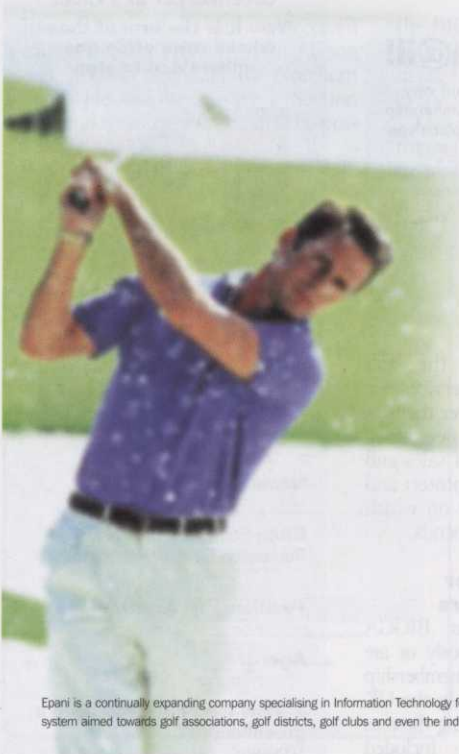


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Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, would like to welcome over 130 new members to the Association and encourage them to take part in their section's events

Section seminars well worth a visit!

In March and April I had the opportunity to visit three fantastic and informative Educational Seminars at section level. This not only gave me the opportunity to meet BIGGA members and for them to meet me, but it also provided me with a valuable insight and an essential overview into what a skillful job greenkeeping is. That's why it is important for you to try and attend and support these seminars, they provide an excellent opportunity to improve knowledge, mix with fellow greenkeepers, the trade and to engage in interesting conversation regarding your chosen profession. Many people spend a lot of their own personal time organising these seminars and section events. Don't let them down, please make every effort to attend.

We realise you cannot attend them all but it would be nice to see you at one or two. I know it can be difficult if you are new to the section, but if you never go along you will always be new and never meet your fellow section members! Go on take the plunge, check your fixture card for the next section event and go along. If you haven't got a fixture card contact your section secretary, the numbers can be found in March's Greenkeeper International.

Don't Drift Away ...

If you're membership expired on 31 December 2000, 31 January 2001, 28 February 2001, 31 March 2001, don't miss out any longer, renew your membership this month. Providing you are working as a greenkeeper, we will still have your details on our



database and can renew your membership with a new expiry date, you can even pay by direct debit if you wish. Don't leave it any longer, if you need a renewal form or further information contact Tracey or Susannah in Membership Services today, ring 01347 833800.

This was your chance ...

... did you take it? As mentioned in both March and April's magazine BIGGA have commissioned an independent market research study. Financially supported by the R & A and carried out by Mike Williamson of MW Associates, based in Edinburgh, 2000 questionnaires were sent out to a random sample of members. If you received one of these surveys from Mike and have returned it - thank you for taking part! Just to remind you of the two main aims of this survey:

We want to know what our members, and those with whom we

You've got m@il!

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

work most closely in the golf industry, think of the services we offer and the way we deliver them.

We are also looking for new ideas, particularly in the areas of sales and marketing, so that we can protect and enhance the income base on which our continuing growth depends.

Eurocheque reminder to Overseas Members

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 within your renewal form should be information on other ways to pay including BIGGA's banking details.

If you are in any doubt please send an email to either tracey@bigga.co.uk or susannah@bigga.co.uk, for further information.

April'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 April's winner, Tony Gerrard of Halifax GC.

BIGGA welcomes ...

Scottish Region

Derek Adams, East
 James A Aitken, Central
 Andrew M Brake, East
 Gary A Bryden, Ayrshire
 Daniel M Campbell, East
 David J Drummond, East
 Blair Edgley, East
 David Gibson, West
 David Hannan, Wests
 Graeme D Hope, West
 Steven Laird, West
 Tony McCourt, West
 Iain McFarlane, West
 Gary McKenna, Central
 Andrew Muir, West
 Paul C Murray, North
 Andrew H Ramsay, Central
 Heenan Scott, Ayrshire
 Edward Smith, East
 Alexander Stewart, East
 Stuart J Thomson, Central
 Gareth Williams, Ayrshire
 Jim Wilson, West

Northern Region

Neil J Austin, N West
 Christopher Barnacle, Northern
 David Bateman, Northern
 Tom R Bennett, Northern
 Leigh Dyson, N West
 Gary Dyson, Northern
 Martin Eccleston, N West

John Grainger, Northern
 Simon J Grugan, N West
 Graham Kellett, N West
 Carl Matthewman, Sheffield
 Brain P McCrae, N West
 Grant T McDougal, N West
 Liam A McGeough, Cleveland
 Steven Millar, N West
 Stuart A Morrison, N East
 Paul Rendle, N West
 David B Sayer, Northern
 Shaun Stokell, Cleveland
 Graham S Thomas, N West
 Steve Trowsdale, N East
 Robert Turner, Northern
 Kristian Webster, N West
 Peter J White, N West

Midland Region

Timothy Bloodworth, E Midland
 Michael D Chua, BB&O
 Liam M Daley, Mid Anglia
 Richard Dexter, E of England
 Matthew D Forbes, Mid Anglia
 Gregory Swan, Mid Anglia
 Iain J McNab, Mid Anglia
 Stewart D Pendleton, BB&O
 Pasquale Ruocco, BB&O
 Neil Stevens, Mid Anglia
 Daniel J Waterman, Mid Anglia

South East Region

Wayne Batson, Sussex
 Andrew R Brown, Sussex
 Douglas Budd, Surrey
 Stuart A Collins, Kent
 Adam Flood, London
 David Freestone, Surrey
 James R Hickmott, Kent
 Oliver D McAllister, Surrey
 Keith A McQuillan, London
 Robert J Middleton, Surrey
 Matthew Nutter, Surrey
 Lee Russell, Surrey
 Robert Sadler, Surrey
 Chris Smith, Kent
 David M Tomlin, Kent

SW & S Wales Region

Kevin Arnold, S Coast
 Andy Balcombe, S Coast
 Dave Bell, S Coast
 James Davies, S Coast
 Andrew J Dunstan, Dev & C'Wall
 James Hoyer, Dev & C'Wall
 James Kennedy, S Coast
 James Kennedy, S Coast
 James Lang, S Coast
 Lawrence W Osborne, S West
 Richard D Parsons, S Coast
 Thomas Prosser, S Coast
 David Ross, S Coast
 Matthew Stewart, Dev & C'Wall
 Mark Woolley, S Wales

Northern Ireland

Michael Feeney
 Edmund A J Morrison
 Gordon E Nimmo

International Members

Sean D Baxter, Austria
 Mark A Mascolo, Norway
 Peter Standen, Spain
 Bo Goransson, Sweden
 Leif Mattsson, Sweden
 Fredrik Seeger, Sweden
 Tapio Tuoma, Sweden
 Len Curtin, USA
 Kenneth B Ingram, USA
 Stephen Matuza, USA
 John O Keefe, USA

Corporate Members

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 Michael Eddington, Central
 Steve Isaac, North
 Neil MacDonald, Central
 Willie Whitfield, Central
 Richard Windows, West
 Henry Bechelet, Northern
 Emma Beggs, N West
 Alistair Beggs, N West
 Daniel Binns, N West
 Stuart Ormondroyd, Northern
 Jeff Perris, Northern
 Robert Taylor, Northern

Tim Lodge, E Anglia
 Steve Gingell, S Coast
 Neil Squires, S Coast
 Peter Winter, Dev & C'Wall
 Ian McClements, Rep Ireland

Associate Members

Gary Cooper, N East
 Peter J Davison, E of England
 David Robins, Dev & C'Wall
 Kevin M Kenny, Rep Ireland
 Eva Meyle, Denmark
 Santesson Gerber, Sweden

Student Members

David P Edmondson, N West
 Alastair B Gauld, N West
 Ashley A Williams, N Wales
 Glen J Brooks, E Midland
 Wally Sweetman, Sussex
 Oliver Butler-Henderson, S West
 Gregory Jackson, Australia

Check out June's edition of
Greenkeeper
 INTERNATIONAL
 for all of the new members from
 April 2001.

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: Stephen Smees

Club: Southwick Park Naval Recreation Centre, Portsmouth

Position: First Assistant

Age: 31

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

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
 NVQ Level 3, Sparsholt College

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
 Irrigation

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
 Digging Ditches

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

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
 Head Greenkeeper, Nick Beadle

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
 Better understanding between golfers and greenkeepers

8. What are your hobbies?
 Football and darts

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
 Good magazine and a chance to meet other greenkeepers from the area

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
 Be a Head Greenkeeper of a course somewhere



Want to see what events are going on in your Section? Find out on the BIGGA website today, but be sure to keep popping back, there could be even more the time you visit!

Information updates: Blink and you'll miss 'em!

Towards the end of April, we received a call at BIGGA HOUSE from Allison Sloan, Section Secretary for Northern Ireland. He was organising a Section event, and wondered if it would be possible for us to help him publicise it.

Within minutes of receiving his call,

the BIGGA website was being updated with the relevant information, and within the hour, the new page had populated every major server, worldwide.

That's just a small demonstration of the speed of the internet, and the power of the BIGGA website. Absolutely packed to the brim with news, events, features and information, the BIGGA site is so much more than just a collection of web pages and digital pictures.

It's a powerful information tool which can be accessed by every member and visitor alike, and any of the content contained within it can be searched using the online search engine, contained at the bottom of every page.

Indeed, scrolling through the online events page, with so many events taking place, both socially and educationally, it's a wonder where you manage to find all that time!

The site statistics continue to amaze us here at BIGGA HQ. Since the launch of the

new site, (nine months ago, in July last year), we have welcomed over 50,000 visitors to the site, and each month, the number of visitors continue to grow.

As more and more people get online, start surfing and join up to the digital generation, they find the possibilities of distributing information and sharing knowledge become a reality.

As a member, by logging on to the BIGGA site, you can have instant access to a whole host of education and training information. If you have a query regarding your membership, you can access the FAQ area (Frequently Asked Questions), or even send us an email.

If you just can't bear to wait for your copy of Greenkeeper International, simply log on to the website, and check out the previews, before the magazine hits your doorstep!

The BIGGA site is yet another tool to help you get the very latest information about your Association, your membership, regional and section events and the turfcare industry news. So why wait? Get online, and start surfing today!

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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membership@bigga.co.uk

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education@bigga.co.uk

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scott@bigga.co.uk

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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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Half page ad	5	✓	£575
Half page DPS	10	✓	£840
Full page	10	✓	£1,050
Full page DPS	15	✓	£1,575

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Send an email Cheryl Broomhead at

cheryl@bigga.co.uk

Call Cheryl at BIGGA HOUSE on

01347 833800

COURSE



CLOSED



The economic cost reaches far beyond the slaughter of Britain's livestock.

Golf, as a recreational business and tourist attraction, has suffered a major blow.

This countrywide investigation by John Lelean uncovers how the industry is coping...

Two years after serving King and Country and for the first time legally entitled to vote I was given what I thought at the time was some pretty sound advice.

"Listen to what they all have to say, take your pick and no matter which party you vote for it won't make a scrap of difference. Politicians don't run the country - it's the Civil Service."

They may have done so reasonably efficiently in the early 1950s, but having researched this report on the affects of 'foot and mouth' on the game of golf, I have come to the conclusion that the State machine has grown into such a gargantuan bureaucratic autocracy, the country is no longer run, it is being strangled!

Without hopefully being too political, it would appear that the Prime Minister did eventually recognise the problem, which is why he moved the centre of operations away from Whitehall into Downing Street and gave the Army a significant role as the only organisation capable of cutting through the 'red-tape'.

The spread of the virus infection caught most in the know by surprise, not least the civil servants at the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food. Though it was their policies involving the closure of local abattoirs and the encouragement of nationwide livestock dealing that transmitted the disease from Northumberland to Essex, Cumbria and Devon overnight.

There are many tales to tell, some golf related others worth an airing in print, all point to one of the most serious economic crises since the middle-eastern sheikhs shocked the world by jacking up the oil prices in the 1970s.

One lady in the office of a golf club secretary in Devon was almost in

tears as she related the affects of the disease in her village. Every aspect of business and the social life of the community had come to a stop. The shops and pubs were empty, darts matches cancelled, all the guesthouses and hotels reported cancellations, even the Women's Institute meetings were postponed indefinitely.

"It is just like a ghost-town, people have been laid off, there is no money to spend and no end in sight".

Devon has been hit very hard, with Westward Ho, Torrington and Yelverton forced to close before the end of February. Not because there has been an outbreak of foot and mouth on their land or near it, purely because both are on common land with footpaths crossing the course.

Head Greenkeeper Mark Evans at Royal North Devon has 120 sheep on his course that the local graziers refuse to move. They could if they applied for a licence, but by mid-April refused to act. This has led to the Torridge District Council who own the land banning access.

Mark, who normally operates with five staff, has been forced to lay-off two and cut the working hours of those still employed. To add insult to injury a council official has ordered that no maintenance work can take place, apart from cutting the greens once every ten days. Even the grass cuttings cannot be removed, they have to be deposited in a designated storage area.

"It is very frustrating, added Mark. "If we could only carry out our normal daily work schedules, the course would be in first class condition when play is resumed. We have painted just about everything that doesn't move. There is disinfectant in the club car park and we all go through the procedures on entering the course and leaving it."

At Torrington, a 9-hole course with 400 members, Tony Gouch is also on common land, but in contrast to Royal North Devon there are no sheep or cattle on the course, but that has not influenced the decision of the 16 strong committee of Torrington Conservators. They banned golf and closed the whole of the 400 acres of Torrington Common.

Tony has also had to lay-off his three part-time staff and is naturally worried about his own job.

"If there is no income coming into the club, how long can the staff expect to be paid a salary?"

"The inconsistency in the ground rules made by official bodies is hard to understand," added Tony.

"Our members, deprived of play at their own club, are going elsewhere in Devon. A party went to Oakhampton, which is much nearer the heart of the epidemic."

At Oakhampton the Club Secretary, Clive Yeo, said that MAFF were quite happy with their precautions. All cars go through a vehicle dip and the golfers disinfect shoes and trolleys before teeing off at the 1st and again after playing the 18th. At only one place does the course abut farmland and no-one can retrieve a ball from the field or the hedge.

They have also offered a temporary membership facility to the members of Tavistock and Yelverton who are both closed.

It is these two clubs in the Dartmoor National Park who have suffered most. Within three days of the first reported case in Devon, the park closed and that also included the golf courses, where sheep and ponies graze freely.

Shaun Getson, Head Greenkeeper at Tavistock, is permitted to carry out essential maintenance, cutting the greens and maintaining the three new holes recently constructed. He runs the course with only two assistants, but the club have said there is no question at present of laying anyone off. They are fortunate to have a strong social membership to keep the club staff in business, but the only golf being played is on an enclosed putting and chipping green.

At Yelverton, seven miles south of Tavistock, Steve Evans said the Dartmoor National Park Authority say it could be August or September before the course can reopen. Again only essential maintenance is being permitted by MAFF, cutting greens and repairing the normal damage caused by the grazing animals, which in effect amounts to about two hours a day.

He has four staff who have all been told their jobs are safe for the time being. However, the loyalty of the golfers will come into question this month, as the subscription renewal is due in May, putting considerable financial pressure on the club if a substantial number decide not to renew their membership.

As a holiday course, loss of casual green fee income, plus a down turn in the bar profit could add up to over £5,000 a month during the spring and summer.

Steve is following the MAFF guidelines strictly to the book, washing down all machinery every day and then spraying disinfectant on the equipment and themselves.

What he cannot understand is why MAFF have not taken any steps to prevent the sheep and ponies from roaming at will.

"I suppose there is a reason, but wherever you go on the roads around here, there are sheep. There is nothing to stop them wandering up to Princetown where there is already a reported outbreak."

Wrangaton, where nine holes are on moorland and nine on parkland, have been able to open half the course, but because the club car park abuts the moorland, members are now changing their shoes in a temporary park

almost two miles from the clubhouse and not using the bar and catering.

"Subscriptions became due on April 1," said Head Greenkeeper, Gerald Ayliffe, "and by the middle of the month barely half had renewed their membership. With the loss of bar revenue and green fees this has made income very tight."

"The club were considering putting the green staff on a four day week, but one member left to join another club and so far we are all working full-time."

On the 9 moorland holes, there are 300 sheep and MAFF have restricted maintenance to essential work only.

There is an entirely different situation at the Manor House Hotel course at Mortonhampstead. The proprietary club is fully operational, although it is within the Dartmoor National Park it is totally enclosed and on private land. The club have introduced a disinfectant system, but not because of MAFF instructions.

A former Devon farmer, Martin Petherick who owns the Waterbridge Golf Club at Crediton has been able to keep his course open and continues to welcome visiting golfers, though there is a rigid infection prevention procedure. He believes MAFF were far too slow to react after the scale of the outbreak became obvious in the first two weeks.

As someone who has a working knowledge of the disease, Martin is convinced the way it spreads is not fully understood. A farmer friend, two miles from his course and ten miles from the nearest outbreak took every possible precaution, but his livestock became infected. His flock of sheep had not left the land and the last animal he bought in was a ram, back in June last year.

In Cumbria, the centre of the highest concentration of the disease, a few courses are closed, but there are a number under pressure to shut up shop. Appleby, a 9-hole moorland course on common land bordering north Yorkshire was forced to close from the outset although there were no sheep grazing. When Head Greenkeeper, Steven Campbell, was contacted on his mobile as he was cutting the 17th green, he said nego-

Foot-and-mouth could cost UK £7.6 billion

The livestock epidemic is set to cost the tourist industry £5 billion in overseas and domestic earnings and £1bn in lost fares to British carriers – estimates of the cost to British agriculture range up to £1.6bn. Tourism employs 1.85m people and agriculture employs 440,000 – a total of 6.3% of the workforce

Overseas visitors' spending (1999)
Total: **£12.5bn**



Fares to British carriers from overseas visitors: **£3.2bn**
Estimated loss: **£1bn**



Tourism revenue: **DOWN 10%**

Revenue in parts of Cumbria, Devon: **DOWN 80%**

Revenue in Scotland: **DOWN 21%**

Hotels affected – England: **78%**

Scotland: **91%**

Wales: **95%**

Forward bookings **DOWN 30%**

Additional cost of epidemic to farming industry: **UP TO £1.6bn**



© GRAPHIC NEWS Sources: BHA, BTA, MAFF

FMD
Can you believe this?

A Cumbrian farmer suspected foot and mouth disease when he started early morning milking and reported it to MAFF within two hours. A vet arrived next day and confirmed an outbreak. Two days later incineration material arrived, followed by seven slaughtermen the following day, accompanied by a health and safety official who stated that the cull couldn't begin because there were no toilet facilities for the workers. Portable loos arrived at 6pm, too late for the cull to begin. The infected herd was eventually culled five days after the infection was first reported.

A 21-year-old woman from Dumfries has been charged with an assault on a police officer after she came home and found him standing over the dead body of her pet goat, slaughtered by order of MAFF officials because her family property bordered an infected farm.

Residents in a West Yorkshire town had five weeks accumulation of rubbish uncollected because they live on an unmade up road classed by the local authorities as a bridle way. The fact that it only links two main roads and the

surrounding farmland was fully built on over 40 years ago has made no difference to the official who slapped a prohibition notice at both ends.

Golfers throughout the country are under attack from ramblers and dog walkers who are incensed that they are banned from the public rights of way while the golfers continue playing. They cannot accept there is a difference between using footpaths on golf courses - many with continuations to farmland, compared to the golfers walking the same



Above: Tavistock GC greenstaff have to wear protective clothing. Even then, they can only carry out essential maintenance work.

tations were taking place to re-open, but that very morning adjacent farmers had opened their gates and let on two separate flocks and allowed them to intermingle.

His reaction was quite predictable. One can only wonder what advice MAFF gave or if they had been consulted.

At Penrith to the north, the course is open for the simple reason the danger of infection has ceased. All the livestock for miles around has been killed, either because they were infected or as part of the culling policy to stop the spread southwards.

Silloth-on-Solway, one of Britain's finest links, is still in play. John Hill, the club Secretary said the Committee were reviewing the situation daily, but only a small part of the course backed on to farmland where there was an outbreak. Access to the course was through the town, with the sea as the major boundary, so there was nothing to be gained by closure.

The majority of the members at Silloth are in the farming community and for them it must be very distressing to see their quality herds transformed overnight to rotting carcasses with no foreseeable end to the problem. They are being compensated, but it is working capital that is going into the bank without the means of re-investing back on the land.

With the main area of infection so far confined to the west side of the country from the Borders to Devon,

a confusing situation has arisen in Wales where the Welsh Golf Union web-site reports nine courses closed, mainly in north Wales, though the Vale of Glamorgan Council closed Southernness for five weeks. It reopened in time to stage the prestigious Duncan Putter with an international field after MAFF carried out a 'risk assessment', but said no golfers from infected areas could take part.

Course Manager, Garry Scott, has 500 free roaming sheep on the course and has instigated a fully operational washing down procedure for all machinery, plus the usual disinfected mats and beds of straw.

At Pennard, the Swansea Council closed the course and footpaths for three weeks because there were ponies on the fairways. With the nearest infection over 50 miles away, it was allowed to reopen on March 24 despite farmers putting on sheep and cattle, said club Secretary, Morley Howell, though they are hoping to have them removed.

No doubt as part of the pressure to counter the fear that Britain is in quarantine, the footpath ban at Pennard was lifted on April 10.

From this review of the country, Cumbria has lost the most livestock, Devon suffering the greatest financial setback as far as tourism and golf is concerned. The South West Region also lost its annual Westurf Show as a direct result of the outbreak.

distance on privately owned property. One Daily Telegraph reader wrote that he and other local residents had considered making a citizen's arrest, until they were advised, that, to get to the golfers would mean committing an offence by using the footpath.

We'd like to hear from any BIGGA member with similar stories to tell, perhaps in different parts of the country.

You can contact us by any of the following methods:

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

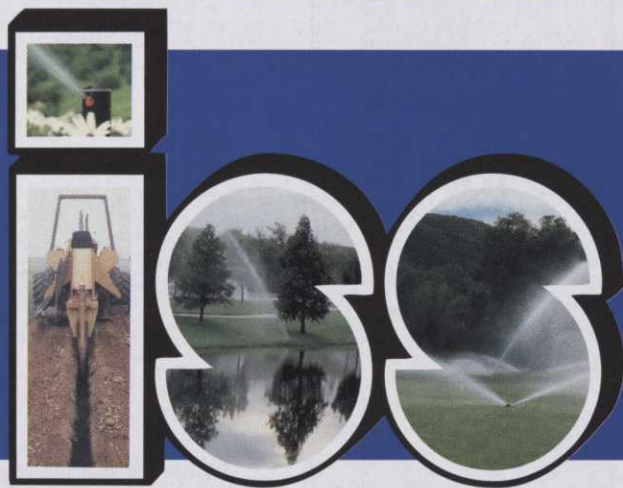
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MASSEY FERGUSON

The introduction of the utility vehicle as an alternative method of transporting materials, tools, people and powered equipment is investigated by Roland Taylor...

A2B? ATV



Above: Textron's E-Z-GO Workhorse has the ability to transport people, tools and equipment with relative ease around the course

Transporting materials, tools, people and powered equipment can absorb a lot of time during the day plus in some cases tying up the towing vehicle when it could be used for other jobs. As mowing equipment has increasingly become self-powered the

need for the conventional tractor has, and is, gradually diminishing. This has led to the introduction of the utility vehicle as an alternative method of transportation. These have many similar features to ATVs, which are also used on some courses.

In its most rudimentary form the utility vehicle is a carrying platform with its own power source and today this can be petrol, diesel, electric or LPG. From this basic form each manufacturer has added their range of refinements.

A2B? ATV



Above: The Mule 2510 combines a diesel powerplant with spacious practicality

Below: The large loading boot area of Textron's E-Z-GO Workhorse



When considering one of these as a prime mover of materials the first item on the buying checklist should be - carrying capacity. Determine your specific requirements throughout the year and add a percentage for the unforeseen. This will provide a realistic figure from which to start looking at the choices available. There seems very little point in investing in a piece of equipment with a large carrying capacity that is not going to be fully utilised. Another point to take into account at this stage is the method of unloading. Does it have a tipping facility and is this manually or hydraulically operated?

Once the weight range has been established it is time to consider the ground pressure specifications of each of the machines that can take the payload you require. As a unit will very likely be travelling over some sensitive grassed areas, the lesser the ground pressure when loaded the better it will be for the turf.

Good traction without damage to the turf is also another factor to be looked at. Some terrain may be uneven or steep so the unit's stability and balance will be important. These vehicles are designed to travel over all types of ground conditions but some do it better than others and with less chance of damage to the surface. There are two and four wheel versions available and a differential lock for more traction is offered on some models. Which to choose will depend on the type of work and the areas on which the vehicle is going to be used.

Manoeuvrability and turning circles are also important aspects to consider. Whilst most units have a four-wheel configuration there are some on the market with three - these maybe the answer if there are a lot of confined areas involved. Power steering is a must on any of these units, if only to make life easier for the operator.

Given the undulating surfaces these