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BIGGA'S Membership Services Officer, Tracey Maddison, would like to welcome over 220 new members, and give some important information for BIGGA's overseas members

It's never too late for renewals!

Time Flies ...

If your membership expired in December 2000, January or February 2001, it is still not too late to renew. Just contact Tracey or Susannah in Membership Services for information on how to renew your membership.

If you have retired from greenkeeping or are about to retire, your membership doesn't have to retire with you. Why not apply for retired membership and keep in touch with your friends and the industry and carry on receiving your valuable copy of Greenkeeper International. Just ring Tracey or Susannah at BIGGA HOUSE.



Great News ...

After last month's successful GCSAA show in Dallas, BIGGA have advised over half a dozen application forms from Greenkeepers who visited the show, making a total of almost 50 BIGGA members in the USA. BIGGA now has over 250 overseas greenkeeping members in total, situated all over the world.

Time to Talk

Need to chat with other greenkeepers about a work related problem? Don't go it alone, gain advice from your fellow greenkeeper members. Visit the Members Area bulletin board and start a discussion within seconds. This is a new service providing all greenkeepers the opportunity to discuss any topic of interest relevant to the profession. If there isn't a bulletin board of interest, create a new one. Visit www.bigga.org.uk and login to the members area for an exciting and communicative experience.

You've got mail!

If you've got an email account why not send an email to the membership department, where we can place you into our exclusive members email address book. We can then keep you up to date with membership news and events as they happen.

Send an email to:
membership@bigga.co.uk
tracey@bigga.co.uk
susannah@bigga.co.uk

Eurocheques are no more

For all those overseas BIGGA members who have previously or are thinking of paying for their membership by Eurocheque, unfortunately, the UK banks are no longer accepting these as valid forms of payment. Included with your renewal form will be information on other ways to pay including BIGGA's banking details.

If you have any questions, please email either tracey@bigga.co.uk or susannah@bigga.co.uk for further information.

March's Monthly Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch. Our congratulations go to March's winner, Paul Peasgood of Stoke Rochford GC.

BIGGA welcomes ...

Scottish Region

Robert Allan, North
 George Anderson, Central
 Austen Cameron, Central
 David Cartmill, Central
 Stuart Crossan, West
 Angus I Forbes, North
 James P Fox, Central
 Richard Johnstone, North
 John Kelly, West
 Christopher Lamarra, West
 Christopher Mayle, West
 Allan R McBeath, East
 Graham McDonald-Malia, East
 Alan I M More, West
 Stuart Orr, West
 Norman D Rose, North
 Craig Ross, West
 Thomas Simpson, Central
 Douglas Steele, West
 Andrew J Tully, Central

Northern Region

Gary Anderson, Northern
 James Barlow, N West
 David M Chadwick, Northern
 Mathew Corbishley, N West
 Carl J Davies, N West
 Craig A Finnegan, Northern
 Leonard Frith, Sheffield
 Christopher Grain, N Wales
 Martin J Green, Northern
 Steven Holmes, N East
 James Hoyle, Sheffield
 Dylan H Hughes, N Wales
 Stefan G Jones, Northern
 Alwyn Jones, N Wales
 David A Kendall, Northern
 Brian J Kirkby, Northern
 Michael J Lees, N West
 Roger I Mackerell, Northern
 Alan P Martin, Northern
 Derek Ollershaw, Sheffield
 Georgina Quinn, N Wales
 Philip J Riley, Sheffield
 Marc D Steele, N West
 Steven Stringer, N West
 Rob S Taylor, N West
 Daniel E Young, N West

Midland Region

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 Grant D Birchall, E Midland
 Matthew Brown, BB&O
 Geoffrey H Carrigan, BB&O
 Alan Coburn, BB&O
 John M Davies, E Midland
 Andrew S Glasby, Midland
 Graham Evans, BB&O
 James Fletcher, Midland
 Paul French, E Midland
 Maurice Gardener, BB&O
 Steven Grundy, BB&O
 Gary A Hainsworth, Mid Anglia
 Alastair D Higgs, BB&O
 Danny R Kirby, E Midland
 Andrew R Miller, Midland
 Robert V Nightingale, Mid Anglia
 Daniel G Perks, Mid Anglia
 Michael L Randell, BB&O
 Michael P Rapley, BB&O
 Keith Rawdin, E Midland
 David Smith, E Midland
 Craig Souter, Midland
 Aaron R Thompson, E Midland
 Lee Thorne, BB&O
 John Warlow, BB&O
 Gary A Watkins, Midland
 Robert Westerdale, E Midland
 Paul Whitten, Midland
 Colin M Woodward, Midland
 Paul D Worrall, BB&O

South East Region

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 Steven Alchorne, Surrey
 Keith Allen, Kent
 Alan Banks, Sussex
 Simon P Barker, Surrey
 John D Boughton, London
 John M Burton, Surrey
 Peter Chambers, Surrey
 Kevin Clark, Surrey
 Jay A Clark, Essex
 Joseph Clements, Sussex
 Scott R Colgate, Essex
 Nigel S Crittenden, Surrey
 Michael Dillway, Essex

Boyd J Evans, Essex
 Andrew Ewart, Surrey
 David J Farmer, E Anglia
 Mark Farrer, Surrey
 James D Folly, London
 Daniel R Giacche, Surrey
 Andrew S Glasby, Sussex
 Geoff Glazier, Sussex
 Garth Grand, Sussex
 Rhys J Grenham, Sussex
 Michael Groombridge, Sussex
 Adam Gunn, Surrey
 David Hailes, Surrey
 Kirk Hall, Surrey
 Steven Harding, Surrey
 Andrew M Heffernan, Surrey
 Steven M Jackson, Essex
 Alan R Johnson, Surrey
 Alan G Kemp, E Anglia
 Anthony Keywood, Surrey
 Mark R Kiff, Essex
 Michael Knight, Sussex
 Andrew Lee, Surrey
 Raymond McClatchie, Surrey
 Eamonn Murphy, E Anglia
 Timothy J Nicholls, Sussex
 James Prickess, Essex
 Tobias G Rae, Surrey
 Steven Ramsey, Sussex
 Noel Ryan, London
 Daniel D Shaw, Surrey
 Peter C Snell, Surrey
 Matthew M Twitichin, London
 Don Wells, Surrey
 Simon Westwood, Surrey
 Stephen Williams, Kent

S West & S Wales Region

Matthew Allan, S Coast
 James Anderson, S Wales
 Steve Bartlett, S Coast
 Greg Bowes, S Wales
 Robert D Brock, S West
 Ambrose Caldwell, S West
 Alastair Chubb, S West
 David T Cox, S Coast
 David S Crowther, S West
 Nigel J Davies, S Wales
 Alan Draper, Dev & C'wall
 Brian Forder, S Coast

William J Green, S Coast
 Ian Henshaw, S West
 Stephan Hill, S Coast
 Kyle J Holmes, S Wales
 Paul Howe, S West
 Gemma V E Jones, S Wales
 Gareth Keirle, S Wales
 Daniel P Kemp, S West
 Martin Knight, S Coast
 Brendan R Lansley, S Coast
 Simon Main, S West
 Antony C Newland, Dev & C'wall
 Darren Perrett, S West
 Gian Povey, S West
 Anthony Scott, Dev & C'wall
 Phillip H Thomas, S Wales
 Andrew R Walker, Dev & C'wall
 Kevin D Williams, S Wales
 Gareth R Yandell, S West

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Liam J McVeigh

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 Tim Lobb, Surrey
 Ross McMurray, Surrey
 Russell Talley, Surrey
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 Christopher Brown, North
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 Clive Edgar, Sheffield
 Graham B Goodyear, Sheffield
 Nicholas Gray, N West
 I F Gilmour, Midland
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 Andrew J Williams, E Midland
 Robert Fison, E Anglia
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 Mel Thomas, Surrey
 Ashley Williams, Surrey
 Peter Appleton, S Coast
 Joseph J Crawley, S Coast

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Christopher Baldock, Central
 Andrew Coughlan, Central
 Ian Morrison, Central
 Heike Pascha, East
 Lee Relf, Central
 Wesley Walker, Central
 Keith Walton, Central
 Paul A Avison, N West
 Mark Heveran, N West
 Russ Wilson, N West
 Michael C Love, E of England
 Edward A Morley, Midland
 Jacob Morris, BB&O
 Bryan J Rampton, E Midland
 James Rawsthorne, Midland
 Christopher R Patey, Kent
 Maxwell Wheeler, Surrey
 Luke Fulkus, S West
 James Mitten, S West
 William Naylor, S West

Check out May's edition of
Greenkeeper
 INTERNATIONAL
 for all of the new members from March 2001!

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER
Profile
 ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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: Steven Nicol

Club: Winterfield GC

Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

Age: 31

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

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
 None

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

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
 Soil and seeding divots

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?
 Brick layer

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
 Former Head Greenkeeper, Stuart Greenwood and present Head Greenkeeper, Craig Pennycuik

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
 More education for golfers

8. What are your hobbies?
 Golf, darts and football

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
 Educational seminars, magazine, meet other greenkeepers at outings

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
 Course Superintendent on one of the top Golf Courses in the world



Get online this month, and find out about BIGGA's latest additions to the website. From brand new content to improved Bulletin Board access, online is the way forward...

Get online and surf the BIGGA Web...

If you are worried about diving in, now is your chance to immerse yourself in the BIGGA website. And don't worry, when you surf the site, you won't even need a wetsuit!

Packed with news, features and educational content the BIGGA site is presented in a clear and concise format. What's more, each item carries hyperlinks to many other relevant topics, to save you having to fish around, and best of all, we're adding new information all the time, so the site is constantly getting BIGGA and better!

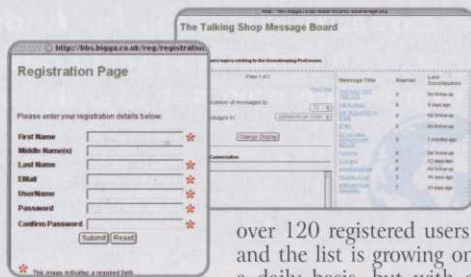
Brand new initiatives include news and feature articles from the Association's monthly magazine, Greenkeeper International, enhanced Directory search facilities, improved Bulletin Board topics

and an updated events section.

Greenkeeper International is the industry's leading publication, regularly informing members of new initiatives and opportunities within the turfcare industry. Packed with news and features every month, the magazine has a subscription currently over 9,000, but that is only a quarter of the monthly traffic to the BIGGA website.

We regularly update the Greenkeeper International section of the website with content from the magazine BEFORE the mailing date. So if you want to read about what's going on in your industry, and can't bear to wait for your magazine, log on to the BIGGA website today, and join the thousands of other online users.

The Time to Talk Bulletin Board was launched just before BTME, and enables greenkeepers to exchange news, views, tips and tricks between each other. The more subjects that are discussed, will help to create an online community which will grow in numbers and in shared knowledge. There are currently



over 120 registered users, and the list is growing on a daily basis, but with a membership of over 7,000,

that's just a drop in the ocean!

If you need help or advice with any greenkeeping matter, then log onto the Time to Talk Bulletin Board, and register today. It's quick and easy to do, and as soon as you've posted your query, you can sit back, and watch the responses flood in.

If you have any comments or questions regarding the BIGGA website, we'd be delighted to hear from you. After all, the website is another tool you can use for either information or communication, and we can only improve it by listening to comments from you. Please address your email to <webmaster@bigga.co.uk>

EMAIL ROUNDUP

Got a question to ask or have some information or comments to pass on? Contact us via email at the relevant address below.

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Education & Training
education@bigga.co.uk

Editorial/PR
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Published annually, the Directory is a stand-alone publication which provides the industry's buyers with an unrivalled database of contacts from which to make their buying decisions. Easy to use, with over 125 individual product categories, the Directory is proving to be a major resource for buyers as they search for industry contacts. **Can you afford NOT to be included?**

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Send an email Cheryl Broomhead at

cheryl@bigga.co.uk

Call Cheryl at BIGGA HOUSE on

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A new career in Germany for Andrew Jeffrey together with Peter Haggarty has opened the door to a whole new set of challenges ...

Under one roof

As an experienced Landscaper of 15 years and pretty set in my working ways, starting my first day's work as a Greenkeeper was very daunting.

I had decided some six months prior to April '98 to try and find work on a golf course, firstly because I am fascinated with the sport, and secondly I wanted a new challenge and considered that perhaps a golf course could use a landscaper from time to time.

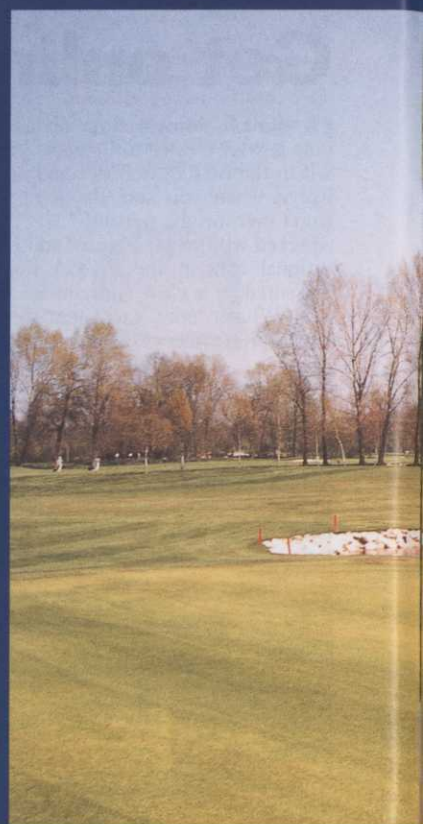
I was very lucky to be offered a job as Greenkeeper/Landscaper at Golfplatz Munchen Nord-Bichenried in March '98. I had lived in Germany since October '92 so I could speak German fairly well but nevertheless I was very relieved when I met the Assistant Head Greenkeeper who turned out to be Peter Haggarty, recently moved over to Germany from Helensburgh Golf Club in Scotland.

I learned very quickly that Peter is a very talented golfer (plays off scratch) and has a terrific enthusiasm

for everything in greenkeeping and in particular course development and construction. Like me, Peter is constantly trying to find ways in which you can improve on things, or how you can do something better next time. One thing, however, struck me after a fairly short while which was every time a new bunker was constructed, or if ideas for course upgrading were to be considered, the Club would ask outside companies for advice and eventually a quote. My thinking then was "we could do that" and "why should we bring in outside help when we are capable of doing the work ourselves".

Essentially, keeping everything "under one roof" seemed to be an obvious way forward for a number of reasons. Firstly, if you have experience in construction and a sound knowledge of up-to-date construction techniques, then why would you bring in outside help? Secondly, I am convinced that if you are passionate about something you will always give 125% to achieve the best possible result. Also, you can be justifiably proud if you have been directly involved and the finished product works and looks good, and finally the cost savings to the club are enormous.

With this in mind, we started talking to our Club Manager, Dieter Von-Restorff, who listened to what we had to say and didn't dismiss the idea as ridiculous as we had feared. The outcome was that there was indeed work that we could undertake and our first project was to make a feature out of a very neglected pond sitting very close to our 4th green. I saw it as an opportunity to really upgrade the area while Peter saw it as an opportunity to really enhance the hole from the perspective of playability. We worked together on



ideas and the end result was a greatly enlarged pond which came in much closer to the green with a stone retaining wall which gave great definition to the hole and a new fore green. The whole thing worked and definitely enhanced the look of the hole.

As a result more ideas were discussed and in the winter of 98-99 we started work on a big project which would entail the complete upgrading of one of our par 5 holes. It included the construction of a 1200sqm pond, over 150 metres of stone retaining wall, the complete reconstruction of the fore green and a new bunker. This was indeed a big project because, not only are we a private members' club but also the host to the BMW International Open played in late summer. So we had to build something that was fair for our members but also a test for the Pros who visit us. We were very pleased with the result (see photos), the members liked it, and as some of the scores on that hole showed during the tournament, indeed a good test for the Pros.

Since then we have undertaken many projects and it is as a result of being able to communicate to a Committee and Club Manager who are prepared to listen, that, has allowed this to happen. We are indeed fortunate.

Currently, we are completely upgrading our practice facilities, and have as of now, built ten target greens on the driving range, constructed a new bunker practice area, including a new green, a pitching area encircling a green, and a new 550sqm chipping and putting green. All these

Main picture: The par 5, 6th hole, completed, prior to opening. Myself (Andrew Jeffrey) on the right of flag, and Peter Haggarty, left

Far right: Construction of a dry stone retaining wall around the first tee

Below: The almost complete first tee, shortly before opening



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features are of course very usable but we see them as a natural development of our golf course and as such can offer much more to our members and guests and indeed the Pros when they are here. We think it is essential that people should be offered the most that the Club can provide and we are always looking at ways in which we can improve our product, which in turn keeps members interested and generates much needed cash to help the Club stay healthy.

Perhaps we are lucky here in Bavaria because the winters can be quite long which allows us to undertake construction projects when active greenkeeping is not possible but I think it is very refreshing to have club management who are prepared to lis-

ten to what greenkeepers have to say. After all, we are all members of the same team and the success of the team is only as good as the people within it, so if you all work together then surely you will be successful.

We are currently building a new 9-hole course and the Club has asked that Peter and I oversee the construction. Again, a very positive approach, in respect that although this is a huge responsibility, the Club appreciate that we will have to manage this Course when the constructors have gone home so it is essential we know how it is constructed so we can plan maintenance schedules more precisely for the future. A good argument then for "keeping it all under one roof".



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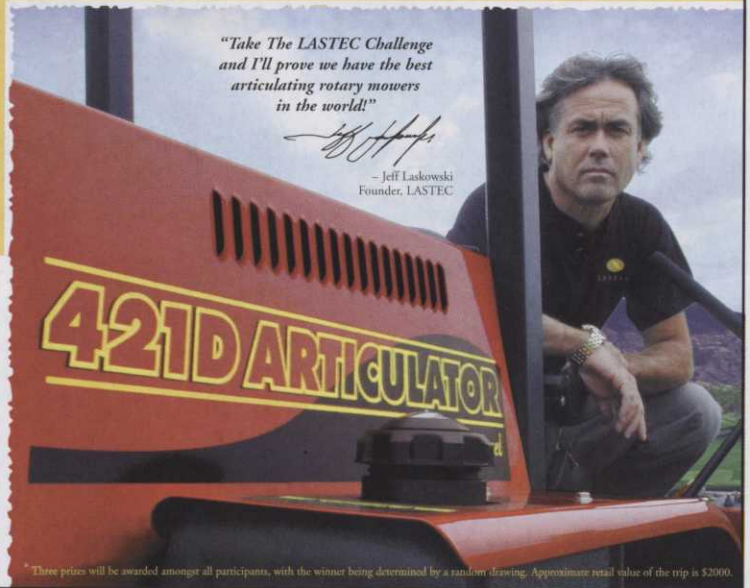


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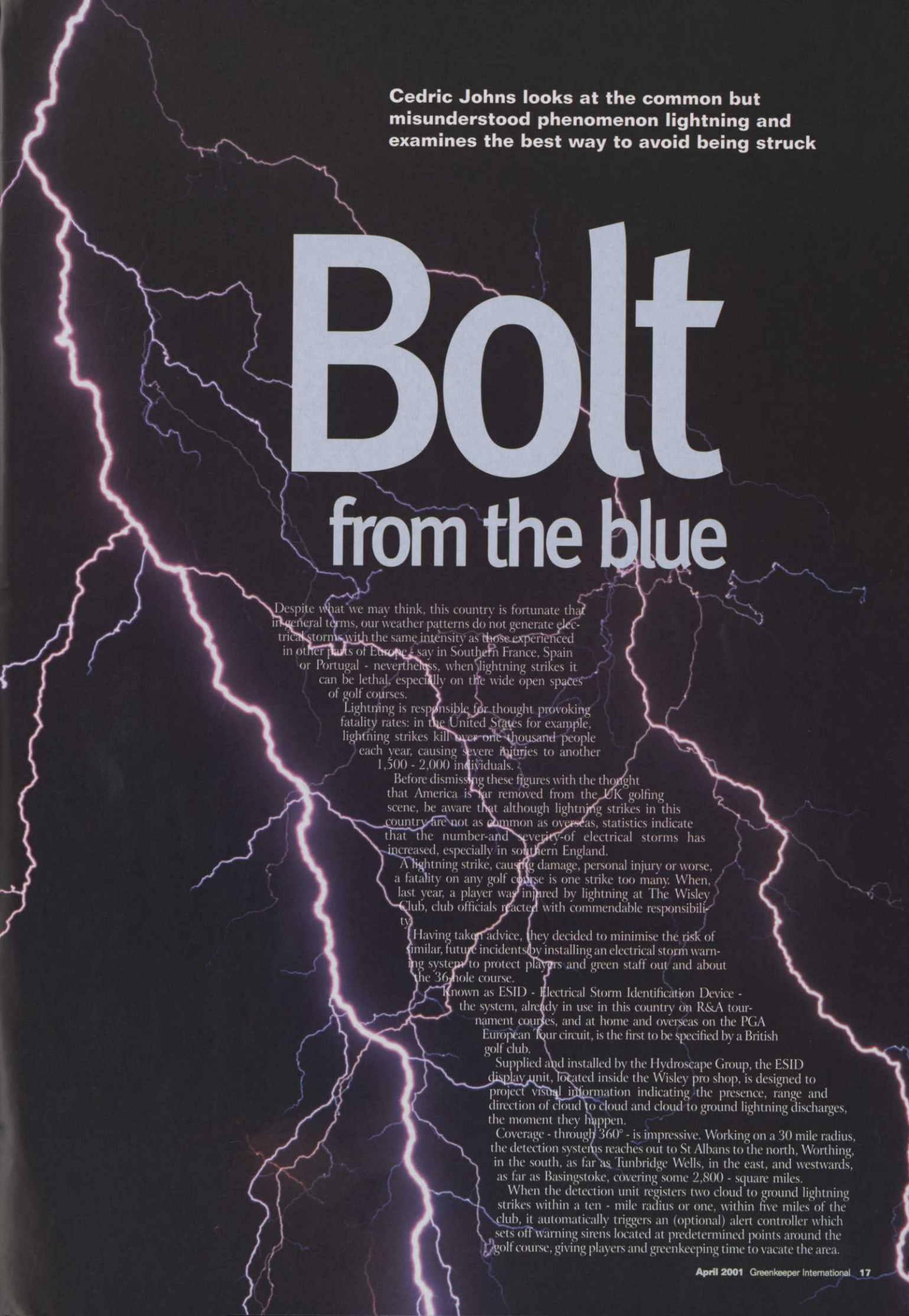
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Cedric Johns looks at the common but misunderstood phenomenon lightning and examines the best way to avoid being struck

Bolt

from the blue

Despite what we may think, this country is fortunate that in general terms, our weather patterns do not generate electrical storms with the same intensity as those experienced in other parts of Europe - say in Southern France, Spain or Portugal - nevertheless, when lightning strikes it can be lethal, especially on the wide open spaces of golf courses.

Lightning is responsible for thought provoking fatality rates; in the United States for example, lightning strikes kill over one thousand people each year, causing severe injuries to another 1,500 - 2,000 individuals.

Before dismissing these figures with the thought that America is far removed from the UK golfing scene, be aware that although lightning strikes in this country are not as common as overseas, statistics indicate that the number and severity of electrical storms has increased, especially in southern England.

A lightning strike, causing damage, personal injury or worse, a fatality on any golf course is one strike too many. When, last year, a player was injured by lightning at The Wisley Club, club officials reacted with commendable responsibility.

Having taken advice, they decided to minimise the risk of similar, future incidents by installing an electrical storm warning system to protect players and green staff out and about the 36-hole course.

Known as ESID - Electrical Storm Identification Device - the system, already in use in this country on R&A tournament courses, and at home and overseas on the PGA European Tour circuit, is the first to be specified by a British golf club.

Supplied and installed by the Hydroscape Group, the ESID display unit, located inside the Wisley pro shop, is designed to project visual information indicating the presence, range and direction of cloud to cloud and cloud to ground lightning discharges, the moment they happen.

Coverage - through 360° - is impressive. Working on a 30 mile radius, the detection systems reaches out to St Albans to the north, Worthing, in the south, as far as Tunbridge Wells, in the east, and westwards, as far as Basingstoke, covering some 2,800 - square miles.

When the detection unit registers two cloud to ground lightning strikes within a ten - mile radius or one, within five miles of the club, it automatically triggers an (optional) alert controller which sets off warning sirens located at predetermined points around the golf course, giving players and greenkeeping time to vacate the area.

Bolt

from the blue



Above: The Hydroscape ESID warning system

The unit's digital display information can be varied by programming it to indicate other warning thresholds. In addition to safeguarding people out on the course, warnings provided by the ESID detection system also enables greenkeeping staff to switch off irrigation controllers (or other, sensitive electrical equipment) to minimise the risk of damage caused by lightning strikes.

What is lightning? Physically, lightning is an exchange of an electrical discharge between clouds or from cloud to the earth's surface. Such exchanges travel at the velocity of almost one third the speed of light, with current levels running as high as 35,000-40,000 amperes, generating one million volts or more.

In addition to electricity, lightning - more particularly a bolt - superheats the surrounding air to temperatures to an almost unbelievable 50,000 degrees centigrade. That's five times hotter than the sun's surface.

Lightning originates from thunderclouds - typically "charged" cumulonimbus clouds. The classic thunderbolt is essentially an electric dipole with a positively charged region above a negatively charged region.

Two theories exist as to how clouds are electrified: according to the con-

vective theory, cloud droplets trap ions in the atmosphere which are moved by convective currents within the cloud to produce charged regions.

Alternatively, the gravitational theory suggests that the heavier negative particles tend to be the lower portion of the thundercloud due to gravitational attraction. Whichever, a charged thundercloud is an unstable entity. Electric fields emitting from thunderclouds can become so strong that they cause an electrical breakdown of the atmosphere.

When this happens, a charge is exchanged via a lightning flash travelling in four possible routes: from cloud to cloud, cloud to ground, from cloud to air or within the cloud itself.

Cloud to ground lightning flashes have three distinctive parts, each occurring in microseconds: the stepped leader and the dart leader. The stepped leader involves the transfer of the charge from cloud to ground along the path of least resistance, in a succession of steps.

This transfer can sometimes follow different paths resulting in what we know as forked lightning. When the stepped leader gets close to the ground it induces corona discharge (dielectric breakdown in the air, which we call St Elmo's Fire) from tall objects - like isolated trees, pylons, church steeples - which literally 'reach out' to the leader.

Connection between the leader and the discharge 'closes the circuit' and establishes an unbroken path between cloud and the ground. This triggers a powerful, upward return stroke which ends in the originating cloud.

The lightning flash may end there or, if the return stroke imparts enough charge to the cloud, a dart leader may emit from the cloud and return in a direct path to the ground. A kind of double whammy!

This dart leader can be powerful enough to induce a second, return stroke. On average, a single lightning flash consists of the three or four return strokes but flashes of up to thirty return strokes have been monitored.

There are also two kinds of cloud to ground lightning: a positive flash which transfer a positive charge, the negative, which as it suggests, exchanges a negative charge with the ground. Usually consisting of a single stroke, positive flashes are

potentially more dangerous as continuous currents created can last up to ten times longer than a negative flash.

That said, you don't need to be an expert to recognise a thunder storm. Not only can you hear the rumble of thunder (thunder, incidentally, is the consequent shock wave from the electrical discharge) you can see lightning.

When this happens and you are caught out on the golf course bear in mind the following: avoid solitary trees, open areas, waterlogged areas and high ground. Avoid all metals objects including sprinklers, fences, machinery, flag poles, power lines, telephone lines and unprotected, small open sided buildings.

If you are in a group, spread out, allowing at least twenty feet distance between yourself and the next person.

In contrast, seek shelter in a substantial building or fully enclosed metal vehicles - like a car, van or 4x4 - ensuring that all windows are closed. If these are not within walking distance, look for cluster of small shrubs or trees or find a ditch, trench or low ground as refuge.

Leave mowers, small pick-ups or golf buggies behind you. Take off any form of metal objects you may be wearing, watches, chains and the like. Clubs and umbrellas should also be discarded.

More sensibly, the next time you are out on the course and you hear or see thunder or lightning, forget about edging that green and raking bunkers or if you are playing, finishing that hole. Walk off, the risk is not worth taking, remember the fates can strike with lightning speed ...

In this day and age, golf clubs, playing members and greenkeeping staff have a duty to each other and themselves to take all necessary precautions to reduce the risk of injury or worse caused by lightning strikes. The R&A, PGA European Tour and now the Wisley club have taken the initiative by using ESID detection systems. Maybe your club should think along similar lines. Discuss.

Readers wishing to learn more about the storm detection systems mentioned in this article can consult Peter Roberts, the Hydroscape Group, telephone 01425 476261 or contact Cedric Johns on 01202 311345 or 01425 614790

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I'm worn out!

Help!

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Green grass is not always a sign of a healthy soil structure.

Constantly saturated ground or a build up of fine soil particles restricts drainage and air movement, breaking down the soil elements into even finer particles. The increasing clogging or total collapse of pore space causes anaerobic conditions, weak root systems and thinning turf.

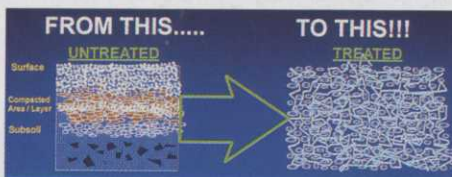


Water doesn't drain, air can't enter and roots won't develop!

Help is at hand

Integrate is a patented blend of water soluble polymeric polyelectrolytes applied to the turf as a conventional high volume spray. As the polymers move down through the soil profile they unwind sending out a strong anionic charge that attracts the cationic charged clay and organic 'fines', drawing them together into larger, water stable particles.

The result is an 'opening up' of the soil structure to provide 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, dense turf will be achieved.



Initial applications will penetrate layers and solid soil structures and the turf manager should see the results in reduced soil compaction and lower bulk density.

Unlike wetting agents, Integrate directly repairs the cause of poor soil structure rather than just addressing the symptoms.

It's good to talk!

Integrate[™]
SOIL CONDITIONER

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Integrate is marketed in the UK and Europe by GreenLink International Ltd,
1 Rysley, Holybread Lane, Little Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 4DD

Tel: +44 (0) 1245 222750 Fax: +44 (0) 1245 222755 E.Mail: greenlink@btinternet.com

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