



Lee Bridge

meetings. I have completed the writing section which required you to write a formal report on the machinery at your workplace. The other two sections will be taken when I attend the college later in the year, although I have already done a fair bit of work towards them and now it's all down to my talking skills.

The other two units I have been working on are more my scene really, although we shouldn't knock communication as we wouldn't get that far without it. The other units are about soil science and turf grass science and they also contain various assessments on different subjects.

The turf grass science unit started with an assessment on pests, diseases, disorders and weeds which I have completed, but for some identification work to do at college.

The next assessment was quite a big task with a 4,000 word presentation about the classification, anatomy and physiology of the grass plant. This ended up being 15 pages long (including pictures and the like) and I was glad when that one was finished. On a positive note, you will all have to look out for it in your local bookstore I think it's going to be released on paperback - volume one is out next week (no, not really!)

The next assessment was about soils as a growing medium. This was not quite as big as the previous one but still ended up being eight pages long. The last assignment in this section was on nutrients and soil additives and this ended up being 13 pages long. I think I may have got just a bit carried away with this one. Once I get my teeth into an interesting subject I just keep going, although I did have some great articles on the subject mostly from old Greenkeeper International magazines which came in handy. It's amazing when you look through the old back issues the vast array of information you can find. Although, be warned, it has led to a few altercations at home with my girlfriend. With all the magazines strewn all over the floor as I frantically search for any relevant articles it all creates a bit of a mess, which doesn't go down well. It's a constant battle with the Hoover as I try and save the magazines from being sucked up or even trodden on by my dog, Duke.

So far I have not required much help from the college but my dealings with them have been very good and they are very friendly and easy to accommodate any queries you may have.

Well that's as far as I have got so far but before I finish may I take this opportunity to wish all the fellow scholarship and other college students out there the best of luck with your studies this year. If you are not studying why not give it a go as there are loads of different courses out there to choose from - there's one out there for everyone, be it big/small or long/short. You're never too old or young to acquire new skills. Why not even apply for a scholarship yourself and you can not only improve your knowledge on greenkeeping matters, you can also apply your newly acquired knowledge on to your own courses. Anyone out there who is interested in taking the same course as myself and has some queries about

it then why not give Elmwood College a call. If you feel the query is best answered by me then I would be more than willing to help you out although it is probably best to write to me. You can find me in the golf directory under the South East Section and I will try to answer your query as quickly as I can.

#### **Peter Lacey outlines the work he is carrying out for his HNC at Pencoed College.**

We are currently coming to the end of our first term of study and are looking forward to a deserved break. The course is very intense and requires a lot of research to be carried out utilising both the college and local libraries and via the internet (much more scientific work in relation to golf greenkeeping and turf management has been carried out in the States, than in the UK).

A great deal of time needs to be committed to study if course assessments are to be completed on time and with enough information and detail. In most cases a few hours work is carried out every evening including weekends.

Much of my allotted scholarship has been spent purchasing a number of books that will assist me with this course work and will then become a source of reference for both myself and any of my staff who undergo college training. It has also enabled me to purchase useful technical drawing equipment and stationery, including a never-ending supply of colour ink cartridges.

At the end of this term we will have completed a number of modules, including plant protection, which encompasses weeds, pests and plant diseases. IT, inclusive of Microsoft Word, Xcel and Power-point. Surveying, Golf Course Design and Sports Ground Maintenance.

Altogether an interesting and varied array of topics, which not only keeps the grey matter ticking over, but near to boiling point on occasions. I would definitely recommend this course to those who have already completed NVQ level 3 and wish to progress further. All in all, so far, so good, tough albeit rewarding and looking forward to picking up from where we left off next term.

Incidentally, all who are on this course at Pencoed have now received scholarships from Ransomes Jacobsen and we are all grateful indeed to the company for their generous support.



Peter Lacey



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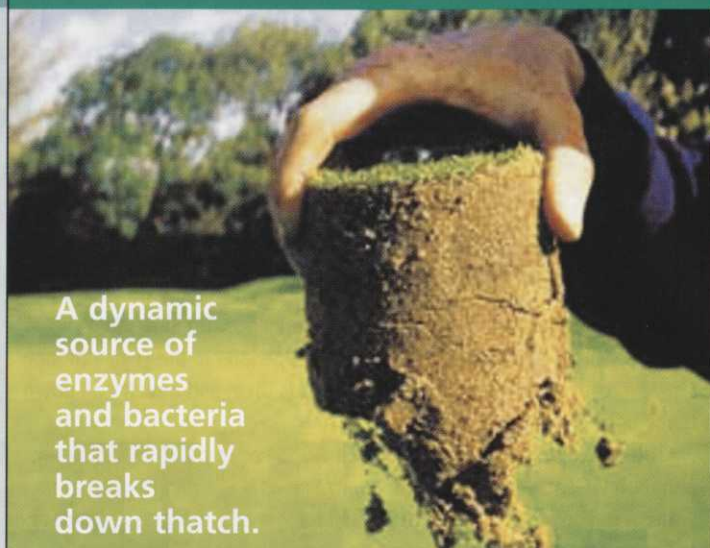


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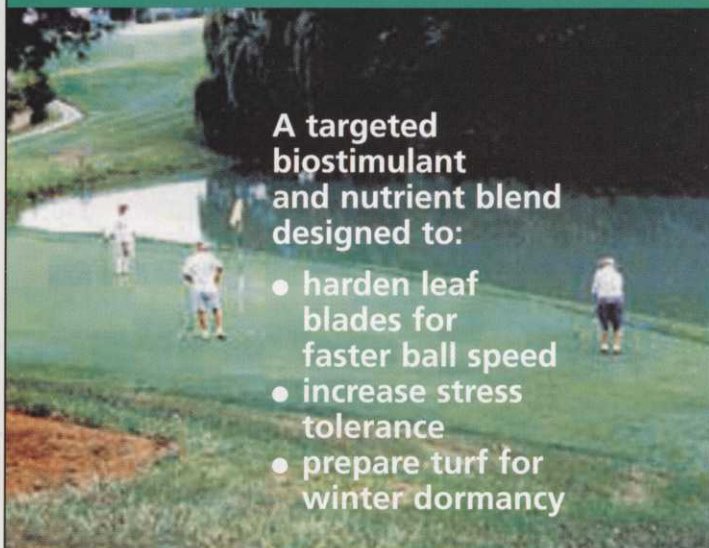
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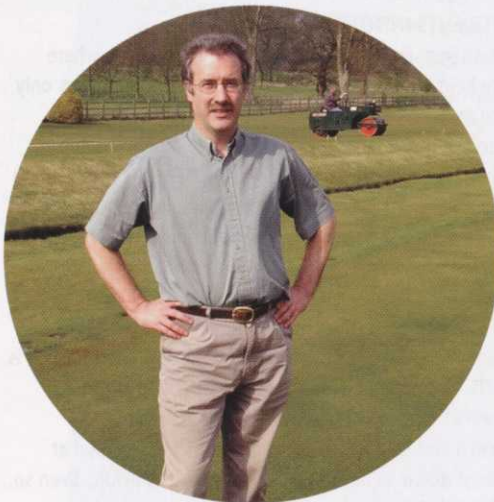
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# A QUESTION OF FERTILISERS

By Dr David Lawson  
Sports Turf Research Institute



From the many talks, seminars and conversations that he has had with greenkeepers over many years, David Lawson has compiled a list of some of the most commonly asked questions on turf fertilisers. The answers are based on direct knowledge from research carried out at STRI, as well as some of the basic facts of plant nutrition.

## WHAT EXACTLY IS THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF FERTILISER FOR FINE TURF?

Firstly, the most important fertiliser nutrient is nitrogen (N) and it is this we should be most concerned about. Where turf is growing on an unamended loam soil, it is unlikely that other nutrients such as phosphate (P) or potassium (K) will be deficient. However, if necessary, their levels can be determined by soil testing.

On a golf green or bowling green, the main component of the turf is ideally bentgrass along with red fescue. It is these species which need to be encouraged and weed species (annual meadow-grass) discouraged. The amount of nitrogen fertiliser applied has a major impact on the proportions of these grasses present. For most soil-based rootzones, an annual application of 8 to 16 g N per sq. metre (g N/m<sup>2</sup>) is adequate. Most commercial granular fine turf fertilisers, applied at recommended rate, supply 4 g N/m<sup>2</sup> on each application – so two to four dressings would be needed during the main growing season. On newer USGA, sand dominated rootzones, the amount of nitrogen applied each year should be within the range of 24 to 30g N/m<sup>2</sup>.

## WHAT ABOUT LIQUID FERTILISERS?

With the advent of highly sophisticated spraying equipment, it is possible to apply liquid feeds accurately to turf. They are now often used on golf greens in order to avoid granules prevailing on the turf surface. A proportion of the nutrients will be taken up directly by the grass leaf to provide a quick-acting effect. Some products are formulated in such a way that a high proportion of fertiliser nutrient is leaf absorbed. They do provide a good means of applying a small amount of nitrogen fertiliser evenly.

Some caution should be exercised in using liquid fertiliser, as the amounts of nitrogen applied are usually significantly lower than from most granular fertilisers – so more applications are needed. Because of this, many greenkeepers sensibly use a combination of granular and liquid fertiliser over the year.

## AND CONTROLLED RELEASE FERTILISERS?

These can be useful in reducing the number of applications required. They are, therefore, of most value on sand-dominated, USGA type rootzones where the amount of nutrient required is relatively high.

## ARE THE TYPES OF NITROGEN IN LIQUID FEEDS AND CONTROLLED RELEASE FERTILISERS THE SAME AS IN ORDINARY GRANULAR PRODUCTS?

The most obvious requirement for liquid fertilisers is that the nitrogen source dissolves in water. This tends to restrict the materials to urea and ammonium nitrate; although sometimes other materials are used. It is worth remembering, however, that ammonium sulphate has been found to be the best source of nitrogen for fine bent-dominated turf. It is particularly effective at encouraging bentgrass growth and discouraging the ingress of annual meadow-grass. Unfortunately, few liquid products use ammonium sulphate as the N source.

Controlled release fertilisers may be derived from a number of materials, probably the most common being methylene urea. This product breaks down in the rootzone to release urea; the higher the soil temperature, the quicker the release. Coated products depend on a soluble nitrogen source such as ammonium nitrate or urea to diffuse through the coating into the soil/rootzone. Again, the higher the temperature, the quicker the release.

Used on their own such slow release products do not have the same suppressive effect on annual meadow-grass as ammonium sulphate.

## MANY FERTILISERS NOW CONTAIN EXTRA ELEMENTS SUCH AS MAGNESIUM, COPPER, ZINC, MANGANESE, ETC. ARE THEY NEEDED?

The only situation where the possibility of deficiency in magnesium or trace elements exists is on sand-dominated rootzones. However, in the UK, deficiency symptoms in turf have never actually been reported. On normal soil rootzones, deficiency in these elements is highly unlikely.

## WHAT ABOUT IRON?

Iron is contained in many fertiliser products to produce a quick green-up effect. It reacts with the leaf to produce a black pigmentation. It is not actually acting as a fertiliser nutrient since turfgrasses normally contain more than enough iron for growth. It is only on alkaline soils (i.e. high pH) that an actual deficiency of iron might occur.





#### THERE SEEMS TO BE A RESURGENCE OF INTEREST IN ORGANIC FERTILISERS. WHAT ADVANTAGES DO THEY HAVE?

Organic fertilisers, based on materials such as poultry manure, dried blood and rapeseed meal, have been used in turf maintenance for many years. They provide a slow release of nitrogen along with other nutrients such as phosphate. Apart from these nutrients, such products also supply some organic matter to the soil, which can aid moisture retention in dry weather conditions. Because their nitrogen contents tend to be low, in relation to inorganics, a lot of material has to be applied to provide adequate amounts of nutrient. This often means that they are expensive to use.

It is also worth mentioning that trials with organic fertilisers on fine golf-green type turf have shown that they may encourage fungal disease, weeds and surface casting by earthworms. It is, therefore, advisable only to use such products as a small part of the overall fertiliser programme, usually with acidifying nitrogen fertilisers such as ammonium sulphate.

#### SO IS THERE REALLY NO NEED FOR ANY OTHER NUTRIENTS APART FROM NITROGEN?

In ordinary loam soils, nitrogen is likely to be the only nutrient required for mature turf. The soil itself will contain adequate amounts of phosphate, potassium, sulphate, calcium, magnesium, and trace elements. It should also be remembered that rainfall in the UK naturally contains significant amounts of nutrient such as potassium, calcium and magnesium.

However, in seedbeds it is important that there are adequate supplies of available phosphate in order to encourage seedling development and rooting. It is, therefore, often advisable to apply phosphate within the seedbed fertiliser.

On sand-dominated constructions, or where the rootzone has become sand-dominated from topdressing, it is possible that phosphate will be so low as to restrict turf growth. This can be checked for by soil analysis. If it is inadequate, then a small amount of phosphate (2g/m<sup>2</sup> of P2O<sub>5</sub>) should be applied.

#### BUT WON'T THE APPLICATION OF PHOSPHATE ENCOURAGE ANNUAL MEADOW-GRASS?

Phosphate fertiliser will encourage the establishment of annual meadow-grass only if it is applied regularly and at relatively high application rates. It is certainly not the most important causal factor in meadow-grass infestation. Surface moisture, soil pH and inappropriate nitrogen source are the most important factors. It should never be forgotten that phosphate can be deficient for bentgrass growth on sand-dominated rootzones and, if the problem is not addressed, then you can expect to lose bentgrass cover. As an aside – in early spring,

when the rootzone temperatures are still low, the turf may take on a darker colour with a bluish tinge, this despite no fertiliser or iron being applied. The reason for this is almost certainly lack of phosphate in the turf. In such circumstances, the soil phosphate level should be checked.

#### IS IT WORTH REGULARLY CHECKING SOIL NUTRIENT LEVELS?

On ordinary unamended loam soils, it is worth checking nutrient status and pH if there is any specific problem occurring. On sand-dominated rootzones, it is worth checking on a more regular basis. In such rootzones, the concentrations may rapidly change and so should be checked more frequently; perhaps every one or two years until levels appear to 'settle down'. This is particularly important for rootzone pH.

#### WHAT ABOUT THE NUTRIENTS IN TOPDRESSINGS?

It is the organic portion (e.g. peat, compost, soil) of topdressings where most of the nutrients are held. As this organic fraction normally comprises only a small proportion of the material, the amounts of nutrient applied will be relatively small. This is to the good. If the topdressing **did** contain significant amounts of nutrients, they would be released at the surface of the rootzone, to the advantage of the shallow rooted annual meadow-grass. In contrast, the nutrients from ordinary granular and liquid fertilisers will quickly move downwards from the surface to feed the deeper rooting bents and fescues.

#### JUST HOW IMPORTANT IS SOIL PH?

It is always worth remembering that the natural habitat of browntop bent is the soil of acid moorlands. Therefore, it tends to out-compete most other turfgrasses if the rootzone pH is slightly acidic. (The acidity also reduces infection by Fusarium patch and take-all disease). On one particular trial at STRI, the rootzone pH went down as far as 3.5. This is seriously acidic. Even so, at such a low pH value, the bentgrass still grew, although it did struggle to provide adequate cover. The interesting point was that on the areas without bent, no other grass species would grow (including annual meadow-grass) – it was simply too acid.

On links courses and golf greens naturally formed from chalk soils, the rootzone pH is normally high, i.e. above 7.0. Red fescue will normally thrive in such circumstances as long as it is given a helping hand by increasing the cutting height and applying lower rates of nitrogen fertiliser.

Fertiliser rates, the type used and the nutrient status of the rootzone all have a large impact on fine turf quality.

If you have any other questions on these matters, then get in touch with David Lawson at The Sports Turf Research Institute, St Ives Estate, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU. Telephone: 01274 565131 or e-mail: david.lawson@stri.co.uk

*Photographs kindly supplied by Scotts UK*





**YOUR LETTERS ARE NEEDED!**

Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

**Excellent Issue**

A quick response to the May issue - excellent! A number of first class thought-provoking articles. A small typographical error in my piece on R & A fertiliser use survey - the average use of fungicides was £1800 not £180! (I wish it were). With fungicides being outlawed in Europe (and, because of gross over-feeding, fungicides are never more needed there), we shall see more web comments about European tournaments proceeding despite the horrendous scarring of the greens of the host courses due to disease.

May I make constructive comments on some of the articles. First, using genetically modified (GM) Perm type bent (*Agrostis palustris* X, not *A. stolonifera* please!) may permit "protected" GM bent greens to be sprayed with round-up (glyphosate) to eliminate *Poa annua* invasion into such turf. There are however two problems. One, we are stuck with that GM bent - and we know they do not suit most golf courses in Europe. If they do not thrive or show faults, when they are sprayed will we be left with poor bent, not *Poa*/bent? Hopefully also, the introducers will not price exorbitantly because of a monopoly. The inventors of GM glyphosate resistant soya bean were shamed out of going for royalties and such 3rd world produced soya seed now dominates Africa/Asian cropping, with no problems and vastly increased yields and lower production costs but without financial support or US intervention or help.

Regarding moles, why no mention of the standard strychnine-baited worms methods of mole control - still the best but (sensibly) permitted only under licence by authorised mole-catchers? For every man who is a good trapper (which I am!) there are a score who admit defeat and employ trappers.

I must send my unstinting compliments to Robert Laycock on his piece on (not) rebuilding greens. In my experience relaying is rarely justified and even less often results in improvement. Why is it, (as my old friend Malcolm Peake reports on Royal Sydney) that those greens most often relaid are those built in the last decade or two? Clearly, often because of bad specifications, bad supervision, not using correct specified materials and construction methods etc. Nevertheless, still the commonest reason is bad post-constructional management. The best of contracts ends in disaster if such management is wrong - and often, indeed, unaltered from that which caused the problem in the first place, which suggested relaying.

I certainly endorse Robert's attack on some agronomists with too close an association with particular architects and indeed certain contractors. We have to understand that in the present circumstances relaying is their only income, with few if any new courses being built.

Readers may not know that the number of US courses with true USGA GS greens is "not more than 4%" (USGA GS source). I treasure the comment of an erstwhile agronomist who could not accept the huge investment over so many years on research into such specialised and by no means invariably applicable specifications, constantly changing criteria and no means of providing any effective control on its pedantic specifications - now advisory not mandatory.

I smile to myself when I compare the hugely greater number of greens built to my specification over the past (nearly) 50 years, which I produced initially solely from practical drainage experience and long established soil criteria, based on traditional golf, which has been critically investigated at regular intervals and never found wanting and what is more have never had to be relaid or have given the slightest cause for complaint, provided only that post-constructional management was on correct lines. Some are now 35 years old and very good - but then they have been looked after by good greenkeepers!

Congratulations on a stimulating issue.

J.H. Arthur, Hon Member  
Budleigh Salterton, Devon

**Whispering  
Grass**

**Are you in possession of a juicy piece of gossip and are just dying to tell someone? Or have you just moved job and want to pass on the good news?**

A typical example appeared in a recent *Around the Green* column:

*Who was the person who thought he'd overslept on hearing The Counterfeit Stones playing Honky Tonk Woman in the Majestic Hotel during Harrogate? He jumped up, got himself dressed and down to the ball room only to discover it was the sound check!*

Let us at Greenkeeper International know and we'll spread the word. Names could be withheld to protect the innocent... or not so innocent!

The Editor will need to know your name, and in specific cases discrete checks made, but he will protect his sources. Just email your info to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk) titled **Whispering Grass**.



# NEW PRODUCTS

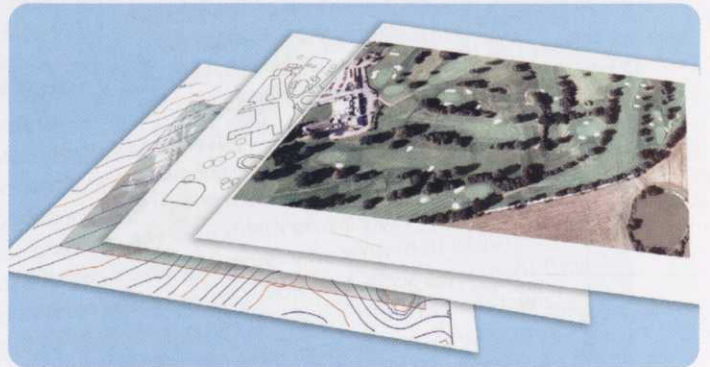
## QUICK ON THE DRAW

A good set of drawings is a real asset for helping maintenance and when alterations are to be done. Accurate plans used to cost thousands, but can now be achieved on a realistic budget. Tonick Watering can now provide large scale drawings containing a wealth of detail derived from the latest in aerial photography and radar. A poster-sized colour photo is also included.

The new golf course mapping service provides detailed plans of the course which is achieved by means of a novel approach to scale drawings and colour photography based on aerial data. The plans are derived from stereo photography combined with radar elevation measurement which provide a wealth of detail. The resultant plans can be optionally augmented with accurate positions of sprinklers, valves, drain points, cable and pipe runs via a simple GPS ground survey conducted with the Greenkeeper in just one day; because the main features are provided by the photograph, this survey will cost a fraction of a conventional ground-based one.

The many benefits of accurate plans include minimised maintenance cost with less chance of damage to existing pipes and cables, assistance with water legislation compliance and planning applications and reduced design cost for new course features. Also, the plan can be loaded in to a PC to allow graphical control of irrigation.

The plan set comprises a poster-size colour aerial photograph, a tracing to the



same scale of the greens, tees, bunkers, fairways, wooded areas, lakes, visible paths, buildings and car parks and a contour plot.

From the included data, water-run-off models can be constructed to help with environmental impact studies or winter storage lake design. Optional software allows simulated flight around the course at any height which can help in the concept design of new greens and tees.

## FIRST CLASS POST

Whatever your fence post needs, QwikPost from Catnic has the solution.

QwikPost enables the fast and easy installation of fence posts with a selection of products that can accommodate any ground type. Choose from a range that comprises the QwikPost Spike, Concrete In Post, Bolt Down Support and, an extremely popular winter seller, the Repair Spike.

For soft ground areas, the QwikPost Spike only requires hammering in. A twin bolt system for secure fixing, the Spike is manufactured from robust galvanised steel for strength and durability and will accommodate all standard sized fence panels. It can also be used on rocky or stony ground, which has first been checked for major obstacles.

In hard standing areas or where the ground prevents the use of QwikPost Spike, QwikPost Concrete-In Post is ideal. By placing the unit in a pre-dug hole and filling with concrete, the Concrete-In Post is simply placed into position.

Finally, the QwikPost Repair Spike provides a solution for broken posts in concrete. The base of the broken post is squared off and the Repair Spike is tapped between the old post and the concrete base until the box of the Repair Spike is just above the level of the concrete. The new fence post is simply inserted and tightened.

All the products in the QwikPost range feature the new Square Neck Twin Bolts, designed to make installation far easier and requiring only one spanner to damp the timber fence posts securely in the supports.



## CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

The Eliet range of chipper/shredders distributed by Pinnacle Power Equipment have been imported for five years and the line up includes domestic and professional models.

Introduced for 2003, the new Eliet Primo model is powered by a 4hp Honda GC135 engine, and has a chipping capacity of 35 mm.

A 60-litre collection bag is supplied as standard and the whole machine weighs just 32kgs.

The Primo uses the tried and trusted unique Eliet blade design, delivering 18,000 cuts/minute that enables even wet material to be shredded.

Featuring compact design for easy storage, the Eliet Primo measures 740mm x 500mm x 740mm and retails for £695 inc. Vat.





## CLEAN GET AWAY

Bio Series, distributed by Hydroscape, is designed to deal with some of today's toughest wastewater applications. The biological treatment turns organic contaminants (oil, grease, herbicides and pesticides) into carbon dioxide and water, through the process of biological digestion.

Equipment is driven on to the wash down area and either hosed down from one of the integral hose outlet points at a pressure of 50 psi (3.4 bar), or pressure washed as necessary. Contaminated water is then channelled to catchment channel drains and flows to the sub surface catchment basin. A heavy-duty sewage cutter pump transfers all waste products to the waterfall solid separator chute, depositing debris into a wheeled cart for disposal.

The filtered liquid then enters the first chamber of the stainless steel bio-reaction tank where solids are precipitated out and the microbiological digestion begins. Model B10-25R has a bio reaction tank housing 3,456 sq.ft (321 sq.m) of biological media with the larger model, B10-35R, housing 6,480 sq.ft (602 sq.m). Water flows through the media and through a tortuous baffle path to ensure maximum contact with the microbe population. Microbes treat the water by consuming a broad range of organic constituents i.e. herbicides, pesticides, oils, greases, petro-carbons etc., turning



them into carbon dioxide and water. Microbes are added monthly to ensure proper and continued colonisation – a process called inoculation.

The system incorporates a unique aeration procedure that quietly injects large amounts of oxygen, in the form of micro-bubbles, to maximise the amount of dissolved oxygen into the water.

Once water is biologically treated a pressure tank and pump system delivers treated water up to a rate of 25gpm (113.5 lpm.) at a pressure of 50psi (3.4 bar) back through 3 integral hose point connections for the washing of further equipment, creating a "closed loop" washing system.

The Bio Series system is fully automatic and B10-25R can treat up to 3,000 gals (13.620 ltr) per day or two hours of continuous washing, if all hose outlets are being used simultaneously. The larger version, B10-35R, treats up to 4,500gals (20.430 ltr) per day at a flow rate of 45 gpm (204 lpm).

It is believed legislation will shortly be introduced requiring all wastewater from non-domestic environments to be treated prior to disposal. Bio Series will do just that with the added plus of being environmentally friendly. It is the ideal system for those operating in golf course and sports ground maintenance and almost anywhere the treatment of wastewater prior to disposal is necessary.

## HANDY SIZED

David Jenkins Turfcare Equipment have published their first full colour brochure in a handy A5 pocket size. The 16 page booklet contains the full range of products available for the turf professional from the new company formed last year at Dunsfold, near Guildford, Surrey.

The line up of products in the new catalogue has been especially selected by David and his team to offer their customers the very best in professional turfcare available anywhere.

Powered machinery in the catalogue ranges from the DJ Plugger Aerator, the new DJ Turfcare designed and built linear aerator system, plus shredders, scarifiers, cylinder mowers and sprayers.

The number of hand tools featured in the brochure is extensive and vary between soil samplers to spreaders and from rakes to rollers.

Copies of the new brochure can be obtained by telephoning 01483 200976.

## MULE TRAIN

Kawasaki has launched its new Mule Diesel 3010, a tougher, stronger and more durable than predecessor, the Mule Diesel 2510, establishing it firmly at the top of Kawasaki's utility vehicle range.

The UK utility vehicle market is burgeoning and the launch of the Diesel 3010 is aimed at all sectors demanding power, reliability and performance, but at the same time tighter control of operating and maintenance costs.

The 23 hp, four-stroke, liquid-cooled, 3-cylinder, diesel engine delivers rakes of unstinting low RPM torque, but they have produced their largest and highest capacity Automatic Power-Drive System on an ATV or Mule.

With its new pick-up truck styling and sturdy and flexible load carrying capability for which it has received widespread praise, the Diesel 3010 has also received enhanced drive line durability with a heavier-duty rear differential, heavier-duty rear bevel gear set and a stronger rear axle assembly.

## CLEAN AS A WHISTLE

All ground maintenance equipment works in relatively hostile conditions and

subjected to either mud or dust, so cleaning down after use has a number of benefits.

Machinery is much easier and pleasant to work on when carrying out maintenance or repairs; any missing components, damaged cables or hydraulic hoses are more likely to be spotted, while well-kept plant is more saleable.

The latest professional pressure washers from Briggs & Stratton Power Products are ideal for cleaning equipment down, fast and efficiently.

Two units are available, the BPW2700 and the larger BPW3500. The BPW2700 has a 7.5hp Vanguard engine and produces a maximum pressure bar of 180 (2700 psi) while the BPW3500 has a top output of 241 (3500 psi) and is powered by a 13hp Vanguard unit.

Both machines are fitted with a thermal pump relief valve and come with 15 metres of hose and a lance with five quick connecting nozzles.

The frame assembly is designed to withstand the units being manhandled on and off vehicles and the wheel kit makes them easy to manoeuvre around sites.



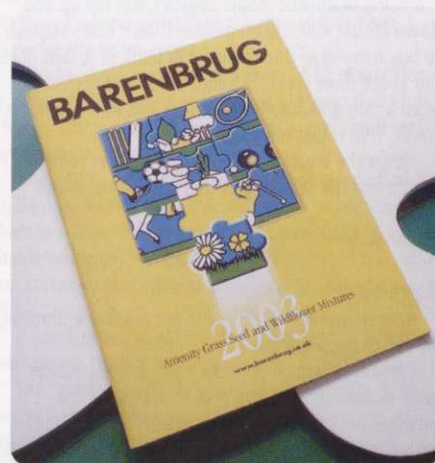
## SEEDS OF SUCCESS

Barenbrug UK's latest Amenity Grass Seed and Wildflower Mixtures catalogue details the latest introductions from the company. These include Bargold perennial ryegrass, the finest-leaved variety on the market, with a tolerance of close mowing that makes it suitable even for golf greens. Other new perennial ryegrasses from the specialist breeders include the highly wear-tolerant Romance for winter pitches, and Bartwingo which has excellent shoot density and superb cleanness of cut, making it a preferred choice for medium/fine turf applications and turf production.

Barlouse, another new perennial ryegrass, has excellent disease resistance and good wear tolerance.

For 2003, Barenbrug have introduced Baronie, a fast establishing smooth stalked meadowgrass with strong disease resistance, along with Barifera creeping bent, bred specifically for northern Europe offering excellent recovery from damage.

Making its debut during 2003 will be the Barenbrug-bred rhizomatous tall fescue, Labarinth RTF producing an astonishingly dense root system that recovers quickly from damage and can fill in patches in a sward.







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

## North

Three new members to report this month and they are John Robertson, from Camperdown GC, Dundee; Derek Lithgow, from Banchory GC, and Willie Rusk, from Torvean GC. Welcome to the Section.

The spring outing has been set for Forfar GC on May 7, and by the time you receive this magazine the outing will have just passed. The Autumn outing has, as yet, not been fixed up.

The Scottish Championship is at Turnberry in June and should be popular so if you are interested then you had better get your entry back quickly to avoid disappointment.

The Secretary has asked me to inform you that there are training courses available from BIGGA this autumn, or which are subsidised by BIGGA for £30 per one day or £60 per two day course. These courses need to have about 10 people attending and can be about anything which you may want training in, from health and safety, to computer training, book keeping etc. If you need any more info then phone Dougal Duguid on 01224 740329.

Anyone willing to nominate their club for the AGM in October can do so by phoning Dougal as well.

Also should anyone with 200 club tickets return them as soon as possible if you have no intention of purchasing them. Return them to Andy Wilson of Brechin G.C.

Finally congratulations to Jim McCormick, of Kirriemuir GC, for trying to raise £3400 for the Anthony Nolan Trust, which is a very worthy charity providing bone marrow for patients suffering from leukaemia and other bone marrow diseases. Good luck and I hope the Section will support Jim in raising some cash. Jim being of athletic mould anyway, will nip up and down Mount Kilimanjaro quicker than it takes Hamish to buy a round of drinks. Come to think of it, that gives Jim about three weeks. Cannot be named for fear of legal action and automatic appearance in the Rangers News. That is just too much to contemplate.

I hope the weather is kind to you for the coming month and the season gets to a good start, we all need it.

Iain Gunn

## Ayrshire

Hi everyone and welcome to yet another enthralling edition of Section News.

Commiserations first to the Golf Club Secretaries after sustaining their fifth straight defeat to the greenkeepers by six matches to four. Prestwick St Nicholas played host to the annual event with the sun shining and links in immaculate shape and a good day was enjoyed by all, so I'm told.

Dunsky Golf Course bathed in warm April rays was the venue for the spring outing on April 17. Results: Scratch . S. McBlain. First Class. 1. J. Mair; 2. W. Mercer; 3. G. Morrison; 4. B. Aitken. Second Class. 1. P. Tulloch; 2. G. Haughie; 3. D. Norquoy; 4. J. Paton. Trade Prize. A. Cruickshanks.

Our thanks to the club for allowing us the day, to the catering staff for looking after everyone and to the Green Staff for presenting such an excellent layout.

BIGGA Chairman and Ayrshire Section member, George Brown, provided the after dinner speaking so I'm sure all in attendance will have felt they got a good

bang for their buck that day.

Rigby Taylor has generously donated a trophy for the Second Class winner. We appreciate your support.

Tuesday, September 16 is the date set for the Autumn Outing and concluding leg of the Harry Diamond Jug, Beith GC being the location.

Good luck to all the Ayrshire members competing in the Scottish National Greenkeepers' Championship being played on June 17 over Turnberry's Kintyre course. I'll be shocked if the trophy were to cross the county line after all the scores are counted. So you can take that as the gauntlet being thrown, other Scottish Sections.

People on the move recently include Section member, Barry Crawford, from Old Prestwick to Southern Gailes and possible future member, Kerr Rowan, from Paradise... I mean Turnberry, also to Southern Gailes. I'm sure they'll both enjoy getting in on the ground floor of what promises to be another exceptional venue in Ayrshire. All the best lads.

Call me on 01292 478606 with any news or funny stories, or something.

Have a nice day.

Denis Tweddell

## Central

We begin this month's report with the sad news of the recent tragic death of section stalwart Alex Robertson from Grangemouth Golf Club. Alex died as the result of a road accident last month. Our sincere condolences go to his family at this very trying time. (There is a fuller article concerning Alex in the magazine).

New members joining us this month are Kenneth Currer Smith, from Scotsraig Golf Club; Alex Nimmo, from Stirling Golf Club, and Adam Head, from Auchterarder Golf Club. We extended a warm welcome to them and as usual hope to see them at some of our future events. Kenneth actually attended the Spring Tournament at St Andrews Bay so we had an early opportunity of meeting him.

Speaking of future events, you already have the date for the Autumn Tournament at Alloa Golf Club. Another date for your diary is the one that every member wants to attend, The AGM, which will be held on October 30 at Gleneagles. Plans are also underway to present an educational type workshop in early October at a local college, when the speakers will be an Employment Solicitor, a college Head of Department and two Course Managers. Fuller details of all events will be included in future Section reports, but in the meantime if you wish further information please contact Ian MacMillan on 01337 857294. Forms for all events will be mailed to you shortly.

The first golf tournament of the season was held on April 29 at St Andrews Bay when 60 members and guests enjoyed playing over the Torrance Course, which was in excellent condition on what for many of us was the only dry day of the week, (yes, the weather appears to be shaping up as in the last few years, rain, rain and more rain!) Our sincere thanks go to everyone at St Andrews Bay, especially Course Manager Neil Ballingall and his staff, the bar and catering staff for keeping us fed and "watered" throughout the day and to Golf Co-ordinator, Graeme Dawson, for all his assistance in making the day possible.

Thanks also to everyone who assisted on the day issuing and collecting score cards, selling raffle tickets etc, with special thanks to all the patrons of the section for their continued support.

Prize winners were as follows.

Best Scratch. Simon Crawford, Gleneagles, 74. Best

Nett. Paul Conway, Drumoig, 70. 1st Class 1. Alan Paterson, Gleneagles, 79 bih; 2. Charlie Macdonald, Crieff, 79. 2nd Class 1. Kenneth Smith, Scotsraig, 76; 2. Gordon McRae, Ratho Park, 79 bih. 3rd Class 1. Mike Horkan, St Andrews, 83; 2. Gregor Butter, Drumoig, 84. Stewart's Quaich. Simon Crawford, Alan Paterson, Gleneagles, 153. Patrons. Kevin Brunton, Greentech, 77. Guests. Shane Nicol, St. Andrews, 73 Mike Dennis prize for highest score at 15th Hole, Dennis's Dream. Derek Scott, Scoonie, 8.

Congratulations go to Kenny and Fiona Duncan on the birth of their baby daughter Amy and also to Allan and Kerry McCulloch on the birth of their baby daughter Amber. There must be something in the water at Dunfermline Golf Club as Kenny is Head Greenkeeper and Allan his deputy. News on the rest of the staff will follow shortly!

John Crawford

## West

Welcome to this month's Section news.

April 3, Secretaries vs. Greenkeepers match hosted at Prestwick St Nicholas GC. Our Section was represented by Gavin Jarvis (Secretary) and Gerry Bruen, Williamwood GC, whom, I may add, won their match to give the Greenkeepers victory on the day and to retain the trophy for a second year.

Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the day where it continued to be blessed with fine weather which allowed Head Greenkeeper John McLaughlin and staff to present an excellent conditioned course. Congratulations to John and staff, members and council of Prestwick St. Nicholas GC for hosting this event.

April 10 saw Renfrew Golf Club host the Greenkeepers-Convenors competition sponsored by Richard Aitken and SGM. Competitors attended and enjoyed the continued good weather and excellently prepared golf course, all down to Fraser Ross and crew. I personally thoroughly enjoyed my day and look forward to returning soon. Our playing partners on the day certainly enjoyed their day. East Kilbride GC picked up first place with Millport GC coming in a very close second only to be beaten on a count back on BIH. Second year running for Millport Golf Club, make it third time lucky in 2004! Brian's hoping we will be blessed with such a fine spring in 2004 as East Kilbride GC host this competition next year. That's what you get for being so lucky on the greens Brian.

The committee would like to congratulate Fraser Ross and staff for an excellently prepared course so early in the season, members and council of Renfrew GC for their warm welcome and hospitality and finally a big thank you to the sponsors for the day, Richard Aitken and SGM, as without them such enjoyable days would not exist.

May 1, Spring outing, hosted this year at Hilton Park GC. The fine weather just had to come to an end, unfortunately for John Robertson and staff a few days prior to this event. Thunder and heavy rain returned and continued until the morning of the competition, some heavy showers interrupted maintenance but the greens staff were able to present the course in a playable condition. A very big thank you to John and his greens staff for making sure the competition was played. Also to members and Council of Hilton Park GC for their warm welcome and use of their facilities not forgetting everyone attending on the day, in non-favourable conditions, who bravely attempted a round of golf. Some excellent scores were posted considering the conditions. Results are as follows:

Scratch. C. Goodhall, 72. Category 1. 1. Gerry



Bruen, 72-2-70; 2. S. Taylor, 72-0-72; 3. James Ellis, 77-5-72. Category 2. 1. Wallace Wilson, 91-18-73; 2. S. Brawley, 89-14-75 BIH; 3. Daryl Robertson, 93-18-75. Category 3. 1. Neil Middleton, 89-20-69; 2. David Mowatt, 91-19-72; 3. Martin Fabiani, 107-26-81. Visitors prize. James McCall, 87-18-69. Trade prize, Kenny Hunter, 80-11-69. A quick mention for Colin at Blairbeth Golf Club. You can pick up your prize for the worst score from Gavin Jarvis. Oops! Sorry Colin I wasn't supposed to mention that!

That's all the reporting this month, as always, if anybody has any information to put in the magazine contact me on tel/fax:- 01416 445783

Douglas McIntosh



## Cleveland

Firstly, the members of the Cleveland Section wish Dave Jobey all the best in his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Consett Golf Club. His replacement as First Assistant at Brancepeth Castle is Andrew Welsh, promoted from within. Good luck too Andrew! You'll need it working alongside super Kev!

The Spring Tournament was held at Brancepeth Castle Golf Club on April 30. I had a round with the lads and everyone thought that the course was in truly excellent condition especially with the very long 'strange' weather we have had this spring. Congratulations to Kevin Heslop and his staff and a big thanks to the club for their excellent hospitality (the steak and kidney pie was delicious).

Results were as follows: 0-9 Handicap 1. Jim Thompson, Darlington; 2. Phil Hargrave, South Shields. 10-18 Handicap 1. Mark Brown, Brancepeth Castle GC; 2. Marc Kerr, Middlesborough; 3. Ian Holoran, Middlesbrough Mun. 19-28 Handicap 1. Ian Pemberton, Bedale; 2. Roy Applegarth, Richmond; 3. Eddie Coulthard, Crook. Trade. 1. Alan Cordingley (bandit); 2. Neil Thompson.

These members are expected to represent the Section in the Northern Region finals later in the summer. The date is yet to be confirmed. Please inform Barry Walker if you cannot make it once the date is passed on to you all. As the competition is taking place 'in our patch' at Middlesbrough Municipal GC. All members should do their best to support the event.

Barry Walker won the Turfcare Specialists Ten Pin Bowling qualifier in Newcastle recently and he will play Tony Bell in the final in May. Tony, who is Head Groundsman at Middlesbrough Football Club won the Teesside Heat. May the best man win.

Just a quick mention from Bill Thompson of Border Sports. He's just had a new knee-joint and now he's having trouble with the other one. We'll have to call him the bionic man. They can re-build you, William!

Finally, on behalf of the Section, can I wish Dave Coulson, of Sunderland Football Club, success in his future, wherever that may be. Dave, a Section member, has just been made redundant by the club following the massive financial losses.

Any news to T.C. on 07831 214879  
Cheers, Terry "El Prez" Charlton

## Northern

Flaming June already. Can we really be half way through the year? I hope all your courses are in tiptop condition and the members are enjoying the fruits of

your labour!

A great day and night was had by all who attended the Spring Tournament at Kirkbymoorside Golf Club. A hot day in the 70s and a large turnout with some old and new faces making appearances made the day kick off to a good start. Ian Donaldson and his greens team produced a fine and testing course for us all to enjoy. Our joint sponsors for the day were Alpha Amenity and Headland who put on a fine prize table of golfing goodies for the winners who were as follows. Scratch Cup Alan Baxter. Div 1.1. Dave Collins; 2. Richard Harris; 3. Andy Clarke. Div 2. 1. Roy Armitage; 2. Ben Besau; 3. Richard Smith. Div3. 1. Michael Gregson; 2. John Dobson; 3. Dave Gardener. Nearest the Pin was won by Richard Harris. Simon Heppenstall and Mike Brear won the trade prizes. A great meal and a few beers followed by a presentation to Les Kirkbright in recognition of his support of the Section over many a year. Many thanks once again to our sponsors and Kirkbymoorside for all their help in setting up the day.

Our next golfing event is President's Day at Pike Hills Golf Club on June 12. Tee off from 1pm. Sponsors for the day are Bob Wild Grass Machinery. The usual £16 cheque a week before the event payable to "BIGGA Northern Section" will reserve you a place.

The roses match will take place at Cleckheaton Golf Club on Wednesday, August 13. If you would like to be considered for the team could you let one of the committee know by mid July.

The section is also trying to put another football team together to play in a tournament between Rigby Taylor, Sheffield Section and a Leeds United team. The event will take place some time in September at Thorp Arch. Anyone interested, please let me know.

Welcome to Lee Dacre, of Oulton Park Golf Club; Anthony Payne, of Cave Castle Golf Club; Philip Carter, Richard Smith and Terry Smith, all of Low Laithes Golf Club, who have recently joined our Association.

Speak to you again next month. Happy Greenkeeping

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Dave Thackray

## Sheffield

Hello to all in the Sheffield Section.

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. And 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 to mention our sponsors for our golf days ie Gem Professional, Mansfield Sand, Textron and Rigby Taylor.

Now, after all the formalities and thanks are over, and now that spring has finally come, it is 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 in 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; 2. D. Chappell, 35pts; 3. S. Wells, 32pts; 4. J. Lax, 32pts; 5. G. Wells, 31pts; 6. S. Pickering, 31pts, and 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 and reserve M. Knowles

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

Handicap 19-28 S. Wells, J. Lax, A. Linley and 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

Our Spring Tournament was held at Mile End Golf Club last month and a detailed report of the results will be in the next issue.

We still require members willing to put their courses forward for hosting a BIGGA golf day this applies right across the North Wales Section as we do like to spread the locality of these events to include everybody. We currently have no dates as yet for the Spring, Autumn and Christmas Tournaments for the 2004 season so if you wish, contact a committee member to discuss helping out. This we would be grateful for – Jez Hughes, Terry Adamson, Wendy O'Brien, Trevor Johnson, Andy Campbell, Stuart McCall, Don Pemberton or myself. Don has put forward his course at Vale Royal Abbey for the N. Wales vs N. West match next year.

I would also like to thank Dave Orchard, and GEM, for their kind sponsorship of this day as they have done for the last number of years.

We somehow struggle for a team of 12 players for this match. This year's was held at Ringway Golf Club. Thanks to them and to Jim Grainger and his staff for presenting a great golf course.

North West had a full team of 12 but our Section could only muster up seven players, so we decided to draft in a few extras and had 21 in total playing a Stableford event – we had approx five out of the six top scores so North Wales won back the shield for 2003.

If you feel you may be able to play in this event next year please contact us.

The Spring Seminar held at Carden Park was a great success and will be hosted again next year – we will try to bring the date forward to the middle/end of February which may help those of you with early work commitments in March. If you have any issues or ideas about the event please let us know.

Keith Holmes retires this month from his long and dedicated service to golf greenkeeping. For the last eight years he has been working at Carden Park, before which he was at Old Padeswood, Wrexham, Dunham Forest, Bolton Lostock Park to name but a few. We wish him all the best and perhaps his wife, Freda, will see a bit more of him now he's not on all those early morning starts.

Two other greenkeepers from Carden Park helped out at the Benson & Hedges tournament at The De Vere Belfry last month. They were Simon Ashley and



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