



peratures are low (hence it's inclusion in many autumn/winter and spring starter formulations). It acidifies the surface of turf, but has a high scorch risk. Urea on the other hand, requires bacterial activity for the conversion of nitrogen to plant available forms. This in turn requires good soil temperatures and moisture levels.

So if I was looking for a product to apply as a spring starter to give me a good response, after coring maybe, I would use product A. However, if I was looking for a summer product to give gentle growth and less flush, I would choose product B.

Potassium Source

It's not just the source of nitrogen that can affect how a fertiliser works and how it should be used.

Potassium in fertilisers can come from one of three main sources - potassium sulphate, potassium chloride or potassium nitrate, and each have specific characteristics. Potassium chloride is

often used in fertilisers because it is readily available and cheap, but it possesses a high scorch risk compared to potassium sulphate. Thus, two fertilisers of identical analysis may have widely different scorch risks because of the potassium source utilised. Fertilisers derived from potassium nitrate are usually sulphur-free and contain nearly 50% oxygen as part of their analysis - both of these features are especially useful when dealing with anaerobic (Oxygen-lacking) rootzone's.

The take-home message is that rather than just looking at the analysis of the fertiliser, one should also look at the sources of nutrient it is derived from to get an idea of how it works.

Longer term Fertilisers

Some products release their nutrients over longer periods. These would include slow release, controlled release and organic fertilisers. They can rely on soil temperature, moisture, as well as bacterial activity (or all three) to regu-

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Different types of Potassium Nitrate Fertiliser

1. Coated (controlled release) for fine turf
2. Mini prill for fine turf
3. Coated (controlled release) for coarse turf
4. Water soluble fertiliser
5. Standard prill for coarse turf



1



3



2



4



5

late the release of nutrients over a given period of time. Such products can provide clear benefits, including the saving of time and labour, avoidance of growth flushes and low scorch potential.

Again, it is important to understand how the particular product works, i.e. what factors it depends upon for its release, how long it works for, etc, before making a product selection.

Coated or controlled release fertilisers are one such group providing long term nutrition and have become widely used over the last 12 years on tees, approaches, fairways - and latterly greens as part of a 'base feeding' fertiliser regime. Resin or polymer coated products release their nutrients through a semi-permeable coating, governed by soil temperature.

As temperatures rise, more nutrient is released into the rootzone, closely following the requirements of the grass plant. Release of nutrients are unaffected by increased moisture levels, making such products ideal for use in wet conditions. Other coated fertilisers such as (poly) sulphur coated ureas (PSCU/SCU) depend upon temperature as well as other factors such as soil moisture levels and microbial activity for nutrient release.

Base Feeding - A new approach

The concept of base feeding is relatively new on fine turf, but is becoming accepted as a different way of applying fertiliser, with particular relevance to high sand content rootzones. In this scenario, a controlled release minigran-

ular fertiliser is applied in the spring and autumn, at renovation time, to provide a long-term base feed of nutrients. (Some products feature controlled release potassium in addition to nitrogen). These applications provide a base of nutrients for the season, upon which supplementary applications, in the form of light rate granular, water-soluble or liquid fertilisers, can be made.

Advantages of base-feeding include;

- Granular applications can be confined to the times of year, when they interfere less with the playing surface (cutting heights are higher and the cutting frequency is less).
- Supplementary fertiliser applications can be made in the form and at the rate the plant requires for that particular part of the season, thereby maintaining control.
- The controlled release of nutrients ensures a gentle supply to the plant, in line with its requirements, because both the grass plant and fertiliser are dependent on soil temperature for growth and release respectively
- Continuous nutrient availability avoids 'peaks and troughs' associated with other fertiliser regimes, providing more consistent growth and more efficient fertilisation.
- Excessive rainfall will not effect the release, minimising the risk of leaching, ensuring excess nutrients are not lost. Fertilisation on golf courses is dependent on a wide range of factors, not least, the weather.

Knowing about the different types of fertiliser, their nutrient forms and release characteristics and applying this knowledge to get the best results is a key part of modern day greenkeeping.

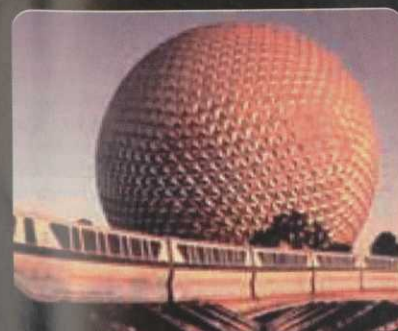
Mark Hunt is Fertiliser Product Manager for Headland Amenity Ltd

Following the success of the first BIGGA Delegation which took 10 BIGGA members to Vancouver for the CGSA Conference and Show earlier this year, courtesy of our friends at Bernhard and Company Ltd, 10 more BIGGA ambassadors will fly to Orlando, Florida next February for the GCSAA Conference and Show ...

Will you be flying to

Florida

in February?



Do you want to benefit from participating in the GCSAA Conference and Show?

If so, now is the time to seek Regional selection. Just forward details of your career, education and training and a brief history of your BIGGA membership. You need to explain why you should be selected and how you feel you would benefit from the trip.

You will need to demonstrate your ability to represent BIGGA and the greenkeeping profession in a public relations role at an International event.

It is a rare opportunity to mix business, education and pleasure in the wonderful surroundings of Orlando, the Theme Park Capital of the World. You could be discussing the latest innovation on a new triple in the morning, learning of the latest developments within the industry in the afternoon and having your photograph taken with Mickey Mouse in the evening. A well rounded day by anyone's estimation!

Will you be one of the 10 man Bernhard and Company Ltd BIGGA delegation?

To give yourself every chance, submit a personal profile - no more than one side of A4, and remember this must be received by your Section Secretary no later than July 31, 2001.

Good Luck!

Two BIGGA members will be selected from each Region and if successful all costs of travel, accommodation and entrance to the Conference programme will be met by Bernhard and Company Ltd.



Scott MacCallum met up with John Deere's new American boss at the company's Langar base

Room to grow



Above: Clay Sherrill, General Manager

Below: Clay with Graham Williams (seated) and some of the John Deere team



The last nine months in this country have been quite remarkable. Floods have been followed by a disease not seen here for 34 years and as I write we are still to see the evidence that the pronouncements of a scorching summer have any truth in them.

Into this unique set of British circumstances has arrived American, Clay Sherrill, the new General Manager of the UK John Deere headquarters.

Since taking over the reins at the beginning of the year Clay has seen the Langar base caught in the middle of a Midlands Foot and Mouth exclusion zone - there is still a disinfectant mat at the entrance to the company's superb building - while markets for much of the company's product have shrunk as revenue streams at many golf clubs have reduced to a trickle thanks to extended flooding induced course closures up and down the country.

Surprisingly this has not prevented Clay, previously the General Manager of the company's Minneapolis branch, from turning on his heels and heading back across the Atlantic and he is

delighted to have landed his new job.

"Earlier in my career I can remember being in Fargo, North Dakota, in the middle of winter with the temperature 30 degrees below and the wind blowing at 60 miles an hour. I started to think back to who I might have angered in the company. I certainly don't view the UK that way as it's an extremely important part of John Deere's business," said Clay, as we spoke in his new office, housing in a building which boasts five huge training rooms and state-of-the-art conference facilities.

And while many have suffered through the financial downturn John Deere seems to have continued to trade relatively unscathed.

"Actually, Foot and Mouth has not affected our business as badly as we thought. It has had an impact because without Foot and Mouth we think we would have had another really good growth year. With Foot and Mouth we're not going to have as much growth as we'd expected but we are still going to be slightly above where we were last year. So that's not bad," said Clay, who, although a non-golfer, is originally from South Carolina, an hour inland from the golfing hotbed of Myrtle Beach.

To reinforce the point on the state of the market, Graham Williams, Division Manager for Commercial and Consumer Equipment and the owner of a face well known within the UK greenkeeping industry revealed some interesting statistics.

"Figures around at the moment show a decline in the golf turf business brought about by the flooding of something like 20%. The effect of the Foot and Mouth has not been evaluated yet but budgets have been cut, that's for sure. However if we have a good summer season I don't think we'll have any long term problems. There is a lot of business being done

at the moment and in the Commercial and Consumer Equipment sector we're actually up 10% on last year, and that's in a down market," revealed Graham.

The C&CE Division is responsible for home owner products, including lawn tractors and walk behind mowers; commercial mowing equipment, which comprises the compact tractor range plus out front rotary and wide area mowers, as well as the golf and turf equipment.

"So the C&CE division encompasses all three of these different market sectors and right now we are ahead of last year which is good news," he explained.

For many years John Deere cast a huge shadow over agriculture, and the impact such a massive company would make if it did turn its attention to other areas could only be imagined.

When it did turn its attention to the market which encompasses the golf industry about five years ago it was not a case of half measures. A goal was set of becoming clear market leader, a target which they feel they will hit within five years.

"If you go back five years we were hardly a player in the golf and turf business. There were three main companies, Toro, Jacobsen and Ransomes. Now, with the merger of Jacobsen and Ransomes into Textron, there are still three main players and we are one of them and it is very difficult to pick out who is the market leader," said Graham.

Clay is very keen to grow the UK and European business as much as possible over the next few years.

"Part of my own goal is to support the company strategy which is growth, and the UK and Western Europe is an important part of that. We believe that Western Europe is a huge opportunity for us. There is enormous potential with the amount of business that is



Above: John Deere's brand new headquarters allow plenty of room to display their equipment
Right: One of the custom built training facilities at the Langar Headquarters

here, coupled with the ability of John Deere to increase its market share," he explained.

The delayed entry into the market was due in part to the fact that without diesel powered products - the staple fuel of the UK and Irish markets - they didn't have the product line to meet customer requirements.

A desire to grow into a completely different customer base and the knowledge that there was so much shared engineering technology between the agricultural business and the C&CE market hastened the change of focus, into four main sectors - agriculture, C&CE, construction equipment and John Deere finance.

"Our agricultural customer base is shrinking. We all know that there are fewer, bigger farms and fewer farmers so C&CE allows us to grow our business into a completely different customer base yet the design and engineering of quality power products and the services which go with them are very much our strengths," said Clay.

"It is a pretty good mix. The construction equipment and C&CE business track the general economy, whether it be in the UK or USA - house building, consumer confidence and more general factors while agriculture tracks the price of wheat, soya beans, corn and cattle.

"To us it has been a superb diversification as we have been able to spread our existing skills and technology over different markets," said Clay.

Graham believes that the key to the golf and turf markets was the introduction of the 2653 tees mower and the 3235 fairway mower.

"Those two machines changed the market with their concept. Prior to that, the only John Deere equipment on golf courses would have been compact tractors and out front rotary mowers."

Having made the commitment to

move into the golf and turf market the special nature of the industry meant initial progress was steady rather than spectacular.

"Frankly it took us a while, both in North America and Europe, to develop the products we needed to penetrate the market and establish relationships within the industry itself. That is key and you don't just do that overnight. You must earn respect and credibility," said Graham.

One of the great successes which has enabled John Deere to develop machinery and build relationships are the feedback trips which in recent years has involved large numbers of greenkeepers from all over the world converging on Germany and the States to ensure that the new machinery being developed was what greenkeepers wanted to buy.

"The feedback sessions do produce tangible benefits, there is no question about that," said Graham.

"For example a recent success for us has been the 2500 greens mower which has been fantastically successful. Without the input of greenkeepers that wouldn't have happened. The whole operator station, the controls and adjustable steering arm came about purely because of feedback. We went to an awful lot of trouble to ask them what the operator wanted and this was designed with those guys in mind," explained Graham.

Clay is quick to reinforce the point about the benefits that come from such events.

"One of the key components of our product development process is the early involvement of customers. The best way to get the attention of a design engineer is to put him in the same room as a set of customers. We do exactly the same in the agricultural sector," he said.

The company is also extremely proud of its parts support and recog-

nises the importance of minimising down time.

"Part of our commitment to customers is to keep their machines up and running to help protect our customers' revenue. We a substantial investment in parts supply and offer true 24 hour turn-around. I think we do a better job than anyone else in that score," said Clay.

Looking ahead, John Deere aims for steady innovation and evolution rather than any quantum leaps and this is likely to be seen in the area of environmentally friendly equipment.

"We introduced the electric Gator last year which has been a big success and I can see an extension of that technology into other machines as well," said Graham.

Uniquely among the major manufacturers John Deere sponsors an event in Tiger Woods' playground - the US Tour. The John Deere Classic is played on a TPC course Deere Run built on land donated to the US Tour and runs in the same week as The Open Championship here.

Another event which will be of great interest to BIGGA members next year is the John Deere Team Championship involving the club professional, a greenkeeper and two club officials.

"This is an established event in the States but one of the wishes is to extend it worldwide and the likelihood is that two teams from the UK will be sent over to play in next year's event," said Clay.

But there is another golf event, in which John Deere has an input, which is causing huge interest all over the world.

John Deere is the exclusive supplier



of equipment to The De Vere Belfry which this September hosts The Ryder Cup.

"We are running an incentive programme on a worldwide basis and a number of dealers will be attempting to win a trip to the Ryder Cup. Everyone is fired up about the Ryder Cup and from our point of view it will be the first time that the North American and European guys will have come together," said Graham.

The key question, however, is which side will the new General Manager of John Deere's Langer headquarters be supporting?

"I'm supporting Europe. I go where my customers are and my customers are in the UK and Europe. They're the ones who sign the cheques," said Clay, with just a trace of a smile.



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East

Sorry there was no article last month as I had one or two problems getting the column written up before the deadline, but don't worry as it is all here this month in its entirety so you won't miss a thing.

The Section held the first major of the year at Dunbar Golf Club at the end of April. As usually happens at our spring tournament the weather was terrible, with wind, rain and misty conditions greeting us on our arrival to the course and continuing throughout the day which made a lot of people decide not to play and stay within the confines of the clubhouse, which was a wise decision by the people who didn't go out. So next year we are going to book the decent weather in advance? We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course and use of their facilities, the clubhouse staff for looking after us extremely well, and Head Greenkeeper Graham Wood and his staff for having the course in tremendous condition considering the weather we had on the run up to the tournament. Well done lads all credit to you all. We would also like to thank our trade patrons and sponsors for giving us so many prizes for our raffle table. If it wasn't for these guys we wouldn't be able to have such a good raffle at our outings so thanks once again to all of you.

It was also nice to have Peter Boyd our Regional Administrator in attendance on the day. Peter, you are most welcome to our events throughout the year so hurry back soon. There was some very good scoring on the day in very testing conditions so well done to all who played round and also all the prize winners on the day.

Results of the spring tournament:

Best Scratch- (Boyd Trophy)

D. Drummond 72 bh

First Class - (Souters Cup)

- 1. G. Rodgers 77-5-72 bh
- 2. G. Wood 78-6-72
- 3. K. Mail 72-+1-73

Second Class - (Lothian Tractors Trophy)

- 1. R. Mullen - 87-11-76
- 2. A. Campbell- 88-10-78
- 3. I. Watson -9-2-14-78

Third Class- 1. (Turf Care Cup)

- 1. K. Shiells-117-22-95
- 2. F. Forrest -122-23-99

Best nett of the day (Ocmis Cup)

D. Drummond- 72-3-69

Veteran (New Holland Trophy)

J. Manuel - 85-7-78

Trade (Patrons Cup)

A. White (Sheriffs) 85-8-73

New Members' Prize

A. Purdie 75-2-73

Guest Prize

P. Boyd (R.A.) 79-4-75

Highest score of the day

Bruce Joyce (TIS) 145

Well that's the report and results for spring 2001. Next tournament Texas Scramble Duns GC, Wednesday, June 6. Results next month.

The committee held there annual day

out at the Glen Golf Club on May 30. A fine day was had by all in attendance as normal the rain was heavy when we arrived but by the time we had played the 1st the rain had gone and the sun was shining for the rest of the day.

We would like to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the club the caterers and bar staff for the superb food and the equally magnificent refreshments which I believe they had to re-stock the bar completely the next day (well it felt that way the next day). The bus driver for the day was an absolute gentleman, as he got us there safely and made sure we all got home safely. Thanks to our sponsors for the day SGM (Brian Goudie & Ewan Thomson) and Ian Henderson Finance (Ian Henderson).

Thank you gentlemen you looked after us superbly, and it was a pleasure to be in your company for a good social day, and we look forward to continuing this partnership next year. Thanks.

Last, but not least, Course Manager, Davy Coull, and his team for having the course in great shape considering the dry spell we had just gone through and also considering they had no water as they were having an automatic system put in at the time that we were there so it was a credit to you all, so I hope the system is up and running now.

I had the pleasure to play with Davy on the day and he is a new member to the Section so we hope to see him at some of the up and coming Section events.

Results: The individual competition (Eddie Holt Trophy) with 39 points was yours truly; Our Chairman, Tom Murray, in The Chairman (Tom Murray) verses Vice Chairman (Chris Yeaman) match, the result was a win for the Chairman's team. Well done to them for playing so well and they scored some impressive Stableford points (handicaps will be looked at).

The members of my team will have to improve next year as their coats are on a shooonly peg! Joking apart we all had a great day out and are looking ahead to next year already thanks again to everyone concerned.

Well that's it all for this month and hopefully I have not missed anything if I have let me know on all the usual numbers or you can e-mail me, so that's it till next month with news and results from the summer tournament from Duns GC.

Chris Yeaman.

Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

North

The spring outing to Brechin GC started off with a wet and breezy day, but most people were happy to see some rain at last and much fertilising had been done in the previous days. As the day wore on the weather got better and most got round dry.

Andy Wilson and his staff had the course in great shape especially after the awful Winter we had endured. We are indebted to Andy and all at Brechin for a great day out for the 74 members, trade and guests who attended. Prize winners were as follows:

Scratch

- 1. S. Sullivan, 70
- 2. J. Urquhart, 71

Class one

- 1. R. Roy, 72-4=68
- 2. B. Cruickshank, 73-4=69
- 3. S. Williams, 76-5=71 bh

Class two

- 1. K. Kinnaird, 76-12=64 bh
- 2. P. Watson, 75-11=64
- 3. D. Macavoy, 78-8=70

Class three

- 1. D. Marnoch, 84-14=70 bh
- 2. S. Hogg, 90-20=70
- 3. M. Reid, 87-14=73

Apprentice

- 1. S. Pettigrew, 76-5=71
- 2. J. Swanson, 90-16=74

Veteran

- 1. R. Donald 81-6=75
- 2. R. Napier, 108-28=82

Trade

J. Darling, 78-3=75

Guest

G. Smith 82-11=71

Nearest the pin

K. Peace.

Longest drives

- Class one N. Sadler
- Class two K. Smith
- Class three B. Cocker

Card draw winner for BIGGA blazer: R. Roy

The two Section members winning £100 toward a trip to the National Championships are S Sullivan and K Kinnaird.

Thanks to the Scottish Region for providing the prize for one of these winners. The first four prizes in the 200 Club were drawn and winners are: January £30 number 156 D. Slater, February £30 number 21 B. Cocker jnr., March £30 number 42 J McCormack, April £100 number 12 D Boyle. Thanks to our Patrons the raffle table was large and many went home with prizes. All in all a great day thanks to the committee for all their work and once again thanks to all at Brechin GC.

As promised in last month's magazine, congratulations to Martyn Cameron on succeeding Neil Ballingall as Head Greenkeeper at Moray GC, next month hopefully I can reveal who has replaced Martyn at Buckpool. This month sees the Open Championship at Royal Lytham and for the first time in 15 years the North Section might not have a member in the Support Team. I cannot make it as it clashes with my 25th wedding anniversary and I would like to stay married for the foreseeable future and as far as I am aware there is no one from the Section going, I might be wrong though.

Iain Macleod

West

Welcome to this month's Section news. First a report on the Spring outing held at Kirkhill GC on May 2. Although the sun shone on the day a strong wind made for difficult golfing conditions. John Scott and his staff are to be congratulated on the fine condition of the course. The Section would once again like to thank the members of the club for the courtesy of their course. The winners on the day were:

Scratch

S. Taylor, Glasgow GC, 73

Category 1

- 1. C. Gordon, Lenzie GC, 76
- 2. G. Bruen, Williamwood GC, 77
- 3. G. Kerr, Gleddoch GC, 79 bh

Category 2

- 1. G. Miller, Cardross GC, 72
- 2. J. Wilson, Langland's GC, 75 bh
- 3. B. Bolland, East Kilbride GC, 75

Category 3

- 1. G. Nisbett, Glasgow GC, 72
- 2. B. McCulloch, Bonnyton GC, 77
- 3. C. Black, Blairbeth GC, 80 bh

Other prizewinners were Robert Bruce (trade prize), G. Bruen, longest drive, L. Wilson nearest the pin & J. Govan visitor's prize. It was good to see a good turn out on the day.

Those who read the Section news will remember me writing in the April report about the offer of a place at BTME next year made by Mike Dooner, of Thorntree Landscapes, to an assistant or trainee who is a member of BIGGA. To win this great prize the committee decided an essay competition be used to throw open the prize to all West Section assistants and trainees. The subject of the essay will be "Preparing my course for a major event". All essays should be sent to the Section Secretary Mr AJ Bulloch, 1, Crosslee Crescent, Woodend Park, Houston, PA6 7DT. The essay should be no more than 1,500 words and all entries should be in by September 1.

The committee would like to thank Mike once again for the kind offer made to the Section and I know whoever wins will enjoy the BTME experience.

Well that is it for this month, if you have anything you would like added to future columns please do not hesitate to call me on 01355266862.

Brian Bolland

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

Ayrshire

The rescheduled spring outing was held at Routenburn Golf Club, in Largs, on May 15. This was necessary because of Foot and Mouth disease close to our original venue of Brighouse Bay. We will now visit Brighouse Bay on September 27, for our autumn outing. Thanks to all at Brighouse for your patience on this matter and we look forward to our visit.

Routenburn saw a small but improved turnout of the hardened regulars and a couple of new faces. An enjoyable day was had by all in the pleasant weather. Thanks go to North Ayrshire Leisure Trust for allowing us courtesy of the course, Pro Greg McQueen for arranging the tee times, the barstaff for keeping us refreshed, Chef Frank McKinney for the food and last but not least Head Greenkeeper, Colin Sutherland and his staff, for presenting the golf course.

The prize winners were as follows in a Stableford event.

- 1. John Mair, Beith, 37pts;
 - 2. Syd Mercer, Skermorie, 36pts
(Both John and Syd win a trip to the National Tournament courtesy of the Scottish Region and Ayrshire Section);
 - 3. Jack Paterson, Port Bannantyne, 34pts;
 - 4. Iain Barr, Largs Kelburn, 32pts;
 - 5. Barry Crawford, Old Prestwick, 32pts;
- Trade**
Ted McDonald, Hamilton Bros, 26pts.

Finally, good wishes go to Andrew Donnelly who has secured a full time job as an Assistant Greenkeeper at Millport Golf Club; Andrew was previously an apprentice with me at Largs Kelburn.

Any news call me on 01505-683278. Iain Barr

Central

What's happened this month? No new members to welcome, this is the first time we have failed to increase our numbers this year, surely there are still a good number of greenkeepers within our area who are not members and don't know what they are missing. So let's make sure we welcome some new faces next month.

There is not great deal of news/gossip/information whatever to report at the moment as everyone seems to be too busy trying to combat this appalling weather that we have experienced so far this year, we are only two weeks away from the longest day and the wind is blowing like mad, it's raining, there are hailstones and frost is forecast for tomorrow. Who would be a Greenkeeper? Still it will soon be time for Harrogate again!

Discussions are taking place with regard to the venue for this year's AGM. but at the moment nothing has been finalised so I can only give you a clue as to its whereabouts. The location is referred to in one of Phil Collins's songs (I'm positive it is, well almost!) if anyone can work it out then send the answer to me on a post card and you will win a much sought after prize of a free ticket for next years "Club 2000". Speaking of which, the tickets for next year's draw will be arriving with you shortly, I can just hear you all saying "I must remember to send John the money for my tickets this time.", well the 240 members who forgot last time! Next year's draw will be an even bigger bargain than before with the cost of the tickets being reduced by £1 to £5, but the prize money will remain the same, can't be bad can it, something coming down in price.

Entry forms for the Autumn Tournament at Murrayshall on Thursday September 27 will also be arriving shortly, and as the maximum number of entries will be 50, if you wish to play and test your golfing ability over one of the most scenic and testing new courses in Scotland, Please get your entries in Pronto!

That's it for this time! Hopefully there will be more next month.

John Crawford.

Phone a friend?

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Gleneagles Chapter

Just a brief note this time to keep you all updated on the student chapter's progress after our inclusion within BIGGA as discussed in May's issue.

Last month (May 21) we attended a lecture here at Gleneagles hosted by Dr. Joe Duich. For those who are unfamiliar with the name, Dr. Duich is Technical Advisor and Consultant for TEE-2-GREEN in the USA. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Duich was Professor of Turfgrass Science at Penn State University for more than 36 years. While at Penn State he played a major role in the development of Pencross Creeping Bentgrass, which was released in 1955. Pencross was the first advanced creeping bentgrass cultivar exclusively for golf course use, and since then he has gone on to develop

Penneagle and Pennlinks Bentgrasses in conjunction with Penn State and TEE-2-GREEN. Dr Duich remains a consultant to Augusta Golf Club and is renowned for his forward thinking on Bentgrass development.

The talk started with the history of the turf care programme at Penn State and how development is financed and progressed. Dr Duich then talked about genetics, choosing seed, watering and fertilisation. Finally the point which he could not emphasise enough was the value communication and networking.

He was visiting Gleneagles with John Bradwell, from Turf Seed UK, to show new material which is at the development stage to the Gleneagles Golf Maintenance team who will be evaluating and commenting on the merits of these new Bentgrasses.

Students are going to have an opportunity to run trials and maintain these new developments by aiding in the construction, maintenance and management of a new test site.

Other student news involves Gleneagles looking into the possibility of employing three Chinese students for seasonal work, the students who attend Elmwood College in Fife are over here on work experience and are training to teach turfgrass management to colleges in China when they return. The students would gain invaluable experience and it gives them a chance to put all their theory into practice in a championship-working environment and equally important it allows the student chapter to develop links and contacts with one of the fastest growing golf markets in the world.

I can be contacted by e-mail on ian.f.morrison@gleneagles.com or Tel: 01764 694429

Ian Morrison



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North Wales

Sorry about lack of notes last month I was on me hols. I met Paul Massey in Corfu airport and he was telling me about his problems and vice versa. What a year, no spring, just the longest winter on record and then a flamin' heatwave, my poa has been laying in water for seven months and then gets roasted. It had no chance! The Bents have been happily growing away making some of the most uneven putting surfaces this side of the moon. If I threw top dressing on it would be fusarium city. Great job this greenkeeping lark!

Due to various reasons the annual Gem sponsored N. Wales vs N. West match was cancelled. However Gem will still be looking to sponsor the event again next year, we want our shield back, to go along side the one we won against the opposition of not just the N West but the Midlands as well in the inaugural Sportsworld sponsored event. Remember Bert, that Gem Shield is ours, and you only won it through default, because we have obviously got the best golfing team bar none.

Just one last shout to Andy Campbell and his team I hope it all went well for

your British Seniors event and to Roger Kerry and his team for the Welsh Seniors open and to all of you poor unfortunate fools out there that decided that greenkeeping in this climate was a good career decision.

Dave Goodridge

North-West

Not much happening in the N/W section, or so I assume, because nobody has contacted me with any news, good or bad. Further afield the staff at The Belfry must be congratulated on the wonderful condition of the course for

the recent Tour tournament, because they like everybody else must have suffered problems with the course, brought on by the atrocious weather over the last 12 months. Fortunately the weather picked up and allowed them to produce a course that was a credit to them, and British greenkeepers.

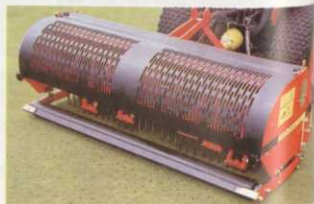
The next Section golf is the "Roses" match against the Northern Section at Sandmoor Golf Club, on Wednesday, August 22. I will require a team of 16 to win the Pattisson Trophy. If you are available contact me as soon as possible.

Education? Each month the educa-

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tion page in the magazine gives lists of courses available at Regions and HQ.

If you feel there is a subject that particularly interests you, let me know and, through our Education Officer, Ken Richardson, we can arrange a venue for a course in our Region.

Before I finish how about Liverpool Football Club getting the treble. Worthington Cup, FA Cup, and the UEFA Cup. Not bad stuff (That should get my phone ringing).

Bert Cross
Mobile 07791 583387
Home 0151 7245412

Northern

Sorry about last month's entry, there was a glitch on the Internet. Back to the Spring Tournament and what a turn out at Filey GC sponsored by F & G Adamsons & Son. A record of 54 of you turned out to brave the weather for the pre-round bacon sarni and three course meal. I would like to thank Filey GC for being so accommodating and the presence of Vice-Captain for the prize giving. Thanks also go to Head Greenkeeper, Andy Flemmings and his staff, for their help on the day and the quality of the course.

The Results are as follows: Scratch Cup Alan Baxter, 41pts; Div. 1. 1. Richard Harris, 38pts; 2. Brian Hudson, 38pts; 3. Tony Gerrard, 36pts. Div. 2. 1. Johnny Platt, 40pts; 2. Philip Baldock, 36pts; 3. John Studdard, 35pts. Div. 3. 1. Mike Gregson, 34pts; 2. John Wood, 31pts; 3. Richard Wood, 28pts. The Trade Prize went to Mel Guy and the Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin sponsored by Aitkins Sportsturf Ltd. went to; Longest Drive, Mel Guy; Nearest the Pin, Alan Baxter. One of the lowest scores of the day was 5pts, and it wasn't me! So there is room for

all types of golfer, the main aim of the day is enjoyment and meeting other greenkeepers with golf coming a poor third. Thanks again to everybody at Filey GC and F & G Adamsons & Son for being main sponsor and Aitkins Sportsturf Ltd for the longest drive and nearest the pin.

The Roses Match against the North West Section which we are proudly

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defending and sponsored by Patissons is to be held at Sand Moor GC on Wednesday, August 22. This day is fully sponsored with food included, so all you have to do is turn up. The closing date for applications to be considered for the 16 man team is August 8.

Some more dates for your diary are the Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday November 10. Section Seminars on Wednesday 21st November 2001 and Wednesday, February 27 2002. More details of these events nearer the time. If anybody has any requests for subjects or courses they would like to go on then give us a bell.

Congratulations to Tito Arana and the missus who are expecting sleepless nights in the future with a baby on the way.

A report on President's Day sponsored by Acorn will be in next month's magazine. We welcome two new members in Timothy Ward, Mid Yorkshire GC and Gavin Parr, Leeds Golf Centre.

There isn't any more news at the moment, if anybody as any then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile 07790 678572. Email: andy_smith21@hotmail.com

Andy Smith

Sheffield

Gem Professional was the sponsor of our first golf day to be held at Bondhey Golf Club on May 15. A superb turn out of 47 came along to support the day, which we hope to see continue through the year. The day went very well, the course was in fine shape and the standard of golf wasn't bad either. The top five winners were:

5. J. Moorecroft, 32 pts
4. G. Wells, 32 pts
3. P. Dockerty, 34 pts
2. T. White, 36 pts
1. S. Brown, 36 pts

Well done to you five and to all the other prize winners. A presentation was also made to Ron Ullathorne for all his hard work as section secretary over the years.

Thank you to all the trade members who supported the day, to the green staff for a good course, to Tony Beaumont, of Gem Professional, for some excellent prizes and to the captain and Helen, of Bondhey Golf Club, for their support and hospitality throughout the day.

In addition to the prize winners, six players qualified for the regional finals. These are, 0-9 handicap P. Dockerty, and G. Wells, 10-18 handicap T. White and K. Hazlehurst, 19-28 handicap S. Brown and J. Moorecroft. The finals are to be played on August 15 and anyone not able to take part should contact Paul Dockerty as soon as possible so as he can arrange a replacement.

On behalf of the section I would like to wish David Wadkin a very happy retirement. David who is a long serving greenkeeper at Hallamshire Golf Club retired on May 18. We wish you all the very best. Finally a little bit early but will soon come round a reminder that the next golf day is at Gainsborough Golf Club on Wednesday, July 18 at a tee off time of 1.30pm.

A Sampson



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Midland

This year's annual Spring Tournament was held at Great Barr Golf Club on the May 14.

Congratulations to Kings Norton's Nick Bird who took the net prize. Gross winner was Rob Shaw, of Gaudet Luce, 2. Eddie Stant of Penn GC and 3. Steve Mucklow, of Beau Desert. The trade prize went to Rigby Taylor's, Tony Cheese, with a net 70. Many thanks to Len Breakwell and Alastair Rathbone for sponsoring the day. Longest drive and nearest the pin sponsors, Rufffords, and drinks on the 10th sponsored by Sportsworld.

Sportsworld have also sponsored a golf day, which they intend to develop into an annual challenge match between Midland, North Wales and North West Sections.

This year's event was contested at Northop Hall Golf Club with North Wales becoming the victors followed by North West second and Midland third.

Our thanks go to Sportsworld's Matthew Burrows for sponsoring a first class day and to Mike Whitehouse, Terry Adamson and Dave Rahman for bringing together a new and exciting event.

Phil Gates

East Midlands

This year's Spring Tournament was held at Birstall GC on Wednesday May 9. On a pleasant spring day 40 members turned out for the competition which was quite an improvement on previous years. The winners were as follows.

Best Gross

Derek McJannet, Sherwood Forest, 72

Best Nett

Jamie Bedford, Birstall, 83-16-67

Category 1

1. Richard Barker, Kirby Muxloe 75-3-72

David Smith, Cotgrave Place, 81-8-73

Category 2

1. Adi Porter, Greetham Valley, 82-12-70

2. Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 87-16-71

Category 3

1. Gavin Robson, Lingdale, 91-19-72

2. Andy McGreal, Lingdale, 108-28-80

Trade & Associate

1. Simon Hedley, Boughton Loam, 86-15-71

2. Pete Fell, Aitkens, 88-12-76

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Birstall GC for allowing us courtesy of their fine course, and to Roger Willars and his staff for presenting a quality golf course in such difficult weather conditions. Also thanks should be extended to the Stewardess, Mrs Oswell, for a great meal. Last but not least a special thank you should go to our sponsors ET Breakwells.

Two dates for your diary Spring Tournament 2002. The Leicestershire GC Thursday May 2 and Autumn Tournament Tuesday September 17, 2002, at Horsley Lodge GC.

Congratulations should go to Jeff Dickinson who is on this year's Support Team at The Open at Royal Lytham.

Finally just some quick golf news I finished third in the Pitlochry Championship on May 2-4 and

reached the semi-final of the putting competition, Alan Roberts of the Midland Section was the overall winner of the Putting comp. Also on May 13 at Carholme GC. Alan Roberts and I finished third in the Carholme Open with a Better-Ball score of +7. If anyone as has any news they would like to see appear in this column please let me know.

Antony Bindley

Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

East of England

The spring seminar took place at Newark Golf Club.

A good attendance of Greenkeepers listened to Simon Barnaby, Technical Manager for Scotts, talk about Integrated Pest Management.

Everybody can now put into practice or attempt to control pests using various different proactive management strategies, considering everything that may affect pest development.

The evening was sponsored by Simon Hutton of Fine Turf Services. Thanks to Simon for the donation to the bar bill and the postage. Also thanks to Andrew Astle of Alpha Amenity for the raffle prize.

Next seminar will take place in Autumn/Winter and will probably be about Architecture/Landscaping of the Golf Course. Or let me know if there is a special subject or topic that the section should cover.

Graeme Macdonald



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Kent

Surprise! A report from the Kent Section. Well it's been a while since the last one and that's why I'm now doing the honours.

My name is Jason Bean and I'm the Deputy Course Manager at Kings Hill Golf Club. There may be a few of you who know me as I've been around a bit as they say. Anyway enough about me for now, because we have the rest of the year to talk about that. That is, if you don't send me any information about what you guys are up to at your golf clubs or anything else you want to talk about. Like me, who said to one of the committee, that no-one was writing this article, so here I am. Should have kept my mouth shut, but those who know me it would be out of character.

So if you have any gossip or news you can call me on 01732 875020 or fax me on 01732 875019 or for those who don't like talking, you can e-mail me at jbathkgolf@aol.com. Please get in touch, even if you are trying to sell your car, anything is better than nothing!

Hope to see you at Walmer and Kingdown for the first golf day on June 14.

Jason Bean

Phone a friend?

www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

East Anglia

Well now I feel as old as I look, my daughter Jenny gave birth to our first grandchild on Tuesday, May 15. Sky Christina weighed in at 6lb 10ozs and looks just like her father, David.

Congratulations to our winners of the National Championship Qualifier James Wright from Bungay and Waveney GC (best Net) and Alan Carter from Hoverhill GC (best Gross).

Can you please let me know if you have any ideas on what training you think is required for your continual professional development over the Autumn 2001 and Spring 2002, BIGGA HOUSE is hoping to provide courses in the Sections over this period. Discussions are in progress at this moment and I will let everyone know the results later in the year.

I would like to pass on my congratulations to the Greenkeeping Teams at The Belfry and Wentworth. After the terrible winter everyone had, it's nice to see all their hard work come to fruition with the excellent presentation of their courses.

We have provisional bookings for 2002, Thetford GC April 25; Stowmarket GC June 11; Gorleston GC July 30; Ufford Park GC October 9. Well done, Colin.

Ian Coote, from Bassingbourn Barracks Golf Club, is the latest greenkeeper to join our ranks. Hope to see you at a meeting in the near future Ian.

Well that is all for now, see you all soon

Ian Willett.

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

Surrey

Spring and summer have arrived together and today, June 5, continues to be sunny and warm. The birds are singing, the irrigation systems are nearly working and if only it would rain at night Surrey would be the perfect place. One spot in Surrey on May 10 was such a place, Hindhead Golf Club, the venue for our Spring Tournament. Many thanks to Steve Holmes and his team for providing a course in fantastic condition. It was for many a first visit to Hindhead but with such a diversity of landscape, Flora and Fauna I am sure Surrey Section will be pressing for a return as soon as possible.

The better golfers were: Best nett - 69 Darren Lee, Sunningdale, Best Gross - 74 Nigel Colley, Roehampton, 2. Best net - 70 Gary Ogilvie 9th hole John Groombridge, Old Thorns. Longest Drive 18th hole Bob Rogers Laleham. Nearest the pin 6th hole Brian Gillespie, Petersfield. Nearest the pin 15th hole Eddie Oliver, Liphook. Thanks to our sponsors E&S Sports and Kestrel Golf.

Now other items of news from around Surrey, the latest member to have achieved his Master Greenkeeper is our current regional representative and course manager from Richmond Golf Club, Lee Strutt, and I am sure you would all join with me in offering Lee our heartiest congratulations.

Les Coombes, from Windlesham