



## 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)

### Well Done

Once again another excellent year for the Greenkeepers Support Team, with the additional duties of raking all of the 106 bunkers prior to the start of play, as well as the Greenkeeper going with every match. The team was exemplary in the conduct and manner in which we performed our duties. It was good to see our professionalism in the way that we handled every situation, at times assisting with the scoring staff and making sure that the young adults took drinks at regular intervals, due to the high temperatures.

It was ever more pleasing as all the Greenkeepers turned up well in advance of their allotted time for their game, this is why we are so professional in the way we conducted our duties.

I also feel that we are getting the message across that we are professional Greenkeepers and not just rake men or bunker rakers as we have been referred to in the past.

I would also like to thank all the members of the team who gave up their time to attend and a great thanks to Bert (Cross) and Peter (Boyd) who were in the greenkeepers cabin and the staff in the marquee; John (Pemberton), Scott (MacCallum), Tony (Cocker) and Brad (Anderson). A special thanks must go to the drivers; Mike (Gash), Richard (Saunders) Alan (Halfyear) and Robert (Hogarth). Once again, thank you for making my job so easy. I would also like to thank Derek (Farrington) for allowing me a break on the 1st tee.

Of all the four days, I only ever managed to see Tiger Woods tee off once, that was because all the marshals and media people somehow always managed to get in front of me, but I did see him hit his second ball on the first day, with only about three people in front of me. This is my claim to fame!

Ian Holoran  
Middlesbrough Municipal GC

### Message of Thanks

I just wanted to write and thank greenkeepers, staff and colleagues for the overwhelming support and encouragement Elaine and I have received during my current illness. If I ever needed evidence that greenkeeping is indeed a truly international profession and community then I now have it in abundance.

BIGGA is blessed with a conscientious and committed staff and I urge all members to give them as much support as possible during what is a difficult period for them at BIGGA HOUSE. You as members have a fine association which continues to advance on many fronts. BIGGA is a great source of pride and joy to me particularly at a time when I can reflect on its progress since 1987. Many thanks to you all once again.

Neil Thomas  
Executive Director, BIGGA

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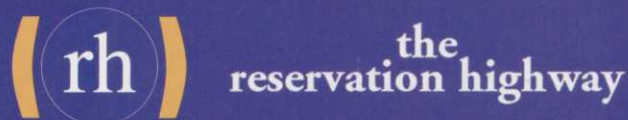
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# PROBLEMS OLD AND PROBLEMS NEW

Kate Entwistle casts her eye over the diseases which are currently affecting golf courses.

Damage to the turf that is caused directly by invertebrate or fungal pests, will noticeably affect either the colour or the growth habit of the plants in the sward and in some cases, both. Regardless of the cause, the specific way in which the sward is affected will depend on the interaction of several factors, including the type of grass in the sward, the invertebrate pest or fungus that is causing the damage, the way in which the sward is maintained (e.g. nutrient levels in the plant, height of cut) and the prevailing weather conditions.

Recognising the possible causes for a given symptom is a crucial first step in identifying any turf problem. For example, if the sward is showing patches of red/brown discoloured plants, it could be that individual lesions from a leaf spot disease are coalescing along the leaf blade and affecting the general appearance of the sward in discrete patches or alternatively, it could be that the plants are showing a general overall leaf discoloration due to nutrient or temperature stress. If lesions are present on the leaf, it is possible that a certain *Drechslera* species of fungus is the cause of the symptom. These symptoms, however, would rule out a disease such as take-all patch that does cause quite obvious leaf red/brown discoloration but will not cause lesions to develop on the lamina.

It must always be borne in mind that finding a fungus on a plant or finding an invertebrate in the rootzone does not necessarily mean that either are causing detriment to the turf. Many fungi can be identified on perfectly healthy swards and in a healthy rootzone, the number of microorganisms will be incalculable. Their relative population levels will fluctuate during the year with both the environmental conditions and the vigour of the sward. Thus, identifying the cause of a specific problem means completing both an investigation in to the development of the symptoms and an analysis to identify the presence of the causal organism. If certain invertebrate or fungal problems have been identified on your course in the past, it is likely that they will reoccur and that you will be able to recognise them as such because their symptoms will be similar to those of the initial outbreak. Difficulties arise when either the initial outbreak was not identified correctly or when problems with similar symptoms but very different causes occur on the same area of turf.

## A 42% CHANCE OF DISEASE.

Almost all the samples that I analyse are sent to me requesting an identification of the fungal disease that is causing damage to the sward. However, over the past seven months, only 42% of the samples that I have analysed in the laboratory had damage that was actually caused directly by a fungus. Twenty three percent of samples had symptoms caused by invertebrates (either frit fly or nematodes) and 35% had symptoms caused by environmental factors/rootzone conditions (physiological effects) and were in no way caused by an invertebrate or a fungal pest. It may come as a surprise to you that well over half of all samples analysed for turfgrass disease have no fungal disease problem. This clearly highlights the difficulty in making a correct diagnosis based purely on the symptoms of the sward – however convincing the symptoms may be.

With regard to fungal diseases, the fungus responsible will only cause noticeable damage if a suitable host (turfgrass sward) is present and environmental conditions prevail that allow the fungus to start infection. The

severity of the damage is in part dependent on the length of time that the favourable environmental conditions prevail. Many diseases occur at non-damaging levels for much of the time and it is only when conditions allow the fungus to reach its maximum potential with regard to causing damage, that disease development 'explodes'. Disease is inevitable and invertebrate pests can be a reoccurring nightmare. If we know what is present and when these potential problems are likely to cause damage, we can work towards limiting the severity of the problem on the most important parts of the course.

But what of those symptoms that were mistakenly thought to have been disease? Why were they confused with a fungal infection?

## WHEN IS A DISEASE NOT A DISEASE?

I have received numerous turf samples this year where the bentgrass in a mixed bent/fescue/annual meadowgrass sward had become discoloured and died out and where eventually, extensive bare areas had developed (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Bentgrass/fescue/annual meadowgrass sward showing symptoms of damage

In most cases, annual meadowgrass had tended to grow over the affected and thinned swards leaving them with an uneven and patchy appearance. In all cases, previous fungicide applications had shown no improvement in the overall condition of the sward. Analysis of all these samples showed the same result – in the areas where the symptoms were continuing to develop, there was no primary fungal disease causing the problem. This was a surprise to many of the turf mangers and agronomists who had sent the samples in, since the initial discoloration of the bentgrass in the sward, it's eventual death and the re-colonisation of the affected 'patches' of turf with annual meadowgrass, suggested take-all patch disease (though I'm not sure which fungicides had been applied during the early part of the year to manage that!). In fact, all of the samples were heavily infected with frit flies and their pupae were removed in great numbers from the dying bentgrass plants (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Frit fly infested bentgrass plant

These were not the only instances of invertebrates causing symptoms on the turf that resembled fungal disease. In previous articles I have written at length about the root knot nematode (*Meloidogyne* sp.) that I found to be causing yellow patches annually, between May and November, on creeping bentgrass greens across the UK and Ireland (Greenkeeper International, February & March, 2003). I was initially asked to help identify the cause of these yellow patches by Mark Hunt (Headland Amenity) at the end of 2000 and since then, I have received numerous turf samples in which this nematode is causing these quite dramatic symptoms. Since its initial identification as the cause of the problem, this nematode has been confirmed as a new species of root knot nematode, not previously known or described. It has now been named as *Meloidogyne minor* n. sp. (new species) and its complete and formal description will hopefully be published later this year in a nematology journal. It is important that this nematode has been identified and recognised as the cause of this problem since it has long been suggested that nematodes don't cause major turf problems on cool season grasses. Although we are now certain that nematodes can cause detrimental effects on all turfgrasses, we still have a lot to learn about these specific invertebrates and what makes them infect turf. This poses great problems for us with regard to management of both the *Meloidogyne minor* n. sp. and the many other types of nematode that damage turf.

#### PROBLEMS NEW...

Accurate identification of the cause of a problem is a huge step towards its long-term management and, when unusual or uncommon problems come in to the laboratory, there is a sense of excitement just before the realisation kicks in that 'now we know the cause of the damage, we have to find a way to manage it'. During July, I received two separate turf samples which both



Figure 3: Annual meadowgrass (x40) heavily covered with spores of the fungus *Bipolaris* sp.



Figure 4: Germinating *Bipolaris* sp. spore (magnified 400x)

proved to be very interesting (yours and my definitions of the word 'interesting' may differ slightly here!) with regard to the cause of the damage to the sward. The first sample, received from Ireland, was a hole-cutter piece of a putting green that had a predominantly annual meadowgrass sward. The individual plants in the affected area appeared dark brown, almost black and watersoaked with occasional evidence of lesions or spots on the leaves. The problem had developed as one or two, 12-15 cm diameter patches which over the course of a few weeks had spread to total around 10 patches. There was an apparent increase in the severity and extent of these patches when the weather became hot and dry. During this time, the greens were irrigated to help relieve moisture stress. Although this problem started on only one green, since the initial patch had been noticed four weeks prior to the sample being taken, the patches were starting to show on other greens. The overwhelming presence of fungal spores on the sample, combined with the description of the disease development and weather conditions confirmed that the disease was being caused by a *Bipolaris* species of fungus. Figures 3 and 4 show the profusion of fungal spores present on an affected annual meadowgrass plant and a close-up of a fungal spore that is germinating at both ends. In addition, a fungal spore was inoculated on to artificial culture medium to show its mycelial growth and allow complete identification of the fungus (figure 5).

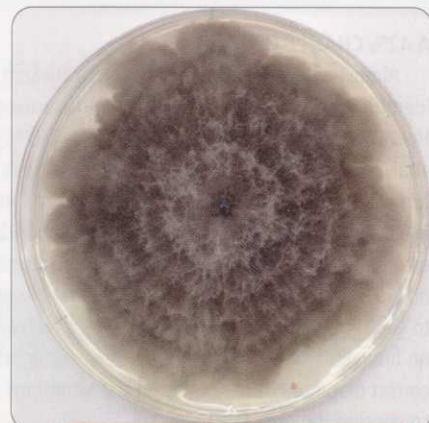


Figure 5: Mycelium of the *Bipolaris* sp., isolated and growing on artificial culture medium

The second uncommon turf problem came in during mid July. The information that was sent with the turf sample described the problem as looking like fusarium patch but not having the same characteristics that are normally associated with that disease. The green had been maintained under a 'lean fertiliser programme' and maintained so as to produce a consistently fast surface. The other notable comment regarding the disease was that it 'has spread rapidly across the whole green'. To me, the symptoms were alarming: watersoaked plants developing in small (2 cm diameter) spots that were coalescing and rapidly spreading across a 'lean' and very stressed annual meadowgrass sward, without any evidence of aerial mycelium (figure 6).

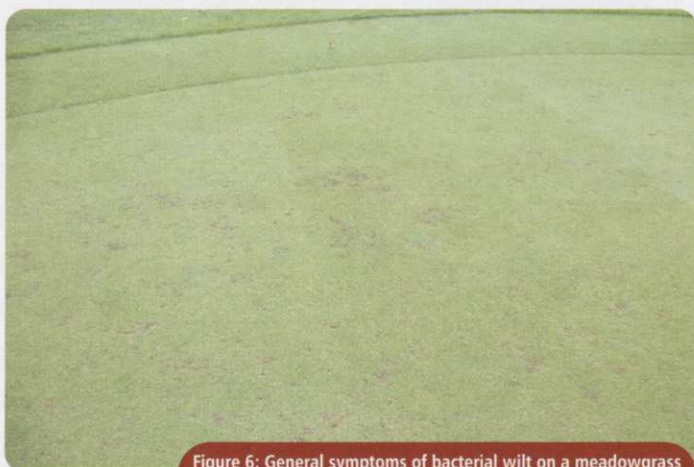


Figure 6: General symptoms of bacterial wilt on a meadowgrass sward (courtesy of Mark Hunt, Headland Amenity)

Analysis of the turf sample identified the problem as bacterial wilt. The evidence of the infection was extremely conclusive and the bacteria could be seen streaming (or pouring) out of the xylem vessels of affected plants (figure 7). A close-up analysis of some of the infected plants also showed the characteristic leaf discoloration and deformity as recorded for bacterial wilt in annual meadowgrass.

Although these two disease problems are well documented, they are certainly not commonly seen in our climate. Our knowledge of current invertebrate pests and diseases is based purely on evidence gathered from analyses completed, but it is possible that these fungi and bacteria are more common and more widespread than we imagine. There is no way of really knowing a problem exists until it is recorded during an analysis but when unusual problems are 'found', I believe that they should be reported so that we can all learn more about the potential problems that can affect our turf.

Dr Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre, Waverley Cottage,  
Sherfield Road, Bramley, Hampshire RG26 5AG. UK Tel: 01256 880246

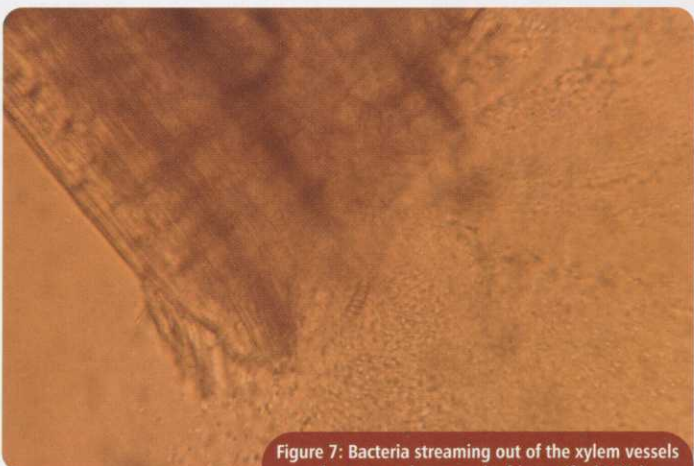


Figure 7: Bacteria streaming out of the xylem vessels of a cut meadowgrass leaf (magnified 400x)



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### Where are the Letters?

To follow up Chris Haspell who so eloquently wrote in the magazine (March issue) about "Fescue", I sit here wondering if he and I are mad as there seems to have been a dearth of letters in backing up his thoughts. I hope this helps start a trend.

Chris expressed opinions on how many speakers at conferences are out of touch with the world we live in. I have to say I can only back this up. The speakers are without doubt extremely well educated and experienced and can rarely be faulted with their knowledge over subject matter, but, this does often seem to be a little bit out of this world. We know it isn't, but they rarely talk about the world I know about.

Chris talked about greens he had managed and over a seven year period changed them over from 100% poa to dominant bent and fescue. I have seen these greens after five years of good management practices and can say he is a little modest with his time scale. I can also back up his claims regarding the pay and play course in Copenhagen.

This is all very well but many courses do not have such a good starting point and conditions to advance this management with the same success. I am a great advocate of cultural techniques and the management of golf courses without over use of chemicals, fertilisers or water. I know it can be done as I worked at Elmwood golf course for nearly four years as Deputy Course Manager and Head Greenkeeper and never came close to resorting to fungicides. The greens there had some areas sprayed using a knapsack sprayer, once, during grow-in and to this day, I am sure will not have had any other fungicides used.

Elmwood had the benefit of well-constructed Suspended water table greens and has good air movement and was seeded with good cultivars of bent and fescue. This is all a great help. You still get disease starting but with other good management practices and careful use of irrigation and fertiliser, the disease is kept under control.

Like Chris I also have been working in Denmark, three years now, but in a different part of the country. My Danish friends inform me that the east side of Denmark where Chris works has a drier climate than the area that I have been working in. This is backed up by an article Ian Tomlinson, who works in the Copenhagen area (east side), wrote around a year ago referring to an extremely dry winter in Denmark. Where I worked during the same winter we had a September, October and November with the highest records of rain for those months ever recorded with the September rainfall being the wettest month ever in this area ie. 210mm. Then last summer this was surpassed by July with 220mm of rain. I live and work in an area with an average, supposedly, of 750mm/year. "Isn't weather unpredictable?"

Like I say I still try, we have to! as we are not allowed chemicals. I have been trying to improve the health and vigour of my grass and soil over the last two and a half years by dramatically dropping fertiliser and water levels together with a lot of aeration work, removal of thatch and replacement of poor root-zone with high performing topdressings. Last year I overseeded four times and had great success during the summer but found that it is difficult to sustain the better grasses, not surprising but over time this, I am sure, will change if my successor continues with the programme.

Drier summers where irrigation is controlled gradually to put more stress on the poa and move towards more preferable conditions for fescue/bent I feel will eventually turn the tide. I have installed a new irrigation system that allows me to sequentially water my greens heavily in one night and let them dry out a little for a day or two. Having said this and being positive is not necessarily the way to go, though. This process may take many years and requires other major works, cutting trees, and spending many hours keeping green surfaces dry with

switching/brushing, to mention only a couple of things. Is it worth it? The answer is emphatically, your decision! If it is yes what will your golfers say? Constant disruption to the putting surface, stressed poa sending up seed heads more vigorously, more healthy grass and firmer greens, that's for sure.

I have heard greenkeepers saying, "The only thing you can do if there is a chemical ban is dig up your greens and start again". I do not agree with this but it is true for many who are in a similar position as I have been.

Some can go down the route of gradually changing their grass sward, like Chris, and this has to be commended. Providing the conditions allow you to do this! Some will have to go the whole hog and rebuild and reseed, then manage greens effectively to keep poa stressed and in check.

It follows from this that fescue/bent is the way to go. If you go down the route of creeping bent, poa will come in a few short years if you are in a cold damp climate. Not a big deal if you have finances to strip off and reseed your greens every five years and manage your greens intensively. I do not have a problem with courses having creeping bent greens with high inputs of water and fertiliser and I am not even too stressed out by the use of chemicals on these greens. They do however cost more money to manage and with chemical bans you might be pushing your luck. However if the money is there, fine!

Jim Arthur criticised St Andrews Bay for not being traditional and others fear golf courses becoming "Americanised" I also fear this but I also feel that there is a place for all types of golf courses which require differing management techniques, so long as they can survive with more and more restrictions being put on them.

I was lucky enough to travel to Atlanta in February with Bernhard's and BIGGA and had a number of conversations with Superintendents from all over the US. The recurring theme was minimal interference with the playing surface, high inputs 10 times my budget for private courses and five times my budget even on pay-and-play, high staff levels of cheap labour, 18 to 30 for 18 holes and greens being torn up every four-six years. I also noted during a forum the Bernhard's group had with a delegation of Atlanta Superintendents that they were surprised at our experiences and techniques and how was it possible to maintain golf courses with so little money? I think we and our Association should be much more proactive to inform US superintendents about what we do and try to influence their management practices rather than lying down and expecting things in our continent to go the same way as the US. One note of comfort was that they also have the Augusta factor driving them mad with member's expectations.

My scribbles come to the bare facts that, we must maintain our courses in a more prudent and friendly manner with low inputs or be prepared for high costs and potential crippling disease. I am of course saying nothing new but this message has got to be put over to the golfer, your members! Our Association should be leading the way with this.

Chris asked those who agree with him to stand up and be counted, "I am" with a couple of "buts". He also talked about those older greenkeepers who have valuable knowledge with regard to bent/fescue maintenance; we have to get this knowledge transfer, as we all have much we can learn. I suggest you go back to the March issue of Greenkeeper International and read Chris's article again.

I would, very much, welcome responses to this article. especially from those greenkeepers with the knowledge to get the best from fescue/bent with cultural practices. Email [Colin@topgrass.co.uk](mailto:Colin@topgrass.co.uk)

Colin Mackay

Top-Grass Ltd, Turf Advisory Services

# Managing a Golf Course

## Duncan McGilvray concludes his five part series detailing duties of the modern day Course Manager Communication

To communicate effectively at every level will ensure you succeed in all aspects of golf course management. A bold statement, but one I believe, as in all my discussions with colleagues with perceived serious professional problems, the reason for those problems can be attributed to poor communication, whether at basic level - ensuring staff know what to do and when to do it, to the highest level - ensuring officials and members of the club, who ultimately decide whether to allow us to manage their golf course, understand what we are trying to achieve.

In the preceding four articles I stated how extremely important each area of management is - this area should be regarded as the link between all the other areas and therefore by far the most important.

Some employers may omit to state communication skills in advertisements for Course Managers but we, as Course Managers, should accept its importance and work extremely hard to get it right or "others", who do not have the skills to do the job but can communicate well, will oversee our profession.

The most observant of my colleagues may remember similarities in each of my previous articles to those of seven years ago, but this last article is vastly different for two main reasons.

1. Rapid technological advances.
2. The increasing importance of personal presentation in the job we do.

I will therefore list briefly the areas of communication required and concentrate on these two areas in more detail during the course of this final article.

### AREAS OF COMMUNICATION

It is safe to say that golf clubs have many different sections within the total membership where communication between sections is not good - club officials and well meaning members will endeavour to improve this because it is good for the club as a whole (ladies v gents/mixed matches, juniors v seniors, high v low handicaps, artisans v directors etc.) but we mostly play and therefore communicate within our own individual sections - probably because we feel more comfortable within our own perceived abilities and kind.

This of course makes our task much more difficult because to effectively communicate we must aim to get to all sections of the club no matter how small - even the 3/4 ball who start out extremely early in the morning and never go into the clubhouse, or the small percentage of committee members who may get voted on to committees, but seldom attend meetings.

The Course Manager must therefore cover all the following areas of communication to ensure accurate information on course matters is available to all members of the club.

### OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

- Attending committee meetings.
- Publishing and distributing the club's agreed Golf Course Policy Document.
- Attending management meetings with the Club Manager and other department heads.
- Club Manager and Course Manager regular dialogue - formal/informal.

### DIRECT WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

- Monthly course reports.
- Major project proposals.
- Renovation work proposals.
- Internal magazine/newsheet articles.
- Distribution of important up-to-the-minute information on course activities.

### DIRECT GENERAL INFORMATION

- Presentation to members in large/small groups, sections, the morning medal players etc., in both formal and informal ways.

- Question and answer sessions - the course manager learns a great deal from these types of gatherings - not easy but again necessary!

### GENERAL COMMUNICATION

- Golf course notice board - your own (not shared) in a prominent place in the clubhouse.
- CDs, Videos both professional and home made on relevant issues.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS/SEMI-SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

- Staff match/es with sections of the club.
- Workshop visit - cheese and wine and machinery costs/staff importance.
- Course Manager lunch in clubhouse with members periodically and golf with certain members who require more involved information on course matters.
- Play in the occasional medal - but you cannot win it!
- Be on the course when that early 3/4 ball plays and give general information on what is done on their behalf.
- Call in to the clubhouse at the weekend occasionally just as the members are coming off the course - I didn't say it was easy!

I do not believe it is the job of a club official to write articles on subjects regarding golf course management/work programme up-dates/course information etc, or stand as a barrier between the Course Manager and the membership.

In golf clubs where this happens - with all good intentions I hasten to add - the Course Manager becomes isolated from the membership and therefore communication lines are no where near as good as they should be.

It has been explained to me in some cases that officials do this to "protect" or "cushion" the Course Manager from difficult situations and criticisms - this is not good policy - something will give eventually - the Course Manager must be aware of the membership's concerns and answer those concerns by communicating effectively.

The Course Manager is the expert in golf course matters and should be trained to communicate and deal with difficult situations.

### TECHNOLOGY

As previously stated this area has improved so much over recent years that we now have an incredibly useful tool in which to communicate quickly and effectively with officials as well as the general membership.

- The course notice board can be updated frequently with up to the minute digital photos of areas on the course to back up your short text information.
- You can e-mail the membership before they arrive at the club on relevant issues/information - particularly helpful in April when Augusta is on television and golfers' expectations are high but temperatures are low!
- Digital photos can be e-mailed, used in the newsheet, on the website etc.
- Presentations to committees and the membership are made much easier to explain using computerised presentation packages at a fraction of the cost of old style slides.
- International as well as national websites can be visited where information can be found and used to back up your own reasoning and observations.



## PERSONAL PRESENTATION

As I stated at the very beginning of this final article this area of management is vital to carrying out the job successfully and is not for giving presentations to conferences - that would be a bonus.

Successful personal presentation I am now convinced is what makes the difference between success and failure - being in control of the course and your own destiny.

The Course Manager must present himself/herself appropriately and manage situations in all the following areas

- One to one staff appraisals/assessments/setting goals/monitoring progress.
- Staff group discussions and "brain storming" sessions.
- Sub-committee meetings/presentations.
- Board meetings/presentations.
- Members meetings/presentations.
- Question and answer sessions.
- Attending official/semi-social functions - lunches. Lady Captain's/Captain's day etc.

At a recent meeting of some of our top Course Managers in the profession the question was asked, "What one skill do we believe is essential in succeeding as Course Managers?" The resounding, unanimous reply was, "The ability to present oneself appropriately, confidently and succinctly to the powers within our golf clubs." Thus ensuring the course gets the required resources for continuous improvement.

So forget about this type of training being for those of us who choose to stand up at conferences - this skill will ensure you are successful in getting over your point of view and therefore allow you to manage the golf course effectively.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

This is a vast area and a sometimes rather frightening one and I cannot possibly cover all the requirements/legislation in the space available.

The best advice I can give is not to be fearful of the prospect of "getting your house in order" - if we are fearful we delay, and matters just get more frightening.

The HSE do not want to prosecute anyone following a dangerous incident - they want to reduce the risk of that happening in the first place.

If you do not have a Health and Safety Policy Document in place do so as soon as possible - once you get started it is not nearly as difficult as it seems.

This document is often bought "off the shelf" and then put on the club's shelf seldom to be seen again - until something nasty happens and the club find that the document is not adequate for the purpose - it is then too late!

You can produce this document yourself within the club with the help of HSE guidelines but some may find this too daunting - if you want a safety company to help make sure of the following criteria:-

- Ensure it is a specialised company dealing with golf and golf courses.
- Ask for references of previous clients and follow them up.
- The company must work with you to develop the document not do it for you.
- The company must involve not only the Club Manager and Course Manager but all the department heads, staff, and club officials in the formulation of the document.
- The company should explain right at the start that the document is "live" and that the department heads must be capable of up dating the document regularly.

## IN CONCLUSION

Over the past few years I have been fortunate to be in places where I have had the opportunity to speak to some fairly high ranking officials within private members' golf clubs - the clear message I get is that they want their Course Managers to manage, which is exactly what I and my like minded colleagues would like to see.

Some of my colleagues are however reluctant to take on the responsibility, particularly in the areas of budget, communication and personal presentation.

I therefore take this opportunity in stating that if this attitude continues I am convinced the profession of Golf Course Management will not survive and what remains will be controlled by "others" with little or no knowledge of the work involved, but are able to communicate and present well.

This will in turn seriously affect the general condition of our golf courses in future (if it has not done so already).

I therefore make an impassioned plea to all Course Managers and aspirant Course Managers to seek out personal presentation and communication training - you will not regret it - we will then go from strength to strength, and ultimately gain the recognition that our profession deserves.

The decision rests with us.

# We test where others guess



## Don't gamble with your top dressing

Is your top dressing compatible with your rootzone? We can take the guesswork out of choosing the right top dressing by taking core samples from your existing profile and analysing them at our laboratory. Using our custom designed software we can then identify the most suitable top dressing for your green.

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# NEW PRODUCTS

## SPRAY AWAY

The first new spray nozzle from Hypro - known as Lurmark prior to 1 June 2003 - was launched recently.

Sporting the Hypro logo, the new nozzle is the latest addition to a seven-strong range of specialist long-throw nozzles which are designed for applications where a conventional boom sprayer cannot be used easily, or at all, due to natural or man-made obstacles.

Known as the XT 010, the nozzle throws an even fan spray over a distance of 3.66m at a pressure of 3 bar (44psi). At this pressure, the nozzle delivers 3.9 litres/min, making it particularly suitable for mounting singly or in pairs, back-to-back, at the rear of an ATV, quad bike or specialist adapted 4x4 vehicle.

The XT nozzle's stepped-slot design creates medium to large droplets ensuring minimal risk of drift across a pressure range from 2 to 5 bar (29 - 72psi) and at flow rates from 3.3 to 5.1 litres/min. For optimum pattern formation and swath width, the nozzle should be mounted 1.22m (48in) above ground level with the spray delivery orifice positioned horizontally. To better target the spray, the nozzle can be angled up or down, but this will affect swath width and spray pattern.

Recommended retail price of the new Hypro XT 010 long-throw nozzle is £99.99.

For further information Tel: 01954 260097



## FAST WORKER

Accelerated Compost's 'Rocket' Range of Compost Machines have been specially designed and developed in the UK for domestic and small scale industrial use. The Rocket can take food, paper and garden waste and turn it into compost within 14 days.

The Rocket is fully automatic, portable, labour saving and a continuous process machine. In brief, waste is fed into the hopper where the machine then controls the: moisture content, temperature and aerates the mass. The four stages of biological degradation then take place - the end result being - a proven high quality compost that you have made yourself! Temperatures over 60°C can be reached and held to ensure pathogen, slug eggs and weed seed destruction, and enable compliance with the current DEFRA regulations for composting food waste containing meat.

Visit [www.quickcompost.co.uk](http://www.quickcompost.co.uk) for further details or contact us on 0870 240 7313.



## A TECHNOLOGICAL TRIUMPH

A tool that can make integrated turf management actually work in practice. Everyone talks about ITM, most know the theory, but making it happen is another matter. Now Scotts are launching the answer - Scotts iTurf system.

iTurf is a technological triumph; a system that will measure everything that can potentially have an effect on turf growth and turf health, and then collate and present the information so that the turf manager can make the right cultural decisions.

One of the key features of the system is a 'disease prediction' programme that, having processed all the data, will alert greenkeepers and groundsman to the likelihood of disease infestation before it does any damage.

The Scotts iTurf comprises a series of stations and sensors, linked to a computer, that constantly monitors air and soil temperature, solar radiation, humidity, wind speed, leafwetness, soil moisture, rainfall etc right across the site. This is exactly the kind of detail that the ITM practitioner requires at his fingertips, making the iTurf an essential piece of equipment for all turf managers who are interested in managing their turf in an environmentally friendly way. And, of course, enjoying the cost savings that will accrue from this form of precision management.

The Scotts iTurf will cost £2,500 to purchase and set up.

For further information Tel: 01473 830492



## IT SUCKS!

The development of a 2.5m suction head for Turfmeh's TM5 high-tip vacuum collection was prompted primarily by demand from turf growers needing to collect and remove grass clippings from newly-mown turf. Apart from the cosmetic factor, leaving the clippings in place, especially during periods of warm, damp weather, can lead to potential disease problems and unsightly yellowing of the valuable grass beneath.

Turfmeh believes that the enhanced collection ability and higher workrate provided by the 2.5m head will appeal to groundstaff, contractors and all others needing to pick-up and remove surface debris quickly and cleanly from public and private parks, sports stadiums, race tracks and similar expansive areas.

Fully height-adjustable, the new 2.5m suction head is equipped with a full-width powered debris-loosening brush, of similar design to its narrower stablemate. The combination of agitation brush and powerful suction makes the TM5 ideal for the collection of leaves, litter, grass clippings and other light, loose, damp or dry debris from turf or hard surfaces.

For further information Tel: 01889 271503