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WRITTLE COLLEGE

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HENRY DOUBLEDAY RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATION

*"Treatment with Maxicrop gave a fourfold increase in leaf chlorophyll content six weeks after use."*

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

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## Advertisers' Index

Advertiser	Page
Advanta Seeds	44
AGCO (Massey Ferguson)	18
Allett Mowers	21
Bathgate Silica Sand	34
Boughton Loam	30
Charterhouse	46 - 47
Dennis	50
DGT Volmatic	30
Eagle Promotions	33
Fern House Marketing	30
Greenlink International Ltd	60
Hardi Ltd	11
ISS Irrigation	17
John Deere	59
Kawasaki	21
Lastec	50
Lely	22 - 23
Major Equipment	30
North Staffs Irrigation	44
On Course (Epani)	11
Prestige Sport Surfaces Ltd	34
Rigby Taylor	2, 41
Rolawn	49
Scotts/Levington	37
Textron	7
Wessex Farm Machinery	17

# May 2001

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by June 8, 2001

## Regulars

### News

Pages 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9

### 9 Letters

### 10 Education

Ken Richardson looks at new educational courses available at some of the country's colleges

### 12 Membership Update

### 13 Web watch

### 45-49 Around the Green

### 58 Features Listing

Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International's previous articles

### 58 As I see it...

BIGGA Chairman, Clive Osgood, puts in some hard work back at Walton Heath and has sympathy for those members caught up in the Foot and Mouth epidemic

## Maintenance Facility Special

### 25 Ship Shape at Southwick Park

Scott MacCallum visits Portsmouth to see a new maintenance facility which has Naval approval

### 28 Top of the Copts

Jeremy Pilcher, Course Manager at Copt Heath, explains the background to the fantastic new facility he and his team now call home



25 Southwick Park



28 Copt Heath



14 Foot and Mouth Disease



19 All Terrain Vehicles



34 True Grit: Sand research



38 Gene Genie

## Features

### 14 Course Closed

John Lelean covers the country with his extensive report into how the Foot and Mouth outbreak has affected your golf courses, and what the lasting implications might be

### 19 A2B? ATV

Roland Taylor takes a look at All Terrain Vehicles and gives some useful advice on what to look out for

### 24 BTME2002: The clock's ticking

In a brand new BTME series, Neil Thomas gives a progress report on preparations for BTME2002

### 31 Positive Charge

Chris Squires, Course Manager of Rutland County Golf Club, describes the pros and cons of his new electric triple machine



### 34 True Grit

Dr Stephen Baker reports on the research being carried out into identifying the perfect bunker sand

### 38 Gene Genie

Through genetic modification, science will ensure the ideal grass for every occasion and use

### 42 'Bird's in The Belfry

Scott MacCallum met up with Rain Bird's Victor Jamieson at one of the company's biggest clients



## HAVE YOU CLICKED ON YET?

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS CHAT GREENKEEPERS

## Every (rain) cloud has a silver lining

The Masters is now behind us and thoughts can turn to the traditional start to the British and European golf season and what 2001 might have in store for everyone.

Before moving on though we must pay tribute to the stupendous achievement of Tiger Woods. Sure, people have quibbled about it not being a Grand Slam as the four Majors he now holds were gathered over two seasons and not one, but let's face it, did anyone ever think they'd see the day when one person could display all four trophies on his own mantelpiece? I'll answer that one for you. No. Standards in golf have risen so dramatically over the last 30 years that many people are now capable of low sustained scoring and for Tiger to come out on top in the four weeks when everyone is aiming to peak is truly remarkable. Sure, it might not be a true Grand Slam but it's the next best thing and far exceeds any other achievement in golf... including, and this may be a tad contentious, Bobby Jones's original Grand Slam back in 1930.

Incidentally, it would be asking a lot, but could it be a sign that this year's USPGA Championship is being played at the Atlanta Athletic Club, Bobby Jones's home club?

The good news is that Tiger's achievements will guarantee golf a place at sport's top table for quite some time and hopefully the increased profile will rub off on the game at grass roots level. I say this because it is perhaps the one positive aspect the UK golf industry has to hang on to at the moment.

Our report into the problems brought about by the Foot and Mouth Outbreak will give those of you lucky enough to have avoided the problem a feel for the anguish some of your colleagues are going through at the moment.

For some there is little prospect of their courses even opening until the end of the summer - some are only allowed to cut greens every ten days - and with annual subscriptions currently due, the disincentive for many golf club members to renew will be great.

Of course, compensation packages are in place for the agriculture industry as well as tourism but I'm sure I won't be far off the case if I say we'll be waiting a mighty long time until any of the money reaches the more badly affected golf clubs.

Golf, I predict, will be left to pick up its own pieces and the repercussions will be deep and long lasting for many.

With such grave issues afflicting us as an industry it would be nice to think that we would at least have a warm, sunny summer to make up for it. The signs are there. Apparently the Met Office has promised us a decent few months, those seaweed watchers are spotting all the right signs and, let's face it, by the law of averages we must be due one.

So let us hope that we are now through the worst of the bad weather, the Foot and Mouth epidemic has, at least, peaked and that Tiger Woods will continue to wow the world.

It gives us some positive thoughts to hang on to at the very least.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor

## BIGGA Student Chapter launched at Gleneagles

The first BIGGA Student Chapter was inaugurated at a meeting at Gleneagles Hotel last month when the students on the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award scheme were welcomed into the Association.

The Chapter which is designed to encourage student greenkeepers to become involved with the Association, and, as well as utilising the many opportunities available to them through the Association, gain experience from organising and running their own meetings, seminars and golf days.

The Chapter will work closely with the Scottish Central Section, and its Secretary, Past



Above: Scott MacCallum, Jimmy Kidd, Jenny Morgan, Scott Fenwick, David McInroy with six of the eight inaugural members of the Gleneagles Student Chapter

BIGGA National Chairman, John Crawford, and Scottish Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd. The first Chapter notes,

containing more information on the Gleneagles Chapter, appear in *Around the Green* on page 46 this month.

John Deere commercial & consumer equipment dealer Parks & Grounds Machinery has officially opened its new premises in Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

In addition to John Deere's full line of domestic, golf & turf and professional ranges of equipment, including Roberine and Sabo machines, Parks & Grounds Machinery is now an official supplier of John Deere 5000 Series tractors from 55 to 80hp. These are particularly suitable for use with heavy duty aerators and trailed gang mowers on large areas of amenity and sports turf.

Parks & Grounds Machinery was one of John Deere's earliest grounds care dealers when directors Andy Perkins and David Tullett originally signed up in 1989, operating out of a garden centre near Bromsgrove. The business then moved to Redditch in 1993, and finally to Bidford last September. The dealership has a full time staff of 10, including four mechanics.

## New premises for Deere



## FEGGA joins Excellence Scheme

FEGGA has joined the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme (GEGAS), a 12-month educational and practical training programme for young greenkeepers from around the globe.

Sponsored by Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products, the course is based at Gleneagles Hotel and runs from 1 September until 31 August. It is open to highly motivated students who are looking beyond a basic greenkeeping career and wish to develop their skills to become golf course managers or superintendents.

The scheme can accommodate a maximum of eight students, who will be selected from colleges and educational facilities in the UK and now, with FEGGA as a partner, from across Europe.

The scheme was established in 1994 and has grown year on year providing students with all the

necessary greenkeeping skills together with a unique opportunity for personal development during the year-long work placement.

"One of the main objectives for the students during the year at Gleneagles is to experience the alternative styles of maintenance required for soil and sand based greens".

"Every student will work on the three courses at Gleneagles for eight months of the placement and then decide which style of maintenance they wish to develop further and join their preferred greenkeeping team for the remaining four months. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring together students from all over Europe to train and gain experience at one of Europe's finest golfing resorts." said Dean Cleaver, FEGGA Secretary.

"I am particularly delighted that FEGGA have joined us and added their support for this scheme. Over

the coming year we will be hosting three national and European Tour events and the successful applicants will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the many different aspects of course maintenance and preparation at the highest level," added Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turfgrass Management at Gleneagles.

Applications are invited from students in greenkeeping and related subjects and should include a typed CV with personal details, experience, qualifications and other interests, together with a covering letter from their head tutor.

They should be sent to: Jimmy Kidd at Gleneagles - see [www.gleneagles.com](http://www.gleneagles.com) for details - or Dean Cleaver, Secretary, FEGGA, 3 Riddell Close, Alcester, Warks B49 6QP.

The closing date for applications is Monday, May 28, 2001.

# BIGGA Section Secretaries Meeting

The biennial Section Secretaries Meeting at BIGGA HOUSE, held at the end of March, was the ideal opportunity for BIGGA headquarters staff to update the 20 Secretaries who were able to attend on the work and initiatives currently in place.

The meeting, spread over an afternoon and a morning covered all aspects of Association business and also gave the Secretaries the opportunity to have their say.

It began with a talk on how the Association works from Executive Director, Neil Thomas, before Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, outlined the current education and training initiatives including BIGGA's own CPD scheme. Further talks were given on use of the membership disc and the website before the session closed with group discussions on the Training Needs Analysis currently being undertaken.

Refreshed by dinner in Aldwark Manor Hotel, the next morning began with a talk on membership benefits from



Membership Services Officer, Tracey Maddison, before Administration Manager, John Pemberton, spoke on finance and pension provision.

Ken Richardson then outlined the latest recommendations by the Greenkeepers' Salaries Review Body.

After a coffee break the meeting broke into two and Neil Thomas, on BTME and Editor, Scott MacCallum,

on Greenkeeper International, spoke separately to both halves of the group.

The occasion ended with a question and answer session and lunch.

"It was an ideal opportunity for Headquarters and Sections to come together and I'm sure that everyone benefited from the information sharing which took place," said Neil Thomas.

## Two prodigals return to BIGGA

Two familiar faces - one with an unfamiliar name - return to the Association this month.



Jennifer Whichello, better known in the industry as Panton, returns to BIGGA HOUSE as Sales Team Leader after a spell away during which she got married to Scott.

## Nick lands new and varied role at Textron

Textron Specialty Product's new Regional Sales Manager with responsibility for golf cars, golf utility vehicles, personnel carriers and light industrial vehicles is Nick Brown. His territory encompasses East Anglia, the southern counties of England, Scotland and Ireland.

He joined the Ipswich-based manufacturer in September 1998 as Sales Planning Co-ordinator for the company's Specialty Products range and Iseki tractors. Last year he took on additional responsibilities as Demonstration Fleet Administrator managing the logistics of the company's demonstration fleet of turf maintenance equipment, golf cars and compact sweepers. Previous to joining Textron he spent a year as a professional rugby player in Australia.

Nick, 29, graduated from Brunel University with a BSc Hons degree in Forestry Products Technology and worked on oil palm plantations in Sumatra for a year before moving to Australia. He now lives in Woodbridge near Ipswich and in his spare time is a keen supporter of his local premiership football team, Ipswich Town. "Nick's promotion to



this position demonstrates our commitment to providing structured career opportunities here at Textron. His previous experience within the Specialty Products division will add

strength to the sales team and he has our best wishes for a successful career in his new role," said Richard Tyrrell, International Sales Manager, Textron Specialty Products.



Peter Larter is also welcomed back into the fold, returning to his role as Midland Regional Administrator. He succeeds Les Emery, who has taken on a full time role at a Midland golf club, and who had succeeded him some 18 months ago.

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year [www.tonyhusband.co.uk](http://www.tonyhusband.co.uk)



## Unfair dismissal ends with £5,000 compensation

BIGGA member Aaron Mackenzie has won almost £5,000 in compensation after an industrial tribunal ruled that he had been unfairly dismissed by Abernethy Golf Club, at Nethy Bridge, Inverness-shire.

The reason the club had given for his sacking was that he had refused to work on Sundays.

A LOOK BACK TO A DECADE AGO FROM GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

# Back Lapping

Welcome to a brand new series in which we look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



**MAY 1991**

### BIGGA's Third National Education Conference

The magazine reported on BIGGA's third National Education Conference held in York University's Langwith College. 170 people had attended from around the globe and 17 papers were presented. Amongst the speakers were David Stansfield, Martin Hawtree, Larry Gilhuly from the USGA Green Section, Dr Bill Adams, Joe Paulin, George Shield, Ken Seims and Peter Jones. A panel on The Way Forward Document and Subsequent Developments was chaired by Nick Park. The historic Merchant Adventurers Hall was the location for a memorable banquet.

### Toro Greenkeeper of the Year

David Norton, the Toro Greenkeeper of the Year, reported on his two months at the University of Massachusetts. The trip from Beverley had taken 20 hours with the journey on Boston's underground proving a nightmarish experience. This represented the lowspot of his trip and David concluded his report wishing that all future winners enjoy equal pleasure and delight and most important of all gain true and lasting benefit from the learning experience which such a trip affords.

Today David is Head Greenkeeper at Forest Pines Golf Club in Brigg, Lincolnshire.

### Hillside GC profile

In a profile, the magazine reported on Martin Twist, Head Greenkeeper at Hillside Golf Club over which the first ever European Amateur Championship was to be held in 1992 and which had been selected as a qualifying course for The Open at Royal Birkdale. In addition, successful competitors in the Iseki-BIGGA Championships would be exposed to its charms when their Grand Final was held there in September. It was reported that Martin had been Head Greenkeeper for four years, was very happy and enjoyed the continued confidence of the club.

In May 2001, Martin continues as Head Greenkeeper at Hillside Golf Club.

## Students aim for architects award



An international line-up of students has designs on becoming the winners of the 2001 Toro Student Golf Course Architect Award, and the associated Barenbrug Award.

The nine students from Belgium, Chile, Slovenia, Germany and Croatia as well as the UK are studying on the two-year Diploma Course in Golf Course Architecture - organised by the European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA) - at Merrist Wood College, in Surrey.

The award was launched in 1999 in recognition of the important role played by golf course architects in the creation of quality golf courses around the world.

All the final year students have presented a written and verbal dissertation to the judges on their diploma course thesis, as well as design ideas, detailed drawings and costings for a new golf course.

The judging panel comprised David Williams, Ken Moodie and Martin Gillett, representing EIGCA; external

examiner Nigel Rudd, dean of environmental studies at Herriot Watt University and Edinburgh College of Art; Bruce Jamieson, representing Toro and Paul Johnson, of Barenbrug.

David Williams commented: "The diploma course is extremely competitive and has attracted students from many different backgrounds, from all over the world. The relatively small intake allows for constructive discussion among the students and enables them to share valuable skills".

### Lastec UK Ltd

Lastec, Inc., a division of Wood-Mizer Products Inc., has opened a factory branch in the UK. This branch "Lastec UK Ltd" can be found at Court Lodge Farm, Kenward Rd, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent ME18 6JP.

Lastec are the manufacturers of the Articulator Range of rotary mowers for the golf and amenity turf industry. With its patented belt drive system the Articulator range gives an excellent finish to grass cut from 25mm to 110mm over flat or undulating ground.

Lastec UK will be selling its range of Articulator rotary mowers through a network of dealers and its own salesmen. For demos, sales or spares please contact the Operations Manager John Millen on 01622 812103  
Email: jmillenlastec@aol.com



### Section Members get Club Captain status

Two North Wales Section members have become Club Captains in the same year. Wyn Mostyn is the current Captain of The Plassey Golf Club while Terry Adamson holds the same position at Northop Country Park Golf Club. The two men are pictured sporting their club blazers.

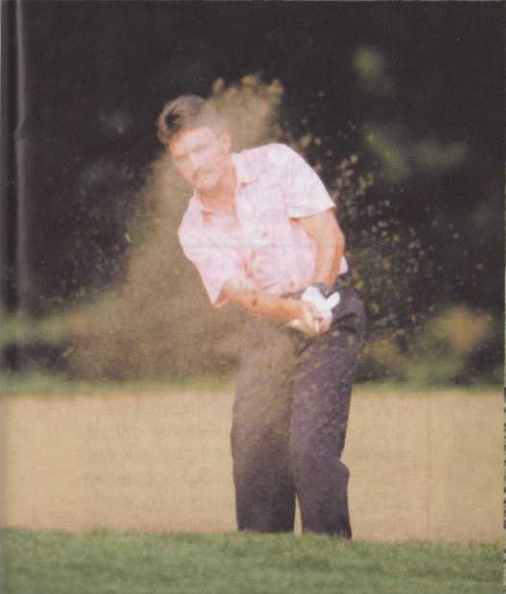
## Carden hosts Sportsworld Educational Event

Sportsworld Amenity held its second Annual Educational Seminar at De Vere Carden Park at the beginning of April. Seventy delegates comprising of Greenkeepers, Secretaries and Club officials enjoyed presentations from Tracey Maddison of BIGGA, Peter Jones, Duncan McGilvary and Brian Butler.

Mathew Burrows, proprietor of Sportsworld Amenity, also gave a short presentation outlining his aspirations with regard to customer service and educational support for the industry including the continued development of the day's event.



Photo shows left to right: Brian Butler, Terry Adamson, Mathew Burrows, Bill Lawson, Tracey Maddison, Duncan McGilvary, Peter Jones, Trevor Helm, Andy Mardie, Dave Raman, Andy Campbell MC and Mike Whitehouse.



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## Top record for Longhirst Hall

Longhirst Hall has just accepted its 2000th member making it the golf club with the largest membership in England.

Managed by BIGGA member, Graham Chambers, the members were attracted by the fact that not one day has been lost to rain during the winter and the prospect of another nine holes opening this July. It is anticipated that a further nine, bringing Longhirst Hall up to 36 holes, will be opened in the summer of 2003.

### Latest news?

[www.bigga.org.uk/news.html](http://www.bigga.org.uk/news.html)

## Bernhard's offer Stateside trip

Bernhard's and Company is offering three students on turf-related courses the chance to win a trip to the States. Any student on a full or part-time course which leads to a turf-related recognised qualification is eligible to apply.

The fortnight's prize will include return air fares to the States, food and accommodation. During this period students will have the wonderful opportunity to work on a top US golf course and learn more about their practices.

The competition is based on researching current UK golf maintenance practices and proposing suitable improvements.

### Section Event?

[www.bigga.org.uk/events.html](http://www.bigga.org.uk/events.html)

## Richard joins Gem Professional

Gem Professional has appointed Richard Page as its new Technical Services Representative for Surrey and West Sussex.



Richard was previously Head Greenkeeper of a private members' club and holds the D32/D33 National Greenkeepers Assessors qualification. Over the forthcoming weeks and months he will be spending time with the customers in his area.

### Phone a friend?

[www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html](http://www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html)

# Recent appointments at Rigby Taylor



Peter Read

Rigby Taylor Limited has made three recent appointments. Peter Read has joined as Local Authority Technical Sales Representative for Herefordshire, Essex and the London Boroughs. Peter has substantial experience in the amenity and agricultural market sectors having worked as assistant contracts manager with Canterbury City Council and as Head



Warren Jefford

Greenkeeper at Vivary Golf Club

Warren Jefford has qualifications in business studies and computers and having gained sales experience in the car electronics industry joined Rigby Taylor where he will be covering the fine turf sector in Cheshire, the North east of Wales and Rochdale areas.

Jamie Applegarth first entered the amenity market as an apprentice



Jamie Applegarth

Greenkeeper at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club. This was followed by a further three years at Headingly Golf Club, half of that time as Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

He has gained NVQ Levels 1-3 in Amenity Horticulture and Greenkeeping. He covers the local authority and golf sectors in North East England and Cumbria.

## TGA to have a field day

An extensive array of static and working exhibits will greet visitors attending this year's Turf Grass Growers Association's Field Days, taking place in Worcestershire on Thursday, 21 June and Friday, 22 June 2001.

To be held at Teal Farm, Wadborough, near Worcester, courtesy of TGA member, Peter Lole, the two day event is open to anyone with a professional interest or involvement in the growing, marketing, specifying, installation or after-care of quality seeded turf.

Two events which will be of value to anyone growing, specifying or installing cultivated turf are the turf grass species identification workshops being hosted on both days by independent turf consultant and agronomist, Robert Laycock, (right).



## Raycox Turf awarded Rolawn authorised distributor status

Rolawn has appointed Raycox Turf as authorised distributor for the Bristol area. This new arrangement follows the scheduled closure of the Rolawn depot on the same premises in Bristol at the end of February.

The arrangement benefits both parties as it allows Rolawn to concentrate on turf production and marketing, while Raycox takes care of customer service and distribution.

The partnership will cover training and marketing support for the sale of Rolawn loam and preturfing fertiliser as well as Rolawn's turf.

Both parties are confident that the high level of customer service, distribution and product presentation will

be maintained for old and new customers in the area.

"We're very optimistic about our distribution agreement with Raycox. It maintains our long association with our customers in Bristol and the South West. It was a big decision for us to change from having our own staff in the area, but we needed to reexamine the way in which we sell our products in the light of last year's appalling weather, but most of all the sheer enthusiasm and customer focused approach of the partners at Raycox have convinced us that this is the right step at the right time", said Terry Ryan, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director.

## English Boys County Finals venue change to Longcliffe GC

The English Boys County Finals, scheduled to be played at Kedleston Park in Derbyshire on 3-5 September 2001, have been switched to another venue. The three-day round robin event will now take place at Longcliffe Golf Club in Leicestershire on the same dates.

Kedleston Park operates a strict soft spikes rule, which they felt they could not relax for the Finals.

Longcliffe was approached and although the club hosted the Reid Trophy only last August, it agreed to take the Boys Finals, moving its Club Championship and two other fixtures to accommodate the English Golf Union.

This is the second occasion in recent times that an EGU event has been switched because of the soft spikes rule.

## Bourne Amenity's Telesales division receives a boost

Bourne Amenity has appointed Trevor Monk to work alongside Roger Burrows to help run the company's telesales division.

Trevor, who is a Sussex County bowler and reached the last 16 in the National Indoor Champion of Champions Bowling Finals, was National Contracts Manager at the Department of Environment before joining Bourne Amenity.

Peter Bourne, Managing Director, said that the company had developed its telesales division to enable it to provide a fast and efficient back up to its area sales managers.

## Miniature golf: The way ahead?

The world's first commercial golf court will be opened later this month at Lensbury conference centre, at Teddington Lock, by Laura Davies.

A golf court is a new concept in golf, designed by Compac Golf Ltd, that enables a full 18-hole round to be played on 18 acres of land compared to the average 150-acre golf course. The concept can also be adapted to fit smaller areas of land.

Mathematically designed to include four greens and eight tee areas, a golf court offers players all the challenges of a full 18-hole course, incorporating Par 3, 4 and 5 holes on a smaller area and can be completed in far less time. The game on a golf court is very easy to follow, the tee and yardage markers and flags are all colour coded. Each hole is different they vary in both length and perspective. A golf court is as safe as a golf course and each golf court will undergo a PGA safety audit.

Like a tennis court, a golf court can be booked by the hour offering the golfer the flexibility of playing six holes in one hour, 12 holes in two hours or a full 18 holes in just three hours. The game is considerably quicker than on a conventional golf course because the system of play means waiting time is virtually eliminated.

The potential for golf courts is enormous. Hotels, conference centres, property developments, universities, inner city areas and leisure clubs are just some of the areas with limited space that could feature a golf court.

A golf court is around £300k. It is inexpensive to maintain, requires very little watering and, being so compact, is easy to floodlight for night-time golf.

"It means having the opportunity to play golf safely and it will bring golf to a whole new category of players for whom golf has not been feasible or available before," said Bob Hunt of PGA Golf Management, who advises on the building of golf courses.

## Kawasaki launch new online service

A new, online, engine service is now available from Kawasaki Commercial Products Division.

Full specification, dimensions and performance curve details are available to visitors to the site who will be able to download data and request further information with a direct link to Kawasaki's head office at Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

"It's another significant step forward for us in the ongoing development of our engine business in the UK and one we intend to take even further in the months ahead," commented Jack Ford, Sales and Marketing Manager for Kawasaki Commercial Products Division.

Having extended its liquid-cooled engine range - horizontal and vertical shaft, Kawasaki introduced two further models during the autumn. The 13 hp, FE400D engine is a natural extension to the FE family of engines while the liquid-cooled FD791 D, at just under 30 hp, is at the top end of the FD series. Both models have been designed specifically for turfcare, agricultural, industrial and municipal applications.

Further information from: [www.kawasaki.co.uk](http://www.kawasaki.co.uk)



Address your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York YO61 1UF, or email them to [reception@bigga.co.uk](mailto:reception@bigga.co.uk)

## A mountain to climb

I have been selected for a place on the Seven Summits Project, a series of international expeditions for Venture Scouts and Young Leaders aged between 16 and 22 where we plan to climb the highest summit in each continent.

With the summits of Mount Elbrus, in the Russian Caucasus; Mount McKinley, in Alaska and Aconcagua, in the Argentinean Andes already completed I will be part of the team of seven other boys, five girls and three Mountain Leaders attempting to scale Mount Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania - the highest mountain in Africa, planned for this July.

The aim is to complete the project by the year 2010, although it is hoped that

the ascent of Mount Everest will be in 2007 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Scouting.

The expedition is to be funded entirely by the member's own efforts - approximately £1500 each, with a personal contribution of £500. Sponsors are being sought for specialist equipment which is essential when mountaineering at altitude.

I work at Broomieknowe Golf Club near Edinburgh and have been a BIGGA member for almost five years and I would be delighted to hear from any member or company within the industry who feels they might like to make a contribution towards the trip.

Paul Davidson, 7 Greenhall Crescent, Gorebridge, EH23 4AL

## Work acknowledged

In the March issue, you carried an article entitled 'Are your greens up to scratch?'. In this article the author somewhat obscurely referred to "research work carried out by Steve Haake...". To enlighten your readers Steve Haake was then a research student working at the STRI and the University of Aston under the University Interdisciplinary Higher Degrees Scheme.

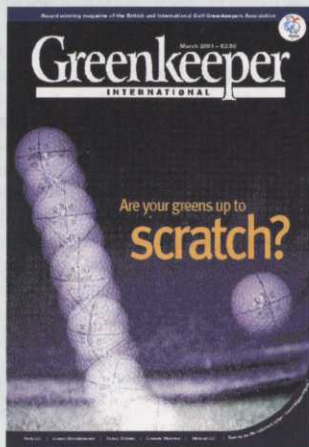
I was his industrial supervisor at STRI

and Dr Alastair Cochran was his University supervisor and also author of the ground breaking book on the physics of golf 'The Search for the Perfect Swing'. The project arose out of the realisation that there was considerable information about the impact by the club-head on the ball and its subsequent trajectory but no-one had any quantitative information about the impact of the ball on the turf and the consequences of different turfgrass species and management factors on ball behaviour. Steve Haake's project was the first to address these issues. The work was reported in the STRI Journal and elsewhere.

The front cover photo is copyright of the STRI. The work was done under grant aid from SERC with additional financial support from the R&A and the Acushnet Corporation which should also be rightfully acknowledged.

Dr Mike Canaway, Former Chief Executive, STRI

Editor's Note: Apologies for not acknowledging the copyright of the front cover picture and the involvement of the STRI and others in the paper which acted as a basis for the article in March's magazine. We were unaware of the information listed above



## High praise for Scottish Conference

I would like to pass on my congratulations to all concerned with organising The Scottish Conference on March 6, in Dunfermline.

It was my first visit and despite some technical hitches it was a well run and enjoyable day. All the speakers involved were excellent.

Personally, I especially enjoyed John Philp's ideas on how a golf course should be run. Controversial? Maybe, Humorous? Definitely, Thought Provoking? Without a doubt!

Jim McKenzie's talk on The Celtic

Manor was a real eye opener. A harsh lesson that money can't buy everything. It stands as a reminder that we are all at the mercy of the weather. Fortunately it all came good in the end.

A special mention should go to Tim Colclough. Asked to stand in at the last minute due to illness, Tim gave an excellent and professional talk, working from a colleague's viewpoint. No mean feat.

Finally a message to greenkeepers everywhere who tend not to get involved much, if at all, with BIGGA

## YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

If you've got an email account, and want to keep up to date with the latest news and events from the turfcare industry, drop us an email, and we'll add you to our ever increasing list of online subscribers. We'll then inform you of any forthcoming features and events via email.

Simply send an email to:

[updates@bigga.co.uk](mailto:updates@bigga.co.uk)

quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest - it's that easy!

## Work recognised

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the team at BIGGA HOUSE for the very informative Section Secretary's meeting held at the end of March. I left with a better understanding of the teamwork required to run the Association and how all the staff are there to help the members with benefits, education, employment problems and many other services.

At present our industry is taking a battering with the wet weather and the foot and mouth outbreak, but it is nice to know that all the team at BIGGA HQ are working hard for all the members.

Ian Willett, East Anglia Section Secretary

## Help required

I require information for a dissertation. I am working on the subject of organic content in rootzone materials, except for peat, that are used within the golf or general sports turf and agricultural industry. If anyone constructs or maintains terrain of the above criteria, I would be interested in any information and also any possibilities of using such a site for a case study.

Dan Wheeler, [jwheeler@uk.packardbell.org](mailto:jwheeler@uk.packardbell.org)

functions - and I include myself in that. Go along to an outing, conference or whatever. I always find a warm welcome awaits. The knowledge available through all concerned, from organisers, to fellow greenkeepers is invaluable. The camaraderie, I believe is unique to our own trade and I always come away with new friends.

Have a good season everyone. Keep up the good work.

Derek Hoskins, Camperdown GC, Dundee



This month, **BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson**, reports on some of the latest education and training developments available to Greenkeepers, and gives updates on the entry progress of our various competitions

# Top Level Greenkeeping degree

## UPDATE

**TORO Student of the Year Competition**  
 The deadline for entries to this year's TORO Student of the Year Competition is approaching. Make sure that your entry is sent to reach BIGGA HOUSE by 11 May 2001.

**TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping**  
 All Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers/Superintendents in Britain and Ireland should have received a copy of this year's Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping Entry form. If you have not received a copy then contact BIGGA HOUSE, if you live in Britain or the GCSA, if you live in Ireland and you will be sent an entry form by return.

**BIGGA Golf Environment Competition**  
 Entry forms for this year's Golf Environment Competition are arriving at BIGGA HOUSE. If you wish to enter and have not received an entry form then contact BIGGA on 01347 833800.

**CPD Continuing Professional Development**  
 The BIGGA Continuing Professional Development Scheme is rapidly approaching the end of its first year. Certificates are being prepared for those who have accumulated 10 credits and will be dispatched soon. More details on BIGGA CPD will appear in future editions of Greenkeeper International, and on the BIGGA website at [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

**You've got m@il!**  
 If you've got an email account why not send an email to the education department, where we can place you into our exclusive education email address book. We can then keep you up-to-date with education news and events as they happen.

Send an email to:  
[education@bigga.co.uk](mailto:education@bigga.co.uk)  
[ken@bigga.co.uk](mailto:ken@bigga.co.uk)  
[sami@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sami@bigga.co.uk)

Observant readers will have noticed an announcement, in the April edition of this magazine, about an exciting new course for greenkeepers which starts in September this year when Cranfield University introduce a Master of Science Degree in Sports Surface Technology.

The course aims to combine academic and technical skills, covering advanced principles of soil, water and vegetation management plus mechanisation, irrigation, construction and business management.

The course is split into 12 modules.

- Soil/Plant/Water relationships
- Soil Science
- Mechanisation for Sports Surfaces
- Sports Surface Playability
- Irrigation and Drainage for Sports Surfaces
- Irrigation Management and Optimisation
- Management of Sports Facilities
- Turfgrass Science and Technology
- Management Accounting
- Project Planning and Operations
- Human Resource Management
- Sports Surface Construction for Natural and Artificial Surfaces

Assessment will be two three hour examination papers, continuous assessment and a project based module.

The course may be full time ie. 45 weeks of full time study or part time ie. the equivalent of 45 weeks full time study, which may be distance learning. The duration of the course will normally be one year with a maximum duration of five years.

For entry to the course, candidates should hold a first or second class honours degree from a UK university or an equivalent qualification. In certain cases, a blend of qualifications and relevant experience may be accepted.

For further details contact Alex Vickers, Course Director MSc Sports Surface Technology, Cranfield University, Silsoe, Beds, MK45 4DT.

### New Learning Innovation From Myerscough College

Myerscough College recently launched their Internet learning platform. Piloted in Knowlsey at the Greenkeeping Academy from the college's Croxeth Park Centre -Liverpool, the system currently has over 40 stu-

dents studying varying NVQ's from level 2 to level 4 amenity management, from the UK to Williamsburg USA. Endorsed by the GTC the system can be adapted to suit everyone's learning needs from craft level 2 to NVQ 4 for Course Managers.

The Myerscough on-line System is a web-based learning platform that helps the teaching and learning of sportsturf NVQ's Levels 1 - 4. Students can be engaged in an effective learning process involving sophisticated software and interaction with other students as well as their on-line tutor. Students are supplied with their own personal password that will log them into their specific chosen qualification where they can access various relevant course materials and support packages enabling them to complete the NVQ qualification.

Interaction between the student and teacher is achieved by the teacher using specific web-based tools. Students can access support material, complete unit tests and quizzes, send e-mails to other students and much more. Students that submit their work on-line can have it graded and sent back along with the tutors feedback. Any problems the students may have with the course or a particular subject area can be dealt with by either using the 'bulletin board', where all on-line students can monitor and critique the answer or by using private e-mail between a particular student and his/her tutor.

The beauty of on-line learning is that course material is accessible almost any time of the day, and more so, material is often available for courses not currently being taken, giving the student the opportunity to preview them in advance. Students can also link searching for information on the world wide web with their course work, enabling more information to be analysed. Qualifications can be attained outside normal working hours which may suit certain employers, but at the same time giving the student chance to collate information from work-based experiences.

For further information on online learning from Myerscough or details on NVQ sportsturf workbooks, contact: Paul McGrail (Training Co-ordinator) Croxeth Park Centre: 0151 228 7162 or e-mail: [croxeth@croxeth.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:croxeth@croxeth.fsbusiness.co.uk)



The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact Neil Thomas, Executive Director on 01347 833800 or via [admin@bigga.co.uk](mailto:admin@bigga.co.uk)



### Golden Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel. Head Office
Amazon Ground Care	01579 351155
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd	01428 661222
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Kubota UK Ltd	01844 214500
Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rain Bird	01279 891326
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 394888
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319987

### Individual Members

Mike Eastwood, J H Fry, J H Greasley, David S Robinson, Stuart Townsend



### Silver Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel. Head Office
Ernest Doe & Sons	01254 380311
Heath Lambert Group	0113 246 1313
Ocmis Irrigation	01460 241939
Sisis Equipment Ltd	01625 503030

### Individual Members

Clive A Archer, John Crawford, Bruce Cruickshank, Douglas G Duguid, Alan Holmes, Iain A MacLeod, Robert Maibusch MG, Richard S Mullen, Elliott R Small, Steven Tierney, Raymond J Wamender, WJ Rogers, Kenneth Jones

## ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION

<b>Golf Course Preparation Video</b> £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members	<b>Ecology Video</b> £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members	<b>Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video</b> £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members
<b>Golf Course Reconstruction Video</b> £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members	<b>Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video</b> £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members	<b>Irrigation Video</b> £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members
<b>Ecology Book</b> £3.00 to BIGGA members £7.00 to non-members	<b>ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!</b>	

Education Dept, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF  
 Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801 Email: [education@bigga.co.uk](mailto:education@bigga.co.uk)