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This month, Tracey and Susannah from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, remind you of the fantastic BIGGA Waterproof suits for sale and introduce members from Germany

Remember remember the rain in November!

Do you remember last November? How much rain did the UK have? Don't leave it too late to order your waterproof suits from BIGGA. Made by Sun and Rain, the suits are available in navy colour consisting of a jacket with inside pocket, the BIGGA logo is subtly placed on the left chest with a small logo on the back of the collar, matching trousers with drawstring waist complement the jacket making this a smart looking suit. Sizes available are medium, large, extra large and extra extra large and at £59.95 inc VAT and post and packing this a great value suit. To order suits or for further details contact Tracey or Susannah in Membership Services on 01347 833800.

BIGGA Membership Photocard Update

Keep those photo's coming in! Once again, thank you to all those members who have sent us a passport photograph of themselves for processing. Don't wait for the rush to begin, please help us by sending us your photograph as soon as possible to Tracey or Susannah, Membership Services Department, BIGGA, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. Don't forget to write your full name, date of birth and membership number on the back so we know who you are!

October'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 November's winner, Andrew Miller, Stockbrook Golf & CC



BIGGA has almost 300 international members situated throughout the world in as many as 31 different countries. This month we would like to welcome our members from Germany and give some interesting facts about the country

Willkommen – Focus on Germany



Location:

Central Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, between the Netherlands and Poland, south of Denmark

Currency:

Deutsche mark (DEM); euro (EUR)
 Note: on 1 January 1999, the EU introduced the euro as a common currency and from 1 January 2002 the existing national currency will be replaced by the euro resulting in the deutsche mark no longer being legal tender.

Population:

83,029,536 (July 2001 est)

Official Languages:

German

Time Zone:

1 hour later than GMT

Capital:

Berlin. Other main cities include: Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Essen

Places of Interest:

The Black Forest, Harz Mountains, Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains), Bavarian Alps, Fichtelgebirge. Rivers include: the Rhine, the Danube, the Oder, the Elbe and the Ruhr.

Golf Clubs:

There are over 600 Golf Courses located throughout Germany, with over 250 listed in the R & A Golfer's Handbook 2000.

Useful contacts:

Greenkeeper Verband Deutschland e.V., the German Greenkeeping Association have more than 700 members, they can be contacted at:

Greenkeeper Verband Deutschland e.V. Geschäftsstelle, Viktoriastrasse 16, D-65189 Wiesbaden, Germany
 Tel. +49 611 901 87 25
 Fax: +40 611 901 87 26

On the German Menu

Westphalia ham with buttered bread and Steinhager (juniper-flavored brandy)
 Wurst, sausages: Brunswick Mettwurst (Smoked pork), Weisswurst (veal & herb), Leberwurst (liver sausage).
 Tafelspitz = braised beef with horseradish
 Rosti = potato pancakes fried with onion and butter
 Himmel und Erde = Heaven and Earth: pureed apples and potatoes topped with blood sausage
 Schwarzwälder = Black Forest Cake, a chocolate cake with cherries, whipped cream, grated chocolate
Prosit!

Cheers! Whatever language you use, raise a toast of either beer or wine. German beer is clearly the beverage of choice, with hundreds of varieties produced. Dark, light, aged, young, berry-flavored — the varieties are endless. Part of the fun of travelling through Germany is tasting the wide range of these brews. Look for those with full heads that leave foam, known as Brussels lace, clinging to the sides of your glass.

Scottish Region

David Leys, West
 Lorraine Paterson, Central
 Andrew Paterson, West
 Eric Wilson, Central

Northern Region

Richard Barnes, N Wales
 Matthew J Dobbs, N West
 James R High, Northern
 Mark A Jones, Midland
 Steven Pickering, Sheffield

Midland Region

James Arthur, Midland
 Paul Bowen, Midland
 Glyn Buckley, E Midland
 James Canham, E of England
 Paul J Crowther, BB&O
 Barrie J Darsley, Midland
 Robert Duval, E Midland
 Wayne Gun-Munro, Midland
 Gary Hill, Midland
 John Hislop, Midland
 Philip Lewis, Midland
 Robert Massey, Midland
 Mark Minton, Midland
 Richard Osgood, BB&O
 David Rotheram, Midland
 Dennis W Sherlock, Midland
 Keith Swan, Midland
 Frank Tong, Midland
 Andrew Tudor, Midland

South East Region

Ashley Clark, E Anglia
 Niall J Costello, London
 Paul Edwards, Essex
 Graham Goldrup, Surrey
 Ivan J Killip, Surrey
 Timothy D Maynard, Kent
 Barry Sharma, London
 Matthew D Thomas, Surrey
 Jason D Woodger, Surrey

S West Region

Thomas Glover, Devon & Cornwall
 Paul Hazell, S Coast

Republic of Ireland

Eamonn Delaney,

International Members

Johnny Mortensen, Denmark
 Eva Ek., Sweden
 Karel Marik, Czech Republic

Associate Members

George J Uzans, N West
 Paula N Dickson, London
 Lynda Green, E Anglia
 Jeremy R Cole, S West
 Tor Senstad, Norway

Willkommen...

Gareth Anwell, Southern Golf Bad Waldsee
 Colin J Atkinson, Gut Rieden GC
 Henry Baldwin, GC Bonn
 Kevin J Barsley, Golf Akademie Dusseldorf
 David F Bartley, Golf C Schloss Myllendonk
 James Borders, Oberheisscher GC
 Denys P C Bristow, GK Braunschweig
 Andrew Buck, Golfsport Willich
 Peter W Cairns, Golf Klub Braunschweig
 Markus Christ, G C Lobenfeld-Heidelberg
 Carl S Clayton, LBN Landschaftsbau
 Paul E Crispin, G C Schloss Weitenburg EV
 Iain Douglas, GC Sylt
 David Duke MG, G & CC Seddinersee
 Andrew Foyle, GC Im Chiengau
 John France, Golf Und Landhotel
 Peter A French, GC Feldafing EV
 Robert A Gorwill, Golf Park Rittergot
 Kevin Grainger, Baden Hills
 Robert Hargreaves, GC Treudenberg
 D Hart, John Deere Ltd
 Jeffrey I Heath, Golfanlage Schloss
 Andreas Heising
 Gordon J Howat, Munchener GC
 Bryan Inglis, Am Alten Fliess C.V
 Andrew T Jeffery, Golfclub Munchen Nord-
 Steven C Jones, Herford GC
 Herr U Kayser, Bernhard & Co Ltd
 Terence Kelleher, Baden Hill GC
 Ronald K P Kennedy, Gc Reichmannsdorf
 Andreas M Krichel, Bad Eilsen
 Rolf Kruger, Rain Bird Deutschland GMBH
 Malcolm Lewis, Jakobsberg Golf Hotel
 Norbert Lischka, Hamburg-Falkenstein GC
 Gordon MacGregor, Sennelager GC
 Stewart MacIntosh, GC Leverkusen
 John MacKay, Gut Wissmannshof GMBT
 David Mallinder, Schloss Myllendonk EV
 Neil L Millward, GC Mannheim
 Trevor J Mitchell, Golf Park Winnerod
 Colin Moseley, RAF Bruggen GC
 Douglas L Nelson, Andy Clark's Golf Center
 Kevin L Phillips, GC Hohenpahl
 Christopher W Ramsden, GC Hubbelrath
 Christopher J Raper, GC Hossel EV
 Jonathan M Roberts, Golf-Und Country Club
 Peter Robinson, Park Village Golf Anlagen
 Frank Schafer, Hamburger GC
 Klaus D Schmitt, GfA Of Germany
 Severin Schmitz MG, Essener Haus Oefte GC
 Hermann Schulz, Gut Kaden
 Neil C Shawcross, Baden Hills
 Graham R Shiel, GC Schloss Elkofen
 Craig L Smith, Cormorant International
 Craig H Stewart, Wittelsbacher Golfplatz
 Paul E Summers, Sennelager GC
 Joseph R Swing, Golf U.Land Club
 Mark Timberlake, Zu Gut Ludwigsberg
 Colin G Turner, GC Herford
 Karl N Waddell, Golfanlage Iffeldorf
 Andrew J Wilkinson, Brodau Muehle GC
 Raymond E Williams MBE, Gutersloh Garrison GC
 Paul Woods, Sennelager GC

You may have heard their names mentioned in conversation, or even seen them in print, but have you ever wondered who the individuals are who help BIGGA to run so smoothly as the leading Association in the fine turf industry? Read on...



David Walden

Board Member

Name: David Walden

Golf Club:

Thorpe Wood GC, Peterborough

Association Position:

Board of Management Member for Midlands Region

How long have you been a member of BIGGA?

From humble beginnings in Brighton as EIGGA

Where do you hope the Association will be in 10 years time?

Improved profile and recognition as the only club for greenkeepers with ambition

For what would you most like to be remembered?

Helping BIGGA to move forward and further greenkeepers' careers

For what would you least like to be remembered?

For achieving nothing while a Board member

Why did you take on a more involved role in the running of the Association?

Helping to put something back into what has been a good career for myself

Name one thing which would improve the Association?

All members working together to improve all grades of membership and profession

What is your claim to fame (None, not acceptable)?

ICI Greenkeeper of the Year for 1994

Describe BIGGA in 15 words

Beginning of an extremely Interesting life in Grasses and Grounds maintenance within a good Association

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Confirmed Exhibitors

Details correct as of October 24, 2001

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| AcornGolf.com | Kubota (UK) Ltd |
| Advanta Seeds UK Ltd | Lastec UK Ltd |
| AFT Trenchers Ltd | Lewis Equipment Ltd |
| AGCO Ltd | Linmaster Thief Stoppers |
| Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd | Lindum Seeded Turf Ltd |
| Allen Power Equipment Ltd | Links Leisure Ltd |
| Allett Mowers | Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd |
| Amenity Land Services | Logic Irrigation |
| Amenity Technology | Long Equipment Ltd |
| Angus Horticulture | LS Systems Ltd |
| Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd | M J Abbott Ltd |
| Askam Bryan College | Major Equipment Ltd |
| Association of Golf Club Secretaries | Maxxis International UK |
| Aventis Environmental Science | Merrist Wood College |
| Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd | Mitchell Hire Ltd |
| Artec Chemicals Ltd | Myerscough College |
| Barcham Trees | National Proficiency Tests Council / Vale Engineering |
| Barenbrug UK Ltd | New Holland UK Ltd |
| Barnefield Golf Ltd | Nickerson (UK) Ltd |
| Bathgate Leisure | North Staffs Irrigation Ltd |
| Berkshire College of Agriculture | Ocnis Irrigation Ltd |
| Bernhard & Co Ltd | Pentagon Amenity Marketing |
| Biocseed Probiotics | Port Agric Ltd |
| BLEC Landscaping Equipment Co Ltd | Prestige Sports Services Ltd |
| BMS (Better Methods) - Europe Ltd | PSD Agronomy Ltd |
| Boughton Loam Ltd | RainBird Europe SARL |
| Boxwood Limited | Reaseheath College |
| Boyd Golf Course Accessories | Rensault |
| British & Internat Golf Greenkeepers Assoc | Richard Campey Ltd |
| British Seed Houses Ltd | Rigby Turf Ltd |
| Cannington College | Risboro Turf |
| Caprari Pumps (UK) Ltd | Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd |
| Cebeco Oliver Seeds Ltd | Rousseau Equipment Ltd |
| Charterhouse Turf Machinery | Rufford Soil Technology |
| Club Car - Ingensal-Rand | Same Deutz-Fahr UK Ltd |
| Copper Clarke Group Ltd | Saxon Industries |
| Course Care | Scotts UK Professional |
| D W Tomlin | Scoutl Nessay UK Ltd |
| DENNIS | Sheppy Fertilisers Ltd |
| DGTValmatic | Shirley Aldred & Co Ltd |
| Eagle Promotions Ltd | Simon Tallett Machinery Co Ltd |
| Ecosolve Ltd | SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd |
| Elmwood College | Smallholder Tractor Company |
| Elexis UK Ltd | Spaldings UK Ltd |
| European Institute of Golf Course Architects | Speedcut Contractors |
| European Turf Technology Ltd | Sportsworld Amenity |
| European Turfgrass Laboratories | STRI |
| Everproducts Ltd | Sumi Agro UK Ltd |
| Farm & Garden Machinery Ltd | Supaturf Products Ltd |
| Farmura Ltd | Swan Golf Design Ltd |
| Fern House Marketing Ltd | Swan Plant Services Ltd |
| Florastine Products Group | Symbio |
| FMW | TACIT |
| GambettiBarre UK Ltd | Talbot Farm Landscapes Ltd |
| Garden Innovation Products | TEG Environmental |
| Garfitts International Ltd | Textron Golf Turf & Specialty Company |
| Gem Professional | The Golf Sign Company |
| Geosynthetic Technology Ltd | The Greenkeeping Supply Company |
| Golf Car UK Ltd | The Hydroscape Group Ltd |
| Golf Course News International | Tildenet Ltd |
| GPS Services Ltd | Tonick Watering Ltd |
| Green Pride Ltd | Toro Commercial Products |
| Greenkeeper Training Committee | Toro Irrigation Products |
| Greenlink International Ltd | Totrax Ltd |
| Groundsman Industries | Tower Sport (Europe) Ltd |
| Hardi Ltd | Trelleborg Wheel Systems |
| Hayter UK Ltd | Trimax Mowing Systems |
| Headland Amenity | True Surface Rollers |
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| Hewitt Sportsturf | Turf Masters |
| Hunter Grinders Ltd | Turf Seed UK Ltd |
| Institute of Groundsmanship | Turftech Machinery Ltd |
| Inturf | Turftrax GMS |
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| John Hinton Associates | Warwickshire College |
| Johnsons Grass & Wildflower | Waste 2 Water |
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As the countdown to BTME 2002 continues, the education programme is now coming to the forefront of many minds. Sami Collins gives details of the education opportunities on offer

TUE
22
JAN 02

WED
23
JAN 02

THU
24
JAN 02

Continue to Learn

Check out the Education opportunities available at Harrogate

Continue to Learn 2002 has been specifically designed to give all delegates maximum flexibility on their education choices, offering one and two day options for both the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme.

Advertised under the new name 'Continue to Learn' the programme and booking form is now available.

Highlights of the National Education Conference include the morning session on Monday 21 January which will be presented by Dr James Beard on the subjects of Water and Temperature Stresses and Shade and Wear Stresses. Tuesday 22 January sees the return of Jim Moore from the USGA Green Section. A popular and informative speaker, Jim will be discussing the Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features. Other sessions at the Conference include the effects of Global Warming and the Golf Course and Preparation for Winter Play.

Three Workshops will be presented on the 2002 Programme offering delegates a choice of subjects. Due to popular demand the two day Golf Course Design 1 Workshop, presented by Simon Gidman BSc and Howard Swan MSc, makes its return to the programme. New for 2002 are one day Workshops, available on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 January. Emergency First Aid will give delegates the opportunity to gain their Emergency First Aid Certificate, while the Environmental Management Workshop looks at the impact of ecological management on the golf course.

The STRI continues to run their popular course 'Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century'. For 2002 the course will take place on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 January at The Majestic Hotel.

The BTME Seminars commence on Wednesday 23 January with Keynote Speaker, Roger Black. The seminars will cover a wide range of subjects from Sulphur Burning to Strategic Planning. An extended seminar on Turfgrass Management will be presented by Dr

WEDNESDAY 23, THURSDAY 24, FRIDAY 25 JANUARY 2002

Careers Advice Clinic:
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Banquet voucher exchange

Social Programme
 Entertainment and Events at BTME2002

Activities for delegate partners

BTME2002 Payment policy

James Beard on Thursday 24 January. Seminars conclude on Friday 25 January with presentations from Dr Mike Canaway, Andy Campbell, MG and Clive Osgood.

The Social Programme offers two events for 2002, The Education Dinner on Monday 21 January at The Majestic Hotel, with after dinner speaker Dr Keith Jones. The Show Banquet will take place on Thursday 24 January with a welcome return to The Majestic Hotel, featuring comedy duo Brahms and Listz, Harrogate band The Nightjars and a disco from Funtime Music. This is one event you won't want to miss!

For further details on booking your place please contact Sami Collins on 01347 833833

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 The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

BTME2002
 Social Programme
 Entertainment and Events at BTME2002

BTME2002 Member's Residential Packages

BTME2002
 Activities for Delegate Partners

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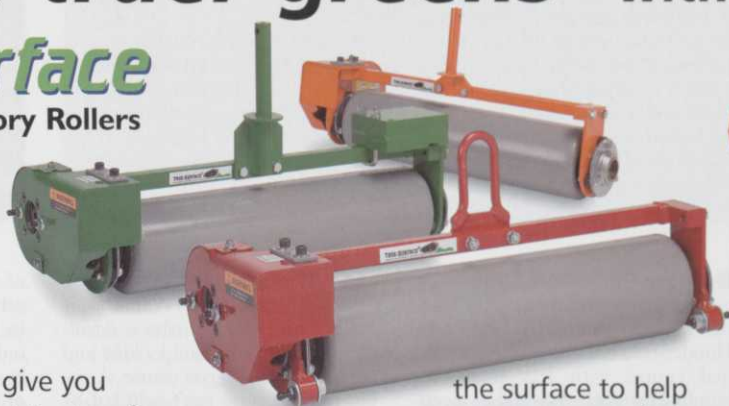
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**Lee Penrose, STRI, gives a round up
on the clubs who took part in the 2001
BIGGA Golf Environment Competition**

Environmental concerns

The votes have been counted and the results are in! This year's golf course environment competition has finally come to its end and proved to be the closest contest yet. The scale of environmental issues tackled by golf clubs is astounding; irrigation pond creation, woodland clearance and extensive species auditing are but a few examples of the kind of large scale commitment to environmental issues seen from this year's applicants. However, the projects unseen by the members and general public were the deciding factors in this year's competition; golf clubs across the British Isles are showing excellent initiative with regard to environmental improvement with projects ranging from office and clubhouse waste, energy saving to some very progressive composting schemes.

Of all the applications received by BIGGA only a few from each UK region could be visited for further consideration, so the tricky decision of who would play no further part in the contest was passed on to the ecology team at the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI). Scoring was difficult and it seemed as though all the clubs should win the competition for their own special initiatives, however financial and time constraints forced a decision to be made and a selection of clubs from each region were duly chosen. The next stage was to visit the golf clubs in question.

Bradley Park Golf Club

Of the three northern clubs visited, Bradley Park Golf Club near Huddersfield is the smallest; a municipal course with less than two hundred members and only six green-staff, Bradley Park is a shining example to other small clubs. A dedicated Head Greenkeeper, Mr David Brierley, has performed wonders in his nine years at the club; his enthusiasm has manifested itself onto the course in the shape of 25,000 indigenous trees planted within the last few years and as a comprehensive species list of every plant and animal seen on site. Through relaxed rough cutting regimes and the introduction, and management, of wildlife ponds on the course Mr Brierley has ensured that a variety of flora and fauna call Bradley Park 'home'

Wilmslow Golf Club

Wilmslow Golf Club is a private members club in Mobberley, near Wilmslow, and was the second of the

northern clubs to be visited. The Head Greenkeeper at Wilmslow is Mr Stephen Oultram who is devoted to creating a natural looking and ecologically sound golf course. A visitor to this course can't help but be impressed by its situation in the surrounding countryside, Wilmslow reflects the adjacent areas to such a degree that, on a walk around the course, one could be forgiven for forgetting that you were at a golf club at all. Areas of rough containing a host of colourful grasses and wildflowers bank the fairways, and the greens and tees are surrounded by thriving woodlands; all this on a course with a playability factor second to none! Mr Oultram's enthusiasm is backed up by an ever-increasing knowledge of environmental issues and excellent turfgrass management skills.

Kenwick Park Golf Club

The third, and final club, to be visited in the north did not make judging the region any easier, being

Above: St Andrews Links Trust. The five courses run by St Andrews Links Trust are committed to environmental good practice, minimal use of fertilisers and chemicals, record keeping and ecological rough management.





Below: Luffenham Heath Golf Club. The grassland rough is being gradually extended towards the playing line through sympathetic management



Parkstone Golf Club

Golf clubs in the south west of England maintained the high standard set by their northern counterparts. Parkstone Golf Club, in Poole, now has its own website dedicated to environmental issues (www.parkstonegolfclubgreens.fsnet.co.uk), hence their commitment to environmental issues is obvious even before a visit was made. Large scale tree clearances and heather/gorse heathland regeneration projects take up the majority of the greenstaff's time and effort; projects that are showing excellent results. The club are also well aware of the rarities in butterflies, reptiles and flowers present on their course and are especially proud of their colonies of bog asphodel, sundew and sand lizards; all of which are monitored annually.

Broadstone Golf Club

The other golf club visited in the south west was Broadstone Golf Club, a couple of miles up the road from

Parkstone in Poole. The staff there have an infectious enthusiasm for the environmental issues within the club and have captured the interest of the members remarkably well via organised nightjar and bat walks, posters, videos of wildlife found on the course and a notice board on which members can record wildlife sightings when playing golf (an idea that has worked surprisingly well!). A host of environmental topics have been addressed at Broadstone including progressive clubhouse management i.e. energy saving light bulbs and recycling, excellent waste oil and chemical reprocessing, and an organic matter composting scheme that is working well. An idea that should be applauded is the re-use of bunker sand as a habitat for reptiles and insects; when a bunker is replaced the old sand is placed into a 'pit' out of play and acts as a perfect home for sand lizards and adders. The list of extra habitats created on the course is long and impressive, but perhaps the most

impressive aspect of the club is the continuing influx of new projects that are being planned and undertaken successfully.

Beaconsfield Golf Club

The visits to the south east clubs continued in a similarly impressive way. The ecological sub-committee, headed by Bill Patterson, at Beaconsfield Golf Club have achieved a great deal over the last few years. Formal plantings of larch, pine and lelandii trees are being removed and replaced with indigenous tree species such as; ash, oak, holly, hazel and hornbeam and this is leading to a much more natural feel about the course with an increase in wildlife. The creation of extra rough areas around the fairways and relaxed mowing regimes in wooded sites are leading to the regeneration of heather, gorse and grass species on the course, which in turn is encouraging many butterflies and bird species. It is encouraging to see that

members at the club are taking an interest in the extra wildlife by noting any interesting sightings in a recording book, kept in the clubhouse. Environmental newsletters, display tables and a well known ecological committee also help the members to appreciate the movements forward and the importance of the ecological issues.

Berkhampstead Golf Club

As the course at Berkhamstead Golf Club is situated on common land, the greenstaff there have a particularly difficult job when it comes to some environmental issues. Therefore Gerald Bruce, course manager, and his team are dedicated to educating the local public about environmental management and that tree removal is sometimes necessary! Many heather management techniques have been tried in order to reinstate some of the lost heathland, and a bracken management plan is in place to stop bracken dom-



Above: Ipswich Golf Club. A variety of conservation projects are being implemented at Ipswich Golf Club



Above: Thorpeness Golf Club. A variety of habitats can be found within this predominantly heathland environment



Beaconsfield GC.
Improving gradation from fairway to deep rough

Below: Kilmacolm Golf Club. Interested members listen to Bob Taylor discussing habitat management. This Club has a very open and enlightened membership and displays a very high level of outreach



inating large areas. A commendable bird box erection and monitoring scheme is already in place and is a good indicator of how useful the course is to local wildlife. There is a good relationship between greenstaff and members when it comes to ecological issues, which is displayed by the annual clean up of the ponds on course undertaken by the members, supervised by Mr Bruce. Policies that are not seen by the public are equally important to the club such as minimal water and fertilizer usage on greens and energy reduction policies in the clubhouse.

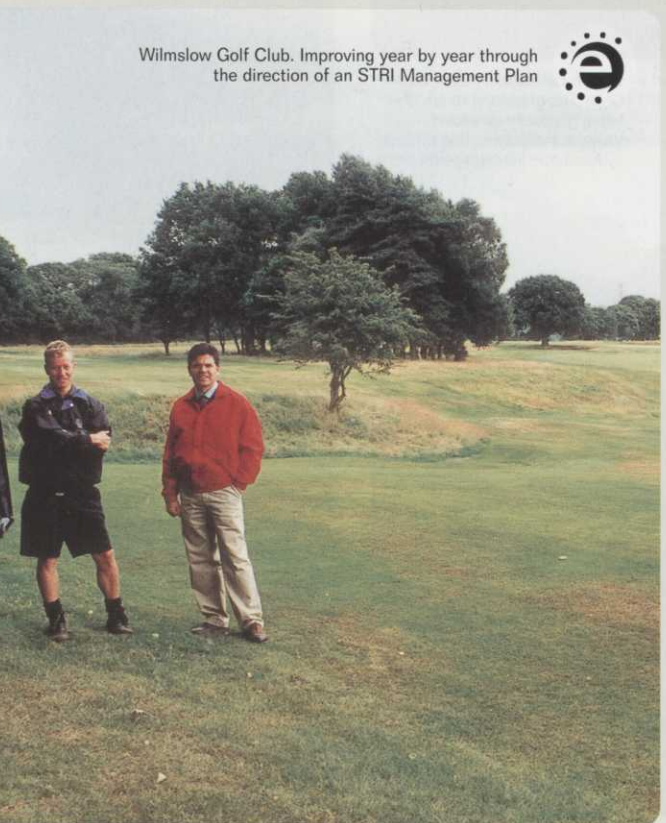
Thorpeness Golf Club

The course at Thorpeness fits wonderfully into the surrounding countryside, and is a pleasure to walk around. Mr Ian Willett, course manager, has an enthusiastic membership and club backing him when it comes to environmental issues, thus the course is a haven for local wildlife. Thorpeness is lucky to neighbour

RSPB managed fenlands which adds extra birdlife to the course with such species as; bittern, osprey and even a white-tailed eagle recorded on the course! English Nature rewarded Mr Willett's enthusiasm with the designation of the course as an SSSI site, due to the diverse habitats within the course, and now the club work closely with English Nature to manage the course as ecologically soundly as possible.

Ipswich Golf Club

The dedication toward environmental issues of Ipswich Golf Club is unquestionable and is reflected by the employment of two full time conservation officers. Their hard work is fully backed by the club and appreciated by the members, and the results can be seen throughout the course by the incredible amount of habitat creation and varied flora and fauna. The diversity of habitat types within the course would impress even the most sceptical golfers, and



Wilmslow Golf Club. Improving year by year through the direction of an STRI Management Plan

a tour of the course with Mr Neil Sherman, conservation officer, and his staff is an eye opening experience even for an experienced ecologist. Two 'nature trails' have been created on the course, with associated information leaflets, for the members and public to walk and enjoy, and local schools are invited onto the course to walk the trails and learn about ecological issues. Ipswich should be an example to other clubs of the things that can be achieved with the dedication of a club and its members.

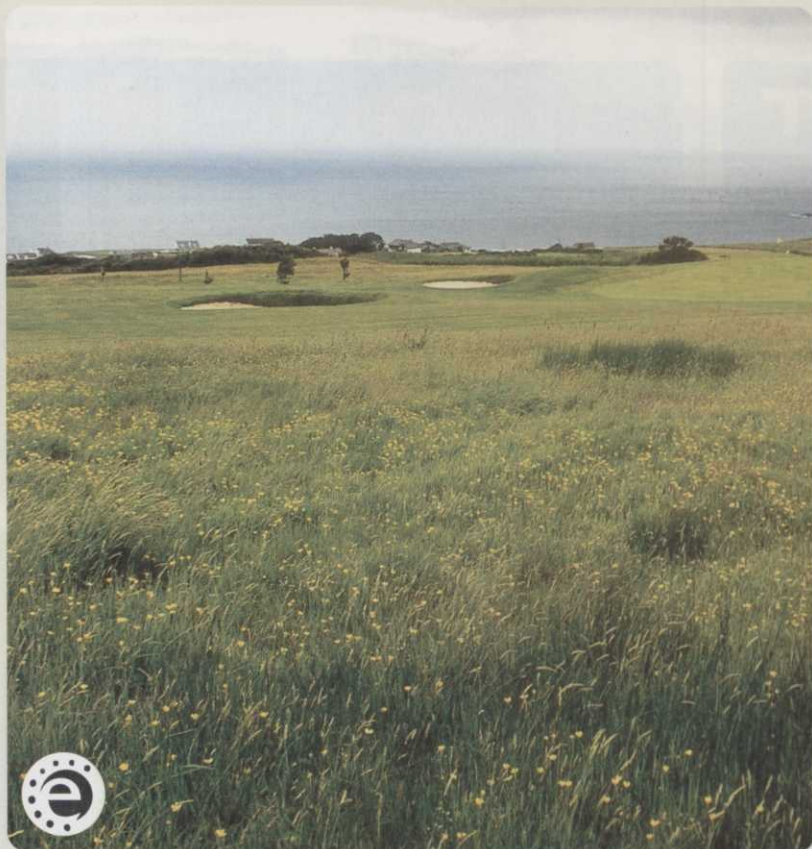
Luffenham Heath Golf Club

Much has been done in the way of habitat creation and conservation at The Luffenham Heath Golf Club, especially for the many species of butterflies found there, not least the black hairstreak butterfly – a rarity in the UK. Mr Fogg, Head Greenkeeper, has been with the club for thirty years now and has gained the total trust of the members,

hence extra rough area creation and woodland clearances are allowed to go ahead without complaint from the members (usually!). There is a small amount of heather beginning to regenerate near the third and fourth hole, something which the club are proud of and are doing their utmost to encourage more of, via careful management and making the members aware of its value.

The Luffenham Heath course has recently (1998) been awarded SSSI status due to its acid grasslands, heathland and its colony of black hairstreak butterflies, therefore the greenstaff work closely with English Nature to upkeep the areas of special interest on the course.

The planting of 400m of native hedgerow along the north of the course is an excellent project and will create homes and movement corridors for many songbirds, especially when taking into account the intensive agriculture in the surrounding areas.



Above: Cardigan Golf Club. Emphasis at Cardigan is being given to restoration of grasslands, gorse management, composting and minimalisation of fertilisers and water

Parkstone Golf Club. Annual tree removal and scrub control is gradually reinstating the true open heathland character of the course



Kilmacolm Golf Club

A long drive 'up the road' to Scotland was well worth while, as the golf clubs north of the border were, again, of an excellent standard. Over twenty interested club members, local councillors, residents and representatives of local nature groups turned out at Kilmacolm Golf Club for the judging of this year's competition. The interest displayed by these people is a credit to Mr Ronnie Bunting, Head Greenkeeper, and his club; he has successfully transformed the course into a haven for wildlife and gained the trust and respect of the club and its membership by many successful projects and constant liaisons with the members. The area is managed primarily as a golf course and has excellent putting surfaces and fairway definition, however it is also managed as though it were a nature reserve hence every decision is assessed for its impact on the environment and taken very seriously. Kilmacolm is only a twenty minute

drive away from the hustle and bustle of Glasgow centre, although visitors to the course feel as though they are miles from anywhere!

St Andrews Links Trust

All five of the courses at St Andrews Links Trust were entered into this year's BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, showing an extra keenness toward environmental issues. Of the five courses; the Eden Course is the most progressive in terms of habitat creation, with good gorse management techniques establishing several areas of great use for songbirds, invertebrates and reptiles. The most impressive aspect of St Andrews environmental policy is the attitude toward risk assessment and the recording of chemical and water usage. No expense has been spared in the setting up of a computerised irrigation system, the machine washdown areas are also a credit to the club; these ensure safe cleaning and disposal of all water and oil wastes.



Above: Broadstone Golf Club. Extensive areas of woodland have been cleared to reinstate the heathland, dragonfly ponds created and sand lizard and reptile habitats developed. Gradual progress has been made over a number of years



Berkhampstead Golf Club. Heathland restoration is a priority objective

Below: Bradley Park Golf Club. An excellent municipal course giving due consideration to sympathetic grassland and tree management



Cardigan Golf Club

The last region to be judged was Wales giving rise to a very progressive entry from Cardigan Golf Club. This club is devoted to allowing natural regeneration of gorse and grassland areas upon it, by following a newly created environmental management plan. The creation of three irrigation lakes is also a commendable and worthwhile project and will provide excellent habitats for a variety of wetland flora and fauna. Environmental training of staff, good communication with members and a sound waste management plan, including a high-quality composting scheme that is beginning to show commendable results establish this club as an example to clubs throughout the UK.

Finally ...

Choosing the winners from these outstanding clubs was not an easy task! However, inherent in every competition are winners and losers therefore, with quantitative scoring and much discussion, the very best of the clubs were selected to receive the prestige of winning the regional and national finalist awards. I hope that this article goes some way to show how much golf can do for the environment and that the real winners in this competition are the golf industry and the environment.

The following clubs were selected to receive awards:

- Northern winners**
Wilmslow Golf Club
- South east winners**
Ipswich Golf Club
- Welsh winners**
Cardigan Golf Club
- Scottish winners**
Kilmacolm Golf Club
- Overall winners**
Broadstone Golf Club

Understanding how grass is damaged during the mowing process is critical when trying to create an improved playing surface, consider costs and examine the quality of cut. Maureen Keepin reports ...

Sharp Practice



Above: Cal Callaby, Head Mechanic at Celtic Manor, finds he can tell how mowers are performing by looking at the grass. He can then adjust accordingly

Above right: Making adjustments in the in-house grinding facility

Below: Jim McKenzie, Course Manager at the impressive Celtic Manor resort



Increasingly golf takes place 365 days of the year and mowing is an essential practice used by greenkeepers to ensure greens, tees and fairways are well maintained for their members, benefit and enjoyment.

Improvements to quality of cut are continually being sought - to achieve these aims it is vital mower blades are kept really sharp as well as correct height adjustments maintained. These help to ensure a perfectly uniform height of cut.

Global warming predictions have far reaching implications for grass management. A lengthened growing season will mean mowing needs to be carried out even more frequently. The importance of having sharp cutting units will take on even greater significance.

Maintaining an optimum cutting performance means ensuring the

mower cuts to perfection day in and day out.

Mowers may be sophisticated and technically advanced but two components are key for the highest level of presentation - the cylinder and bottom blade.

For courses considering environmental issues these points are highly significant. Fertilisers, top dressing, aeration, drainage, machinery are all part of the golf club's armoury - but mowing is critical. Mowing is generally the last thing done before the judges come out to inspect the course condition, before the course goes public - and in the case of major tournaments this is highly public.

Mowing at a Major Event

With the news that the Celtic Manor Resort in Wales will be hosting the 2010 Ryder Cup, Jim

McKenzie, Director of Golf, explained what he is trying to achieve on his championship course.

"Players prefer consistency from green to green and for play to be quick and true," said Jim.

"We need a very clean cut as it helps stop disease getting into the grass. Normally we cut at around 5mm but we cut at 2.5mm for the Wales Open event in August, four times a day.

"Greens are Providence creeping bent and the fairways and tees predominantly rye grass and the roughs predominantly fescue.

Celtic Manor's workshop was set up in 1993 and they find having their own grinding facility saves a tremendous amount of time and money.

"Our greens units are ground every time they are bladed which is usually every three weeks," explained Cal Callaby, Head Mechanic.

