

Golf Club, would like to offer some assurance to any greenkeeper who is having irrigation leaks in our latest dry spell, for every one you have someone somewhere will have two and that if left they will be completely unnoticeable when the rain starts again in September.

Due to a delayed deadline for the magazine I am able to include the results of the Cresta Cup played at the superbly presented North Hants Golf Club. Everyone agreed that this is one of our outstanding courses in the south and confirms that we are very lucky to be able to play golf in clubs that are presented to such a high standard. We thanks Nigel Stainer and his Greenkeepers for an extremely pleasant day.

The above average golfers were: Cresta Cup Winner John Mathis Sunningdale GC, 48pts. Runner up Andrew Dennis, Laleham GC, 35pts. Nearest the pin Craig Mills, Hindhead GC, Longest Drive Gary Ogilvie (Avoncrop) The day was sponsored by Vitax whom we thank most sincerely for the high quality prizes.
Brian Wilmott



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South Coast

The Spring Tournament has finally been played at Basingstoke GC. If you remember the original day had to be cancelled at The Army GC, so it was rescheduled to take place at Basingstoke on May 31.

A total of 28 players eventually played on the day, including the Club Captain Mr D Newman, and Eddie Fox, from Huxleys. Seven entrants had to withdraw, some at very short notice. One day isn't not enough time for Chris to inform the caterers of changes. I mentioned before that at least seven days' notice is required to cancel, any less time than this and you will forfeit your entrance money.

So who were the winners on the day?

Div 1 (Huxley's Trophy)

1. Mark Hancock 52pts
2. Matt Blake 48pts.

Div 2 (Avoncrop Trophy)

1. Kevin Glass 55pts
2. Andy McDonald 54pts
3. Alan Magee 53pts

Div 3 (Roffeys Cup)

1. Kevin Ratcliffe 55pts
2. Adi Archer 45pts

Longest Drive

Stuart Hooker

Nearest the Pin

Brian Willmott

Everyone enjoyed the wonderful hospitality given by Basingstoke. The lunch and evening meal was very enjoyable. A special thanks must go to Julie Tribe, the Assistant Club Secretary, for all her hard work.

And last but not least to Harvey Tribe and his team, for providing the course at such short notice.

The next competition to take place is the The Secretaries 'v' BIGGA, to be held at Upavon GC on June 14. And then the Summer Tournament is to be held on July 12 at Broadstone GC. So look out for the results shortly.

Well that's it for another month.

Mike Cartwright.

Devon and Cornwall

What a month we were lucky to have the company of our Chairman Clive Osgood who attended the workshop on Health & Safety organised by our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries. Unfortunately the excellence of the workshop wasn't matched by the attendance. For the second time this year I have experienced the effects of an earthquake this time in my home town of Bude, although it only measured 3.6 it still made the bed shake, I thought my luck was in.

The Section is delighted to announce that Phoenix Irrigation will be sponsoring the fixture cards for the next two seasons. The new fixture cards will hopefully be with you during late August.

Richard Whyman

Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

South West

The Greenkeeper/Amateur Fourball Betterball Competition took place on a sunny short-wearing day at Woodspring Golf Club, Bristol. I was lucky enough to play with the Course Manager, Steve Chappel, Nigel and Chopper Harris (a very appropriate name!) from T. H. Whites. The course was in excellent condition, and the scores proved this.

Superb prizes provided by sponsor of the day Bioseed Probotics. These were presented to I. C. Tozer and D. Rendell 42 pts. 2. M. Hawker and C. Ross 41 pts. 3. J. Keenaghan and L. Cox, 38 pts. The longest drive went to C. Tozer and the Nearest the pin, J. Keenaghan.

We would like to thank everyone at Woodspring for a brilliant day in splendid surroundings. The next event for your diary is the Summer Tournament at the Kendelshire on July 24 please continue to support the Section and the events.

The team will play the South Coast on August 16 Contact; J. Keenaghan if you are available for selection.

Dave Bougen.



The result of our Golf competition at Galgorm GC on June 8 will be featured in our Section notes next month. The NI Section will be sending two representatives to this year's National Championships, to be held at Royal Birkdale, Southport and Ainsdale Golf Clubs. Members who intend to play in the qualifying competition for the trip to Birkdale, must have played in two of the competitions held over the spring and summer period.

The qualifying competition will be played on a links course around late August, probably on the north coast. The Secretary will be notifying all members regarding the venue and date in due course.

Our next Golf competition will be

held at Royal Belfast GC on July 6. Graham Prosser from Tacit has kindly provided sponsorship for the July competition. I would also like to remind members of the charity day golf competition being played at Clondeboye GC on August 3. Once again Clondeboye's Course Manager, Terry Crawford, has organised the entire day. All the money raised will go to a charity of Terry's choice. A four-figure sum has been raised on each Royal Victoria in Belfast. Greenkeepers, trade members, and Secretary/Managers all come together for this competition, so places are limited. Please contact Terry Crawford to arrange a tee time on Tel 91458380 and give your support for this event.

I would like to welcome new members Andrew Wray Castlerock CC and Gary Johnston City of Derry GC to the Section this month.

Ken Henderson



See you all next month!

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

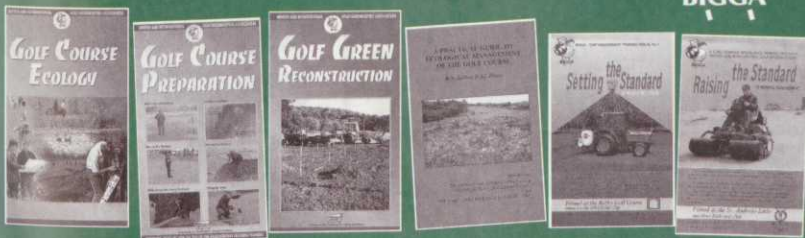
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This competition is not open to BIGGA staff or non-members.

Last month, Neil Oliver, from North Manchester GC, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

Our congratulations and a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch are on their way to you!



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If you didn't already know, BIGGA upload all recruitment advertising from the pages of Greenkeeper International to coincide with the launch of each issue. Many Greenkeeper members have found the online recruitment section to be of great benefit, particularly if they have left their magazine at work! They can simply log on at home, to the BIGGA website, and access all of the latest jobs available in the fine turf industry. Also, if a member is looking for employment, their advert will appear in this database for prospective employers to read.

Any member who has found themselves out of work as a direct result of the Foot and Mouth Outbreak may wish to take advantage of the BIGGA website to help find another club. As a special service to members the Association will allow you to post a Job Shop advert on the website, listing your experience and qualifications, offering your services free of charge. Further information can be obtained from the Sales & Marketing Department at BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800 email: sales@bigga.co.uk

Please note: This offer only applies to website adverts and not those which you wish to appear in Greenkeeper International.

Please print clearly, and keep your entry to under 100 words.

OFFICE USE ONLY
JSW

Name.....
Club/Company.....
Address.....
Tel:.....Fax:.....
Email:.....

Send your completed order form to: Jennifer Whichello, Cheryl Broomhead or Meredith Foster, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or fax the form to us on 01347 833802. Alternatively, you can also email your copy to sales@bigga.co.uk

ONLINE RECRUITMENT

Check out
www.bigga.org.uk
for the latest.
job vacancies
from the fineturf industry

Recruitment

KNOLE PARK GOLF CLUB

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be qualified to minimum NVQ2 with Spraying Certificates PA1A, PA2 & PA6.

Salary negotiable according to experience.

Applications in writing with CV to:

The Secretary, Knole Park Golf Club,
Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0HJ

LANGDON HILLS GOLF CENTRE

Requires a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have appropriate qualifications inclusive of spraying certificate. Knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems would be an advantage.

Apply with C.V. to;

Head Greenkeeper, Langdon Hills Golf Centre,
Lower Dunton Road, Bulphan, Essex RM14 3TY

Sutton Green Golf Club

Require an

Assistant Greenkeeper

We are looking for an enthusiastic and hard working greenkeeper to join our existing team.

NVQ Level 2 with PA1, 2 and 6 qualifications preferred.

Salary in line with BIGGA rates

No accommodation

Apply in writing with full CV to:

Nathan Kimsing, Head Greenkeeper
Sutton Green Golf Club, New Lane, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7QF

TOWER GOLF CLUB, GDANSK, POLAND

Tower Golf Club, Gdansk, Poland are seeking a Head Greenkeeper or Assistant Greenkeeper (willing to take on the responsibilities of a Head Greenkeeper). BIGGA qualified individuals are preferred and should send a CV to the following address; **Attn. Al Brasseaux, Tower Golf Club, ul. Wladyslawa IV 13C, 80-547 Gdansk, Poland** or via e-mail, **mark@tti.com.pl**

The individual selected will be responsible for the co-ordination and construction of the golf course (presently under construction) and the training of local nationals. A willingness to learn the Polish language and communicate with management is a must.

A competitive salary, accommodation and transport will be provided. The deadline for entries is 15 July 2001.

SCOTSCRAIG GOLF CLUB

EST 1817

Invites applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

Scotsraig Golf Club is one of the oldest golf clubs in the country, and is currently on The Royal & Ancient list of Final Qualifying courses for "The Open".

This is a new appointment and offers an exciting and challenging position.

The successful candidate will be a fully qualified greenkeeper who can demonstrate ability in forward planning, budgeting, organisation, man management, interpersonal and communications skills.

The Club have recently installed a full irrigation system with computer control and a skill in this area is also essential.

An attractive remuneration package will be available to the right candidate.

Applications which will be treated in strictest confidence, should include a detailed career history to date, current salary, and references, and sent to:

**Barrie D. Liddle, Managing Secretary, Scotsraig Golf Club,
Golf Road, Tayport, Fife DD6 9DZ**

Closing date for applications - 6th August 2001
A full job description is available upon request.



ROYAL BLACKHEATH GOLF CLUB
IS A PRIVATE MEMBERS CLUB, INSTITUTED IN 1608

WE CURRENTLY REQUIRE A

HEAD GREENKEEPER

FOR OUR 18-HOLE PARKLAND COURSE

The successful applicant will possess the appropriate qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of golf course management, with skills to supervise an established greenkeeping team. Excellent salary and conditions available to right applicant.

Applications in writing, together with your C.V. should be addressed to:

The Secretary, Royal Blackheath Golf Club,
Court Road, London SE95 5AP

Marketing Directors £ Attractive + benefits

Could you maximise your company's online presence for your primary target audience?

BIGGA's online statistics have revealed the most viewed area on our website to be the recruitment section. Regularly receiving an average of 1,355 individual user session visits every month, this area of the BIGGA website has, in fact, received over 12,220 individual user session visits since its' relaunch just 9 months ago.

Opportunities now exist for creative, forward thinking professionals to utilise their knowledge and skills to implement a strong marketing presence within this rapidly expanding commercial area. We are looking for candidates who can see the long-term potential of building strong links with the Association, and understand the importance of targetted marketing. Previous experience of handling advertising budgets is desirable.

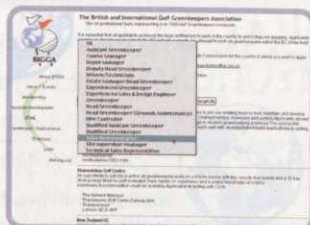
Attractive financial packages will be dependent on experience, but monthly sponsorship rates for successful candidates will start at £400 per single month sponsorship, rising to £1,000 following a successful 3 month sponsorship period.

Benefits will include: Your 'brand' being associated with a proven market-leader; The ability to entice more than 1,355 potential online customers to your site every month; Increased traffic to your site.

For further information please surf to: www.bigga.org.uk/opportunities.html

For an application form, please contact Jennifer Whichello on 01347 833800 or email jennifer@bigga.co.uk

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Closing date for applications: August 14, 2001





ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The London Golf Club is one of the premier complexes in Europe, with two championship courses designed by Jack Nicklaus and his company Golden Bear. Set in 650 acres of the Kent countryside, the club is situated 25 miles south of London.

Equipped with the latest machinery and one of the most modern maintenance facilities in the industry, the successful applicant will experience high standards of greenkeeping, with excellent training provision. The position presents great opportunities for the right person to progress, in our 30 man team.

We are looking for an enthusiastic, conscientious and self motivated greenkeeper with experience.

Applicants should hold, or be looking to gain relevant qualifications. Remuneration will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please apply in writing by 6th August enclosing a full C.V. to;

Mr Peter Todd, Golf Courses Manager, The London Golf Club PLC, South Ash Manor Estate, Ash, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 7EN



ABRIDGE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

For their mature 18 hole parkland course.

Applicants should have a minimum of two years experience and have NVQ Level 2 or equivalent.

Spraying certificates an advantage.

Salary in line with the Standing Committee minimum recommendations.

Apply with full CV to

The Manager, Abridge Golf & Country Club, Epping Lane, Stapleford Tawney, Essex, RM4 1ST

SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE GOLF CLUB

Requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

To work on 18 hole course with an attached 9 hole Par 3 and 16 bay Driving Range. The ideal applicant should possess NVQ Level 3 and have experience at a supervisory level in their current/past position.

Salary to be discussed. Accommodation available.

Please send your CV to;

Roger Lee, South Herefordshire Golf Club, Twin Lakes, Upton Bishop, Nr. Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 7UA



Requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Penrith Golf Club which was founded in 1890 is a private members club and is situated in a splendid location between the delights of the Eden Valley in Cumbria and the majesty of the Lakeland hills which provide a magnificent backdrop to this par 69 course.

The successful applicant must be self-motivated with suitable experience and sound knowledge of all turf maintenance practices. They will have overall responsibility for the course and should be equipped to develop budgets, work schedules, course and machinery maintenance plans and have strong man management and motivation skills to manage a small team of five.

Free golf membership will be available and remuneration will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

No accommodation available.

Please apply in writing including CV to;

The Secretary, Penrith Golf Club, Salkeld Road, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 8SG

ONLINE RECRUITMENT

Check out
www.bigga.org.uk

for the latest.
job vacancies
from the fineturf industry

Signs are here to stay and Sandy McDivot has made full use of an array of such notices at Sludgecombe Pay and Play.

Sign of the times



I suppose if I was to be brutally frank with myself and using management consultant's parlance, I would have to be classified as a resistor to change. But as I enter the realms of doddering senility, even I have to occasionally make way for the unstoppable momentum of change.

For example, it was not many years ago that I was totally convinced that computers had little place in the lives of we greenkeepers. Today however I have come to the conclusion that greenkeeping life without them would be all but impossible.

Another item that I have in the past had little regard for is the sign. I have always possessed the deeply held belief that being artificial they detract greatly from the aesthetic appeal of the golf courses that we so painstakingly help to create. I also believe that they have little actual value as a means of passing on information to the golfing public. For example, a venerable former Captain once suggested to me

that a carefully worded sign placed in a certain position would help ensure the prevention of the odd accident or two. He was apparently oblivious to the fact that just such a sign had been in the very place he mentioned for the previous 12 months.

You see the fact is, golfers notice only a very few things when playing golf. They see the golf ball, they form in their minds eye a straight line to that golf ball and if that line crosses a directive in the form of a white line, sign or rope that suggests they take a detour from that line, they fail to make visual contact with it. Often they notice such things as the noisy machine that a greenkeeper is working with on an adjacent fairway but rarely have any awareness of the nearby busy road or the jet aeroplanes overhead.

Often on a ladies' day I have been instructed that no greenkeeper will be allowed within a five-mile radius of the golf course, but to my knowledge they have not yet rang up our county's international airports to inform them that due to their Summer Invitational the days flights will have to be suspended.

So you see the purpose of the sign had always seemed to me to be somewhat superfluous. But I write in the past tense as like the computer I have now arrived at the conclusion that signs can play a very important role in the lives of we greenkeepers. The reason for my about turn, is the trend in more recent years towards litigation. The fear of prosecution and associated public humiliation has

meant the sign has become to me what the shoe is to Imelda Marcos.

My course has become flooded with them. If we are spraying, signs are put out that not only warn of the perils of the murderous chemicals that we are applying, but also advise that those that suspect themselves of being susceptible to the effects of these evil toxins should effectively go home and never return. I have learnt that there are many who have convinced themselves that within the spray tank we have concocted a cocktail of dioxin and botulin in a plutonium carrier and so I err on the side of caution.

I have not as yet felt the need to post those gory skin disease photographs that can be found within the pages of "The Lancet" as evidence of the consequences of straying within the two mile total exclusion zone that surrounds the sprayer, but who knows what the future will bring.

But other areas come in for the sign treatment. Slopes, adjacent fairways, blind shots, bridges, you name it, at Sludgecombe Pay and Play there's a warning sign for just about everything. In short, I have come to treat the sign as something of an insurance policy against legal action. The way I see it is, if McDonalds can be successfully prosecuted for a million dollars or so because their coffee was too hot, then I am sure we greenkeepers are vulnerable to similar legal pursuance.

Now I have to confess I have not lost too much sleep over Mr McDonalds' misfortune but when you hear cases of children suing their

parents because they are too ugly and should therefore of been aware of the likelihood of their offspring suffering the same fate, then I do get a little anxious.

Of course such obsessive pursuit of damages can have its uses. A financial advisor friend recently informed me that anyone requiring instant wealth should break his or her leg in an American airport. Apparently such accidents result in an immediate, no quibble, out of court settlement of about a million pounds sterling these days. This one seemed to get Mrs McDivot somewhat excited, although I was not altogether sure whom she thought would meet with this unfortunate accident.

But the mere act of putting a sign up does not necessarily mean immunity from prosecution. In fact I do not discount the probability of the day arriving when we are sued for the entire wealth of ourselves and the next 20 generations of our families, because a golf ball has rebounded off one such warning sign and caused permanent disfigurement to someone in the form of a slight bruise.

There are other ways our signage could result in a visit to court. For example there is the question of the call through hole. This is a great favourite among committee men and women and involves a sign requesting that people call the following group through when reaching a par three green. The theory behind this one is that they are in some way speeding up play. This may or may not be the case but what the sign is



really saying is when you get near to the green you are required to invite the next group of golfers to hit golf balls at you. Now I don't know about you but in my humble opinion that is just asking for trouble.

A golf course near to me has an array of signs just about everywhere. As you drive into the car park, the first one you see states visitors must only park in the rear car park. This immediately gives the impression that visitors are an unwelcome parasite that are not worthy of the car park adjacent to the clubhouse but instead have to hide their beaten up old bangers around the back so as not to offend the members. The next one you see tells you that mobile phones are not allowed in the car park, clubhouse, golf course or any of the vertical air-space above the same.

This requirement was confirmed to me when someone I was with, accidentally had his go off while in the pro shop. He was immediately pounced upon by irate members and thoroughly admonished for bringing these symbols of Lucifer into their temple. But the thing about this course, was that it was located in a retirement area and had a steep slope at its furthest reaches affectionately known as "Cardiac Hill" due to the number of elderly members who while climbing up it had finally succeeded in conquering their habit of living.

The membership was to put it mildly, getting on a bit. In fact the worry was, an especially harsh winter could wipe half of them out in one go. Now the Head Greenkeeper had personal-

ly witnessed nine of them exit this world, so what would happen at this club, if while at the far end of the course someone suffered a heart attack and required urgent medical attention. If due to the prohibition of mobiles that person dies while their partner risks his or her own life in running back to the clubhouse to fetch help, then what is the clubs legal position.

Surely they were aware of the potential threat to life that they could be posing by the implementation of this ban. Would they then be open to prosecution?

Of course signs on golf courses are not only used to warn of potential danger. They are also needed as a means of direction. I am sure I am not alone in witnessing golfers walking onto a tee adjacent to the preceding green and not quite being able to work out how according to the card, the hole they face should be a short par three when all they can see is a green

some five hundred yards distant.

To such golfers the concept of numerical order is often a difficult one to grasp and so they require signage to direct them to the correct part of the course. I remember the story of how two visiting Americans once played golf at Royal St George's only to stray mid round onto the neighbouring Princes Golf Club. Amazingly they finished the round, had lunch in the wrong clubhouse and only realised something was wrong when they could not find their car in the car park. Then there was the unfortunate case of the poorly directed newly appointed greenkeeper at Sunningdale Ladies' Golf Club who was asked to rake bunkers.

He would of benefited greatly from a direction sign as somehow after raking the bunkers on the Ladies course he managed to end up on the Old course at Sunningdale.

This is a course that apart from bordering the Ladies Club was otherwise

entirely unrelated. The poor apprentice then worked his way through the bunkers on the Old and then onto those of the New Course. It appeared the actual Sunningdale greenkeepers who witnessed this, did not inform the hapless apprentice of his errors.

They reasoned that he was doing such a fine job of raking their bunkers why would they want to stop him.

But no matter how many signs we put out, we can never cover ourselves for every eventuality. A quick glance through the pages of Golfers Handbook reveals that two women once died on the course when an aeroplane hit them. In another three separate cases, golfers have died when their golf shafts have broken mid swing, rebounded off inanimate objects and plunged into their bodies.

Now try doing a risk assessment on those!

Sandy McDivot, Head Greenkeeper, Sludgecombe Pay and Play

Feature listing from July '99

July '99: Carnoustie, Golf Course Furniture, Spike Research, Toro profile, BIGGA Silent Auction

August '99: Viscount Whitelaw tribute; Open review; Merrist Wood; Saltex preview; Turf; Trees; Grass Cutting; BIGGA Golf Day review; Redexim profile

September '99: Slaley Hall; Tyres; Spotlight on Thatch; Elmwood College Awards; National Championship preview

October '99: The Manor House, Castle Combe; Aeration; Saltex review; Mycorrhizas; Toro Award preview

November '99: Sir Michael Bonallack interview; The Pines GC; Oil; Bunkers; National Championship review

December '99: Agronomy; Security; Environment Competition Winner; Toro Award Winners

January 2000: Greens Construction; Awkward Jobs; Sandy McDivot; Agronomy; Toro Award review

February 2000: BTME2000 review; Committed to Green interview; Rookery Park GC; Engines; Chairman's profile; Environmental Management

March 2000: Cleobury Mortimer GC; Course Furniture; R&A Conference Report; Cutting heights; Avoncrop profile; Valderrama report; Westurf preview

April 2000: Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC; Utility Vehicles; Irrigation; Seed breeding; Gem Professional profile.

May 2000: Ross-on-Wye GC; Top Dressing; Course Mapping; Compact Tractors

June 2000: National Championship preview; Spraying; World Education Conference review; Environmental Management; Mowers

July 2000: Open Championship Preview; Dougal Duguid Court Case Report; Pest Control; Aventus profile; Course Conditioning

August 2000: Open Championship review; Water Features; Saltex preview; Charcoal; Malone GC; Royal County Down; Grand Tour Scholarship

September 2000: Blowers and Sweepers; Berkshire College Academy; National Championship roundup; Gordon McKillop interview; Winter health checks

October 2000: Toro Awards Preview; Ronald Fream; Irrigation; Saltex Review; Pest Control; Woburn GC

November 2000: Grass Cutting Machinery; Clandebye GC; Drainage; National Championship review; Leatherjacket management

December 2000: Toro Awards; Making the most of your Dealer; Budget Boosters; BTME2001 preview; BIGGA/Bernhards CGSA delegation preview

January 2001: Communication; Tyres; Turf diseases; Kingsbarns Golf Links; Environment Competition Winner - Dyke GC; Talking Heads - Pest Control

February 2001: BTME2001 review; Winter Mowing; Irrigation; Broadstone GC; Hedges; Security

March 2001: York GC; Greens Maintenance; Meland GC, Norway; Greens Mowers; BIGGA Essay Winner; Grass Science profile

April 2001: Lightning detection; Brockett Hall GC; CGSA report; Fairway Mowers; Irrigation; Sward renovation; BIGGA Essay winner; Turf Disease

May 2001: Foot and Mouth Disease Special Report; Maintenance Facility report; Bunker Sand; ATVs; RainBird Profile; Fineturf Genetics; BTME2002 countdown; Electric-powered machines

June 2001: Stoke Park Club profile; Stuart Cagle MG; Tractors; Leaf Spot Disease; Take All Patch; Construction



Don't panic!



I firmly believe that nature will sort itself out and I would urge everyone within our industry to remain calm. A good summer season from now on will help to put everyone in a positive mood.

Hopefully you all enjoyed it and can earn enough Brownie points at home between now and next year to be able to do the same in 2002.

On my own patch we held a Surrey Section event at North Hants Golf Club. I know it sounds as though it shouldn't belong to the Surrey Section but it is only just over the county border. The greens were in fantastic condition and a real credit to Nigel Stainer and his team who had done a great job. It was also good to see Doug Fernie, of Epsom Downs Golf Club, enjoying himself during the day. It is a tough time for him this time every year as his course is taken over for the running of The Derby with cars parked all over the course.

My next port of call was Drumoig Hotel and Golf Club, which is also home to the Scottish Golf Centre. It was great to meet up with old friends and meet so many new faces.

I stayed overnight in the hotel which overlooks the course which meant I had a grand stand seat when all the morning preparation work got underway. It started when I was woken by the sound of the sprinklers starting up at 3am and before long, I could watch all the normal tasks being carried out - hole changing, cutting the surrounds,

double cutting the greens. So much activity, all before a golfer set foot on the place. I was also able to enjoy some of the wildlife with a heron flying over the course. I loved being able to watch the goings on wearing a different hat, so to speak.

Talking about last month's magazine I was interested in the Stoke Park Club article and delighted to see a golf club becoming a member of the Golden Key Supporter of the Association.

Hopefully this will start a new trend and we as an Association and the game in general can only benefit from that. I believe that Stoke Park Club has shown real foresight.

On a more general note it is disappointing to see that Foot and Mouth has not gone away yet with more cases being discovered in Yorkshire. I firmly believe that nature will sort itself out and I would urge everyone within our industry to remain calm. A good summer season from now on will help to put everyone in a positive mood.

Clive Osgood, Chairman