environmental damage the licence could be revoked.

Another proposal is that from July 1, 2012, the right to compensation will be ended for losses arising from the revocation of an abstraction licence.

Obviously that is more than 10 years down the line but the message is clear. A licenced borehole may not be the indefinite answer to all your irrigation prayers and, with probable strict monitoring of water use, sensible policies will have to be in place to keep the water police at bay.

But that starts with domestic use and the same Environment Action feature lists some interesting facts about water wastage and how we can all help.

For example, if everyone in the UK took a shower instead of a bath we would collectively save as much water as it would take to fill Wembley 10 times over; also if everyone in the UK turned off the tap when they brushed their teeth we would save as much water in a week as it would take the fill the Millennium Dome and the fact that a third of all water used in the home is flushed down the toilet.

Other, more obscure information, includes, the fact, and I'm sure the Environment Agency is not advocating that we try, that a person can survive without food for more than 30 days but less than a week without water, while a camel can do without water for up to 17 days and an astronaut needs only 2.9 litres of water a day.

I'm indebted to Environment Action for this information as it highlights what we can all do to help the situation while also sounding the alarm bells for the future of our industry.

We must find a way of using less water to maintain our golf courses before restrictions are imposed on us not after.

Golf is an easy target and if it is a choice of holding greens or a hot, deep bubble bath I'm pretty sure I know what would win the nation's vote.



Editor:
Scott MacCallum

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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33 On Course for Change
This month's cover features a stunning aerial photograph illustrating the scale of coastal erosion at Brancaster GC



67 A Close Shave



50 Finishing Touches



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grass seed mixtures,



best talk to Advanta.

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“What do I think about our Kubota Grandels? Well, let's just say I drive them myself.”

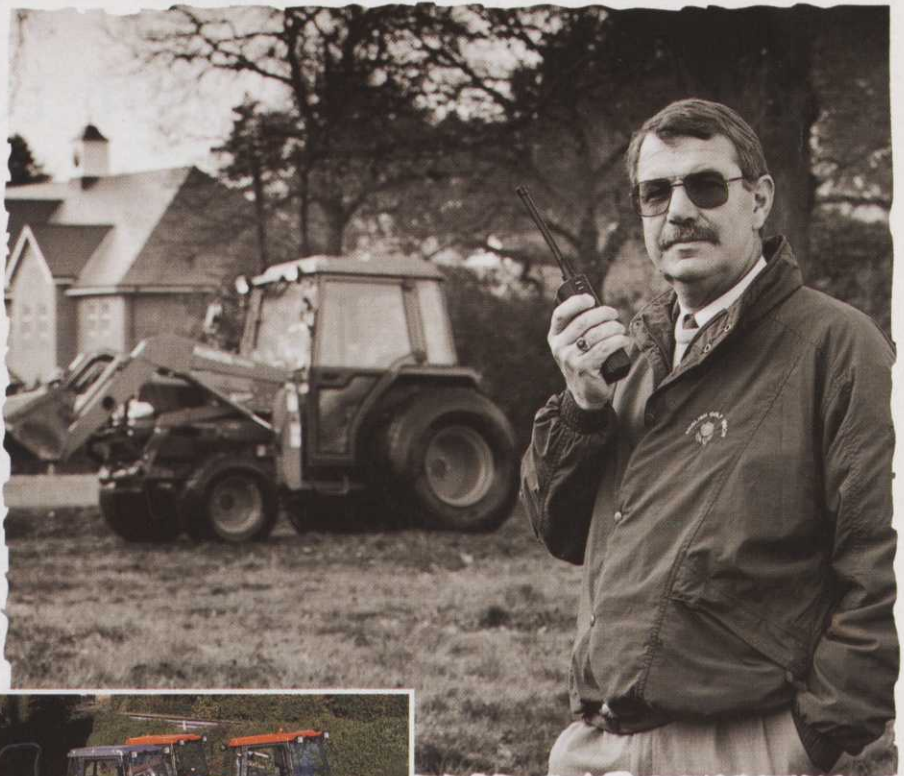
“I bought my first Kubota tractor more than fifteen years ago, and I've relied on Kubota ever since – in Britain and overseas. But I'm particularly pleased with the new Kubota Grandel L4200s we're using at Woodhall Spa.

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The Kubota Grandels give us the power – 45 hp – we need for rough cutting, digging and loading. But they're not too heavy for the tees and the greens. And the gear ratios are perfectly spaced for every job on the course – from mowing to spiking and scarifying.

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What do I think about our Kubota Grandels? Well, let's just say I drive them myself. ”



– Peter Wisbey, Courses Manager,
The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa



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NEW L4200 HST model available JULY

Slaley Hall receive Deere delivery



One of the leading golf courses in England, Slaley Hall in Hexham, has recently expanded its John Deere equipment fleet for use on the championship Hunting course and the new Priestman course opened in April 1999.

An additional 15 machines have been purchased, worth around £190,000. This brings the total value of John Deere equipment bought since 1995 to nearly £400,000.

The equipment was supplied by local

John Deere dealer Greenlay Ltd of Choppington, Northumberland. This is one of Greenlay's biggest ever sales to a golf course, according to dealer principal David Lowes, and also makes Slaley Hall one of John Deere's biggest golf course clients in the UK and Ireland.

Slaley Hall's latest machines include the new 2500 triplex and 220A walk-behind greens mowers, additional 2653 utility tees mowers, 3235A fair-

ways mowers and Gator 6x4 utility vehicles, plus a tractor mounted model 1500 Aercore aerator and a front mounted FI 145 rotary mower.

"During the winter the diesel Gator utility vehicles work non-stop, and the rest of the year the fairway mowers in particular are running all the time to keep on top of the grass," says Course Manager Steve Cram, who manages a team of 11 greenkeeping staff and two full-time mechanics.

Textron goes for gold with new warranty scheme

Textron Turf Care has launched Textron Gold, a new three-year warranty scheme with major customer benefits. Part One of this new scheme applies to all new Textron-supplied machines and is an extension of the manufacturer's original twelve-month warranty for a further two years.

There are no excess payments but the machine must be maintained using only genuine parts and the annual winter service has to be undertaken by an authorised Textron dealer. Standard exclusions apply to Part One and include normal wear and tear, contamination of the hydraulic system, ingress of foreign material and impact damage.

Part Two provides additional cover to that detailed above and includes the following:

- Hire of replacement machine if the covered machine is out of action for 48 hours.

- Accidental damage caused to the machine including impact damage and malicious damage to the machine.

- Damage caused by contamination of the hydraulic system and ingress of foreign material.

Part Two is subject to a £100 excess per claim and is bound by the same servicing and parts conditions that apply to Part One. Full details are available from Textron's Sales Department on 01473 27000

New scheme from British Seed Houses

Turfgrass professionals trading with British Seed Houses throughout 2000 can now benefit from a new 'Grade A' training and educational credit scheme supported by BIGGA, IOG, STRI and LANTRA.

Designed to encourage continuing high standards of turfgrass industry professionalism, the training credit scheme (TCS) is the key benefit on offer to customers joining the new British Seed Houses Grade A Club.

Club members also gain exclusive access to new cultivar developments coming out of the UK's only amenity grass breeding programme at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER).

Discount on a new IGER soil testing service and regular technical updates are also part of the Grade A Club membership package.

Grade A Club members build up credit points that can be redeemed for discount off the price of training courses and materials available from BIGGA, IOG, STRI and LANTRA. The level of discount is related to the value of Grade A seed mixture business done with the company, although customers purchasing the Avalon and Providence cultivars – and the British Seed Houses' compound granular fertilisers – also qualify for credit points.

Speaking at BTME 2000, British



Seed Houses director Simon Taylor said that joining the Grade A Club offered greenkeepers, grounds managers, landscape contractors and turf growers a superb opportunity to secure extra value from their ongoing relationship with the company.

"Forging a long-term relationship with our customers is a priority and to achieve this objective we recognise that we need to offer much more than simply high quality seed and advice under our 'Seeds, Service, Solutions' banner," he said.

Stuart gets technical at Lindum



Stuart Green has joined Lindum Seeded Turf as technical advisor for Lindum Plant Nutrition. Latterly with the golf maintenance section at Gleneagles, Stuart began his working life as a greenkeeper at Bushey Hall Golf Club, Watford, before taking his H.N.D. in golf course management at Reaseheath college. During his course, Stuart received the Gleneagles Award for Excellence in Golf, while enjoying a work placement at the famous club returning once he qualified.

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club.

Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



Name: Graeme Ferguson

Club: Duddingston GC

Position: Second Assistant

Age: 25

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
10 years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
HNC at Oatridge College

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Cutting fairways

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Divoting fairways

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?
PE Teacher

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
The late William Shepherd, Royal Musselburgh

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
To try to make BIGGA a Union (trade recognised)

8. What are your hobbies?
Golf

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Meeting different people from different areas

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
Course Manager



Slow Play can be a real menace as the third member of this threeball learned to his cost. Ably supported by Pat Allan, of Stewarts, and Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacolm, our friend came off worst during a round at the magnificent Elie Links, in Fife.

Helen achieves success with Symbio

Symbio's new MycoForce range of mycorrhizal inoculants has been granted Millennium Product status. The news was announced by the Prime Minister at the launch of the fifth tranche of the Millennium Products Initiative, attended by Symbio's management and research team at the Millennium Dome and the MycoForce range will take its place in the Spiral of Innovation in the Dome.

The Symbio MycoForce range, developed during four years of academic research and field trials, uses the power of natural mycorrhizal fungi and rhizobacteria to assist virtually all plants to grow using much less fertiliser.

Mycorrhizal plants are also more disease and draught resistant thus

reducing the need for fungicides, ancillary chemicals and water.

"After nearly ten years pioneering the biological approach to sports turf management in Europe, I am delighted for our hardworking, innovative research team and our technical advisors that we have been honoured and included in the Millennium Dome," said Martin Ward, Symbio's Managing Director.

Symbio enter the new year with great confidence following a year in which the new MycoForce range was voted as a finalist in the Horticulture Week/Mercurius best new grower product of the year awards, and Helen Wakerley was voted runner-up in their Young Achiever of the Year Award for her research work on the MycoForce Project.



New ecology title from STRI

"Nest Boxes for Birds and Mammals" is the second book in Bob Taylor's ecology series -Studies in Golf Course Management. This new title covers a range of box types suitable for encouraging roosting, sleeping and hibernation in a variety of bird species and mammals, including badgers, bats and hedgehogs.

Written in four sections, the new 74 page book is very much a 'how to' practical guide for nest box construction. It takes the reader through an easy to follow series of 19 types of box all illustrated by excellent drawings and diagrams, which enable even the most inexperienced to tackle some of the simpler designs. Text, which outlines construction details, siting of the boxes, sustainability, maintenance

and management of wildlife conservation, accompanies each drawing.

Although the book forms part of the ecology series for Studies in Golf Course Management and was written in response to the needs of golf course manager and greenkeepers wishing to enhance the wildlife potential of their course, the new book is equally suitable for anyone keen to encourage native bird and mammal populations. Including amenity turf users, parks, recreational and leisure areas and schools. Copies of "Nest Boxes for Birds and Mammals" priced at £7.50 plus £3.00 postage and packing are available direct from the STRI's mail-order specialist book service "Turfgrass Titles of the World". Please contact Margaret Richards 01274 518908.

Philip named as BTLIA Personality of the Year

Philip York was named BTLIA Personality of the Year during BTME.

The annual award presented by BTLIA Chairman Tim Hooper acknowledged Philip's personal contribution - made over a period of many years promoting the fine turf irrigation industry.

John Shildrick Memorial (Educational) Awards were presented to the BIGCA and Warwick College.

Tim Hooper also presented Merits Awards to MJ Abbot Ltd and Irriturf.

Toro sign three year deal with Marriott

Toro Company has agreed a new three-year partnership agreement with Marriott Hotels in the UK, part of The Whitbread Hotel Company. The new deal is worth about another £1 million over the period and also covers tournament support.

It means that Toro will continue as exclusive suppliers of golf course turf machinery at all 10 Marriott Hotel and Country Clubs in the United Kingdom. Toro won the original multi-million pound deal two years ago, for a two-year term, after beating off stiff competition from three worldwide competitors.

The Whitbread Hotel Company's group golf and leisure operations manager Paul Marlow, and Toro's European sales manager Bob Buckingham, signed the agreement at the Marriott St Pierre Hotel Golf and Country Club, near Chepstow, Monmouthshire.

The golf development consultant for Marriott Hotels, Steve Clement, who has been heavily involved in setting up and running the partnership initiative, said, "This has been a very good partnering agreement. A good deal of effort has been put in with indi-



vidual Course Managers and myself and we're very happy with how the whole thing has been administered.

The distributors Lely UK and their dealers have looked after us very well, and the equipment has been first rate."

Farmura to distribute Alginure

Farmura has acquired the marketing and distribution rights for the Alginure range of products following restructuring of the Comtec Group.

"We welcome the opportunity to add these market leading seaweed based products to our range. This will further enhance our position in the market as the leading supplier of organic and environmental products," said Managing Director Jonathan Harmer.

Nick Simpson, the retiring Managing Director of Alginure will be remaining as Consultant to ensure future development and growth of the Alginure range both in the UK and overseas.

Neil moves to Weed Free

Neil Lowther, 36, formerly deputy Head Greenkeeper at The London Golf Club, has joined Weed Free Professional Services.

Over four years experience at the prestigious club has given Neil a thorough knowledge of the technical turf management of both a traditional links style course and one built to a typical American design.

Neil's previous employment in the agricultural contracting business has given him the ability to operate heavy machinery with confidence and he is looking forward to receiving a brand new 1,000 litre tank Spraying Mantis. Based in Kent, Neil will manage contracts for the company from East Sussex, North to East London, Essex and beyond, leaving the recently appointed Ray McClatchie, Surrey, Berks., Bucks., Herts., Hants., and Oxon.

Speedy Kevin lands new role



Speedcut Contractors has appointed Kevin Smith as Contracts Manager. He has joined the Company after nearly 16 years with White Horse Contractors, and brings with him 22 years experience in construction drainage and renovation of golf, sports and amenity areas. His appointment will strengthen the Company's team and enable them to offer a professional service for a full range of activities.

Tacit's Tim offers new shopping service on Webb

Tacit has joined Tesco and Amazon in launching its own internet shopping site on www.tacitgolf.com

"It is easy to browse the site, select the products you wish to order from the regularly updated catalogue and place them in the Tacit shopping basket. Current prices appearing next to the products. As products are put into the shopping basket a running total appears letting you know your spending as you go along," said Tacit's Tim Webb.

"A 'Basket' of goods can be produced allowing the greenkeeper to budget for the year without the order being sent and a hard copy can be then printed out for future reference by the Greenkeeper and Committee alike. The order can then be stored and transmitted when authorisation from the relevant authority has been obtained," he added

Tacit's online shopping service and online catalogue is believed to be the first of its kind in the greenkeeping world and points the way for this millennium.

Economy Tee Markers (Solid Ball)

Great value and performance. Tacit tuffex tee markers offer a solid, durable and vandal resistant marker at an exceptional price.

- Made to withstand really tough treatment
- Smart economical golf ball design
- Solid ball
- Will not chip

Product	Ref	Price	QTY
Plain White	0020	£5.00	<input type="text"/>
Plain Yellow	0025	£5.00	<input type="text"/>
Plain Red	0027	£5.00	<input type="text"/>
Plain Blue	0028	£5.00	<input type="text"/>

particularly suited to removing debris that prevents the normal function of soft spikes.

- Cleans the bottom and sides of your shoes simultaneously
- Slatted design allows debris to fall away
- All brushes easily replaced (replacement brush set)
- Rugged construction allows the user to lean on the cleaner whilst brushing shoes

Product	Ref	Price	QTY
U-Boot Shoe Cleaner	0085	£90.00	<input type="text"/>
Full Replacement Brush Set (set of 4)	0086	£48.00	<input type="text"/>
Bottom Replacement Brush Set (set of 3)	0087	£28.00	<input type="text"/>
Side Replacement Brush Set (set of 4)	0088	£20.00	<input type="text"/>



Andy evaluates his new role at Sisis



Sisis Demonstrator, Andy Walker, has been appointed Product Evaluation Manager.

He will be responsible for testing all future new products and improvements to existing machines, to achieve the best possible design. He will continue to do some demonstrating to keep in close contact with the end user.

Andy started his career with Sisis in 1976 as an apprentice engineer, later moving to the Development Department, building prototypes. Eleven years ago he transferred to the sales team as a Demonstrator and has travelled the world putting the Sisis range through its paces.

Announcing Aventis Environmental Science

Aventis Environmental Science started trading on January 4, 2000. The company consists of five core businesses in which the turf and amenity business plays a leading role.

It was formed from a merger of Rhone-Poulenc Amenity and Agrevo in the UK. Worldwide, Aventis has over 90,000 staff in 140 countries and is a new global leader in life sciences.

"This merger means many exciting developments in the turf and amenity sector and we look forward to sharing these developments with our customers in 2000.

Aventis Environmental Science will be the leading customer and innovation driven turf and amenity Business. We will offer people an improved greener environment and quality of life. We aim to provide customers with the best innovative and ethically sound products and services," said John Hall, Market Development Manager.

"Our 'number one' fungicide, Rovral Green, has been found to be harmless to beneficial turf fungi (mycorrhiza) while still being as effective against pathogenic species (such as Fusarium and Red Thread), which leads to added benefits, such as increased resistance to drought, pests and diseases," he said.

Aventis's new interactive CD-Rom version of the Aventis Technical Manual, was demonstrated on their stand at BTME.

Dreams Come True for superfit Peter

Superfit Peter Montague, Head Greenkeeper at Belhus Park in Essex, is quite a guy.

When he crosses the line in the London Marathon in April he will have completed the 26.2 mile distance for the 50th time - a total running distance of over 1300 miles... and he will be doing so while pushing a six foot tall rabbit in a wheel-chair.

"I know greenkeepers often have problems with rabbits but this isn't a run of the mill problem," he joked.

Peter has a best time for the famous distance of three hours ten minutes - not pushing a rabbit I might add - and has run in some of the world's most famous city marathons.

"I started in '85 and my running has taken me all over the country and often abroad including New York, Paris, Rome, Stockholm, Barcelona, Lisbon, Munich, Berlin, Amsterdam, Malta and Dublin," he said.

"I have met a great circle of friends during all my running and we have a healthy social side which is very important," he added, no doubt with the emphasis on the "healthy".

The beneficiaries of Peter's running have been the Dreams Come True Charity which helps, literally, to make the dreams of terminally ill children come true.

"Children can visit Disneyland or meet their favourite celebrity and every penny raised goes directly to the children," explained Peter.

Anyone wishing to sponsor Peter on his 50th Marathon for the Dreams Come True Charity can contact him on one of the following numbers: 01708 852316; 01375 481176 or 0467 475946.



Awards galore at annual Hayter Dinner



The annual Hayter dealer dinner on the eve of BTME is always a popular event and this year was no exception. Together with the company's UK dealers many overseas dealers were present and represented countries including, France, Germany, Holland, Sweden and Norway. Guests from the Golf Greenkeepers associations in Canada, U.S.A., Germany and, of course, BIGGA were also present to enjoy a pleasant evening. The awards presented were: Export Dealer of the Year: Arie Molenaar of Voets in Holland. Top Dealer for 1999: George Brown Implements. Pictured is Chris Brown receiving, on behalf of his hard working staff, the award from Chris Gibson of G.M.S., last years winner. Outstanding Dealer for 1999: "Monty" Davis of Major R. Owen. Pictured is Monty receiving his prize from last years winner, Steve George.