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For further details please contact Kathy Graves, Student Enquiries, Cranfield University, Silsoe, Bedford MK45 4DT.

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Email: StudentEnquiries.silsoe@cranfield.ac.uk

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Longhand account.

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Shortcut version.

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This month, Tracey Maddison from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like welcome almost 140 new members to the Association and update you on the new Greenkeeper Membership Application Form ...

The future's bright, the future's Orange

The new orange coloured Greenkeeper Membership form is now in circulation. It includes the 2002 membership subscription prices plus details regarding sending in a passport photograph of yourself.

If you need a form, please contact BIGGA reception on 01347 833800 or via reception@bigga.co.uk, and they will be happy to send you some forms out.

Any current greenkeeper member who is due to renew their membership from 30 March 2002 will automatically receive a copy of the new membership application in their renewal pack. Don't throw it away, pass it on to a colleague and encourage them to join BIGGA, don't forget to put your name and membership number on the reverse - Section 6 Membership Introduction. You could win one of our 'all-in-one' clock/calculator/calendar and alarm.

Help increase membership of your Association by introducing a colleague. They could soon be benefiting from the many section, regional and national educational courses available and at subsidised prices, the legal helpline, personal accident insurance, naming but a few of the many benefits and services available to greenkeeping members of BIGGA.

You've got m@il!

If you've got an email account why not send an email to the membership department, where we can place you into our exclusive members email address book. We can then keep you up to date with membership news and events as they happen.

Send an email to:
 membership@bigga.co.uk
 tracey@bigga.co.uk

International welcome

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 the bordering countries of France and Spain.

France

David Abercrombie, Alsace Golf Club
 Richard Barnes, Kikuoka Country Club
 Peter Bird, Saint Junien GC
 Guillaume Cadic, Golf National
 Yves Kerambrun, Rain Bird France
 Daniel Lederlin, Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.
 Stephen Okula, Golf De Joynval
 Katrin Pelanchon, Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.
 Leslie Pillier, Golf De Pessac
 Francais Pujo, Golf De Saint-Cloud
 John Stevenson, Golf De Joynval
 Robert Wood, Golf Du Coiroux

Spain

Jose Manuel Barbancho Ruiz, Student Member
 Gary Blyth, Melia Sancti Petri Golf
 Vicente Coll Pons, Golf Son Saura S.A.
 Enrique, Diaz Cortes, Real Sociedad Hipica De Golf
 Roy Machray, Marriott Son Antem
 Stephen McMahon, Club De Campo Javeu Nunez, Marriott Son Antem
 Jaime Ortiz Patino, Valderrama Golf Club
 Jaime Rivera, Rain Bird Uk/Ireland
 Peter Standen, Golf De Andraxt S A

March'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 Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm. Our congratulations go to March's winner, Bruce Cruickshank of Roxburghe Hotel & GC.

A BIGGA welcome...

Scottish Region

Shaun Anderson, Central
 Neil Banner, Central
 Phil Barclay, West
 Craig Bayne, East
 Matthew Brereton, Central
 Duncan Cairnie, East
 Alistair Connell, Ayrshire
 William Craig, North
 David Eardley, West
 John Henderson, Central
 Gilbert Hepburn, Central
 Nicholas Horsfield, Central
 Keith MacKinnon, Central
 David Manson, Central
 Gordon Maxwell, West
 Colin McKay, Central
 Robbie Murdoch, Central
 Michael Petrie, Central
 Peter Phillips, West
 Andrew Pickard, Central
 Peter Robertson, West
 Brian Sharp, Central
 Alastair Storey, Ayrshire
 John Watson, Central
 Jody Wilson, Central
 Gordon Wood, East
 Gareth Wright, East

Northern Region

John Astles, N Wales
 Jamie Bayne, N Wales
 John Dales, Cleveland
 Roger Douglas, Cleveland
 Andrew Drummond, N West

Midland Region

Edward Brown, BB&O
 Terry Cheese, Midland
 Stanley Cleaver, Midland
 Benjamin Darlison, E Midland
 Darren Evans, Midland
 Sarah Gray, Mid Anglia
 Mark Holman, Mid Anglia
 Martin Hopkins, E Midland
 Matthew Huddleston, Mid Anglia
 Neil Lawrence, Midland
 Clifford Lee, Midland
 Michael Luff, Midland
 Craig Makut, BB&O
 Alan Neale, Midland
 Philip Nixon, Midland
 Peter Sherman, Midland
 Arthur Sproson, Midland
 Leigh Swann, Midland
 Mark Sweeney, BB&O
 Steven Thompson, Midland
 Craig Watt, E Midland
 Neil White, E of England

South East Region

William Backshall, Surrey
 David Bain, Surrey
 Mark Careford, London
 Paul Enfield, Essex
 Timothy Howard, Surrey
 Robert Mills, London
 Richard Robinson, Surrey
 Bradley Sim, London
 Gary Smith, Surrey
 Andrew Taylor, Surrey
 David Theyre, Surrey
 Steven Vaughan, Surrey

S West & S Wales Region

Ben Baker, S Coast
 Matthew Coburn, Dev & C'Wall
 Craig Dunbar, S West
 Mark Gray, S Coast
 John Griffiths, S Wales
 Steven Hall, Dev & C'Wall
 David Harding, Dev & C'Wall
 Peter King, S Coast
 Anthony Moore, Dev & C'Wall
 George Pitts, S Coast
 John Powell, S West
 Simon Pratt, Dev & C'Wall
 Alan Pyne, Dev & C'Wall
 Colin Roose, Dev & C'Wall
 John Scott, Dev & C'Wall
 Andrew Steele, S Coast
 Andrew Taylor, S West

Northern Ireland

Frank Ainsworth
 Greg Ferson

International Members

Andreasen Flemmings, Denmark
 Svend Knudsen, Denmark
 Robert Holdtorsson, Iceland
 Gunnar Johannsson, Iceland
 Paolo Luongo, Italy
 Jon Wiggett, Switzerland
 Matthew Bourne, USA
 Scott Williams, USA

Silver Key Co Members

Syngenta Professional Products:
 Viviane Lalandre
 Jose Milan
 Austen Sutton
 Mark Zajac

Associate Members

Andrew Allan, North
 Edward Ainsworth, N West
 Fraser Hallingwell, Northern
 Peter Longson, N West
 Andrew Mair, N East
 Declan Kearney, N West
 Paul Taylor, Northern
 Alan White, Northern
 Eddie Bullock, BB&O
 Glenn Butcher, Midland

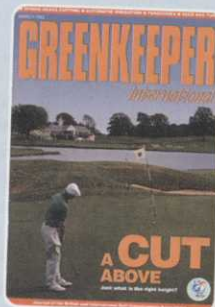
Chris Faulkner, BB&O
 Matthew Tutt, E Midland
 Philip Wilkinson, E of England
 Paul Grigg, London
 Graham Kingsland, E Anglia
 Christopher Mardon, Kent
 Stephen Wilson, E Anglia
 Bernard Wall, S Coast

Student Members

Nicholas Casson, N West
 Dale Frith, N West
 Edward Green, Northern
 Stephen Adams, Midland
 Jonathan Taylor, Midland
 Paul Coffill, Kent
 Paul Davy, London
 Matthew Salmon, E Anglia
 Adrian Curtis, S Coast
 Elizabeth Crowley, Rep of Ireland
 Jose Manuel Barbancho Ruiz, Spain

Don't miss the April edition of
Greenkeeper
for all the new members from February 2002

Take a time-honoured look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



MARCH 1992

The column this month is given over to an infamous trip to the BTME in Harrogate and the obstacles to be overcome to get there. Gordon Child takes up the story...

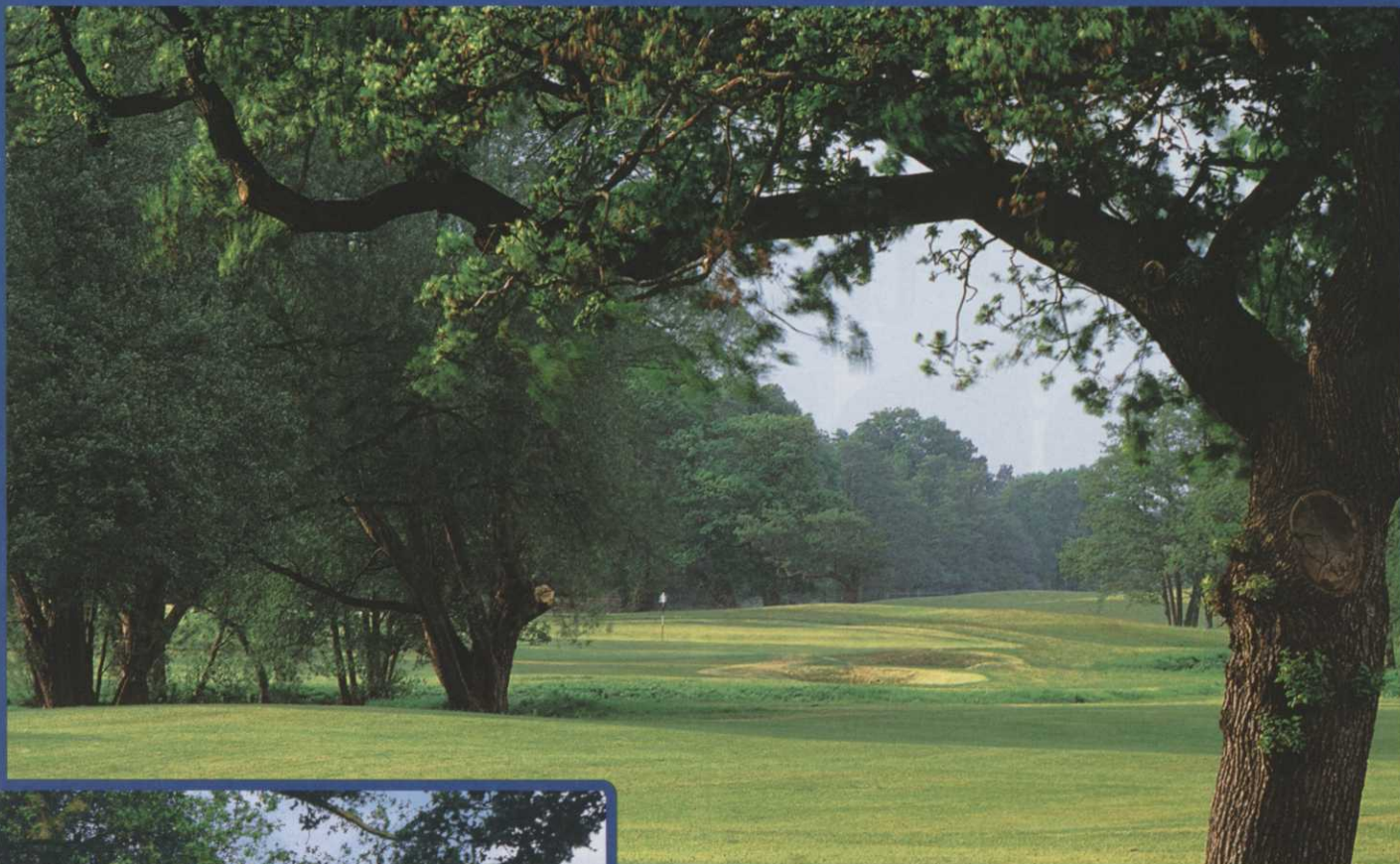
'Arctic Expedition'

On the clear frosty morning of January 21st, our coach arrived promptly at 9.00am to begin our 'journey into the unknown'. All seemed well at the first pick-up point - Exeter Golf and Country Club - and with half our party on board we proceeded to the M5.

Flashing lights soon revealed that our boot door had flown open and a few miles and a few more flashing lights later we also discovered the loss of an excessive amount of water. It was decided to proceed to junction 24 for our lone-ranger (waiting in a lay-by) and we just made it! Then the coach stubbornly refused to move and after some pondering it was decided to withdraw to the nearest pub and communicate the problem to those waiting 'up the line'.

After a 150 minute delay a second coach was commissioned and we continued our great adventure. A few miles further and it became painfully obvious that no heating was included in the package deal. Temperatures were falling and there was danger of hypothermia, so no-one was allowed to sleep. Great initiative was shown by the Board of Management member who turned his cap inside out and proceeded to keep the windscreen clear for the driver. Finally arriving at our destination - some three hours later - those able-bodied members of the group still capable unloaded the coach, while others tried to free themselves from the refrigerator container.

The final day proved no less exciting with a warmer journey home anticipated. Saying our farewells we prepared to leave at 12.30pm. Once again it was not to be, for our coach seemed to prefer Harrogate and after two hours delay a new coach was boarded - leaving the first vehicle to rest in peace. This proved to be the best decision made all week and a warm and comfortable journey was achieved at last - even prompting an outburst of song. Despite the trials and tribulations, everyone wished to take up the challenge next year.



WIN A SUPERB GOLFING BREAK

Here's your chance to win a superb break at one of the finest hotel chains in the country. It is a Golf Break for two at one of the De Vere Golf Hotels and consists of two nights bed, breakfast and table d'hôte dinner for two adults sharing a standard twin/double room, plus one round of golf for two persons. It may be taken any time before June 30, 2002, subject to availability and excluding Bank Holiday periods and The Brabazon Course at The De Vere Belfry.

To whom did Jack Nicklaus lose in the famous head-to-head Open Championship at Turnberry in 1977?

- a. Gary Player
- b. Tom Watson
- c. Bob Charles

Tony Jacklin won The Open Championship in which year? Was it ...

- a. 1971
- b. 1967
- c. 1969

Which year did Bobby Jones complete the Grand Slam of US Open Championship, US Amateur, Open Championship and British Amateur?

- a. 1930
- b. 1927
- c. 1933

The closing date for entries to this competition will be Friday, March 22, 2002. You can send your answers on a postcard to De Vere Competition, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne York YO61 1UF; or by fax on 01347 833801 and by email to reception@bigga.co.uk. Remember to put your name and address on your entry.

The winner will be selected by draw from those correct entries received by the above date and notified thereafter. BIGGA staff and non-members are not eligible to enter, and the successful entrant must be a fully paid up member.

DE VERE  HOTELS

Hotels of character, run with pride

Government legislation, likely to become law in the near future, will see the end of unlimited abstraction licences. How will this affect you?

Losing the right to IRRIGATE

Abstraction licenses for all bore holes are soon likely to be issued on a renewable basis rather than indefinitely while those applying for licences or licence renewals will be required to present a case justifying their need for such a licence.

This was one of the main topics which came out of a recent UK Irrigation Association Seminar held in The London Club, under the title "Losing the right to irrigate".

Information on the proposed new Government legislation was given to the assembled irrigators, by Gwyn Williams, Water Resources

Regulation Policy Manager for the Environment Agency.

Gwyn explained that following the droughts of the 1990s the Government had reviewed the arrangements for controlling abstraction of water and the publication of "Taking Water Responsibly" in March '99.

Changes for the licensing system including the introduction of regional Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) where local officers will assess the water needs of the area together with the availability of water and produce

a plan to ensure that the two are not too far apart.

"We wish to move away from the rights of abstractors to the responsibilities of abstractors," said Gwyn, who urged delegates to become involved in the CAMS process wherever possible.

While explaining that abstraction licences would become renewable he did stress that it was not something about which to be overly concerned.

"The normal renewable period will be 12 years but six years notice will be given should a licence not be renewed for environmental reasons while there will be a reasonable assumption that licences would be renewed provided certain conditions are satisfied," he explained.

He urged irrigators to examine their abstraction needs carefully so that a strong case could be built to take to the CAMS officer.

Earlier Nigel Hepworth, Regional Water Resource Planner for the Environment Agency in the Southern Region, had highlighted the extent of the problem in general terms and specifically in his area, and he admitted that that there was over licensing of water at the moment.

He showed a map which, in simple terms, identified that there was available water in the north of the country all year round; that some areas had problems in the summer and that some including the Kent area, had year round problems, with over licensing or over abstraction.

An action plan has been put in place to improve this situation over the next 15 years using CAMS.

Later Dr Jerry Knox, a Research Scientist at the Institute of Water and Environment at Cranfield University, described the work he was doing to develop a framework for assessing reasonable need.

The methodology developed involves taking into account spatial variations in soil type, land use, typical irrigation practices and local agroclimate. The result produces a relatively simple yet scientific based and rational approach for allocating water between irrigators.





"Because the methodology is transparent to applicants as well as the Environment Agency staff the needs can be assessed and agreed at an early stage in any application," said Jerry, who explained that the framework had been drawn up with agriculture in mind but that it would also be introduced to the sports turf, and golf, industries as well.

He was to begin discussions with the golf industry so that the necessary criteria could be put in place for any calculations.

The bulk of the audience comprised those involved in agriculture but there were also several delegates representing golf, including Paul Todd, Superintendent of The London Club, as well as others from irrigation companies, consultancies and colleges.

The general feeling during the Seminar and among the delegates was that golf was fairly advanced in its use of irrigation water - The London Club itself was held up as an example of somewhere which collects and stores rain water in the winter to use as an irrigation supply in the summer.

Earlier in the day David Winn, Training and Education Manager for the IOG, described how the sports turf industry had progressed in its use of irrigation in recent years.

He explained that the IOG had been working with the Football Association for the last 18 months and the Lawn Tennis Association for the past 12 and that more consideration was being given to the reason stadia are built in the first place - the pitch. In the past the pitch was the last thing to be considered when a new stadium was built.

He also recalled how groundsmen were sometimes told by the football team manager to flood the pitch to negate a visiting team's strengths or force a postponement to allow injured players additional time to recover.

He admitted that often amounts of irrigation were decided by how much had been given in the past rather than any more objective approach.

He told delegates that technology was now available to map sports pitches and race tracks to show the

different make ups of the soil structure which could be within them so that different regimes may be undertaken of specific areas to ultimately provide better continuity of surface.

"With so many different types of soil on some race courses the 'going' is going to be different depending upon the area inspected," said David, who also made a pertinent point when it came to the public's desire to look after the environment.

"A bottle bank or a car wash. Where's the queue?" he quizzed.

Michael Martin, of York and Martin, highlighted the need for appropriate sprinkler selection, spacing and positioning together with the need for good pipe systems, pumping plants and control systems.

He also cautioned against the use of weather stations other than their ability to record data.

Summing up the day Keith Weatherhead, Senior Lecturer, at the Institute of Water and Environment at Cranfield University, said that water was a valuable resource for serious irrigators and that it was going to become more valuable.

"Water is scarce and is going to become scarcer as the climate continues to change and irrigation needs increase but we know that water could be used more effectively."

He said that we would have to take every opportunity to get more water through winter collection; filling up the reservoirs in times of flood using powerful pumps and, as The London Club does, rain water harvesting.

He also said we had to guard against "wet year apathy", accept that water shortage would continue to be a problem and urged people to work in groups and participate in the consultation programmes to ensure the best possible use of the available water.

The Seminar was organised by the UKIA. Anyone seeking more information about the Association should contact Melvyn Kay, UKIA Executive Secretary, 5 Lea Road, Ampthill, Bedford, MK45 2PR Tel: 01525 635127 Email: m.kay@ukia.org

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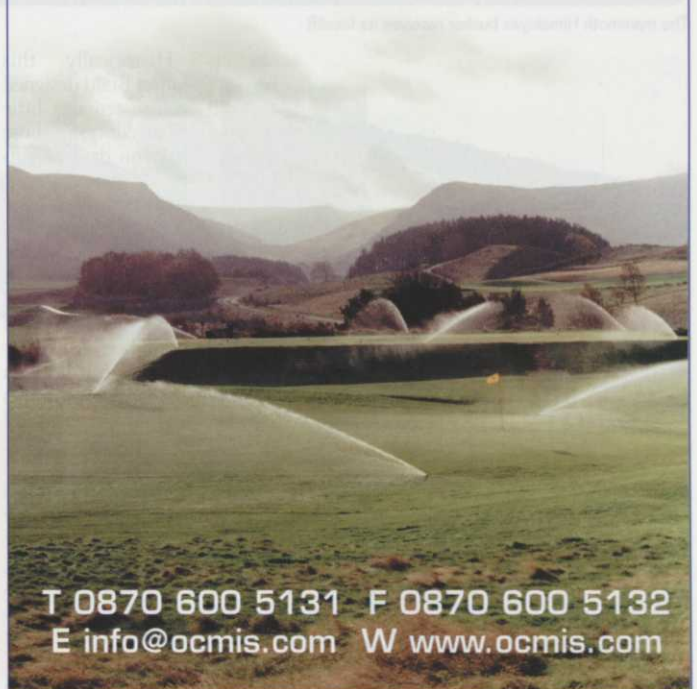
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Mention Cornish Golf and St Enodoc will be at the top of the list - well Stuart Dymond, the Head Greenkeeper, thinks so, and probably so do the members of this most scenic of links courses

HIGH MOUNTAIN



The mammoth Himalayas bunker receives its facelift



Historically this James Braid designed course remains little changed from those halcyon days of gutty balls, hickory shafts and plus-fours. A game in those days that was played by the gentlefolk of Rock. How proud James Braid would have been to know that his 6th hole on the beautiful Church Course would become its most renowned. The towering 90 foot bunker fondly known as the Himalayas has thwarted many a golfer who has tried in vain and at huge cost to pride and their golf score, to take liberties with this colossus. A hole to be attacked by the very best and the strongest who only use their head.

Over many years golfers have been

seen tramping up its face to retrieve their ball in resignation and despair. Sadly however over the last few years the ravages of golfers and many heavy feet, along with the our 'lazy' winds that whip up a sand storm at the drop of a baseball hat!, have eventually changed the face of this wonderful hazard. To such an extent that without drastic action St Enodoc was in danger of losing their treasured landmark.

It was decided that it had now gone beyond temporary measures already carried out and something more permanent had to be done.

Structural engineers were appointed to look at the project and their plans came back at huge costs and a daunting plan. Stuart Dymond had other ideas which would involve a swing shovel, railway sleepers and a huge amount of muscle and hard graft. Stuart never have anything to put him off preserving his precious golf course went to the committee with his ideas finally with the back-

ing of the Greens Chairman and Club Captain his ideas and plans were set in motion.

Firstly something had to give a foundation to work from up under the high banks to hold in the turf and soil that would eventually give back the shape to the hazard. This major task was achieved by placing and staking railway sleepers under the bank to form a platform to build the banks. This is were the muscle power and hard work came

in. Stuart and his team of hardy greenkeepers toiled painstakingly to heave by hand these sleepers in place creating the shape that was desired. Then another artist in the

form of John Oliver Plant Hire, with John himself performing almost balletic skills with this huge piece of machinery, sometimes in the most precarious of positions which were enough to send shivers down the back of the most hardened greenkeepers. John managed miraculously and skilfully to place the earth and turf above these sleepers burying them out of sight. The whole surrounding area was laid by hand with indigenous turf cut from the course. Here again Stuart's Team came to the fore with hard back breaking work to lay and net it all down with 400 square metres of turf.

How long did this take one month two weeks not on your life when Stuart's gang get going there's no stopping them. One week saw the job pretty complete!

The proof of the pudding they say is in the eating or viewing as the case may be. With just one very large proviso to ALL that it is, ONLY looking for the time being because - NO GOLFERS ALLOWED - just for a little while anyway.

Hope you approve Mr Braid.



Stuart Dymond with John Oliver

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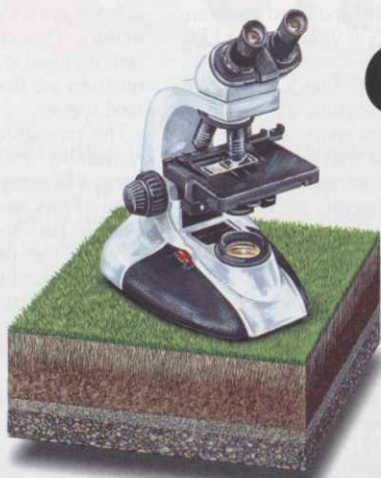
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SOIL TECHNOLOGY
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Don't use guess work - use Rufford

Andy Sadler describes the stringent procedures that should be implemented to ensure greenkeepers receive the best quality seed mixtures possible

SEEDS OF SUCCESS

This article is based on a paper presented by the author, Andy Sadler, Production Manager & Crop Inspector with Barenbrug UK, at the Turf Management Conference, organised by Barenbrug UK in Portadown, Northern Ireland, in February, to update turf professionals on breakthroughs arising out of the company's ongoing research programme

A turf manager might have all the skilled labour, specialist equipment and modern turf chemicals imaginable, but if the sward he starts off with is not of high enough quality he could well be fighting a losing battle. The grass seed used is the component, and the importance of choosing a product with the highest quality cannot be overestimated.

suitable fields, and must implement controls throughout all aspects of the production process, such as monitoring the growing crop, checking the harvesting, drying and cleaning of seed, and determining its purity and germination level. Only if the required standards are met can a Certificate of Purity and Germination be issued.

maintained at two key stages of the production process: the production and cleaning of the original seed, and the formulation of the final mixtures. In the first stage, grass is grown for seed production by approved growers, who are carefully chosen for their ability to produce yields of high quality and quantity. Samples are taken of the cleaned seed and are tested at a laboratory licensed by DEFRA. If the sample passes these analyses, then the seed is certified and stored carefully at our warehouses at Bury St Edmunds.

The minimum criteria governing the issue of a Test Certificate have been laid down by the EEC, but in the UK there is a higher standard called the Higher Voluntary Standard (HVS). Both the EEC and HVS standards require a minimum germination level of 80% in a seed sample of perennial rye grass, but minimum purity and weed levels are higher for HVS at 98% than for EEC at 96%.

The second stage of the zero zero process begins when seed is mixed at our specialised mixing plant, in strictly regulated proportions. Again, samples are tested by a licensed laboratory. This ensures that the zero zero standard is maintained and that mixtures are free of any undesirable seed species.

However, some breeders go even further and recognise the demands made of modern sports and amenity turf, and realise that grounds professionals require an assured supply of seed of a consistently high standard. For example, we have for several years operated a policy standard that is higher than the HVS. This is appreciated in particular by managers responsible for high quality turf, such as golf greens, bowling greens and turf nurseries, who need the assurance of higher quality if the risk of problems – and subsequent loss of revenue – is to be minimised.

This procedure also gives complete traceability throughout all stages of the production process, so that if any areas of concern arose, they could be checked back to source.

Under the rules and regulations governing seed production and marketing, all mixtures offered for sale have to carry a green, official mixture label from DEFRA, describing the varieties and mixture details. The information printed on the label is mandatory, and refers to the identity of the seed species used in the mixture, the variety names, their percentage by weight, the month and year of production and other basic details.

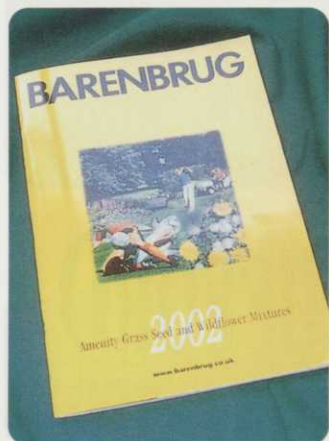
We have incorporated Product Quality into our overall quality management system (QMS), so that procedures and results can be rigorously implemented and checked in a thoroughly consistent manner. Our quality control policy aims to achieve a germination level of at least 90%, and a purity level considerably in excess of the minimum standards: indeed, 90% of the seed we produce has a purity level in excess of 99%.

In summary, all those involved in the challenging task of creating a top-quality playing surface need as much information as possible, and they appreciate the need for the highest quality standards throughout. If greenkeepers and groundsmen can confidently select seed that meets or exceeds these criteria, then they will have the best chance of success. And so will the players who perform on the results of their efforts!

A dedicated seed house will recognise this, and will have introduced stringent quality controls to ensure that the seed the turf manager sows is trustworthy and reliable.

But first, let's look at the rules and regulations governing this vital area.

The production, certification and marketing of seed are governed by The Fodder Plant Seeds Regulations 1993. Basically, this places the seed producer under an obligation to ensure varietal purity, freedom from noxious weeds, the satisfaction of a minimum quality standard, and uniformity of marketing. Obviously, a quality-conscious company has to select competent growers who use



For those that know!

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100% Browntop Bent

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- Traditional 80:20 greens mixture
- Tolerant of close mowing
- High shoot density
- Good playing quality

80% Chewings 20% Browntop Bent

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- Good disease resistance

30% Chewings 50% Slender Creeping Red Fescue 20% Browntop Bent

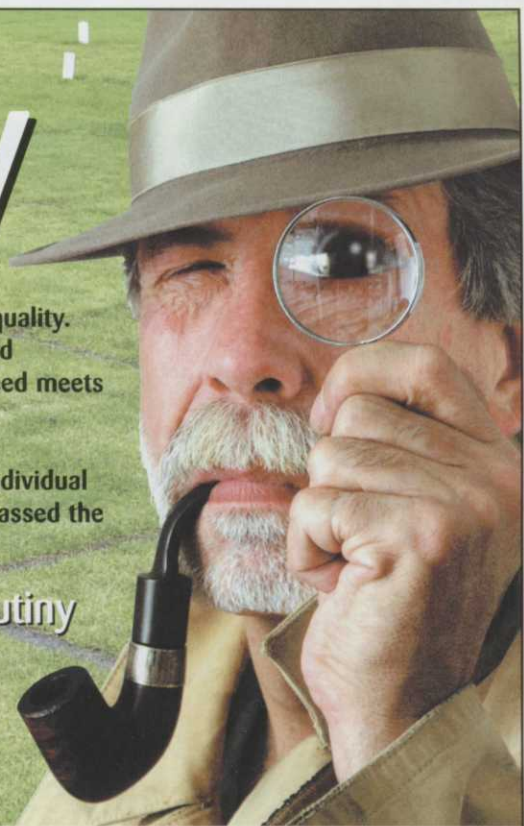

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From specialist sportsground, golf and landscaping mixtures to proven individual turfgrass cultivars from IGER, you just know that your Grade A seed has passed the most stringent quality parameters in the industry.

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