

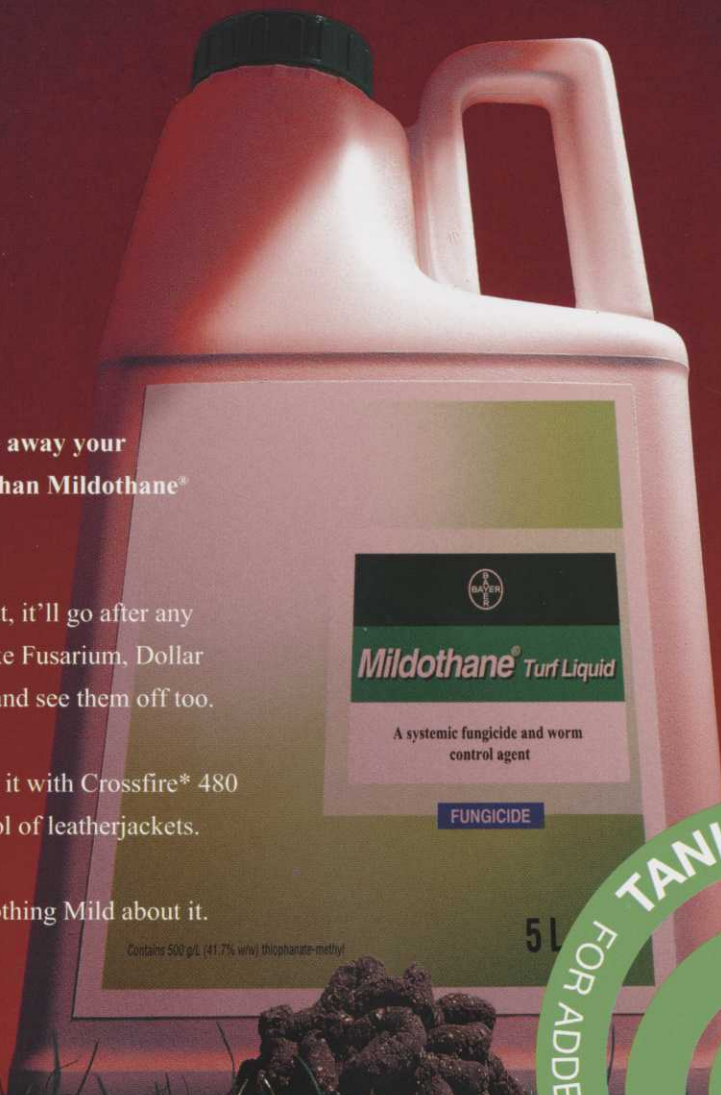
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Greenkeeper

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The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

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DON'T MISS THE ACTION!

Win a Casio portable colour TV in this month's Turf Time Teaser. The Casio portable colour TV has a 2.3" screen with a non-gable screen feature. The extendable antenna provide both UHF and VHF reception and a tuning indicator makes for easy selection of channels. A flip out stand allows for desk top viewing. Tuning keys, volume selector and brightness dial are all featured. To win, all you have to do is enter this month's Buyers' Guide competition sponsored by Greenlink International.



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SOIL CONSULTANTS

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Welcome

DON'T LET YOUR CLUB BECOME GREEN WITH ENVY

There are times when you really wonder if banging your head against a wall is a pastime worth continuing.

I say that after listening to a national sports radio channel when a former European Tour pro turned pundit, announced to the listening nation that he'd never seen Wentworth in better condition. "I've never seen it greener" were the exact words chosen by Talk Sport's Robert Lee.

Now, I'm a huge fan of Wentworth. I was based there for a time in the early 90s and it was a real privilege to drive across the 18th fairway on the way to the office every morning. I've seen the superb work of Chris Kennedy and his team first hand and peaking a course twice a year is a skill for which Chris has no equal. So I would use many measures to praise Wentworth, but I certainly wouldn't use the "greenness scale".

Of course, you could argue that Robert's crime is minor and the fact that golf is even being reported on a predominately football station is a plus, but for greenkeepers attempting to do the job to the best of their abilities it is yet another blow.

The fact is that too many golfers equate "greenness" with quality. With the splendour of Augusta laid before the television watching nation every April I suppose it is an understandable conclusion for the club member to reach, but long term sustainability is something which doesn't enter the equation of members dazzled by the azaleas.

Unfortunately, through a quirk of members' club constitutions, those members have the power to influence agronomic decisions at their own clubs and pressure to become "greener" is becoming increasingly intense. Highly trained greenkeepers are often risking employment stability if they attempt to steer down the path of traditional British greenkeeping.

There are two examples in this month's magazine. The new Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year lost his job a year ago after attempting to adopt sound agronomic practices at a club which lost patience, made him redundant and headed off on their own search for "greenness". Fortunately he is now at another club. At Temple Golf Club Martin Gunn and Malcolm Peake are strong upholders of traditional greenkeeping but even they have come under pressure. They've also seen many quality greenkeepers lost to the industry and courses fall by the wayside.

"If courses don't follow best management practices we could be in danger of losing the character of all our priceless national heritage courses - heathland, links and downland and this would change forever the way we play traditional British golf," says Malcolm, in the article.

The "We Know Better" brigade is a strong lobby in many, if not all, British golf clubs and their case is helped when someone announces on air that a course has never looked better because it is so green.

The sad unpalatable truth is that golfers, and some supposed golfing experts, don't know what is best for golf courses.

The long term consequences should be of concern to everyone.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

AN AMAZING MAN

Eric Barber was not the type of person to yearn for his pipe and slippers when he retired from greenkeeping eight years ago.

Eric, who was Course Manager at Teign Valley Golf Club, in Exeter, has just become World Champion in the gruelling sport of Duathlon which involved him running 10 kilometres, cycling 150 kilometres and rounding off with another 30 kilometre run, all on a mountainous course in Switzerland.

"It was the toughest event I've ever done," said the newly crowned 67 year-old 65-69 age category winner.

To put it in perspective the winning time of nine hours, 29 minutes and 19.9 second included Eric running 25 miles in three hours 41 minutes, virtually a marathon with a 94 mile cycle race sandwiched in between.

The race didn't go completely to plan and at one point Eric, whose strength lies in the running elements, was 15 minutes behind a youthful 65 year-old Italian with the prospect of falling further behind on the bike.

"But I clawed my way back into it and was 11 minutes behind at the start of the final run and caught him after 10 kilometres of the race," said Eric, who also won the 60-64 category in 2000.

Along with the better known Triathlon - which also incorporates swimming - Duathlon is a growing sport and the fittest man Eric knows is the five time world Champion, Benny Vansteelant, of Belgium, who is virtually unbeatable at the shorter Duathlon distance, but who was pipped for the gold this year in the open category

Fitter, and with more stamina, than ever, Eric hopes to defend his title in Denmark next year and



also has some other mind boggling objectives before then.

"I want to run the 93 mile West Highland Way; complete a stage in the Tour de France and run the Jungfrau Marathon in Switzerland which starts at 2000 feet above sea level and rises to 7,000 above sea level," said Eric, who added that it would be ideal training for the defence of his title.

Eric has to fund his own trips and would be extremely grateful if anyone decided to sponsor one of Britain's toughest and most dedicated pensioners.

Eric's exploits were featured in the Devon paper The Herald Express.

Anyone who wishes to assist should contact Scott MacCallum at BIGGA HOUSE.

TOP MAN

With the Rugby World Cup going strong in Australia it is nice to see some recognition for BIGGA's own rugby internationalist.

The day after England's match against South Africa The Sunday Times highlighted the team which played South Africa in 1972 which included Regional Administrator, Peter Larter. Peter won 24 caps for England and also represented the British Lions. A lock forward, he scored a long distance

penalty against New Zealand and a try against South African in 1969 which sealed an 11-8 win.

Peter is pictured as number five between Mike Burton, now a well known sporting ticket agent and Frank Cotton, now Managing Director of Cotton Traders. Directly below Peter is Andy Ripley, who became a star in the BBC's Superstars which has been relaunched recently.



ELMWOOD COLLEGE AND THE DUNHILL CUP

During the recent Dunhill Links Championships, Elmwood greenkeeping students were involved as part of the team preparing the Kings Barns Golf Links. The volunteers came from the full range of full time courses, as in NC, HNC and HND.

Throughout the week they provided support ranging from mowing greens, tees and fairways, to raking bunkers, beginning at 6am, and after play repairing the course from the days wear and tear.

"The full time staff at Kings Barns maintain the highest standards of greenkeeping week in week out, and it is a superb learning experience for our students to witness these standards at first hand.

Every single one of them thoroughly enjoyed working on such an inspiring golf course," said Ian Butcher, Course Tutor at Elmwood.

Stuart McColm, Course Manager of Kings Barns Golf Links, said, "This is something that helps both parties, and the support Elmwood students provide through a very important week for us is invaluable."

Bjarni Hannesson, currently studying for his HND in Golf Course Management, said, "It was an exciting week, and it has broadened my horizons with regard to working on the very top golf courses."



UNSUNG HEROES



There's still time to give one of your colleagues the chance of a week's holiday in the south of France.

As a practising UK greenkeeper or groundsman you can nominate your chosen unsung hero, putting him or her forward for Terrain Aeration's special award which offers the hire of a house in Languedoc, plus flights to Montpellier or £150 towards car travel.

Situated in the small village of Neffies, surrounded by vineyards and 40 minutes from the Mediterranean, the house sleeps up to six and is fully equipped with washing machine, fridge freezer etc.

Designed to recognise the hard work and professionalism which often goes unsung in our industry, the nominations will be judged by Gordon Child, BIGGA; Derek Walder, IOG, and Tim Lodge, STRI, and the winners, one greenkeeper and one groundsman, will be announced at BTME & ClubHouse 2004.

The judges will not necessarily be looking for turf care skills (there are awards for these already), but individuals whose dedication either to their jobs or their colleagues has improved the quality of working life at their particular work place.

You know these unsung heroes so call Linda Green now on Tel: 01449 673783.

COUNTRYWIDE ROLE FOR MARTIN

Countrywide has appointed Martin Townsend as Turf and Amenity Sales Manager.

Martin Townsend joined the company several months ago from Scotts UK, with a wealth of knowledge in the industry stemmed from his early days in the 1970's as an apprentice cricketer and groundsman at Lords Cricket Ground. From 1976 until 1989 Martin held posts of Head Groundsman and Head Greenkeeper.

He then moved into the Amenity Distribution side of the industry, a natural transition for a man who is always up for a challenge, during this and subsequent roles. Following 10 successful years as a Technical Sales Manager working predominately in the south west of the country Martin joined Scotts UK Professional four years ago as Senior Sales Manager for the South West, South Wales and the Channel Isles.

Martin's remit is to build a sales and distribution Turf & Amenity business that will run along side and compliment the portfolio of Countrywide's products and services available throughout the midlands, southern England and Wales.

NEW APPOINTMENT



Claire Kilmurray has joined Vitax as Technical Representative for East and Central England, covering the area from East Anglia to the Cotswolds.

As a Technical Sales Rep. and Local Authority Manager with Rigby Taylor, before taking a similar post with Sherriff Amenity, Claire has accumulated over 23 years experience in the industry.

"I've just had a year away from the business and found that I missed it, I'm looking forward to meeting old contacts, re-establishing links with the private turf and golf sector and generally getting out and about again," she said.

Clive Williams, Sales and Amenity Manager for Vitax said that the company needed someone with Claire's experience to develop the demand for the company's new products in this geographical area.

"We've a good customer base in Claire's new territory and she has the expertise to handle it professionally," he commented.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year www.tonyhusband.co.uk



OFF TARGET!

John Shaw, Head Greenkeeper at Styrrup Hall Golf and Country Club, in Doncaster, bit off more than he could chew when he bet his staff that he could rake every bunker by hand in two hours. He trailed in an hour after his target time - still not a bad effort, but his staff, who put together this photograph, got their own back!



25 YEARS GREENKEEPING



Anthony Davies MG, Course Manager at Prestbury Golf Club has been recognised at his club for achieving 25 years in the greenkeeping profession.

Anthony, who was the first ever Greenkeeper of the Year, has been one of the most prominent Course Managers in the country for a number of years and he will surely go close to clocking up another 25 years before he hangs up his spurs.

NEW MAN AT LASTEC

Keith Elliment has been appointed European Sales Manager for Lastec UK heading the company's UK and European dealer network.



Keith introduced the Lastec Articulator range of rotary mowers into Britain in 1990 as sole UK distributor, before becoming Southern Regional Sales Manager for Lastec UK. He brings over 15 years experience to the post and is looking forward to capitalising on the burgeoning European market.

"Golf in Europe is growing at a rate of 40 to 50 new courses per year, as opposed to about 10 new courses here," he says. "We're at the stage now where we can take full advantage of the exciting opportunities available."

John Millen, formerly Operations Manager for Lastec UK will remain with the company for the foreseeable future in an advisory capacity, providing insight and direction into future European sales.

NEW RECRUIT



Rigby Taylor has appointed Peter Bridgewater as Business Development Manager for their Mascot line marking products, with particular emphasis on expanding and developing the new Duramark range launched recently by the company.

Peter has a broad range of experience in the amenity market including having worked for Supaturf Products where he gained considerable expertise in line marking products and joins Rigby Taylor from the Turftrax Group where he was Area Sales Manager.

KIM MACFIE JOINS LELY

Toro's, professional turf equipment and irrigation products' distributor Lely UK, has appointed one of the leading figures in the machinery industry to head up its new Toro Consumer Products Division.

Kim Macfie, formerly Sales and Marketing Director for Hayter is to take charge of the Toro consumer business from January 1. This follows Lely's recent appointment by The Toro Company to distribute its garden and lawn products in the UK from this September.

Lely is already the exclusive distributor in the UK for Toro professional turf maintenance machinery and irrigation products. Now with consumer it handles the complete set of all three Toro product lines.

"When Toro asked Lely to distribute its consumer products, there were two elements that had to be present before I could agree. I had to have continuity from the previous organisation's core staff – but I also had to find someone of sufficient experience and stature to lead the new division through the early years of transition.," said Lely UK Managing Director, Graham Dale.

"So I'm delighted that Kim Macfie has agreed to take the lead role from January 1st."

Graham said that he was also glad to say that the experience and enthusiasm of two key members of the previous regime had been retained in the shape of area sales manager Clive Shepherd and after sales manager Dave Jackman. The appointment of another area sales manager had been made and details would be announced soon.

"The scene is now set for us to move forward with confidence and enthusiasm and I am relishing the prospects," he added.

After almost 20 years at Hayter, one of the principle suppliers of top-end consumer lawn and



garden products, Kim Macfie brings to Lely a wealth of experience and knowledge of the industry. He like Graham Dale is also a past president of the AEA.

Kim, who lives at Bishop's Stortford, becomes General Manager Consumer Products.

"I'm delighted to be joining Lely at this exciting time. Toro and Wheel Horse are great brand names with a great pedigree and a superb product range and we intend to ensure they have a bright future.

"A wide-ranging review is being undertaken to support the formation of the new division to the fullest extent and to invest in the strength of the brand. One of our top priorities is to give Toro consumer dealers a much higher level of support and ensure we've got the correct coverage in every part of the country."

THE NORRIE WHYTOCK TROPHY



The Norrie Whytock Trophy was once again held at Auchterarder GC.

Every Section was represented and this event has now become a regular fixture in the BIGGA golfing year in the Scottish Region. The event consists of teams of four from each Section within the Scottish Region taking part on a Stableford basis with the best three scores counting. At the beginning of the tournament the weather was very favourable but during the latter part of the day the tail-enders experienced horrendous showers, however this did not detract from the quality of the scoring.

Once all the scores had been returned the North Section returned to winning ways and emerged as winners with an aggregate of 97 points. The winning team comprised of Stewart McBain, Ken Anderson, Patrick Wood and Steve Sullivan. Central Section finished in second spot with a total of 93 points.

Once again our thanks to David Drummond and Bayer for supporting and hosting this event and once again providing the prizes. All, who took part, would like to pass on their appreciation to David and Bayer for a most enjoyable day and are eagerly looking forward to next year's event. To Archie Dunn and his greenkeeping staff our thanks for preparing the course and to the club and committee of Auchterarder Golf Club for the use of the clubhouse and facilities.

Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator
Scottish Region

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Sycophantic Article

Having just read your article on Woodbury Park Golf Club, I thought I was reading "Hello" magazine and not the Greenkeeper. It was in my opinion totally sycophantic throughout with only a passing reference at the end of the article as to what the greenstaff actually did and then what fantastic knowledge did we glean from that "we cut fairways, tees and greens and semi rough" etc. Oh yes the greens are cut and bunkers are raked at weekends. Is that the sum total of knowledge that can be passed on, apart from if the Atomic bomb went and some staff survived they would still be prepared to die for him, I suppose from radiation poisoning preparing the course, "in much less time". If nothing else, it gave us all here a good laugh at break time.

Come on Editor, we deserve better than this.
Guy Woods, Course Manager, Bath GC

Unbelievable!

Having just read October's edition of Greenkeeper International and, in particular, the course feature I must say it was unbelievable, and not in a good way either.

He (Nigel Mansell) is phoning up his Course Manager on a daily basis for such mundane things as height of cut and fertiliser use! He also thinks that quote "There isn't a guy on Ian's team who wouldn't die for him." Die for him? Nigel, you need to get out more. It's a golf course you're talking about, not liberating Iraq.

Also Ian Cheney. It's not big and it's not clever to have a 12 man team working 100 hours each. I only hope the HSE hasn't read it!

Stephen Eccles, Preston, Lancs

Congratulations Keith!

May I through the letters pages of your publication write to express my congratulations to Keith Scruton on his recent success as Toro Student of the year for 2003.

I have known and taught Keith for three years now during his time at Myerscough College studying for a Higher National Diploma in Turf Grass Science and Golf Course Management - from which he successfully graduated in June of this year.

During this time Keith proved to be an excellent student bringing to his studies the value of his experience as a practising Greenkeeper.

Undertaking a higher education course on a part time basis while working in the sportsturf industry is no easy task - yet Keith brought both dedication and enthusiasm to his studies. Difficult times leading up to his final year tested Keith to the limit but with support from BIGGA and from the Sportsturf team at Myerscough, Keith went on not only to pass the course but to be awarded a top academic prize.

His success in achieving the Toro award is testimony to Keith's knowledge, experience and professionalism. I know that he will be an excellent ambassador for the British sportsturf industry.

Congratulations Keith.

Colin Stanfield, Programme Leader
Sportsturf, Myerscough College

Thank You

Having just participated in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, I must congratulate Toro and BIGGA for a truly wonderful experience, when everyone met in the Manor on Sunday evening all eight finalists looked very nervous, but as the night continued we all began to relax.

The next day was again a nery tense day, but when everyone met up in the bar after their interviews, the tension began to disappear. After the results everyone met up for a most enjoyable night and I also had the pleasure of meeting the previous year's winner Murray Long, who is a really top guy and along with, Robert, Paul, and Scott, we had a game of ten pin bowling none of us will forget for a very long while.

I would also like to wish Keith all the best on his trip to America and a personal thanks to Peter Mansfield and Andy Brown for an experience of a life time along with all the staff at BIGGA HOUSE. I would also like to wish all the finalists all the best in there careers and hope to see you all in the future.

John Talbot, Head Greenkeeper,
Ravensworth Golf Club

Working Abroad

While reading the Education section in the October 2003 issue of "Greenkeeper International", I came upon the article, entitled "Overseas Exchanges". Having read it, with its reference to foreign greenkeepers working in the United Kingdom, I considered what would be the reverse process in obtaining a job not just in Europe but beyond.

My enquiry, open to anyone who could assist. What are the requirements in working aboard, where do you find out where these jobs are advertised i.e. publications, web sites, etc. and are there any recruitment agencies who could help?

Gavin Townsend, townsendgavin@aol.com

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Autumn seems to be with us at last and we have even had some rain in sunny Yorkshire. Colder nights and days remind me that it is less than 11 weeks to our annual event in Harrogate with Continue to Learn alongside BTME & ClubHouse providing a full range of activities for greenkeepers, golf course managers, golf club managers and groundsmen.



You should all have received a copy of the Continue to Learn brochure in last month's edition of Greenkeeper International. The brochure gives full details of the Continue to Learn Programme, in association with the Greenkeepers Training Committee, and includes a booking form. Remember, that several changes will take place in January 2004.

In Association with the Greenkeepers Training Committee

The National Education Conference, supported by the John Deere Team Championship, will be held in a purpose built theatre within Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre.

The Continue to Learn Workshops will be held in the Harrogate Moat House Hotel.

Conference and Workshops Reception can be accessed via the Main Entrance to HIC opposite the Moat House Hotel

BTME & ClubHouse Seminars will also be held in the theatre within Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre.

The BIGGA Annual General Meeting will be held at 5.15pm within the theatre in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre.

However, the Education Dinner and the Exhibitions Banquet will both be held, as usual, in the Majestic Hotel.

Presentation of BIGGA Awards and prizes, including the Golf Environment Competition prizes and the presentation of jackets to at least three new Master Greenkeepers will take place at 10.30am on Wednesday, January 21, followed by our Keynote Speaker for 2004, Alvin Law. This session, which is supported by Ransomes Jacobsen, should make us all think about the Power of Positive Mental Attitude. Take your seats at the theatre in Hall D by 10.20am

Hall D and the Seminar/AGM/Presentations/Keynote Speaker theatre are accessed via the escalator in Hall Q.

Extra events are being planned for the week in Harrogate and you can find out about the workings of the Futures Sub Committee by attending a free Seminar, which will take place prior to the AGM, on Wednesday, January 21 in Hall D. Watch out for more details of this and other extra educational events in future editions of Greenkeeper International and in Golf Club Management.

Make sure of reserving your place at Harrogate 2004 by filling in and returning the booking form in the Continue to Learn brochure.



Regional/Section Training

The autumn range of Regional/Section Training Courses has commenced with several courses fully booked. There are still two places left on the following course:

BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS

BIGGA House, 25 and 26 November

Sami and I are busy preparing for the spring 2004 courses and full details will be sent to all members soon.

If you want a training course in your Region or Section in the autumn of 2004, then contact us as soon as possible.

Remember, that these courses are subsidised by the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, which gains its income from our Golden and Silver Key members. Their kind contributions enable us to present high quality training courses at minimum cost to BIGGA members. For example, each one-day course costs members just £30 +VAT whereas it costs BIGGA a minimum of £700 to organise and run. This means that each one day of training attended receives a minimum subsidy of £30 per member.

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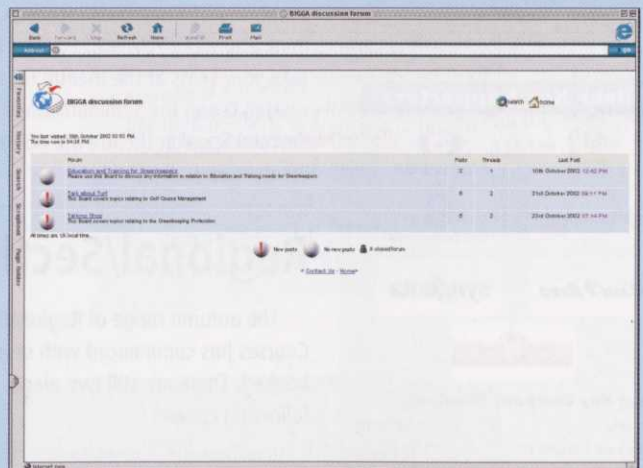


All examples quoted are calculated on a 36 month, 10,000 mile p.a. agreement. APR charged as follows - vehicle list price < £10,000 = 8.9%, < £20,000 = 8.4%, > £20,000 = 7.9%, ask for details. A typical example: *Ford Ka 1.3, 3 Dr Manual, 10,000 miles p.a. 36 month agreement. Initial payment of £152.14 followed by 35 monthly payments of £152.14 Includes 36 months Road Fund Licence) with an optional final payment of £2300. Cash price £6006.20 (Includes 36 months Road Fund Licence). Total amount payable £7777.04, 8.9% APR. Optional maintenance contract (includes RAC breakdown cover) at £20.54 per month (inc. VAT). Prices & rates correct at time of issue (June 03), but maybe subject to change. Privileged rates are discounted from Lex FreeChoice standard terms. Pictures and features shown may not be identical to model quoted. Offer only available to BIGGA members and family members of participating StaffSelect scheme companies. (certain manufacturer restrictions apply on the number of cars supplied to family members, ask for details). Lex FreeChoice is the trading name of Lex Vehicle Finance Limited, registered number 01992734 and registered address Lex House, 17 Cornaught Place, London, W2 2EL.



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