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**5th & 6th November 2003**

Wednesday, 10am - 4.30pm  
Thursday, 10am - 3.30pm

Royal Highland Showground,  
Ingliston, Edinburgh



# SCOTSTURF PREVIEW



## Scotsturf looks forward to a brand new pitch!

Next month Scotsturf exhibition moves to its new location, the brand new 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> purpose built exhibition hall, at Ingliston. This state-of-the-art building will provide accommodation for the whole event under one roof rather than spread over three exhibition halls as in the past. The problems of heating and access will also be solved by the move.

Ian Beaney, Scotsturf Chairman, is really looking forward to the exhibition.

"All the logistical problems of the past should now be resolved, and visitors and exhibitors will enjoy a bright and uniformly heated hall," said Ian.

He also had a few words regarding the fact that it had been reported that some companies had pulled out of the Exhibition.

"This is a surprise to us as the companies concerned were not confirmed exhibitors for this year. As happens every year there is a turnover of exhibitors and several companies have taken a commercial decision that due to their own circumstances they would not be taking space this year, but that's certainly different from pulling out! In fact, I'm delighted to say that the show has sold faster than any previous year and is now approaching being sold out!"

BIGGA will have a stand at the Exhibition and Regional Administrator Peter Boyd and some members of Headquarters staff will be on hand to meet members and prospective members.

Other exhibitors for this year include Toro, John Deere, Kubota, IPU Group, AM Phillips Spray Techniques, CNH, McLays Supplies, Swan Plant, Wiedenmann, Allett Mowers, Swan Plant, Blec.



New state-of-the-art exhibition hall, Ingliston

# WHO'S EXHIBITING?



Meet Rosie Hancher, Sales Manager, and Rachael Foster from BIGGA HOUSE to answer your queries. They will be on the BIGGA Stand with Scottish Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, on both days.

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- Membership
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Sizes Available:  
2m x 1m, 2m x 1.5m, 1.22m x 1.83m



**Quattro Range Mat**  
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# A Long Year

Murray Long reports on his time studying in the United States, his prize for winning last year's Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

After waving goodbye to my wife and daughter at Gatwick North Terminal, I departed on my trip. My first port of call was a flight to Cincinnati, where I would be catching a connecting flight to Hartford Connecticut.

On arrival at Hartford I caught the Valley Transport a local mini bus service for Connecticut and Massachusetts. We were greeted by the North American weather conditions - two feet of snow over the last 24 hours and it hadn't stopped yet. I found this really exciting, having never seen this amount of snow in London, but I think our driver had different ideas.

It took almost an hour and a half to thread our way through Massachusetts, dropping other students off at various Campus sites around an area which seemed to be completely dominated by students. We finally arrived at The Quality Inn on Route 9 Hadley, which was going to be my home for the next seven weeks.

My first day started by meeting up with some of the students I would be spending my time with. Greenkeepers are the same all over the world and it wasn't long before I negotiated a daily ride into the Campus.

The communications forwarded by the University had been excellent and soon we were all assembled in the scheduled building to begin the Winter School for Turf Grass Managers. Mary Owen, our Course Leader, greeted us and we began to go through the schedule and weekly timetable for our time at the University.

The course was taught by 11 tutors, seven of whom doctorates in their specialist field and pioneer research in America. The subjects covered were weeds, turf diseases, soil science, plant physiology, turf grass mathematics, arboriculture, irrigation, golf course design, entomology (the study of insects/turf pests), management, and general turf grass studies. All the classes were incredibly interesting and of enormous benefit. Each student had his own favourite subject and one of mine was turf grass diseases because it dealt with a large number of diseases that we never get to experience. Firstly we went through the basic principles of the diseases, what grass types it affected, what encouraged it and how it attacked the plant and spread and what group it belonged to. We would then examine these under a microscope in the Laboratory. How nice it was to see my old rival fusarium/pink snow mould up close and personal. It was important to read and study the information received as much as possible.

The lectures kept me on my toes with a series of tests, some weekly, some halfway through, with a test for everyone at the end of the course. There were around 20 students from my course staying in the Hotel and we would



Murray Long with his prize

get together around the swimming pool, or as it became known The Tropical Turf Lounge, for mass revision. Some of our free time would be spent watching the University Sports Teams, which included Hockey (Ice Hockey) and Basketball. All tickets were provided free of charge by Dr Patricia Vittum who taught us Entomology. Occasionally we would visit The Hanger for \$5 worth of chicken ribs and the odd beer or two.

The students ranged mainly from North East America, but included Alabama, Texas, the Czech Republic, Canada and the token Englishman.

I became friendly with a group of Canadians who were very handy for explaining the rules of Hockey. They also convinced me they were certainly better players and better drinkers than the Americans!

For the first two weeks we were pretty much the only students on campus, then the 28,000 other students came back and transformed the little town of Amherst.

I made time during two of my weekends off to meet my wife Penny in Boston and New York City, where some valuable retail therapy seemed to ease Penny's pain of me being away!

On the sixth week of my stay it was time for me to catch the plane to Atlanta for the GCSAA Conference and Show. I arrived mid-morning and quickly made my way from the hotel to the show. I visited all the different stands, stopping when something captured my interest. I eventually made my way to the BIGGA stand where I met Neil Thomas and George Brown, who were making every effort to promote the Association across the world.

Later that evening I managed to meet up with my college lecturer, Keith Harrison, who had travelled over for a week to experience the lectures. This was part of the award I had won. Later that evening I bumped into George Brown who was kind enough to give me some advice and share his experiences in the greenkeeping world. I am very grateful for George's advice.

I spent the next morning going round the stands, following up things that I had found particularly interesting. The afternoon was spent relaxing until it was time to prepare for the GCSAA Dinner/Show. This was an extravagant event, with guest speaker Greg Norman presenting The Old Tom Morris Award to Pete Dye for his services to golf.

All too soon it was time to fly back to Massachusetts and my final week. The seven weeks had passed very quickly and before I knew it I was attending the



Murray with his fellow students

end of course dinner, receiving my certificate and saying goodbye to some good friends.

The course is extremely highly regarded and provides a mountain of knowledge for the future. I feel honoured to have been a part of it.

I left Hartford on Sunday 23rd February, heading for my next destination - Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis. What an amazing experience it was to meet Barry Beckett and his team for a morning tour around the facility. I experienced some of the rigorous Health and Safety testing mechanisms that the Toro company put their machines through and also saw a strange use for Tennis balls! The design facilities were fantastic, using computer technology to ease problems before parts and machines are manufactured.

After lunch it was off to the parts manufacturing facility at Shakopee where I was given another great tour by operations Supervisor Dick Stonewill and shown how all the parts are made. Great investment has been made into new technology to make the plant more efficient.

The time passed very quickly and after a great meal in Minneapolis it was back to the hotel to prepare for my next day's visit to the Toro main manufacturing plant in Tomah Wisconsin.

It took three hours to reach Tomah, which gave me some time to take in the great countryside. On arrival I was introduced to Dave Betthausser, Head of Manufacturing, who took time out of his busy schedule to show me around.

Again, the professionalism of the people and the machinery showed through, with every effort being made at all times to forward the product, the manufacturing process and to build quality.

I found the paint department very fascinating with the bare parts going in through several different processes of dipping in various solutions, emerging at the end of the process dry to the touch and with every single area covered.

After lunch it was on to the assembly line where I had a chance to see some of the construction of machines we all use on a daily basis, from the frame to the last wheel nut being put on and the machine started. I was also privileged to view the Super Workman, a project the employees had undertaken for a special event. With custom paintwork, recaro seats and a mean exhaust it was more suited to Santa Pod than a Golf Course. At the end of another great day it was off to the Brits pub in Minneapolis with Barry Becket for my last evening.

The next day I travelled to Riverside California to visit the Toro irrigation facility. My first thought on landing was how lovely it was to experience some

warm weather. I would be staying in the Mission Inn, which was a beautiful old Spanish-type building set in the centre of Riverside. On arrival in my room I received a note asking me to contact Kenne James. Kenne would be explaining the in's and out's of irrigation for the next couple of days.

After a pleasant relaxing evening and a good night's sleep, 'the maddest taxi driver in the world' was soon driving me back to the Toro irrigation facility.

Not only was he driving at a speed to rival Michael Schumacher, he was turning round at the same time to tell me jokes! I was very pleased to arrive at the facility in one piece. Kenne greeted me with a cup of coffee, which I gratefully accepted to calm my nerves after my interesting journey. Kenne showed me around the facility, explaining the general set-up and showing me some of the testing that is done for new development. I was then introduced to Jeff, a new employee of Toro, who would be working in Kenne's department. We then spent several hours discussing various topics regarding sprinkler placement set up and any other irrigation questions.

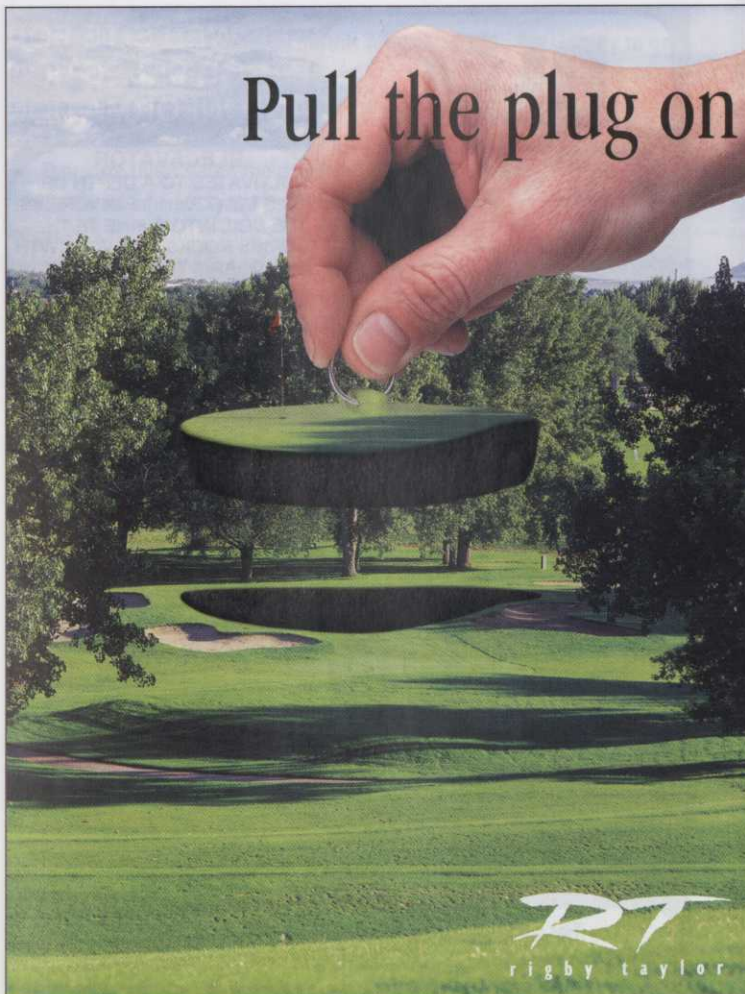
With his vast knowledge of the business Kenne was able to answer all our questions.

The next day was spent visiting Oak Valley Golf and Country Club. This was the first time I had set foot on a Golf Course for two months, the longest period away from a course since I began work at the age of 16. I found this a strange experience, having just spent the last seven weeks surrounded by three feet of snow and studying everything to do with golf courses.

The Course Superintendent took time out of his busy day to show me around his great Golf Course and explain all aspects of its construction and development. I was looking forward to seeing some of the warm season grasses and was surprised to see poa annua greens that had previously been sown to bent but had converted over to meadowgrass. Sounds like a familiar story to me, even in the States. Then it was on to the PGA course Southern California, a new development, with its clubhouse overlooking the course. This course was well set out and catered for its clients with great practice facilities and more golf buggies than I have ever seen.

I finished my trip by spending a great afternoon taking in some of the sights I would like to thank the Toro Company for their excellent hospitality and continued support of the Greenkeeping Industry.

I would also like to thank everyone at BIGGA and the staff and members at Coombe Hill Golf Club for their hard work and support while I was away.



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# If I had a Hammer...

Autumn is probably a time of the year when course construction work climbs the list of priorities. It's that point when often a review is made of the present facilities and what work is necessary or can be done to improve them. No doubt for large reconstruction projects, such as drainage, landscaping or the rebuilding of a green, will be undertaken by outside contractors. It is those smaller ones that greenkeeping staff are more likely to undertake themselves and to aid them in carrying out this work and make it as easy as possible; manufacturers have come up with the answers.

Moving earth involves digging holes, making heaps or cultivating and levelling. A visit to a plant show demonstrates how much equipment there is out there to accommodate virtually any situation. If you want to, you could "move mountains".



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## Roland Taylor looks at the tools of the trade and the options there for you when you come to undertake construction work.

### BACKHOES & LOADERS

For the average golf course the most useful piece of kit, for moving soil, is going to be a backhoe and front loader. These come in a variety of shapes and sizes, some tractor companies providing purpose built systems for their own units. There are also a number of specialist manufacturers of these particular attachments.

Another alternative is one of the small, complete self powered, machines which are on the market.

Whatever the choice there is usually a wide range of digging buckets available, including narrow trenching ones and those designed for cleaning ditches or riverbanks.

### SKIDSTERS

The skidster is basically a self propelled, pedestrian operated unit, which has either a petrol or diesel engine that drives a hydraulic system. A wide range of attachments can be quickly fitted to, or removed from, this power source. A list of attachments shows the versatility of a skidster. These include: various bucket widths, multi-levellers, rotary brushes, hydraulically operated dozer blades, tine rippers, pallet forks, concrete breakers, post-hole borers and trenchers.

One of the main advantages of this type of machine is its ability to get into, and work in very confined areas.

### CULTIVATION

There are times when the ground will need cultivating and unlike the 1960s there are a lot fewer pedestrian tillers now available. The choice is either one with a front rotary bladed assembly or one at the rear behind two drive wheels. While either of these will do the job, a word of warning is needed. The rotary cultivator, if used consistently on a site, can form a pan below the surface at its maximum working depth, which could result in drainage problems in the future.



Blec Laser Grader

### STONE BURIERS

For large areas there are tractor mounted stone burying and soil renovators. These come in various working widths. A heavy-duty blade

assembly is contra rotated into the ground where it throws soil, rocks and other debris up into a sorting screen, which then directs the stone and rubbish into the bottom of the trench created by the rotor. The finer soil passes through the screen onto the top where it is levelled off. The site is also rolled to firm up the surface ready for sowing or turf laying tractors of between 80hp and 150hp, depending on the size of the machine, required. One company offers a pedestrian version of this machine; it has a 60cm working width.

Where it is necessary to remove stones, before seeding or turfing, the motorised stone rakes make fast work of this operation. These units consist of a series of steel tines that are set at an angle, so the unwanted material is gathered in windrows off the site. There are levelling and grader attachments for finally getting the site ready. They can be found as attachments to fit, two wheel and compact tractors and skidsters.



A working AFT45

### MAKING HOLES AND TRENCHES

Regardless of the distance, width, depth or diameter there is now equipment available to make the removal of the soil as easy as possible and fast.

For digging trenches there are both pedestrian operated and tractor mounted versions. A look at a trench such as the AFT45 gives a general idea of the capabilities of this type of machine. This particular trencher fits on a compact tractor of between 20hp and 45hp that has a creeper speed or hydrostatic transmission. Using digging chains the unit is capable of producing trenches from 12.5cm to 20cm wide and 1.2metres deep. Special laser grading linkage with solenoid depth control is an option. This is used in conjunction with lasers to achieve precision drainage grading.

By fitting a large diameter soil slitting wheel the machine then produces very narrow trenches measuring from 4cm to 10cm wide and 45cm deep. The removed soil is guided onto a hydraulically driven system to an elevated conveyor. This illustrates the abilities of one machine; there are a number of others on the market, including much larger models, which use similar principles for digging soil out.



JCB Micro Auger

#### EARTH AUGERS

Renewing fencing or planting trees then an earth auger is the tool. Again there are a plenty of choices from one or two men operated ones, to larger tractor driven units, or as attachments for another piece of machinery. They usually have a selection of different diameters and depths. Some companies offer ones especially designed for tree planting, but the standard ones are also okay, as long as you make sure the bottom of the hole is broken up, to allow the roots to penetrate.

## If I had a Hammer...

#### DITCHES AND RIVERBANKS

Although it does not come completely in the category of construction, the banks of ditches and streams may need some attention before the winter downpours. Brushcutters or clearing saws are ideal for removing vegetation and saplings, especially where access is restricted. On more open areas a flail unit, on an extended arm, will handle most conditions provided the bank is stable enough to take the weight of the tractor and attachment. If silting up has occurred in a ditch or stream, then a tractor with backhoe and ditching bucket is the answer.

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### TREE WORK

This is also a good time of the year to carry out tree work. If there is anything extensive required, it may be necessary to use a qualified tree surgeon or arboriculturist.

For lighter pruning jobs, removal of dead branches or unwanted overhangs a pole pruner fits the bill. The benefit of this type of machine is that it requires only one operator because their feet remain firmly on the ground. Where ladders are involved, for safety, two or more people are required. Pole pruners are usually extendable up to about 2.8metres.

Some companies offer them as part of a package that also includes a power unit plus interchangeable extended hedgetrimmer, power broom and brushcutter.

### COMPOSTING AND SHREDDERS

Autumn is an ideal time to consider constructing a composting area, especially on courses which have large amounts of leaves to deal with. As part of this type of system, a commercial shredder will be required to ensure that decomposing is accelerated. In these machines the collected material passes through a drum which has a series of hammers or flails. These not only chop the debris up, they also open the fibres to allow the essential organisms access to carry out the work.

Most shredders have a facility for dealing with small branches and light brushwood, converting them into chips for use on walk ways through wooded areas. If plenty of woody material is used some grass cuttings can

also be added. The compost produced is ideal as a mulch and soil conditioner for the shrubberies or ornamental flowerbeds or areas round a clubhouse or hotel complex. When deciding on the size of shredder to purchase the likely amount of organic matter that will be processed over a 12 month period is an important factor to take into consideration.

### TIPPING

There is a good chance that large amounts of materials, such as bunker sand will need to be move around the course. Tipping this can be a lot easier with a three-way tipping trailer. These allow you to pull up to the side of a bunker and unload the sand, hydraulically, off the side rather than out the back, it can help to cut spreading time.

### BUY OR HIRE

In an ideal situation it would be an advantage to have many of the machines mentioned in ones fleet, but in some cases it would be difficult in justifying the expenditure for items which are generally not going to be used on a regular basis. In this situation then hiring is the answer and there are plenty of companies nationwide who specialise in the hire of plant machinery and ground care equipment.

Whatever the construction, refurbishing or renewal scheduled programme is this autumn, the key to make life as easy as possible is to having the right machines to carry out the work. There is no shortage of them out there.

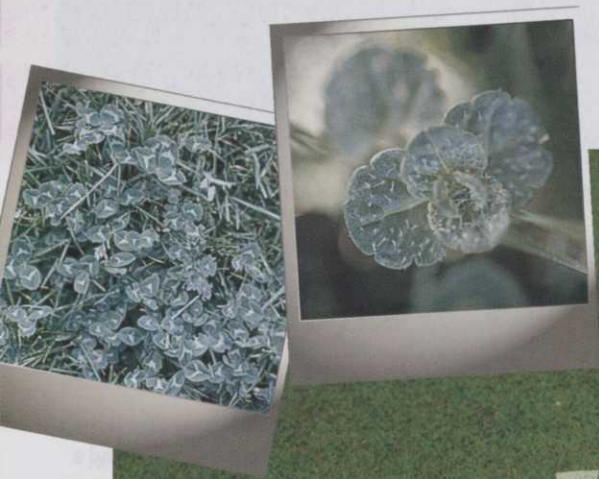


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