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BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

# BTME 2001

& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME



## THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The BTME 2001 event combines the National Education Conference - 'The Learning Experience' - sponsored by Textron Turf Care with the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. The formal conference is supplemented with practical Greenkeeping workshops and a Seminar programme which means there is plenty to interest everyone involved in the golf and fine turf industry from Master Greenkeepers to Assistant Greenkeepers.

The event attracts Golf Greenkeepers from all over the world, encouraging learning, debate and an exchange of ideas and experience. The programme is available to both BIGGA members and non-members, although members receive preferential rates. While the technical forums are primarily concerned with Golf Course maintenance and greenkeeping issues, many of the sessions are equally relevant to general turf maintenance and groundsman-ship, and would interest those working in other sportsturf sectors. The programme also has a keynote speaker and seminars which will be of particular interest for Chairmen of Green and Golf Club secretaries.



## CONFERENCE

**22nd and 23rd January 2001, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate**

Sessions include the following topics and speakers:

### Growing

David Lawson, STRI; Dennis Mortram, Reaseheath; Dr. Paul Rieke, Michigan Univ

### Human Resource Management

Frank Newberry, Duncan McGilvray, Potters Bar GC; Brin Bendon, Vector Training

### Water Management

Graeme Francis, Hydroscape; Junier Brown, NRA; Kneale Diamond, Hanbury Manor GC

### Environmental Management

Martin Gunn and Malcolm Peake, Temple GC; Rob Witherspoon, Guelph Turfgrass Institute Canada; Jonathan Smith, Scottish Wildlife Trust

**Workshops run concurrently with the Conference sessions and include:**

Basic Machinery Maintenance, Computer Skills, Golf Course Design and Grasses/Soil Science



## SEMINARS

**Wednesday 24 January 2001**

Keynote speaker: Richard Noble of Thrust 2 World Landspeed Record fame

The Law and the Golf Club, Health & Safety, Golf and the Environment - the US experience, Erosion Control and Mulching

**Thursday 25 January 2001**

Golfdom Magazine, Changes in Training Provision, Topdressing - Material Standards, An overview of Australian Golf Courses - problems and solutions

## EXHIBITION

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held at Harrogate since 1989 and is the biggest indoor show of its kind in Europe. Over 6,000 visitors and more than 200 Turfcare Industry manufacturers and suppliers were present at last year's show, and there will be even more in 2001 with the addition of a new exhibition hall. The exhibition is open from 9.00am to 5.30pm Wednesday and Thursday and from 9.00am to 1.30pm on Friday.



## BANQUET

The week's events are rounded off on the Thursday evening with a banquet in the Harrogate International Centre. Cabaret entertainment this year will be provided by 60's pop sensation 'The Searchers' and singer Susan Maughan.

# 24-26 JANUARY, 2001

## EDUCATION PROGRAMME STARTS JANUARY 22 HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, HARROGATE, ENGLAND

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS SEMINARS BANQUET OVER 200 EXHIBITORS

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



## 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

### Golden Key Circle Company Members

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Douglas G Duguid, Alan Holmes, Iain A MacLeod,  
Robert Maibusch MG, Richard S Mullen, Elliott R Small,  
Steven Tierney, Raymond J Warrander, WJ Rogers

# November 2000

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by December 4, 2000

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# Greenkeeper

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

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The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the December 2000 edition of Greenkeeper International is Friday, November 10, 2000

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Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £35 per year, Europe and Eire £45. 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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Dustin Houghton, won the second Charterhouse/Scotts BIGGA National Golf Championship, and achieved the feat despite a damp second day

## A Completely Different Ball Game

A few months ago I took time to crow about how sport had much to learn from golf in terms of sportsmanship. Well, unfortunately, I may have to revise that thought a bit.

Sure, I believe in its conventional form golf is a truly genuine game when it comes to true sportsmanship but Team Golf, well that's a completely different ball game.

We won't forget in a hurry the scenes on the 17th hole at Brookline Country Club when the American Ryder Cup team celebrated victory despite Jose Maria Olazabal still having the chance to hole a makeable birdie putt, win his game and therefore affect the result of the entire match. The scenes on the green have been well documented and did golf a great disservice but if mitigation were needed they were borne out of a genuine exuberance on the back of an atmosphere of high excitement and tension.

Prior to that there was the War on the Shore at Kiawah Island and the ridiculous Gulf War style hats that were worn by some of the American team. Dottie Pepper had been known to cheer when her Solheim Cup opponent missed a putt. Before that there were various incidents, one including a certain GBS&I Ryder Cup Captain who memorably instructed his team not to search for American balls in the rough.

However much of it pales into insignificance against the events at Loch Lomond during last month's Solheim Cup when a cynical attempt by the American team to win at all costs was witnessed by an appalled gallery and suffered by the European team.

For those who are not aware of what happened. Returning after a break for rain Annika Sorenstam was off the 13th green faced with a little chip while her American opponents, Pat Hurst and Kelly Robbins, were on the green. She then chipped in for what would appear to have been a hole-saving birdie only to have the Americans ask the referee to adjudicate on who had been further from the hole. The referee paced it out and decided that in fact, by about a yard, Annika Sorenstam's ball had been closer to the hole. The Americans then ordered her to replay the shot and, in tears, she missed.

The Americans were quite within the laws of the game but no attempt had been made to clarify the situation before the chip shot had been played and the general consensus was that if the shot had not gone in the matter would never have been brought to light.

It caused a bitterness which, even though Europe won the Cup, will not disappear for quite some time.

These incidents only seem to occur in team competitions when tensions are at their height and the true essence of the game is overlooked. It does highlight the magnificent sportsmanship Jack Nicklaus displayed in conceding Tony Jacklin's three footer to tie the 1969 Ryder Cup match at Birkdale.

Of course, Nicklaus's Captain, Sam Snead, was not best pleased but that brings me back to where I started.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor



## This old timer can still cut it!



A fully restored and working version of the world's oldest motor mower, a Ransomes 42" built in 1903, has been donated by Cadbury's World in Birmingham to The Hall and Duck Trust. It has been lovingly restored by Michael Duck, curator at the Somerset-based Trust. He and his team of volunteers have scoured vintage vehicle jumbles across the country sourcing parts to help in the restoration.

"The Hall and Duck Trust is one of those organisations that act as guardians of our heritage and I am particularly delighted that they have chosen to restore such a fine example of British craftsmanship," said Textron Marketing Director Neil Woodfin.

"It really is a testament to the work that the Trust undertakes and it looks quite magnificent."

## CGSA International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show Vancouver, 24-27 February 2001

**BIGGA's links with the CGSA grow ever stronger as the presence of their members at BTME testifies. Their 2001 Conference and Trade Show will be held at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre from 24-27 February. Departure will be from Heathrow Airport on Thursday 22 February at 1635 hours returning from Vancouver on Wednesday 28 February to arrive at Heathrow the following morning. Accommodation will be provided at the Waterfront Centre Hotel which is one of the CGSA official hotels.**

**Vancouver is most certainly one of the world's most beautiful cities and the Waterfront Centre Hotel is surrounded by the towering peaks of the majestic Rocky Mountains and located on Vancouver's spectacular harbour and city parks. From here you will have the opportunity to explore Chinatown, historical Gastown, the exclusive boutiques on Robson Street, Stanley Park surrounded on three sides by the sea with 1000 acres of gardens, lakes and forest, or bask in the view atop Grouse Mountain.**

### Itinerary

**Thursday 22 February**  
Assemble at Heathrow Airport for the 1635 hours British Airways flight direct to Vancouver arriving at 1815 hours. You will be transferred to your hotel for a six night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

**Wednesday 28 February**  
You will be transferred to the airport for your return flight departing 2020 hours to arrive in London at 1335 hours on 1st March.

### Prices

Prices are £665 per person based on a twin share and £849 per person based on single occupancy plus comprehensive holiday insurance for the duration of £25 per person.

Included in the price are return economy class flights from London Heathrow to Vancouver with inflight refreshments and meals; airport taxes; transfer from the airport to hotel and return; six nights accommodation on a room only basis and Canadian accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Conference and Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association. Details are available from BIGGA on request. Please forward full payment of £665 or £849 (plus insurance if required) to BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Airedale, York, YO61 1UF to arrive not later than Friday 8 December 2000, together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of 21 February please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel.

# World's fastest visits Europe's biggest

Richard Noble OBE (right) will deliver the keynote speech during BTME 2001, Europe's largest indoor fine turf exhibition.

Richard, driving Thrust 2, was holder of the World Land Speed Record from 1983 to 1997 reaching a speed of 468 mph then he founded a company aimed at producing the first ever supersonic land speed record. This was achieved in '97 when, driven by Andy Green, Thrust SSC reached a speed of 763.035 mph.

Preparations for the Show are well underway and visitors will be treated to an exciting and fulfilling experience whether they stay for a day or the entire week - Monday January 22 - Friday January 26.

As usual, the Learning Experience, in association with Textron, divides into two parts - the National Education Conference together with the accompanying workshops on the Monday and Tuesday followed by the Seminar Programme which runs in conjunction with the show itself.

The recently opened Hall M will join Halls A, B, C and Q in housing the 180+ stands with a significant number of exhibitors showing for the first time - including Fern House Marketing Ltd, DGT Volmatic A/S, of Denmark; Aztec Chemicals and Rousseau Equipment Ltd. The added space available through the introduction of Hall M has enabled several companies including Toro, John Deere, Rigby Taylor and Amenity



Technology to increase the size of their stands markedly to enable them to show even more of their product to visitors.

Themes for the Education Conference include Growing; Human Resource Management; Water Management; and Environmental Management while - in addition to Richard Noble - the speakers to be enjoyed during the course of the week will be Dr Paul

Rieke, Professor Emeritus at Michigan State University; Dr Kimberly Erusha, Director of Education for the USGA; Canadian Superintendent, Dean Pillier; Australian Superintendent, Peter Schumacher, and Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper of the Old Course, St Andrews.

Richard Noble's speech will take place in the Royal Hall on Wednesday, January 24, at 10.45am.

## Increased staffing levels with latest STRI appointments

Steve Gingell will be joining STRI's agronomy team this month. Working from his home base, Steve will be covering the Thames Valley as a Regional Turfgrass Agronomist.

Steve's previous experience within amenity horticulture ranges from research to retail to further education.

As Programme Area Manager for Horticulture at Berkshire College of Agriculture, Steve developed the Six Hole Golf Greenkeeping Academy, which featured in the September issue of Greenkeeper International, in addition to managing a varied curriculum which included Greenkeeping, Design Management, Conservation, Soil & Plant Science and Amenity Horticulture.

Steve will bring additional skills and experience to the agronomy team which will assist in the future development of the STRI Advisory Service.

Additional staff have also been recruited to the STRI's construction team. Jonathan Smith has been appointed as Regional Construction Specialist and will be operating a regional STRI office in Cardiff in order to develop STRI's services in South Wales and the southwest. Jonathan has considerable experience in soil management and has recently been involved with golf course construction projects. In 1992, he worked with Dr Bill Adams at Aberystwyth to complete a research project on "Physical and Chemical Properties of Rootzones in relation to Black Layer."

David Hemstock has also been recruited as an STRI Associate Consultant, working from the Midlands. David has many years experience in sportsturf drainage and construction, and, during recent years, in Golf Course Architecture, both in the UK and overseas.

## New post for David at Barenbrug

David Linton has joined Barenbrug UK as the company's Area Manager for Northern Ireland and South-west Scotland. This is a newly created position, and David assumes responsibility for sales of both forage and amenity grasses within these areas.

Prior to joining Barenbrug, David, who lives in Northern Ireland, worked for a major grass seed distributor and so is already well known throughout the industry. He aims to increase Barenbrug's presence, particularly in the amenity sphere in Ulster, where the company sees tremendous potential for its purpose-bred varieties and mixtures.

David, who holds a National Diploma in Food Science & Technology, owns a small farm in Killea as a spare-time venture.

## New role for Peter at Lindum Plant Nutrition

Peter Cotton, has joined Lindum Plant Nutrition as the company's new Northern Sales Manager. Responsible for the area from Birmingham to the Scottish border, Peter, who started working in horticulture in 1969 and moved to the amenity turf sector in the late seventies, brings over twenty years experience of the industry to his new post.

"Having been around for many years, I am excited by the opportunities offered by the Lindum Plant Nutrition system," he says. Fresh from an intensive training course

with Floratine Products Group USA, who pioneered the system, Peter is enthusiastic about what he sees as a new approach to turf care.

"While I was in Memphis I had the chance to talk to golf course superintendents who are using the system, which has given me a whole new perspective. The industry needs a fresh approach to soil science, and Floratine are ten years ahead of us in their thinking. We know the concept is successful in America, the Far East and elsewhere in Europe, and I am looking forward to developing it in the U.K."



## Hayter bought by private investment company

Hayter, which has been a long time friend to BIGGA and known for the popular Hayter Challenges and Hayter International Cup Matches, has been sold to a private investment company.

The company with the dark green livery was part of the Murray Group which parent company Tomkins Plc sold to Summersong Investments Inc.

Wayne G. Smith, President of Summersong, said that they intended to assist the Murray Group in developing strong global alliances in order to bring new products to its customers.

"Additional related acquisitions may be made by the group as well," he said.

The existing management team remains - headed by Managing Director, Tony Bourke, and Sales and Marketing Director, Kim Macfie - and does not envisage any immediate changes in commercial policy or customer relations as a consequence of the change of ownership.

"The sale process has been extended but ultimately with a satisfactory conclusion. We look forward to working with our new colleagues who are obviously prepared to invest in the future of the business and we expect to continue the growth in sales and profitability with our dealer partners, experienced over the last few years," said Tony Bourke.



Two more books have arrived at BIGGA HOUSE that may interest some of our readers.

Practical Drainage for Golf, Sportsturf and Horticulture by Keith McIntyre and Bent Jakobsen  
Published by Ann Arbor Press  
ISBN 1-57504-139-1

Keith McIntyre, who is based in Canberra, Australia, has 34 years of experience in horticulture and sportsturf specialising in sportsground construction, soils and drainage. Bent Jakobsen has spent much of his working life working on soil compaction and particle movement. More recently, Bent worked with Keith on soil and drainage problems.

The two authors have used their knowledge and experience to put together an easy to follow text book on drainage which contains chapters on soil structure and water retention through to subsoil and surface drainage. All units are shown in both metric and imperial measures, key points highlighted in bold print.

Although some theory is included, the authors have attempted to keep definitions simple and at the correct level for practitioners, although some theorists may argue about some of their definitions.

An enlightening chapter on Perched Water Tables gives an insight on what can go wrong and this is followed up in a later section with information on the USGA Recommendations. Written by practitioners for practitioners this book would solve many of the problems and answers most questions that greenkeepers encounter.

The second book is for those greenkeepers who are interested in new grass species and are concerned with the changes that the 21st century may bring to the fine turf industries.

Seashore Paspalum  
The environmental Turfgrass  
by R R Duncan and R N Carrow

Both authors are Professors within the Turfgrass department of the University of Georgia, Griffin, where they have been concerned with the breeding and growing of new cultivars that are resistant to stress.

Although of limited use to greenkeepers in Britain, the book aims to establish a precedent by offering turf grass managers a four pronged approach to growing new cultivars.

This book concentrates on Seashore Paspalum and contains:

- A description and background information
- Environmental tolerance.
- Management practices
- Using alternative water resources

A fairly complex book for most readers, but it does give a useful insight into what is becoming available now and what may become available soon to help greenkeepers in their quest to plant, grow and maintain turf grass when it is under stress.

## Membership Subscription Rates for 2001

Please note that from January 1, 2001, BIGGA Membership Subscription Rates will be as follows:

Job Title	2001 Rates
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£80
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£65
All other Greenkeeping staff aged 21 years and over	£52
Greens staff aged 20 years and under	£32
International Greenkeeping Member	£60
Full-time Students	£15
Associate Member	£60
<b>New for 2001</b>	
Corporate Membership (upto 4 trade members)	£180

## Top IoH award for Robert

Independent turf consultant and agronomist, Robert Laycock, (right) has been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture (IoH).

The honour comes in recognition of the high level of distinction achieved within the turf profession by Robert during a 25-year career working with turf growers, golf greenkeepers, groundsmen and other turf professionals.

Following his election, Robert Laycock becomes the only Fellow of the IoH who is also an active turf agronomist. He is the first turf specialist to be made a Fellow since Dr Peter Hayes and the late John Shildrick, both of the Sports Turf Research Institute, were elected Fellows.

"I am very pleased and deeply honoured to have been made a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture," commented Robert.

"Very few turf specialists have received this accolade which is made on the recommendation of the Institute



before being approved by individual members. The honour reflects the growing status and importance of the turf profession within the horticultural industry."

## New acquisition for Charterhouse



Redexim Charterhouse has added to the company portfolio with the acquisition of Pro-Seed Equipment Ltd.

This acquisition was made by Charterhouse Turf Machinery's parent company in Holland, whose strategy is to grow by gaining strength in niche market areas within the turf industry.

The products manufactured by Pro-Seed will complement Redexim Charterhouses' existing range and

benefit from their world-wide distribution. Ken Knowles, Managing Director of Pro-Seed Equipment said that he was delighted that several months of negotiations had come to a successful conclusion and that his whole Company would now receive the benefits which flow from being part of a larger group. He himself would continue working in conjunction with the group's Engineering Department which is based in Holland.

## Links Manager appointed at The Trust

Former Scottish National Chairman and National Board Member, Gordon Moir, has been appointed Links Manager at the St Andrews Links Trust following the tragic death of Ian Forbes in September.

Gordon, (right) has worked for the Links Trust for nine years. He joined in 1991 as Head Greenkeeper of the Eden Course from Fraserburgh Golf Club. He then added the management of the nine hole Balgove Course and in 1996 also became responsible for running the newly-opened Eden Greenkeeping Centre.



As Links Manager, he will have responsibility for the greenkeeping squads covering all six courses, property maintenance, stores and engineering workshops – over 60 employees in total. He will also oversee the installation and future maintenance of the irrigation system.

"I am delighted that the Trust has been able to fill this senior position by internal promotion. This confirms the rising quality of the Trust's staff at all levels. Under Gordon's management the condition of the Eden Course has improved substantially and I am convinced he will make a major contribution to the management of the Links," said Alan McGregor, general manager of St Andrews Links Trust.

Originally from Fraserburgh, Gordon served his greenkeeping apprenticeship at Fraserburgh Golf Club and completed his training at Elmwood College.

A keen golfer, he plays off 6. Married with three children, he lives in St Andrews and is past Chairman of St Andrews Round Table.

## Mike Olver passes away

Mike Olver, of Olver Seeds and Sundries, and a regular attendee at Devon and Cornwall Section events has died after a short illness.

"Mike supported the Section for many years and we are all saddened by his passing. Our condolences go to his family," said Devon and Cornwall Section Secretary, Richard Whyman.

## Canadian Awards

Jim Wyllie has been awarded the John B. Steel Award for distinguished service and will be presented with the award at the CGSA Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Show in Vancouver next year.

He will be joined by James Brown, who has been voted the CGSA's 2000 Superintendent of the Year.

The Conference and Show will be held in the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre on February 24-27, 2001.

# A true International feel to Association

In recent editions of 'Greenkeeper' we have noticed that you have been mentioning international members more and more, so we thought that it was long overdue that we introduced ourselves as two of probably very few members currently working in Nigeria.

The golf course is an 18 Hole Championship course situated in the new capital Abuja. It has been named IBB Golf and Country Club, named after the former president Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB), who initiated the idea. The course was opened in 1984 and since then it has developed into a very challenging and beautiful course, which could easily be compared to any of the better courses in the hotter parts of Europe or America. The course also serves as a nature reserve providing a home for many types of tropical wildlife including crocodiles and dangerous snakes (so be careful in the rough).

The greens are 100% Tifdwarf which after several attempts was found to be the most appropriate grass to suit the conditions found in this part of the world, as such extreme temperatures which can reach 40°C coupled with six months of drought and six months of heavy rain. The fairways and tees are made up of native grasses such as Kikoji and common Bermuda, which generally provide a good playing surface.

At present we have a staff of 45 but not all are working on the course. We have four mechanics, store keeper, timekeeper and cleaners. During the rainy season the remaining staff spend 90% of their 10 hour day just keeping up with the course cutting on this 101 hectare site, bearing in mind that the grass here grows at three times the normal rate found in Europe. Providing it gets irrigated during the dry season it never stops growing as the coolest experienced is 21°C so it's like growing your grass in a heated greenhouse with no shortage of moisture all year round.

With the exception of the rough the whole course is irrigated. During the dry season we would normally irrigate with 1,000,000 litres of water per day. All valves are operated by hand which requires a team of four working 24 hours per day to ensure enough water is applied.



Our machinery is made of 95% Textron equipment and the remaining 5% being the Kubota compact tractor range. These machines have proved very reliable in these conditions, although we are forever changing rubber components such as hydraulic hoses and tyres. This is due to the constant exposure to extreme heat and sunlight which softens the rubber, causing it to wear prematurely. We would normally change the tyres on the drive wheels every four weeks, so, as you can imagine, with over 100 tyres on the course daily we get through quite a few.

We enjoyed reading a letter from one of your readers in which he complained about waiting 33 days for spare parts for an Iseki tractor. As I'm sure you realise we do not have the luxury of a local dealer so everything is shipped in from Europe. The normal delivery time (without expensive air freight charges) is three months. We keep a large stock which probably compares to a small dealers stock but sometimes we do get caught short - for example, an engine for one of our bat wing mowers developed a major fault which required a new engine. It was ordered in January 2000 and after shipping and customs problems did not arrive at the golf course until seven months later. A long time to be without such

an important machine but as with all greenkeepers we just have to find a way to manage this kind of situation and still present our course in the best possible condition no matter what. We all know excuses do not make any difference when the chairman of the greens committee is stuck in the rough up to his waist on the 18th hole and, as a result, loses the monthly medal by one shot.

On saying that, it's not a bad job really turning up for work every day in a pair of shorts, tee shirt and sunglasses. Yes we can remember that wet and cold February morning huddled together in the shed thinking of the summer months which seem a lifetime away.

On a final note we hope you enjoyed a look into greenkeeping in Africa. We could go on to tell you about greens disappearing overnight due to insect attack and the problems of filling the accident book after scorpion and mamba bites, but instead would like to thank BIGGA for its splendid publication which brings us a much needed look at what's going on back in Europe every month.

Robert Bell and Paul Evans  
Golf Course Superintendents,  
IBB Golf & Country Club,  
Abuja, Nigeria

## Sad passing of Fred Hawtree

BIGGA Honorary Member, Fred Hawtree, has died after a long illness. Fred, a world renowned golf course architect, was presented with his Honorary Membership certificate at his home in Oxfordshire by his long time friend and then BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, last year.

Gordon will write his own tribute to Fred in next month's magazine.

## Drainage Seminar

A Sports Turf Drainage Seminar will be held at Newbury Racecourse on November 16. Further details can be obtained from the Land Drainage Contractors Association Tel: 01327 263264 Fax: 01327 263264.

## Positive feedback after Deere trip

Alan Sampson, of Wortley Golf Club, reports on the latest John Deere Feedback trip

In September, approximately 90 people from the UK, mainly greenkeepers and sales representatives, travelled to Moline in Chicago, the headquarters of John Deere, for Feedback 2000.

For nine years John Deere have been listening to comments made from feedback stations and then re-designing machines to suit greenkeepers needs. This year, as in previous years, feedback was held at the Pinnacle Country Club where various new and hybrid versions of John Deere equipment were there for us to put to the test and then give feedback on whether it meets the needs and demands of greenkeepers and golf courses back in the UK.

There is without doubt some excellent machinery in its final stages of production and who knows, we may even see some launched at our very own BTME show.

Although feedback was the main reason for the journey to Chicago we were treated to many more features of the trip. On the second day we were given the opportunity to play golf at the new TPC golf course Deere Run, a PGA tour course and host to the recent John Deere Classic. This, for a golf course in its first playing year, was very impressive. For those not golf minded was a trip to Grand Detour to visit the historical site and home of the influential figure John Deere himself.

Day three was a trip to see the production of John Deere combine harvesters followed by an introduction programme at the auditorium and dinner at the John Deere headquarters.

Day four started with customer evaluation field stations (feedback) followed by a short trip to the 41 acre under cover parts department. Day five was back in down town Chicago for a guided tour of some of the city's most famous landmarks.

This trip, apart from being a chance of a lifetime, was an opportunity for greenkeepers to say what they really want out of machinery from a company whose aim is to provide excellent equipment. I would like to say a big thank you to Richard Tyas, of Bob Wilds Grass Machinery, to James Morley, of John Deere, and to John Deere themselves for their hospitality and generosity on this trip was first class from start to finish.

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



**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**

## **Praise for Sandy McDivot**

Congratulations on continuing to turn out a first class magazine for BIGGA in Greenkeeper International.

The article I enjoy and deserves much credit is Sandy McDivot - very humorous with a lovely sting in the tail.

Keep up the good work and regards to all my greenkeeping friends.

**John Nudds, Retired Course Manager, Gerrards Cross GC, Now Hunstanton, Norfolk**

## **Retirement thanks from Allan Stow**

Yes, it is true, I have retired after over 35 years working for Synchemicals/Vitax. I have covered, at some time, most of the British Isles and have driven over a million miles.

I have met so many greenkeepers and groundsmen over the years and would like to say thank you to you all for making my job so enjoyable. Also a big thank you to all at BIGGA and members of the trade.

Thank you and farewell,

**Allan Stow, Farnham**

PS Don't let the golfers get you down!

## **Chris Yeaman Jnr**

I want to thank you all for the money you raised for me after my transplant in April this year. I have put the money into my building society, so that I can use it to go to Butch Harman's Golfing Academy in Portugal next summer with my mum, dad and sister. I'm hoping to be the next Tiger Woods, and a week's tuition at the Academy should hopefully send me on my way.

Once again thank you very much for the money. I'll send photographs of my time there next year.

**Christopher Yeaman Junior  
West Linton GC**

## **Friendly advice not taken on board**

I feel compelled to write this letter in response to the article "Friendly Advice" by Sandy McDivot, in the August 2000, edition of Greenkeeper International. On reading the article I was utterly astonished at the attitude that was being taken by the author and the way in which he encouraged other BIGGA members to adopt his principles. In my view BIGGA is an Association that promotes professionalism and the way in which it has encouraged this along with its members in recent times is to be admired.

In my opinion if members of your golf course are not repairing the damage they cause, they should be told in a courteous manner that it would be beneficial

to the overall condition of the course if they replaced their divots and repaired their pitch marks on the greens. After all this is basic etiquette that should be followed while playing a round of golf.

To turn a blind eye to this type of behaviour is the worst thing that anyone can do. If you can get the more prominent members to follow these rules then they themselves will do the work for you. After all this type of person thrives on telling other people that they know best.

I agree that all greenkeepers should strive for good relations with their membership, but never lose sight of the fact that you work long hard hours to produce a good golf course for them and

to resort to arse licking means you lose your self respect and the respect of your employers.

I believe that it is time Mr Sandy McDivot revealed his true identity so we can see just who is responsible for this ridiculous feature, because I am pretty sure that he is talking (in his own words) out of the final component of his elementary canal.

I am more than happy to leave my real name and address and I look forward to any response that Mr McDivot has to my comments.

**A J Mannon, Deputy Course Manager, Southerndown Golf Club, South Wales**

## **'Sales ploy' defended by seed company**

I am writing in response to the Talking Heads' article in the September 2000 issue of Greenkeeper International where your panel of greenkeepers debated the pros and cons of overseeding.

As Technical Manager for Amenity Grasses at Advanta Seeds, I feel I must defend the statement that this practice is merely "a sales ploy invented by seed companies".

The life of any particular sward is neither static nor infinite, and eventually some of the species will need replacing with better, healthier plants.

We are investing heavily in developing new amenity cultivars, which will make golf course management easier. We understand the increasing pressures that greenkeepers face, and are working hard to produce new varieties that will cope with greater use, but which need less physical and chemical inputs.

For example, we are developing varieties where the speed of regrowth has

been reduced, so that in future, greenkeepers won't have to mow the grass so often. Twenty years ago, our breeders made disease resistance a top priority, and varieties coming out of the breeding programme now, show very good resistance to diseases like red thread.

In some situations, tees and fairways will benefit from the introduction of the new strains of fineleaved ryegrasses, which have been specifically bred for golf course use. They offer benefits such as high wear tolerance, rapid establishment and good root development, and produce a dense, disease free and clean cutting turf.

Your contributors displayed a wide range of expectations with regards to germination - which makes me wonder whether some were not confusing this with establishment. All seed sold in the UK is subject to strict regulation regarding germination potential and purity. All Advanta seed sold exceeds the Higher Voluntary

Standards set by the EC.

Sward preparation prior to overseeding, and subsequent management will influence establishment considerably. This is particularly true when using mixtures with bentgrass in them because the seed is so small. But if managed correctly it will drop down below mowing height, especially if sown after verticutting.

Finally I would always advise using a mixture of cultivars. We take considerable efforts to formulate mixtures that are right for each particular situation. In mixture trials we started in the UK two years ago, we have already seen dramatic differences. In terms of shoot density, tolerance to close mowing, cleanness of cut and disease resistance, mixtures out-perform individual cultivars every time.

**David Rhodes, Amenity Grass Development Manager, Advanta Seeds UK**

## **Dustin's thanks after National Championship win**

After a fantastic few days golf at Lytham St Annes playing two of the best courses I have had the pleasure of playing, I felt I just had to write to you to express my feelings now that it has sunk in what I have managed to do. I was so very shocked when I was announced the winner and it just all seemed as if I was in a dream. That was first time that I found myself lost for words but I wanted to say so much.

The two days golf were on two courses that were very well presented, and in excellent condition that suited my golf to a tee. The accommodation provided was also very good and the food fantastic, what more could we ask for, everything was so well planned and all seemed to go very smoothly. This event would not have taken place had it not been for the kind sponsorship from Charterhouse and Scotts who pro-

vided some lovely prizes and just made the event the success it was. Of course I would also like to thank the good people behind the scenes at BIGGA who have obviously put a lot of time and effort in to the championship to allow the competition go off without a hitch and make it the success it was.

I am sure that I speak for all who attended this Championship when I say thank you for the enjoyment had

by all. This was a great experience to meet other Greenkeepers from around the country, and to play some good golf on great courses.

I look forward to playing in future events. Keep up the great work at BIGGA.

**Dustin Houghton  
Winner The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship**

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Associate Member



MEMBER



Geoff Yelland takes an in depth look at one of greenkeeping's potential nightmares: The Leatherjacket

# MONSTERS FROM THE DEEP

Under the surface of fine turf at this time of year lurks a voracious feeding machine with an appetite to match jaws – and right now it could be attacking the roots of your turf!

Leatherjacket activity is one of the biggest threats to fine turfgrass through the winter and early spring period, and while damage visible on the surface is often attributed to other factors such as drought and stress, leatherjackets – underground and out of sight – are the real enemy.

The problem is that although leatherjackets are feeding now, the signs of damage will not be obvious until the spring.

The first visible signs of activity are straw-coloured patches of turf which happen when roots are damaged by leatherjackets feeding on the roots. Soon after this the patches become bare and are invaded by weeds.

Leatherjackets are rather like great white sharks – superbly designed eating machines!

Magnified photos give a pretty good clue to the reason for their voracious feeding habits – their extremely large biting mouthparts mean they can easily chew and sever roots and stem bases. That's why what looks like stressed or drought-hit turf on the surface can often be hiding a more serious problem.

The key to effective treatment is a

sound understanding of the crane fly's life cycle.

A closer look at this will help turf managers match insecticide application timing to the more susceptible immature larval stage of the pest.

Leatherjackets are the larvae of the crane fly (*Tipula paludosa*), or daddy longlegs, and undergo complete metamorphosis through four distinct phases: adult (crane fly), egg, larvae (leatherjacket) and pupae. Each adult crane fly lays 300-400 eggs just below the surface of the soil between late July and early September.

The leatherjackets emerge two to three weeks later and begin feeding on grass roots, which continues until the following June when they pupate.

The adults then begin to emerge again from late July to complete the life cycle. The problem at this time of year is that leatherjackets consume large amounts of plant material and quickly build up their food reserves during the autumn and early spring.

Infestation and damage in the spring can be particularly severe if the autumn and winter are mild and moist as they can continue feeding throughout this period. And of course, turfgrass growth has slowed at this time of year, so it cannot compensate for the damage caused.

A well-planned integrated pest management approach can be extremely effective at keeping leatherjacket numbers down – but timing of every process is crucial for good results.

Cultural operations, particularly spiking or slitting to improve turf aeration and reduce excess surface moisture, are the key to creating an adverse environment for the pest. Leatherjackets thrive in a warm, moist environment, but cannot tolerate dry conditions, and a freely draining, aerated sward in the autumn will help ensure that populations surviving through to



the spring feeding period are minimised. Of course, the benefits of good aeration are twofold, as it also helps prevent fusarium development.

A combination of these operations and the use of a proven insecticide will give effective control if timing is carefully planned. Aeration reduces the moist turf conditions in which leatherjackets thrive, while the contact, ingestion and vapour action of the insecticide gives a high level of control.

With lower temperatures during the early winter period, leatherjackets tend to move further down the soil profile to avoid the cold turf surface, and will only actively feed when temperatures are greater than 60C.

For this reason, it's not advisable to apply pesticide during periods of prolonged frosty weather as the leatherjackets will be too deep within the soil to come into contact with the insecticide.

This is why treatments should ide-

ally take place in the autumn or early spring. Attacks in the spring are often more serious, as the leatherjackets are approaching maturity and are more active, inflicting severe injuries to root systems and stem bases, so it's advisable to treat for leatherjacket infestations sooner rather than later.

Careful monitoring of leatherjacket populations and environmental conditions at this time of year is an important part of integrated pest control.

Keeping a record of signs of activity such as the number of crane fly seen on the wing during the late July to early September period and the feeding activity of birds on turf can be good pointers to the likely leatherjacket populations for the year. And that will give greenkeepers a head start over the eating machines.

Geoff Yelland is Technical Manager at Rigby Taylor's Guildford branch

## Risk assessment chart for leatherjackets in turf

Risk Category Rating

**Locality**  
 Predominantly grassland \*\*\*  
 Mixed arable/grass \*\*  
 Mainly arable \*  
 Other \*

**Past history**  
 Problems noted previously \*\*\*  
 Problems in neighbouring farmer's fields/areas \*\*\*  
 No history of problems \*

**Weather during late summer/autumn**  
 Warm/damp \*\*\*  
 Cold/damp \*\*  
 Warm/dry \*  
 Cold/dry \*

**Action**  
 Over 7 \* Apply pesticide  
 5-7 \* Check for signs of damage or presence of larvae.  
 An indication of leatherjackets may be given by the presence of birds, particularly rooks, crows and starlings searching for grubs. Apply pesticide as necessary.  
 Under 5 \* Treatment may not be needed.

**Know your leatherjacket risk – complete this risk assessment and add up the score to determine the threat to your turf.**