

# SealSkinz 100% Waterproof Breathable Socks and Gloves

Have you ever wondered how to keep your feet warm and dry during the Winter months without wellingtons or bulky waterproof footwear?

Porvair International Ltd based in Norfolk, manufacturer's of the porelle waterproof, breathable membrane have now developed a waterproof sock to offer the latest technology in the protection from wet conditions.



## THE TECHNOLOGY

The socks are designed to fit and behave like a normal sock but are made with the porelle membrane sandwiched between two textile layers.

The finished product is **100% waterproof** and breathable, similar to wrapping a waterproof jacket round your foot but a lot more comfortable! They are most comfortable when worn with light weight non waterproof footwear, and will protect your feet from getting wet all day long. Ideal for both work and golf!

The gloves are made from a similar 3 layer construction and are **100% waterproof**. Designed to offer excellent grip and dexterity in wet conditions.

## THE BENEFITS

The socks and gloves offer the latest technology in waterproof protection:

- SealSkinz keep the hands and feet warm and dry all day
- Less chance of blistering as the skin will not become soft
- Wear SealSkinz as a flexible liner inside boots or shoes
- Wear a light weight boot or shoe and SealSkinz for the most comfortable combination - no more heavy wellingtons!

**BIGGA have teamed up with SealSkinz to offer you an exclusive deal on these unique products**

**SOCKS - £16.00** pr +£1.00p&p

BIGGA are offering a discount off the RRP of £20.00 to members

**GLOVES - £16.00** pr +£1.00p&p

BIGGA are offering a discount off the RRP of £22.50 to members

**Buy any combination of two of the above items for £29.50** +£1.50p&p

An original Christmas present too!

## SIZING

Socks: S (3-5), M (6-8), L (9-11), XL (12-13)

Gloves: XS, S, M, L, XL

**WASH AND CARE:** Both socks and gloves can be washed at 40 °c

**Send your order together with payment to BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF** (Please allow 10-14 days for delivery)

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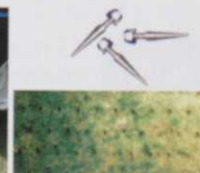


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# BIGGA Delegation Heads for the Deep South...

## Neil Thomas reports

In 2001 the first BIGGA Delegation in association with Bernhard & Company ventured forth to the west coast of Canada and the wonderful city of Vancouver to the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Conference and Show. Such was the success of this visit that a further 10 BIGGA members formed a second Delegation in 2002 to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando. To date 20 BIGGA members have greatly benefited from an international experience which has taken in a trade show, enabled them to attend educational seminars as well as visit golf clubs to view facilities and maintenance regimes at first hand. To a man they will tell you just how much they have benefited from the opportunity.

### INTERVIEWING PANEL



Neil Thomas



Stephen Bernhard



Sam McLean



David Haskell-Craig MG

Now a third Delegation has been selected, this time to attend the forthcoming GCSAA Conference and Show in Atlanta, Georgia. These ten members emerged from a keenly contested competition which culminated with in depth interviews. It was encouraging to observe the professionalism of the interviewees whilst their dedication to their jobs and the greenkeeping profession was marked. From a personal point of view I learnt much from their views as members of BIGGA and not a few pointers for the future.

So for the successful ten, work can now commence on researching the visit, looking at issues such as climatic and geographical difference to this country, comparing budgets and personnel as well as educational provision. Much knowledge will be gained and with 'homework' completed, the experiences of the trip should be enhanced when meeting and talking with American Golf Course Superintendents.

Bernhard & Company are to be thanked once again for this ongoing initiative. The company is a major supporter of education and training programmes for greenkeepers. There is not just a financial commitment. Those who have met and spent time with Stephen and Sam will vouch for their very real hands-on approach and enthusiasm. They have a global perspective, are widely travelled and each contributes greatly on an individual basis to the success of the Delegations. The company is now a familiar name in the greenkeeping world and many of our members are the beneficiaries of their drive and support.

So the BIGGA Delegation heads off to the Deep South - it should prove to be an informative and fulfilling experience.

### The 2003 BIGGA Delegation:

- Kerran Daly MG - Gog Magog Golf Club - East Anglia Section
- Mark Ellis - Stocks Hotel Golf & Country Club - Mid Anglia Section
- Kevin Hodges - Weston Park Golf Club - East Anglia Section
- Jeremy Hughes - Vale of Llangollen Golf Club - North Wales Section
- Colin Mackay - Vejle Golf Club, Denmark - International Section
- Alex McCombie - Parkstone Golf Club - South Coast Section
- Gordon McKie - St Andrews Links Trust - Scotland Central Section
- Tony Mears - Dinsdale Spa Golf Club - Cleveland Section
- Duncan Smith - Cotswold Hills Golf Club - South West Section
- Anthony Woolley - Piltown Golf Club - Sussex Section

### NOW IN ITS THIRD SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Stephen Bernhard comments...

A selection committee met recently to select the ten Greenkeepers who would travel to Atlanta in February 2003 to visit the GCSAA Conference and Show, as part of the Bernhard sponsored delegation.

The highly enthusiastic and interesting group included for the first time an overseas member from Denmark, who was awarded a place on the trip.



2002 BIGGA Delegation

From the increased number of applicants, it is evident that BIGGA members realise that this opportunity is open to all. It is important to the development of BIGGA that more people participate in these opportunities to learn from overseas greenkeeping practices.

I hope that the sharing of ideas and the exposure to an altogether different life style and work ethic will be immensely helpful to the group and to the superintendents who they meet as the tour progresses.

We are fortunate to have a wonderful relationship with several of the GCSAA Board and their management. These leaders of the American golf industry have been generous with their support for the arrival of the British group. They set a great precedent for us all to embrace as we seek to improve international understanding and shared education.

The enthusiasm displayed by the participants of the previous trips has been overwhelming, and this has certainly begun to rub off on us and on the new applicants, I am happy to say.

The participants of this year's BIGGA group to Atlanta have a lot to look forward to. They will have extensive homework to do before leaving for the USA in February - but it will be rewarding and fulfilling as the group develop long-term relationships with like minded colleagues from across the "pond".

I am proud to be part of the enthusiastic team at Bernhard and Company who sponsor the group to Atlanta and I hope everyone enjoys a fun filled and informative trip, returning with new experiences and stories to share with colleagues back home. We certainly hope many more greenkeepers will apply to join this successful trip in ensuing years.

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# Course Feature

## BEAUTY AND THE BEASTS

Pennard Golf Club boasts one of the most beautiful settings in golf but, as Scott MacCallum found out, it also has more than its fair share of four legged friends.



Peter Lacey

When picturesque settings for golf courses were being handed out Pennard Golf Club, on the Gower peninsula, near Swansea, in south Wales, must have been very near the front of the queue. The Gower peninsula was the first location in the UK to be designated a site of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the 106 year-old cliff top links course is as excellent as it is beautiful.

The course overlooks three bays - Pobbles, Three Cliffs and Oxwich - all with idyllic beaches; while playing the 7th hole you aim between the 14th century castle, which gives the club its emblem and appears in a lot of golf magazines and a similarly aged church; furthermore the valley floor, also owned by the club, is a SSSI, with the looks of a film set.

Renowned American golf course architect, Tom Doak, rated Pennard as one of his all time favourites in his book "Confidential Guide to Golf Courses" while he also scored the course highly in the "Best finishing holes" and "Most hospitable golf club" categories.

But if you are already jealous of Head Greenkeeper, Peter Lacey, it must also be said that when the gun went to start the race for an easy life Peter must have been bending over to tie his shoe laces.

Why?

Well, while the course is owned by the club the deeds still contain commoners' rights to graze livestock and Pennard has always had around 30 horses roaming over the course. This has been a recognised feature of the course but since the Foot and Mouth

epidemic, however, farmers have been restocking and the golf course has had to entertain the overspill of cattle. This has resulted in 80 head of cattle roaming over the course and munching their way through whatever they can find and, of course, planting their size nine cloven hooves wherever it takes their fancy.

With 110 head of cattle and horse, calling the course home at any one time you don't have to be David Attenborough to work out what one of the main duties is each day for the greenkeeping staff.

"The first job every day is clearing the mess and presenting the course for play. I have to set aside a full day for two men to do it. If there is no damage it's a bonus and they can go on and do something else but it uses up two men just from an animal point of view," sighed Peter.

Each green has a small fence around it with an electrified 12 volt wire - switched off between 7am and 7pm - but, although the horses do take notice of the slight shock they might receive if they venture too close, the cattle are more inclined to treat it as a minor inconvenience on their way to marching over the green.



The Pennard Team

"Also, they eat everything in sight and this year it has been particularly bad because of the number of cattle we've got. We've got no rough and getting any definition of play has been an issue for us. And then of course there is the mess and the damage," explained Peter, with the air of a man who takes this abuse of his golf course in his stride.

"We had an alliance meeting this morning, with 90 golfers teeing off from 9am, and when we came in we discovered five greens damaged by animals and another vandalised. Today it wasn't too bad as it was basically animals walking on the greens and we just have to prise up the hoof prints and roll them and they don't generally interfere with the roll of the ball but if they break the surface and get into the soil we've got to top dress them out and spend a bit of time on them. Obviously it's a lot worse in wet conditions. If it's dry they can walk on the greens and you don't even know they've been there."

The other area of the course which does take a hammering, and which has resulted in a very pragmatic solution, is the bunkers.

"I believe our bunkers are unique. Whereas most links courses revet their bunkers and leave a grass face on them to hold them in place we have to strim off all grass cover and present them with a soil face because the animals were spotting the grass, climbing into the bunker, clambering up the face and nibbling the grass. They then caused even more damage clambering out," said Peter, who added that the downside was that the soil faces meant that the bunkers had

to be re-done more frequently.

"Damage always looks worse than it actually is. We had an instance last year when 30 areas on the 1st green were dug up and turned over. I don't know the reason but it was absolutely shocking to be confronted by it first thing in the morning. It looked terrible but within two or three hours we had it repaired to the extent that most of the golfers didn't even realise there had been a problem.

"You have just got to tolerate it and not let it get to you. Obviously we can't present to Augusta standards, that's impossible in the circumstances we're in, but it's all about making the best of the situation."

The delicate issue of the natural fertiliser, and where it is disposed of, draws a laugh from Peter.

"It is a problem because we take it into the non-playing areas and the heavy rough and spread it but it is having a detrimental affect as a lot of these areas contain natural fescues, marram or heather which all like infertile conditions and we are literally fertilising them by spreading the manure. You can see the heather thinning and grass coming between it because it doesn't like it. It is going to have a huge impact in years to come," said Peter, who has been at the club for 20 years and followed his father, Colin, as Head Greenkeeper.

"My whole regime has had to be a lot more flexible in the last 18 months," he said, with a degree of understatement.

"We tend to maintain the course in a lean manner anyway in terms



The bunkers are revetted normally then the faces are strimmed to prevent animals clambering to eat the grass

# Course Feature

of modern greenkeeping practices and we are traditional. I've got men tied up in aeration all the time, one on a vertidrain and one on an aerator doing tees and greens basically flat out but because of the animals it has had a knock on effect.

One of the most striking features of Pennard are the rolling fairways but, while they are challenging to play and attractive to look at, from a greenkeeping perspective they do cause more problems.

"Unlike many links courses where the landing areas tend to be flattish our undulations are right the way through and we can go from eight feet above level to eight feet below level in the space of 20 yards.

"We had to cut our fairways with a Toro 206 which is a surround mower because it can cope with the undulations although we have recently upgraded to a Toro Sidewinder which again is known as a surrounds and aprons mower. It's a great tool but it does mean it takes us twice as long as if we were able to use a conventional fairway mower," said Peter, who added that they demoed all the fairway mowers a couple of years ago but none of them could cope with the demands.

Because of the undulations the hollows do tend to suffer from wear - golfers are naturally more inclined to use a hollow rather than a hump to get from A to B and also balls naturally collect there - particularly when you consider that there are 1000 members most of whom are regular golfers.

"We also tend to be busier in the winter than in the summer as we have partner clubs in the area and as we are fairly free draining we are open when others are closed."

With that in mind there is a programme of taking away some of the mounding, which also reduces some of the blind shots, always with the proviso that the overall natural look of the course is not adversely affected.

Taking into account the heavy workload imposed on the Pennard greenkeeping staff it would be fair to assume that there is the odd extra body employed to ensure everything gets done. Not true, as Peter has a staff of five, including himself plus a full time part timer who is employed to maintain the bunkers and collect litter.

"It's a case of having to prioritise. Top of my list is aeration but if we've got animal damage that comes first and the aeration has to



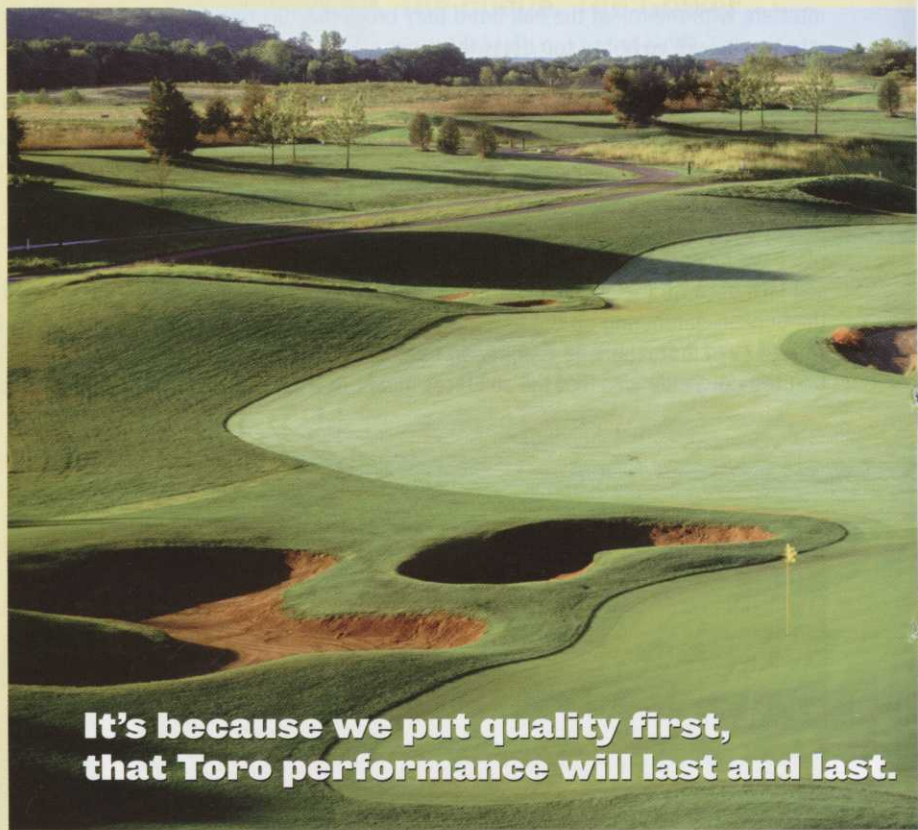
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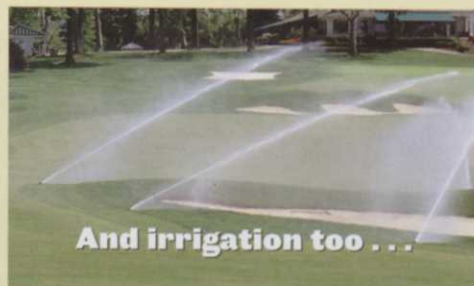
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# Course Feature

take second place and that approach runs right the way through the programme. We can also pull our bunker guy off and have him divot for a couple of days."

When it comes to divoting Peter can also call on an army of members to help.

"We have a fairly relaxed environment within the club and if we feel we have to get on top of it we put on divoting parties from the members and they'll perhaps come in on three consecutive Monday evenings. We put on a free buffet, the Captain will come along and buy them a drink and we thank them in the newsletter. We do things like that quite often."

Max Faulkner learned his golf at Pennard where his father, Gus, was the club's professional and 50 years to the day after winning The Open at Royal Portrush he opened the new clubhouse. The club also boasts among its membership, Vicki Thomas an eight times Curtis Cupper and Sarah Jones, who won her first Curtis Cup cap earlier this year.

If you felt that Peter had his hands full at Pennard also bear in mind that he has been the South Wales Section Secretary for the last 10 years and he has just received a Ransomes/Jacobsen Scholarship to part fund the HNC for which he has enrolled at Pen Coed College. He was also fortunate enough to be selected for the first Bernhard's Scholarship trip to Vancouver in 2001.

"The club is very go ahead and pay our BIGGA membership and put them through college. We've a fairly established team, I've been here 20 years, Dean has been here 13 years, David, 12 years, Bob, four and Richard, three, while David ("Dai Bunker" as he is known) has been here 18 years, but there is no chance of anyone stagnating, The nature of the course means they won't stagnate," said Peter.

Never a truer word could be uttered.

## MACHINERY INVENTORY

John Deere 1070 Compact Tractor (with cab).

John Deere 1070 compact tractor (with cab & front loader).

Kubota ST 30 Compact Tractor (with front loader).

John Deere 455 compact tractor (with rear lift kit & mid mounted mower).

Toro Greensmaster 3 QOD ride on green mower (with variable speed kit).

Jacobsen Greensking V ride on green mower.

Toro Reelmaster 23 QOD ride on tees/aprons mower.

Toro Reelmaster Sidewinder 3 IOD ride on fairway/surrounds mower.

John Deere gator utility vehicle (fitted with electric tipper).

Kawasaki Mule 3010 utility vehicle.

Amazone GS 10 top-dresser (used on Kawasaki mule).

Sisis Technicore multi-tine aerator.

Charterhouse/Redexim verti-drain multi tine aerator.

Sisis 5ft Green slitter.

Ransomes TM 80 5ft fairway slitter.

Amazone 5ft fairway slitter.

Sisis 5ft shallow green slitter.

Sisis overseeder.

Sisis 10ft green brush.

Thatch-away scarifying units.

Agrex Vicon type fertiliser spreader.

Royer soil shredder.

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Ryan junior turf cutter.

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ClubHouse

# PREVIEW 2003

## Hurray for Harrogate

**It may not be Hollywood but to thousands of people involved in the golf industry Harrogate is the place to be seen in the third week of January.**

For people in the "non-playing" sector of the golf industry the third week in January is the highlight of the year - ring fenced at the expense of any other engagement from one year to the next.

That's when the North Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate attracts everyone connected with the course maintenance and administration of golf clubs to two of the biggest events in Europe.

BTME and ClubHouse, the new addition to the Harrogate experience, will draw visitors and exhibitors from all corners of Great Britain, Ireland and beyond, as well as delegates from the rest of the world to hear papers from the leading authorities in their respective subjects and view the latest developments in an industry that doesn't stand still for a second.

Combined, the two Shows create a unique "one-stop-shop" for all those involved in the running of the golf course and clubhouse respectively and to, return to to the Hollywood analogy, the names of BTME and ClubHouse will soon be linked as inextricably as Crosby and Hope; Bogart and Bacall and Fred and Ginger. Each complementing the other but being a star in their own right.

As ever education, in the shape of the Continue to Learn programme, is at the forefront of the week and highlights of the Education Conference, supported by John Deere, on the Monday and the Tuesday include Frank Newberry, Brin Bendon, Tony Mears and Kerran Daly on the first day and

Keith Happ, Steve Cook and Ken Siems on the second. Workshops include the popular Golf Course Design, Environmental Management, Soil Science and Master Greenkeeper.

The Keynote speaker, supported by Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, sees Debra Veal, who rowed across an ocean - most of it alone after her husband developed a fear of the sea and had to leave the boat - describes her experiences.

The Seminar Programme in Harrogate International Centre consists of nine sessions each offering the delegate something different.

A new innovation for 2003 is the Careers Fair, supported by The Toro Company, which will provide information on careers in all parts of the industry and offer assistance in making the most of the opportunities which lie ahead.

On an entertainment front, as well as all the delights Harrogate has to offer, the two main events of the week are Former PGA Captain John Stirling who will be addressing the Education Conference Dinner and the Counterfeit Stones who will be playing to guests at the Exhibitions Banquet in the Majestic Hotel.

As ever, Harrogate Week is not to be missed, but in 2003 the reasons to attend are greater, and more compelling, than ever.

Hurray for Harrogate!

## AGCO Ltd (Massey Ferguson)

Stand: M11 & M22

Massey Ferguson has a comprehensive range of grounds care equipment ranging from high quality medium/high specification cab tractors to a wide range of petrol and diesel ride-on mowers designed to meet the needs of a variety of customers. An ideal higher horsepower range of tractors is the MF 2200 Series from 55 - 80 hp which are ideal for golf course use on grass tyres.

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## Bayer Environmental Science (formerly Aventis Environmental Science)

Stand: C33

After the successful acquisition of Aventis Environmental Science in June of this year by Bayer CropScience, Bayer Environmental Science has been the new Company name from the Saltex Launch in September 2002. The Turf and Amenity Business will now have the signature branding of Chipco Professional Products, which will be highlighted and explained on the stand. Come and talk to us on stand C33, to find out the latest information on our novel new Amenity products, including the ultra-low dose fungicide Capricorn (winner of the Sportsturf product of the show award at Saltex in 2000). There will also be information available on our latest quality jacket promotion for Rovral Green /Capricorn. Rovral Green and Capricorn can also be used in combination with a microbial approach as they have been shown (through trials) to be harmless to beneficial turf fungi.

We have a website with product information, calibration, weed death movies, printable safety data sheets and other useful information. Environmental Science continue to strive in answering Questions from the industry with New Novel Solutions.

## Bernhard & Co Ltd

Stand: B31

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## Gem Professional

Stand: A25

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## General Legal Protection Ltd

BIGGA Stand

Q69

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