

Mr Grainger slipped on a wet floor in a public establishment while using a walking aid following a hip operation and under the Occupier's Liability Act, 1957 claimed damages. His legal fees insurance paid his solicitor's hourly rate of £140. In this day and age, who can afford to pay those hourly rates?

Mr and Mrs Lovatt spent their honeymoon in Cyprus in the middle of a heatwave but it was a disaster from start to finish. The hotel had no air-conditioning, the chef went on strike, the swimming pool was infested with mosquitoes, the bedroom (perhaps the most important place to be on honeymoon!) had water running down the walls and the ensuite bathroom stank. The tour operator had advertised the hotel as "one of our premier establishments offering comfort, superb cuisine and a paradise



**Consumer dispute?  
The Legal helpline can help**

for those who want to get away from it all." Mr and Mrs Lovatt thought they had gone to hell – not paradise! Upon their return to England, Mrs Lovatt, in tears, explained to our Helpline that they could not afford a solicitor because they had spent all their money on the cost of the wedding and honeymoon. She was reassured that her legal fees policy would cover the cost of claiming against the tour operator. The Lovatts spent the damages they received on a second honeymoon in Barbados!

Yes, Legal Aid is dead! But it has been reborn in the form of legal fees insurance. Long live Legal Fees Insurance! Provided as part of the benefits package to all Greenkeeper Members of BIGGA.

*Written by Maggie Lawton, LLB(Hons), LPC - GLP Helpline Controller, with contributions from the Helpline team.*

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In the event of any claim advice or assistance contact the 24 hour helpline



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# A GRASS FOR ALL SEASONS

## Do bentgrasses know what time of year it is?

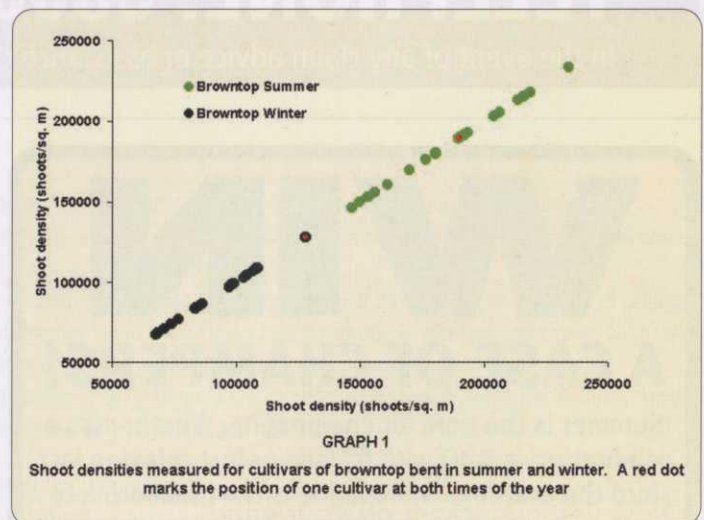
Andy Newell describes the techniques he used to answer the question

We have a long history of testing grasses for golf at the STRI. Indeed, our first trial was sown in August 1929. You would think that, after nearly 75 years, we would have the evaluation of grasses down to a fine art. I think we have but a fine science would be a better description. In many respects, we can sum up the overall performance of different grasses in a few numbers. But is this enough? Are there important differences hidden within these overall numbers?

An important area to consider here is seasonal differences. I think we all recognise that grasses differ from one season to the next, generally looking at their best in summer, as long as there has not been a drought, and at their worst in winter. However, the question I wish to address is: Are there seasonal trends among grasses and can we prove it? This is where I need to get all statistical and talk about populations of grasses and the positions of individual grasses within the population. Before I do this, I should set the scene a little more. I have no intention of describing all grasses in this article; I am going to restrict my discussions to bentgrass species and cultivars. Further to this, I am only going to consider the use of these grasses in very fine turf for golf greens. However, the points I make below could well apply to other grass types and uses.

Returning to our populations of bentgrass species and cultivars, we accept that the overall performance will change with the seasons but are there other important differences hidden within these changes? More specifically, does the position of particular grasses within the population change from one season to the next? There are some common perceptions here; creeping bentgrasses are comparatively poor in winter, 'Highland' browntop is good in winter and velvet bentgrasses are very good in summer. These observations suggest that the position of individual grasses or groups of grasses do change relative to one another at different times of the year. Given these views, I have attempted to examine seasonal relationships in more detail. I wanted to see if I could put numbers to them. However, before I could make any progress, there was a need to separate the overall seasonal variation from the relative variation among grasses. As an example of this problem, I include a graph showing the overall measured differences in shoot density among cultivars of browntop bent in summer and winter (see graph 1).

For these grasses the number of shoots in winter ranged from roughly 70,000 to 130,000 shoots per square metre for the 21 cultivars in trial. In summer, the range was from 150,000 to 220,000. So, there were large differences among cultivars and between seasons. I have also marked a particular cultivar (red dot). This shows its position in winter and summer. In the summer, it was fairly average and in the middle of the pack. In winter, it stood out, and had by far the highest shoot density. Therefore, the position of this particular grass relative to other cultivars of the same



species moved between exceptional in winter and average in summer. This is the point where a little bit of statistical skulduggery is called for to remove the overall seasonal variations but retain the relative differences among grasses. As luck would have it, there is a technique that standardises variation between subsequent measurements (or seasons in this case) while retaining relative differences among individuals within the population being sampled. I don't want to get into too much detail here but, for the statisticians, I would use Z-scores (this is usually covered somewhere between chapters 1 and 3 in most good statistics books). Once this technique is applied, average grasses would have a score of zero, below average grasses negative scores and above average grasses positive scores. Usually these scores will fall in a range of -3 to +3. To demonstrate the effects of this calculation, I have transformed the shoot density information presented previously (see graph 2). This new graph demonstrates how the statistical technique employed removes the overall differences in scale but retains the relative variation among individual grasses (note that the position of the red dot varies between summer and winter but the overall differences between seasons has disappeared).



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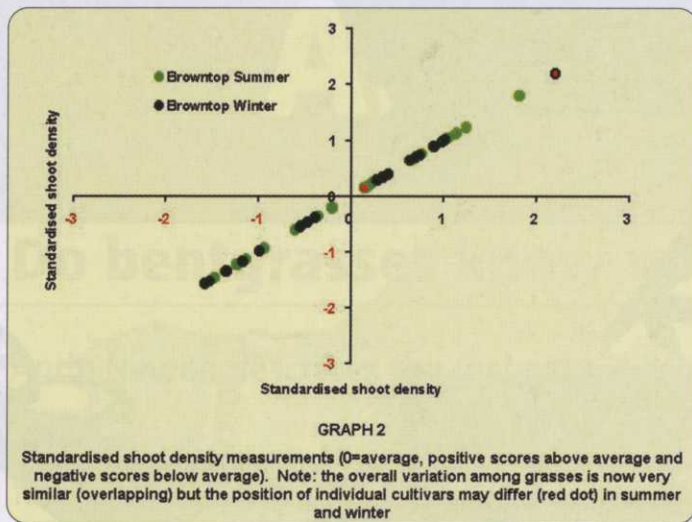
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# A GRASS FOR ALL SEASONS

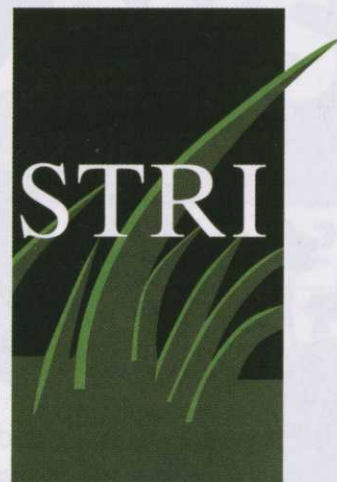


Hopefully I have now demonstrated an approach that can be used to examine relative changes in grass performance at different times of the year. The next step is to see what happens when it is used. I applied the technique to monthly measurements made during 2000 on our 1998 sown bentgrass trial. I then plotted the scores for individual grasses against time. These showed if the performance of particular grasses were static (always good, poor or average) or changed at different times of the year relative to the other grasses. In effect, I was plotting the position of one grass within the whole population (all grasses) at different times of the year. Importantly, the various plots showed that no grasses remained static and, very importantly, it was evident that there were distinct patterns. The creeping bentgrasses tended to perform poorly in winter (negative scores); 'Highland' browntop was relatively good in winter; and velvet bentgrasses tended to be at their best in summer. I was fairly pleased with myself at this point, but all this did was demonstrate what we already knew. That said, I was still pleased with myself (no-one had turned it into a graph before).

There were also other patterns that had not been obvious beforehand. In this regard, cultivars of creeping bentgrass tended to show a peak in performance during the spring/early summer. However, the most fascinating discovery was that cultivars of browntop bent (*Agrostis capillaris* or *A. tenuis* in old money) tended to fall within one of two groups, winter performers and summer performers.

I think one more graph is called for here; this shows the relative changes in the performance of two cultivars of browntop bent (A and B). I hope it is fairly clear that I have selected examples from the two types (peak performance in summer and peak performance in winter). The graph itself shows the position of each of these grasses relative to the population as a whole (all grasses in trial) for each month of the year. When examining this plot it should be noted that the position of each grass relative to all others being tested would be in the middle of the range (average performance) where the score was zero (better than average with positive scores but worse with negative scores).

Having found the contrasting seasonal differences among cultivars of browntop bent, the first question that came to mind was why? Here we have different varieties of the same species, which in performance terms are diametrically opposed. I suspect this variation may relate to the origin of the material. I found a clue to this in the behaviour of material from New Zealand, which were all part of the winter performing group. My



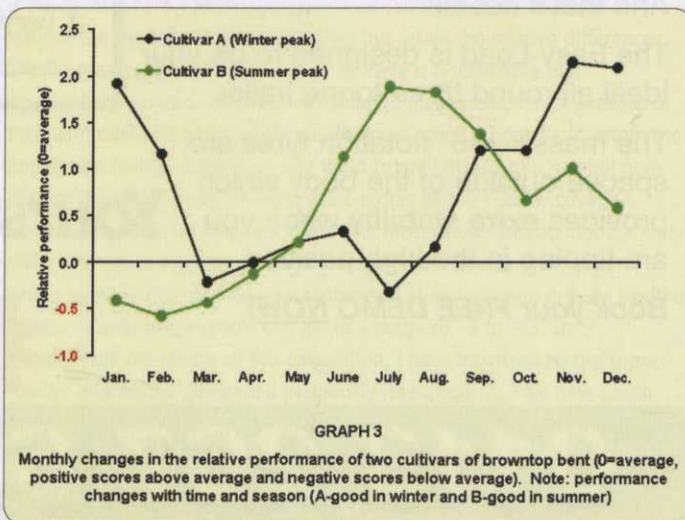
theory here is that the mild winters in New Zealand, and other maritime climates like the UK, would create selection pressures for grasses to compete during the winter months. In contrast, if material was selected from areas with very cold winters, there would be little selection pressure for growth in the winter. However, there would be pressures to make the most of the summer.

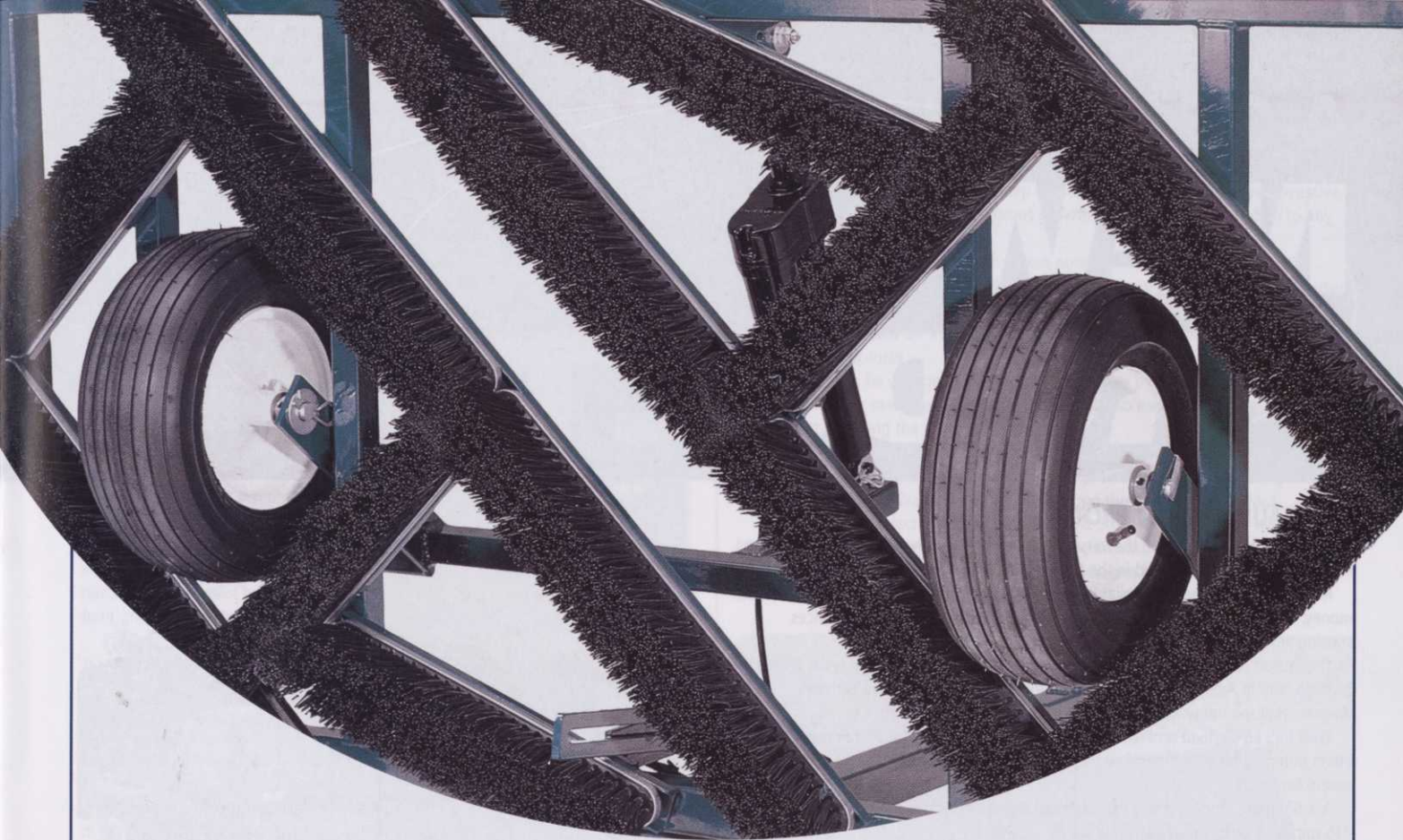
The important question to ask is: Can we make use of this information? I think so, but I would like to complete further research, particularly with contrasting cultivars of browntop bent. Top of my research list would be to investigate the performance of mixtures containing grasses that performed particularly well in winter and summer.

Turning to the bigger picture I feel there is some benefit and knowledge to be gained from viewing differences among grasses in terms of population dynamics. It is also obvious that there could be important information hidden within the overall ratings that we produce.

If you want to know more about the bentgrasses described here (glutton for punishment) the work was written up more fully in the 2001 Journal of Turfgrass Science.

Andy Newell is Head of Turfgrass Biology with the STRI





# TOPDRESSING MADE QUICK AND EASY! (PART 2)

The Greens Groomer has quickly been recognised by many top golf courses as the most effective method ever invented for brushing-in topdressing!

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# NEW PRODUCTS

## NEW LAUNCH FROM PROTON

A utility vehicle combining the versatility of a pick-up with the driving style and comfort of a car was launched in the UK last month by Proton.

Renowned for rugged and reliable passenger cars offering exceptional value for money, Proton now brings the same qualities to the utility market, with prices starting at just £5,995 ex-VAT.

The Proton Jumbuck has already been successfully launched in Malaysia, where it is made, and in Australia. Now the UK importer is set to exploit the currently dormant half ton utility market with its new pick-up.

With 635 kg payload and load capacity of over 800 litres, the Proton Jumbuck offers potential for workmen of all trades and the company has identified greenkeepers as a potential market.

A 1.63 metre long load tray can accommodate mid sized machinery while 415 mm high side panels provide a secure load area.

Proton's British subsidiary Lotus Engineering has played a key role in the Jumbuck's development, from its ride and handling to the design of the load area, integrity of the body structure and robust construction capable of handling the demands of Malaysian jungle tracks and the Australian outback.

Power comes from a transverse mounted 1.5 litre, 12 valve, four cylinder petrol engine and a five speed manual gearbox driving the front wheels.

The Jumbuck went on sale in UK Proton dealer showrooms on June 16, buyers can choose between a practical and well equipped base model at £5,995 ex-VAT or a GLS version with cloth seats, CD player, alloy wheels, driving lamps, electric windows and two-tone metallic paint with wheel arch and body side mouldings at £6,895 ex-VAT, backed by a three year / 60,000 mile warranty.



## THE PNEUMATIC TYRE THAT ISN'T

Redstone specialist tyre suppliers to the turf and ATV market are now offering the "flatfree" range from Amerityre.

Totally unpuncturable and out-matching rubber on every count, we feel the "flatfree" will prove indispensable where pneumatic characteristics are needed. It is of interest that this brand of urethane tyre is unique in it's "closed-cell" structure and being micro-cellular throughout, has no tyre casing to wear through and no inside filling to burst out.

Sizes range from castor wheel applications, 8 x 3.00-4, through to 13 x 6.50-6 and on to the wheel barrow tyre 4.80/4.00-8, with more to follow.



## CAN'T FAIL WITH A FLAIL

Rytec has just introduced their 'S' class Contractor flail mower which adds a new dimension to the already well specified Contractor range.

The 'S' class is available on the 2.0 to 2.8m models of the Contractor range (1.6/1.8/2.0/2.2/2.5/2.8m cutting widths) and is recognisable by its larger frame size. This accommodates a thick walled 200mm diameter flail rotor with larger hammer flails thus improving cutting efficiency because of the greater overall flail diameter and tip speed. Greater clearance between flail tip and frame allows large volumes of cut material to pass more easily and the two rows of static counter blades reduce this volume to a minimum.

The standard rear three position opening hood allows for controlled ejection of cuttings even from the heaviest growth. The 'S' model is available for front or rear mounting and with fixed, manual or hydraulic side shift head stock. For maximum flexibility the Contractor 'SFR' has both front and rear linkage and PTO shafts and all the usual features of the 'S' class. Prices start from £4060 + VAT.



## "YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT GRASS"

The Green Approach has introduced a new range of all weather synthetic golf surfaces to the UK and Ireland and will offer 'SofTrak' turf for golf greens, 'SofTee' turf for golf tees/practice ranges and 'SofPath' turf for paths/cartways.

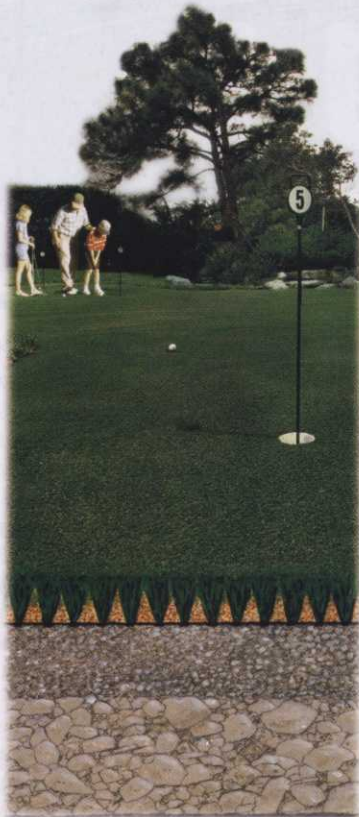
Their solutions are aimed at golf courses, practice ranges and driving ranges, but will also appeal to other public, commercial and private clients.

The SofTrak system starts with a two layer flex base installed under the turf. The fibres of the turf are specifically designed to simulate the softness, texture, density, and colour of natural bent-grass.

The system integrates a in-fill system called RQS-2000 into the fibres of the turf. RQS consists of a specially formulated blend of rounded quartz particles which keep the surface feeling soft/natural, unlike sand which is angular and compacts / hardens over time. The result is a putting surface that is truly realistic, performing just like a natural golf green.

The ball will roll true and at an even pace, whether the green is at fast or slow stimp speed. SofTrak green will also hold a shot, just like a natural grass green. When chipping onto the green, the ball will hold up and with backspin you can even make a ball stop or back up.

SofTee turf is new and purpose designed for golf tees. At the base of the turf, there is a unique nylon mesh which is bonded to the synthetic fibres above. The mesh is filled with a special infill, retaining it much better than other competitive synthetic turf products, which often turn to concrete. This minimises maintenance requirements and provides tremendous resilience to abrasion/wear. It will even accept a tee peg if required.



## THE DJ LINEAR AERATOR

DJ Turfcare Equipment, the company formed last year by David Jenkins, have designed and built a linear aerator to add to the company's growing portfolio of products. Linear aerators provide a deep vertical cutting action, removing excessive root and leaf tissue, stimulating vigorous growth with negligible disruption to any playing surface.

The result is the DJ linear aerator system now launched in time for the 2003 season and incorporating a host of features that will appeal to the professional user.

The machine can aerate, scarify, groom and sweep using interchangeable cartridges all mounted on a heavy-duty chassis, with further heads being made available in due course.

Cartridges can be changed in less than five minutes by the use of a special tool provided with the machine. Possession of the tool also makes unauthorised attempts at changing the work head impossible.

The machines also features user-friendly electric lift and lower facility and advanced anti-vibration handle bar mountings, providing precision steering with minimum vibration. Advanced safety skirts around the blades are standard.

Power is from an electric start 17.5hp Briggs & Stratton Intek engine with the latest anti-vibration system and hydrostatic drive means maximum manoeuvrability.

With a working width of 510mm (21in), the aerating head has 17 specially heat treated blades with tungsten carbide tips that can reach a depth of 50mm (2in.).



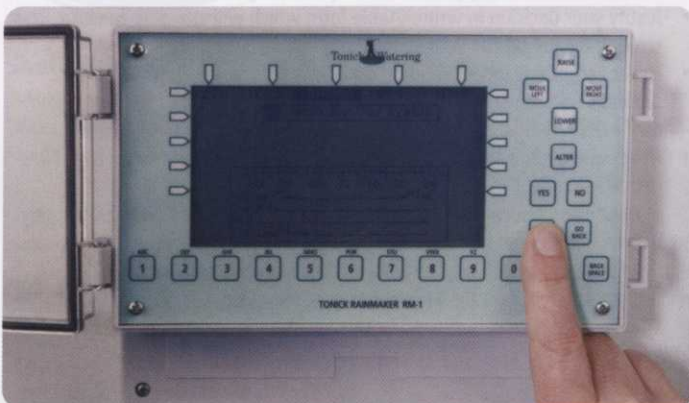
## PRECISE WATERING CONTROL

The new Rainmaker RM-1 ET irrigation controller from Tonick Watering allows precisely the right amount of water to be applied. It incorporates multi-zone flow management and provides comprehensive, printed reporting of water usage.

The controller is supplied complete with a "weather station" containing ET (Evapotranspiration) and rainfall sensors. Readings logged from these permit the greenkeeper to effortlessly adjust the irrigation to precisely fit the needs of each area.

Comprehensive reports can be printed of water usage versus the requirement; such reporting will be essential for applicants for the new, forthcoming water extraction and mains water licences.

The Rainmaker RM-1 ET easily runs a full fairway irrigation system and has the additional option of radio remote control. It can operate with existing, installed decoders on the golf course which allows for easy retrofitting. The controller incorporates highly effective, plug-in lightning protection and comes with a three year warranty.



## WIPE-OUT WEEDS AT A STROKE

The BFS MicroWipe is the ideal applicator for spot treating weeds in areas that do not require blanket herbicide coverage, where surrounding vegetation is at risk or spraying may be difficult or hazardous when using conventional equipment.

Just fill the MicroWipe's handle reservoir from the top with diluted glyphosate and gravity delivers the chemical down to impregnate the wick on the end of the handle. The operator 'wipes' the wick over the target vegetation and a small amount of the herbicide is deposited onto the leaf surface. Because glyphosate is a translocated herbicide, the chemical is taken right down to the roots ensuring a complete kill.

A Viton seal protects the operator from leakage and, because there is no drift, only the leaf surface receives the herbicide leaving the surrounding vegetation unaffected and soil with minimal contamination.

The MicroWipe is light to use, easy to operate, does not require calibrating and is quick to clean. Large areas can be treated quickly and the applicator is an ideal substitute for conventional means of spot treating weeds and grasses around tree bases, whip plantings, fence lines, paths, shrub and ornamental plantings, bunker surrounds, water hazards, SSI's, buildings, ditches, difficult to access, remote or hazardous areas.



# Managing a Golf Course

The **third** of Duncan McGilvray's five articles detailing duties of the modern day golf Course Manager

## Controlling Finances

**"Money makes the world go round." So they say.**

**I certainly believe that if we are in control of the financial aspects within the golf course department our jobs are made considerably easier.**

For the first few years of my career "in charge" of a golf course I enjoyed the position but never felt comfortably in control - in fact because I was not in control of the finances available I am convinced that the golf course was not as good as it could have been.

Invariably I had to approach an official or superior to ask permission to spend any money at all - not a very professional way to run a department especially if the person whose decision it was to approve any purchase had little or no knowledge of golf course maintenance and management.

Since being made responsible for the formulation, presentation and justification of the budget for the golf course I have never looked back, and indeed wondered how I ever managed before, which proves the importance of this area of management.

For those who may be apprehensive about handling the budget for the golf course the following observations may help to convince you.

1. You will be perceived as a much more responsible employee.
2. You will save your employer money because you are the only one who knows what the golf course requirements are likely to be.
3. You will become much more comfortable and confident in your position which ensures the golf course continually improves - your employer will therefore pay you more!

So what is involved?

Formulating, Presenting and Agreeing Budgets

Formulating budgets - Four main categories

- Capital - new equipment/machinery - rolling (usually two to five years) plan for replacement
- Materials - list everything you use on an annual basis.
- Maintenance - machinery and equipment upkeep - list all machinery and allocate costs on an annual basis - 5 to 10% of purchase cost can be a rough guide.
- Salaries - not an easy one to get right but see advice below

How you devise the set up is up to you but keep it simple - you do not have to be an accountant so don't be dragged into sophisticated computer packages (unless you want to of course!) which detail everything to the n<sup>th</sup> degree.

Choose the system you are comfortable with ahead of technology, although I must say in most cases computerisation in accounts takes a lot of the tedium out of the job.

Remember though the club want a wonderful golf course within your mutually agreed budget and how you do that is up to you - being a computer accountancy whizz kid will not get you out of trouble if the course is not up to scratch!

### PRESENTATION AND AGREEMENT

Present the budget in person, to the person who will be influencing the decision - usually the treasurer - avoid third party communication as vital eye to eye contact and queries on justification will be lost - other people can be present, but you and the treasurer are the key individuals.

On salaries be honest about your situation - I have never had a problem in securing industry rates, as long as I have given the true picture.

If you believe the staff do not deserve the industry rate for the job, say so and put forward proposals for the future - more/better training, setting targets,

measuring standards, introducing appraisal systems, involving staff in decision making etc etc.

This is much easier to do when you take up a new position, but it can be achieved at any time.

If your proposed budget is well presented and justified there is simply no alternative but agreement - it is then down to you to deliver.

### OBSERVING TIGHT COST CONTROL AND ENSURING COST EFFECTIVENESS

Watching every penny - that is all that heading means.

The best advice I can give is to treat your employer's money as if it were your own and you will make very few, if any, mistakes.

Keep careful track of all accounts by not allowing any invoice to be paid without your approval - analyse them, code them, approve them, and record them in whatever form you wish, so that you can check your expenditure against budget at any time during the financial year.

If when monitoring your budget you foresee overspending/underspending, inform the treasurer immediately with reasoning for the discrepancy - waiting till the end of the financial year is too late!

Monthly/quarterly reports on expenditure and cash flow projections must be produced, so that you can cross check figures, and the club can allocate funds, in line with your projections, to appropriate accounts (network computerised accounts can make this a lot less work than it seems - but you may feel less in control).

### REACHING A REASONED FINAL DECISION REGARDING THE BUYING OF MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

On materials take time at the least stressful period of the year rather than stopping to speak to visiting representatives in the main playing season when there is simply no time to stand and chat.

Stock take during the Christmas/New Year period, talk to staff regarding the following season's requirements (a good time to discuss maintenance policy) and invite representatives to call during January, requesting quotes on all your material needs for the year, before ordering for delivery at appropriate times.

Should you require anything more during the season, or there is a new product which may be of interest, contact can be made by telephone/e-mail, thus avoiding time wasting at your busiest time of the year.

Decisions on buying equipment and machinery are however a little different and the following advice may be of some help.

- The person/s who will be using the proposed equipment must be involved in the decision making process - if they are not you will regret it.
- Justify your decision in written/table form which will stand up to close scrutiny by any official who wishes to question your judgement.
- Never accept any incentive to buy in any way, shape or form - your professional judgement will be based on many factors and bribery, which any incentive to buy is effectively, is not one of them.
- Never buy on face value - talk to colleagues and trial on your own golf course.

In conclusion I must state that I am no accountant and I rely heavily on my Treasurer to advise me on financial matters. I do, however, believe that because of my knowledge of golf courses, and the costs involved, I am more likely to make the right decisions than anyone else at the club.

That is why I believe that a golf course budget should be the responsibility of the Course Manager.





**SCOTTISH REGION**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

## North

New members to the Section are Michael Anderson and Marc MacGregor, both of Alford GC. Welcome to the Section lads!

The outing at Forfar GC in May went well with the course in first class condition and a credit to the Greenkeeper and his staff. The winners were as follows: Scratch 1. Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir GC; 2. Gary Tuach, Letham Grange GC. Class 1. 1. K. Fowler, Fortrose GC; 2. S. Robertson, Craigie Hill GC; 3. Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC. Class 2. 1. P. Wood, Newmachar GC; 2. W. Craig, Kirriemuir GC; 3. D. Robertson, Newmachar GC. Class 3. 1. K. Anderson, Newmachar GC; 2. J. Kicuik, Letham GC 3. D. Dougan, Fortrose GC. Committee Trophy. S. Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC. Trade. P. Allan (RT Bruce Prodigy) Guest. T. Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC; Veteran 1. R. Donald, Old Meldrum GC; 2. A. Williamson, Craigie Hill G.C. Apprentice A. Nixon, Fortrose GC. Nearest the Pin S. Millar, Vitax. Longest Drive - Class 1. 1. G. Tuach, Letham Grange GC. Class 2. Billy Craig, Kirriemuir GC. Class 3. Stuart Hogg, Fortrose GC.

Once again thanks to all the staff and committee at Forfar GC. The AGM this year will take the form of an outing and will be at Peterhead GC on October 16. Hope to see you there.

On the sporting side of the Section, congratulations to Steven MacIntosh, Course Manager at Torvean GC, who, playing off +2, broke the course record at Castle Heather GC, Inverness, in the North District Championship. The following week he equalled the course record of 60 at Strathpeffer GC. Needless to say he won both tournaments. Also to Craig Dawson, Newtonmore GC; James Hutchison, Boat of Garten GC, and young Michael Clark, Kingussie GC for their part in the successful season of Kingussie Shinty Club. At the time of writing they have only the Camanachd Cup Final to play and have won all the other trophies possible. The Club's achievements have now attained them a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

Any other sporting successes please let me know on 01997 420 156. All Craigie Hill, Fortrose and Newmachar members of the Section have now had Rule 19 applied to them and should not win any more prize money.

Finally, Good Luck to Neil Metcalf and his staff for the Open Championship this year at Royal St. Georges. Neil is formerly a member of our section and hails from Cruden Bay, where he served his apprenticeship. The current course manager at Cruden Bay GC. wishes Kingussie all the best for their final and wished this to be put in this report. Ever the sportsman, Hamish.

Hopefully the season will go well for everyone.  
Iain Gunn



## NORTHERN REGION

### Sheffield

Firstly I would like to thank Steve Patrick, of Blackburn Rovers, and Keith Kent, of Twickenham, for sparing their time to come and visit us at Rotherham Golf Club and entertaining us for our February lecture. Also to Mike Brear, of Rigby Taylor, for fixing up the event.

I would also like to thank Mr Bob Taylor, of the STRI, for such an informative lecture about wildlife upon golf courses and how we as greenkeepers can help with the preservation of nature.

I would also like to thank Rotherham Golf Club for their support, giving us a venue for all our section meetings and lectures.

And not forgetting our sponsors at our golf days ie Gem Professional, Mansfield Sand, Ransomes Jacobsen and Rigby Taylor.

Now after all the formalities and thanks are over, and that now that spring has finally come, it is now time for a new season of golf competitions. Our first competition was held at Lindrick Golf Club on April 30 and I think that I can speak for everyone who attended, that Lindrick Golf Club was in excellent condition and our thanks go out to Lindrick for their generosity for allowing us courtesy of the course, and to Kevin Hazelhurst and his team for presenting such an excellent course. Well done lads! The results are as follows: 1. C. Hopper, 38pts; D. Chappell, 35pts; 3. S. Wells, 32pts; 4. J. Lax, 32pts; 5. G. Wells, 31pts; 6. S. Pickering, 31pts. Best Guest. M. Self, 36pts.

Because our first tournament was a qualifier for the regional golf tournament, the qualifiers are as follows:

Handicap 1-9. D. Chappell, G. Wells, M. Holden. Reserve. M. Knowles

Handicap 10-18. C. Hopper, S. Pickering, I. Whitehead. Reserve. R. Tyson.

Handicap 19-28. S. Wells, J. Lax, A. Linley. Reserve G. Brammah.

Details for the competition will be sent out as soon as they are available.

Lastly I would like to thank James and Graham of TT Pro Turf for sponsoring the event and for donating the excellent prizes for our prize table.

Our next competition will be held at Chesterfield Golf Club on July 23.

See you soon.

Chris Astle



### North Wales

Welcome to July, Open fever month in the greenkeeping calendar, I wonder just how many of our Section will be lending their services for the BIGGA Support Team at Royal St Georges in Kent. I think you would be well advised to get your names on the list now for 'Royal Liverpool' in 2006 a great chance to get in among the action of the world's greatest golfers.

Unless your interests lie elsewhere that is, just like Gareth Williams of Porthmadog GC. His main hobby is Gun Dogs and he travels all over the country attending trials with his dogs, just recently he has been selected by the Welsh team and has two dogs chosen out of the five strong team to represent Wales in the finals in Otley, Yorkshire. We wish him all the best of good luck on the day.

Darren Anderson, of Abergele GC, is looking forward to having the BIGGA Christmas Tournament at his course this December he says the new USGA spec greens are looking great and he has had lots of good comments from members and guests he will be pleased to hear the thoughts of his fellow greenkeepers on the progress of the greens which will be just about nine months old by December.

Tracey, from the Vale of Llangollen, has decided that nappy changing is better than hole changing and has decided to become a full time Mum; this is a loss to our industry as we have very few women involved in course maintenance as it is.

The results from Mile End GC spring competition were as follows, Best Trade went to Terry Adamson, with 30 pts. Best Member was Jez Hughes, with 34 pts, on a card play off with Allen Lewis, of Llanynymech GC, also with 34 pts, Best Guest with 36 pts was the host from Mile End GC Richard Thompson, We would like to thank Mile End for their hospitality and the catering for the 'Roast dinner'. The day was a huge success with just over 40 people playing, many of them very pleasantly surprised at the quality of Mile End GC which was also reflected in the scores! A relatively new course just over 10 years old, I think the Head Greenkeeper, Ian Beckett, had the greens down to about three mm as a lot of us had the same lengths of putts back to the hole as we did going to the hole, We were made very welcome and, on behalf of the committee and the members, I would like to thank them once again.

Well let's sit back now and enjoy the forthcoming BBC coverage of The Open championship. Who will you be betting for the winner? Els, Woods, Davis Love III, or will you stay loyal to the Welsh and back Phillip Price or Ian Woosnam?

See you next month, any views, news or information, please contact me on: Home: 01925 263394

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Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn



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## Northern

Not a lot to tell you guys about this month. Everyone must be too busy with their courses to get in touch. Writing these notes, we are a week away from the Presidents Day Tournament at Pike Hills. I will report next month on the goings on from the day. I must apologise for the mistake in reporting the wrong sponsor for this day last month. Scotts are the sponsors for the tournament. Sorry to everyone for the cock up.

I am pleased to report that your Chairman, Mr Jim "Kirk" Brown, and one of his greens staff, Joe Walsh, from Cookridge Hall, are now back on terra firma. They both took part in a sponsored parachute jump with free fall from 15000 feet. It was in aid of the Sheffield Children's Hospital and they raised over £600. After the jump it was reported that Joe said it was better than sex! Well done to you both.

Don't forget to get in touch if you want to be considered for the Roses match at Cleckheaton in August.

Last but not least welcome to Alex Noble, from Pike Hills GC; Robert Clare, from Skipton GC; John Firth from Outlane GC, and Adam Newton, from Fulford GC, who have all joined the Northern Section since my last notes.

That's about all for now, please keep in touch and help me fill up the space for your notes! 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks, BD2 2NJ.

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Dave Thackray



## North West



Sitting down to write these Section notes on 2 June, I thought, at last something to write about, meaning the Spring Tournament. How wrong I was. The Tournament was to be played on Thursday, May 22 while I was away in Portugal, where the weather was very hot (35°C) but on return I was informed that the weather had been non-stop rain, and the venue, Wigan Golf Club, had been closed due to flooding. So no report on the golf, other than to say that the match will be arranged possibly in September. I understand everybody turned up and at least enjoyed a nice lunch. I must say that in all of my 30 years with the North West Section I cannot remember having to cancel a tournament due to bad weather, so we have been very lucky in the past.

Two Head Greenkeepers jobs were advertised in the Section, Deanwood Golf Club, and Grange Park Golf Club. I can report that Owen Mullen was appointed at Grange Park. Owen had completed a four year course at Myerscough College and worked at the college for a further year before his appointment. I rang Deanwood Golf Club and was informed that although an appointment had been made, they were waiting to see if the person accepted the post. Hopefully I will have more information next month.

Once again a reminder that there are regional courses available at low costs eg. £30 for a one day course and £60 for a two day course. There are many different courses available, but if you feel there is a course that would be of interest to you or your staff let Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ know and I am sure arrangements can be made.

The next golf will be the "Roses match" as soon as I have the details I will let you know. In the meantime any of you going to The Open, I will see you at Royal St. George's in July.

That's it for now but any news please contact me on 01517 245412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross