



THE TRI-PLEX THAT RAISED THE BAR NOW PUTS IT OUT OF REACH



FINGERTIP
OPERATION

NO TRIPLEX
RING

CUTTING UNITS
PIVOT 18°

Introducing the new John Deere 2500A Tri-Plex Riding Greens Mower. When it was first introduced in 1999, our 2500 Tri-Plex defied all comparisons. With offset cutting units, a distinctive control arm and low ground pressure, the 2500 became an immediate hit with greenkeepers, technicians and operators alike.

But there is always room for improvement. With our new 2500A, we put in a new radiator system to increase cooling performance. An enhanced lift/lower assembly increases feel and response. Plus we updated the back lap valve and enhanced the wiring system.

To find out more about the tri-plex that continues to set the industry standard, contact your local John Deere groundscape dealer or call 01949 860491. Nothing Runs Like A Deere.

John Deere Ltd.,
Harby Road, Langar,
Nottingham NG13 9HT
Telephone 01949 860491
www.johndeere.co.uk



BY APPOINTMENT TO HER
MAJESTY THE QUEEN
SUPPLIERS OF AGRICULTURAL
EQUIPMENT
JOHN DEERE LIMITED,
NOTTINGHAM



JOHN DEERE

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE



A guide to who's who at BIGGA

President
Sir Michael
Bonallack, OBE

BIGGA Board of Management
Chairman - Andy Campbell, MG CGCS
Vice Chairman - Kerran Daly, MG
Past Chairman - George Brown

Board Members

Ian Semple
Paul Jenkins
David Walden
Iain Macleod
Bert Cross

Executive Director: John Pemberton
Email: john@bigga.co.uk

Deputy Executive Director
Education & Training Manager: Ken Richardson
Email: ken@bigga.co.uk

Communications Manager/Editor: Scott MacCallum
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Sales Manager: Rosie Hancher
Email: rosie@bigga.co.uk

Membership Services Officer: Rachael Palmer
Email: rachael_p@bigga.co.uk

Contact us

You can contact The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in any number of ways:

Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark,
Alne, York, YO61 1UF

Email: reception@bigga.co.uk

Internet: www.bigga.org.uk

Tel: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

Editorial

Communications Manager/Editor: Scott MacCallum
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Advertising

Sales Manager: Rosie Hancher
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
Email: rosie@bigga.co.uk

Advertising Sales Executive: Samantha Richardson
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
Email: sam@bigga.co.uk / sales@bigga.co.uk

Buyers' Guide

Sales Administrator: Amy Newport
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
Email: amy@bigga.co.uk / sales@bigga.co.uk

Design

Design and Production Editor: Marie Whyld
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
ISDN: 01347 830020
Email: marie@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings,
Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel: 01778 391000 Fax: 01778 394269

The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the May 2004 edition of Greenkeeper International is Tuesday 13 April 2004

Greenkeeper International:

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication.

Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear.

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £42 per year, Europe and Eire £55. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

© 2004 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Advertisers' Index

ADVERTISER	TELEPHONE	PAGE
ALLEN POWER	01235 515400	8
BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	01992 784260	30
BERNHARD & CO	01788 811600	56
CHARTERHOUSE	01428 661222	18
HAZTEK INTERNATIONAL	0208 9057552	22
JOHN DEERE	01949 860491	2
KAWASAKI	01628 856600	7
KEN WHITE SIGNS	01884 253795	22
LASTEC	01622 812103	18
LINKS LEISURE	01948 663002	22
RIGBY TAYLOR	01204 677777	7, 55
SCOTTS	01473 830492	40
TONICK WATERING	01269 832325	8
TORO	01480 226800	10, 26-27
TURFMASTERS	01577 863864	32

April 2004

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by 7 May 2004

REGULARS

News

Pages 4, 5 & 6

9 Education

Ken Richardson unveils some good news for the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition.

11 Membership

15 & 32 Letters

20 Continue to Learn: Putting the Record Straight

David Garland addresses some of the misnomers about the European Tour's course management policies.



36 It's Tough on Tour

Sandy McDivot relives the occasions when he came into contact with Tournament golf.

38 New Products

41-44 Around the Green

54 Features Listing

Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International's past articles.

54 As I see it ...

BIGGA National Chairman, Andy Campbell pays tribute to Neil Thomas and welcomes new Executive Director, John Pemberton.

FEATURES

12 Golf's Sweetspot

Will Bowden reports on the annual BIGGA's Bernhard Scholarship trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show in San Diego.

16 The Greenkeeper and the Rules of Golf

Tim Hudspith, of the PGA's Tournament Department outlines some of the rules with which greenkeepers should be well acquainted

23 Where Do You Think You're Going?

Scott MacCallum talks to signage companies about the good, the bad and the ugly.

24 Fancy Working Here

A Brian Morgan-gallery of some of the most beautiful places to play golf and work in the world.

25 Landmarks in Greenkeeping

Jim Arthur files through his memory banks and identifies the landmarks he has witnessed in the greenkeeping industry.

28 Crime Prevention

Roland Taylor looks at ways of preventing the greenkeeper's worst nightmare.

34 Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarships

Mark Zealander and Barry Dore describe the work that they have done on their respective courses.



Cover photograph by Brian Morgan



23 Signage company reviews



25 Landmarks in greenkeeping history



28 A look at crime prevention



Welcome

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF "BEST PRACTICE"

February saw the birth of a venture which may prove to be one of the most important and useful the game of golf has seen in some time.

The launch of the R&A's Best Practice Guidelines - Website www.bestcourseforgolf.org - gives all those golf clubs, which are looking to do the right thing but are unsure of the direction in which to go, a real steer.

It will also give Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers, struggling to pull their clubs in the right direction, a useful ally and pointer when it comes to tackling those in the club who feel they know best.

Many people within the game had felt that the R&A needed to provide a lead in such matters and it was R&A Chief Executive, Peter Dawson, who three years ago grabbed the nettle, formed the Golf Course Committee and challenged its members to come up with a method of helping clubs to go about things in the correct manner, not just in Britain, but in large chunks of the world as well.

"Best Practice" is defined as "Management of golf courses in an environmentally and economically sustainable way".

As you will have seen from last month's magazine what has been produced is a user-friendly website which gives assistance in five areas of real importance to golf clubs - management, greenkeeping, environment, planning and development and advice and research.

Of course, you can have the most useful tool in the world but if people don't take advantage of it the benefits are rendered null and void so it is pleasing to hear from Steve Isaac, Assistant Director of Golf Course Management at the R&A, that the first month on-line has been very successful.

A total of 337 clubs have registered from 40 countries with 62% of them coming from Great Britain and Ireland. Of these, 18 clubs have actually started the process laid down by the site, in showing the commitment to bring Best Practice to their clubs.

In addition 15 national Golf Unions and Federations have signed up. Also encouraging is the fact that 3,442 visitors have taken a look at the site and there were over 150,000 hits in the first month.

"Our Committee is delighted with the response in the site's first month on line but would encourage more clubs and Federations to register," said Steve.

I would endorse that. It costs nothing to take a look and I'm sure that if you were to register and get involved in the site, three things can happen, all good:

1. If you are struggling with a particular problem the site should be able to help you towards a solution.
2. The R&A name carries a lot of kudos and clout and it might be the catalyst needed to move the course in the direction you wish.
3. It might just rubber stamp the fact that you are on the right lines. Having that in your back pocket when you next attended a Green Committee would be a nice little piece of insurance.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

THANK YOU FROM THE THOMAS'

My family and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all friends and colleagues who gave us such incredible support during Neil's illness and ultimately his death.

Many thanks to all who attended the funeral which was a truly memorable occasion and a wonderful tribute to Neil.

I would also like to thank everyone for the many cards, messages, letters and donations which were very much appreciated.

We received over 300 cards, and donations to St. Michael's Hospice have amounted to over £1,500.

As many of you will be aware, Neil received the most wonderful care for the six weeks that he was a patient at the hospice so I know this money will be put to good use. Many thanks to you all once again.

Elaine, Scott, Grant, Adam, Natalie and family.

BIGGA'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED



John Pemberton has been appointed BIGGA's new Executive Director in succession to Neil Thomas, who died in February.

John, who had been Acting Executive Director during Neil's

illness, was offered the position by the Board of Management after the March Board meeting.

"John has done a superb job for the Association during a very difficult time," said BIGGA National Chairman, Andy Campbell.

"John enjoys the full support of the Board of Management and I know that with his

experience, drive and enthusiasm the BIGGA membership can be sure that the Association is in safe hands. BIGGA is very lucky to possess high quality staff and you can be sure that John will get the most from them and move the Association forward."

John joined BIGGA in 1993 as Finance and Administration Manager and was promoted to Deputy Executive Director last year.

"I am delighted to have been given the Board's endorsement and am sure that with the team we have at BIGGA we will continue to move the Association on from strength to strength," said John.

A profile of BIGGA's new Executive Director will appear in the May issue of Greenkeeper International.

THE RUNNING MAN

Pennard Golf Club Course Manager, Peter Lacey, is in full training at the moment for the gruelling 26.2 miles of the London Marathon.

Peter has already lined up £700 worth of sponsorship and if that is not sufficient encouragement for him to complete the race he has vowed to tail Nell McAndrew for the length of the race.

"I want to break four hours and with a real effort, and in Nell's slipstream, I'd love to complete it in three and a half hours," said Peter, who has already worn out three pairs of trainers in gearing up for the race.

"I'm currently training for at least four and mostly five or even six nights per week and alternating running with cycling in the gym.

"On each run I cover between eight and 12 miles, mostly off road, while I do a big run of between 16 and 20 miles on a Sunday. With a little luck and a load of cod-liver oil and glucosamine sulphate pills I'll stay injury free in the run up.

The race is at the end of this month and anyone who wishes to sponsor Peter, who is running in aid of the British Heart Foundation, can contact him on 01792 233923.



SCOTTISH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The BIGGA Scottish Region Greenkeeping Conference was once again held at the Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline in early March.

With 168 delegates in attendance this was the second year in a row there have been more than 160 people attending, including a cross section of the fine turf industry, greens convenors and members.

Scottish Region Education Convenor, Robert Hogarth, Course Manager, Cardrona Hotel and Golf Course, chaired the morning session.

He opened the Conference by introducing the

gave a talk entitled "So you think it's easy selling machinery to golf courses". He covered aspects of selling machines and also the benefits of top dressing.

Finally, to end the morning session, Rex Kimberley, from Terralift Earthsafe Turf Nutrition spoke of his early work in research programmes on ruminant digestion on soil fertility and expanded to speak about liquid products that proved very capable for sports turf grasses and soils.

After lunch the session was chaired by Scottish Chairman, Iain Barr, Course Manager at Largs Golf Club.

His first task was to present the 'Harry Diamond Quaich', which is given annually to the Student Greenkeeper of the Year. The 2003 winner was Paul Todd, of Lanark Golf Club.

The first speaker in the afternoon was to have been Neil Baldwin, of AmegA Science, but unfortunately he was taken ill that morning and was unable to present his talk.

At short notice both Duncan McGilvray and Richard Minton stepped in and presented a short 10-minute talk to the Conference. The Association is extremely grateful to both these gentlemen

for helping out at such short notice.

Following them was David McLay Kidd of DMK Golf Design who extended his talk and spoke about his progression from early education at College through to Golf Course Architect.

David's talk highlighted the many and varied projects he had been involved in from Nepal, USA and the UK. He displayed a great passion

for his work and this was evident in his designs and attention to detail.

Finally Ian MacMillan, Course Manager, Murrayshall Hotel and GC gave a talk entitled 'Simply Divine'. No doubt delegates were all wondering what Ian would conjure up and they were certainly not disappointed.

From his black bin bag he produced his tools for the talk. Twigs, crystals, maps and a divining-rod. He spoke about his search for water and how he had used his newly acquired skills in tracing water at his club. Useful for drainage and tracing bursts etc. The talk, delivered in Ian's own inimitable style, finished off the Conference on a high note.

The Board would like to extend their thanks to Andy Campbell, National Chairman from Carden Park and Scott MacCallum, the Magazine Editor, for taking the time to travel up for the day.

Thanks also go to the Patrons of BIGGA Scottish Region for their continued support. The patronage enables the Region to provide a first class venue at the Business Learning Centre in Lauder College, which in turn helps to attract speakers from throughout the country to Dunfermline every year.

Finally the board of BIGGA Scottish Region would like to place on record their thanks to the delegates for their support and attendance at the Conference. The Region is now in the process of organising next year's Conference and is looking forward to welcoming everyone back in 2005.

Peter J. Boyd

Scottish Regional Administrator



▲ Paul Todd receives the Harry Diamond Quaich from Iain Barr

first speaker, Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager, Potter Bars Golf Club, who spoke on 'Our Profession' and the need for leadership and control of courses. It proved a most informative and interesting talk.

Next to speak was Richard Minton, from Complete Weed Control. He opened delegates eyes to the necessity of safe and controlled Pesticide application. After a break David Briggs

Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



ACCOLADE FOR JAMES

Greenkeeper James Plant (23) is De Vere Dunston Hall's Employee of the Year 2003. Staff are nominated for the accolade by their colleagues with final judging by the joint staff consultative committee.

James received his award, £300 of De Vere vouchers plus a clock for winning his departmental nomination, at a ceremony at Dunston Hall, compered by former Norwich City goalkeeper, Bryan Gunn.

"I was shocked and overwhelmed by the award. It was really unexpected. I love coming to work and hope to eventually become a Head Greenkeeper with the De Vere group," said James

CLOSURE ON A DEVASTATING INCIDENT

June 17, 1998, is a date which will forever be imprinted on Gary Potter's brain.

That was the day when his life changed completely. It was the date when the roof of the maintenance facility of Skipton Golf Club collapsed on top of him, smashed his back and left him counting his lucky stars that he is still around to tell the tale.

Last November, five and a half years after the accident, compensation won by BIGGA-appointed lawyers, was finally agreed ensuring that while Gary is still in permanent pain, the Potter family are now financially secure.

Gary was the Course Manager at Skipton and was driving a compact tractor into a shed which was no longer quite big enough for all the machinery required to be locked away.

Gary did as was always done and drove in slowly requiring to touch the back wall to ensure no space went to waste. On this occasion though he was just about to dismount the tractor when he heard a noise, looked up and saw bricks and a concrete lintel falling towards him.

Instinctively he pulled back hoping the roll bar would come to his rescue and his actions did help. The lintel just missed his head, flicking off his baseball cap, but unfortunately it bounced back towards him landing on his lap, pinning him while the rest of the rubble came tumbling down on top of him.

Remarkably, despite the searing pain, Gary was able to reach for his breast pocket and his mobile phone and call the emergency services himself.

He then called the pro shop and got hold of the club handyman, Jack Parker, a useful weightlifter,

who came to his rescue. Jack was able to lift the lintel from Gary's lap, a task which subsequently required three men.

"I think adrenaline helped Jack and ever since I've called him my saviour," said Gary, whose attitude to an accident which might destroy lesser men, couldn't be more positive.

He was taken to hospital where tests confirmed that he'd shattered his 12th vertebrae and crushed the muscle on his right leg.

But they said they could rebuild him and a fortnight later he was learning how to walk again, a task made more difficult with two seven and a half inch titanium rods holding his back together, a role they will fulfil for the rest of his life.

He was unable to work for two-and-a-half years relying for much of the time on his BIGGA Personal Accident Insurance and state benefits, while the lawyer, Bristol-based Lyon Davidson, appointed by the BIGGA Legal Helpline fought his case for compensation.

"The late Doug Bell, the Northern Regional Administrator, was wonderful, he brought flowers for my wife and told me to fill out the forms necessary to pursue my case whenever I felt fit enough to do so.

"My lawyer, Kevin Morgan, was also superb. I only met him once in person, most of the time it was over the phone and by e-mail but he couldn't have been more thorough."

It is customary in the case of major accidents for at least a three year sabbatical before a pay out with most being settled in five to seven years and in Gary's case the five and a half years was about par for the course.

Unfortunately, as the driver of the tractor Gary was held to be one third responsible for the accident and as a result lost one third of the compensation pay out, but the £200,000 he received has enabled him to pay off his mortgage and plan for the future with some optimism.

"I can't believe it when I hear people complain that BIGGA does nothing for them. I'm a prime case of what BIGGA can do for you.

"Had I pursued the case myself I would have lost around £25,000 of my compensation in legal fees but it cost me nothing, while whenever I was in contact with people from BIGGA they couldn't be any more helpful," said Gary, who is now an Associate Member.

"You never know when something similar might happen to you and while BIGGA offers so much to its members, if there was nothing else but the Personal Accident Insurance, it would still be worth every greenkeeper in the country becoming a member."

Unable to carry on working as a greenkeeper, Gary initially worked part-time for Myerscough College as an assessor but for the last three and a half years he has been a Technical Advisor for Vitax.

"I love my job but I really do miss greenkeeping. It was in my blood but I'm delighted that, although in constant pain, I can walk, drive and carry on my life."



TOP JOB FOR EUAN



▲ Euan Grant

St Andrews Links Trust has appointed Euan Grant as Head Greenkeeper in charge of the Old Course, following the recently-announced departure of Eddie Adams to become a Greenkeeping

Consultant with the PGA European Tour.

Since joining the Links in June 2002, Euan Grant has been Head Greenkeeper in charge of the New Course. He previously worked as Head Greenkeeper at Marriott Forest of Arden Golf and Country Club where he was involved in course set up for two English Opens.

He also worked on the construction and subsequent management of two 18-hole courses in Surrey. Highly qualified, Euan won the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award in 1994.

In his two years at the Links he has made a number of improvements to the New Course including the creation of new championship tees to

bring the course to 6,769 yards.

"Euan has impressed us with his management skills and dedication," said Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent at the Links Trust.

"We have every confidence that under his management the Old Course will continue to go from strength to strength and to be presented in the traditional way."

Eddie, 35, had worked for St Andrews Links Trust for 19 years.

He became Head Greenkeeper of the Old Course in 1993 at the age of 24, making him the youngest person to hold that position in the course's 600 year history.

He had overseen course preparations for two Open Championships, 10 Dunhill Championships and 10 Links Trophy events, making more changes and adding more new tees to the course than any of his predecessors with the exception of Old Tom Morris, Custodian of Links for 40 years.

"Naturally the Old Course is very dear to me but I am looking forward to a brand new challenge," said Eddie, who will continue to be based in his home town of St Andrews.

"The focus will be course preparation for tournaments and I will be using all the knowledge and skills which I have developed at the Home of

Golf."

His new position as the only full-time Greenkeeping Consultant employed by The European Tour will involve him in liaison with courses which are staging Tour events.

"The Tour's greenkeeping support team is a vital service to many of our venues and I am delighted that we have

secured someone of Eddie's knowledge and experience to complement our existing staff," said David Garland, Director of Tour Operations for the PGA European Tour.

Gordon Moir added, "It is generally recognised that the condition of the Old Course has improved year after year and this is thanks to the efforts of Eddie and his team. However, I am delighted that he has been offered this great opportunity to work on the Tour and wish him every success."



▲ Eddie Adams

Get to the bottom of Dry Patch problems

**COMPLETE
IMMERSION
TECHNOLOGY**

RT
rigby taylor

When standard wetting agents are applied to turf they infiltrate the ground through the force of gravity. Inevitably dry spots are left within the rootzone that will continue to be water repellent.

But that's now all in the past.

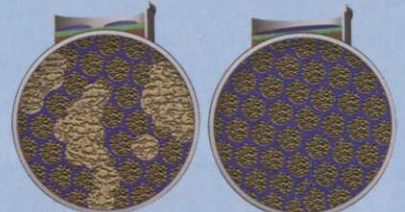
Complete Immersion Technology

Breaker Triple is the latest advance in wetting agents, incorporating Complete Immersion Technology. It contains three advanced components to prevent and cure Dry Patch:

1. A wetting and spreading agent
2. A soil penetrant
3. A re-wetting agent

This powerful combination ensures a strong attraction between the applied product and the water-repellent particles.

The unique spreading action moves the wetting agent both downwards and sideways, effectively treating the whole of the soil profile.



Partial immersion from a standard wetter – many soil particles remain untreated

Complete immersion from Breaker Triple – every soil particle becomes treated

What starts as a totally water-repellent soil is converted to a water-receptive soil. The results are consistent and long-lasting.

Breaker
TRIPLE

Available as liquid, granule or tablet

Rigby Taylor Ltd, Crown Lane
Horwich, Bolton BL6 5HP.
Tel: 01204 677777
www.rigbytaylor.com

working wonders



KVF700-A 2x4/4x4



3010 diesel mule

For a brochure and your nearest dealer call:

01628 856 750

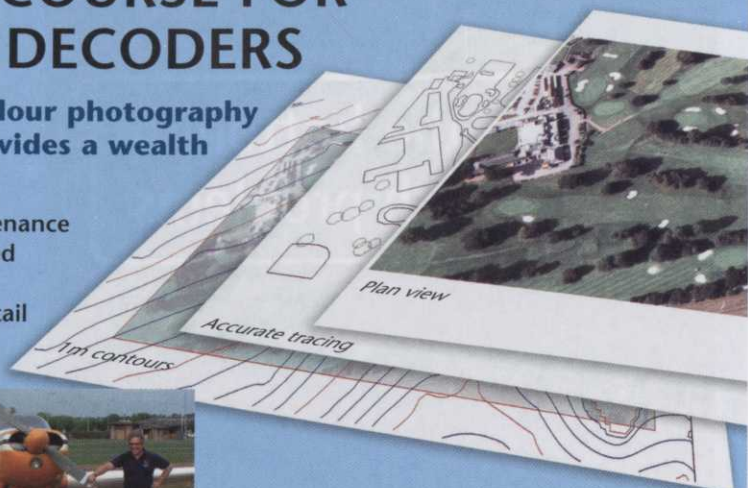
www.kawasaki-europe.com

Kawasaki

PLANS OF YOUR GOLF COURSE FOR THE SAME COST AS 12 DECODERS

A novel approach to scale drawings and colour photography of the golf course based on aerial data provides a wealth of detail for a fraction of the normal cost.

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 not any more! Tonick can now give you large scale drawings containing a wealth of detail derived from the latest in aerial photography and radar. You get a poster-sized colour photo too!



- The plans are derived from stereo photography and radar elevation measurement
- Optionally, augment plans with accurate positions of sprinklers, valves, drain points, cable & pipe runs via a simple GPS ground survey conducted with the greenkeeper in just one day.



Tel: +44(0)1269 832325 Fax: +44(0)1269 832326
email: info@tonick.co.uk www.tonick.co.uk

Tonick  **Watering**

Ground Breaking Technology



The V-Star Linear Aerator from Allen cuts cleanly through all ground conditions. Numerous tests have shown that increased airflow, improved drainage and absorption of applied top dressing are possible and improved over hollow coring.

V-Star's power and choice of three blade widths determines the amount of thatch being removed and also creates different widths of incisions to allow the top dressing to be integrated on all standards of playing surface. Whether you've got wet or very hard compacted ground, it glides over the surface cutting through whatever lies in its path.

But don't just take our word for it - call Allen today and arrange a V-Star Linear Aerator demonstration.

www.allenpower.com

Allen Power Equipment Limited, The Broadway, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8ES,
Telephone: 01235 515400. Facsimile: 01235 515401 E-mail: sales@allenpower.com

allen
Powerful solutions for your growing needs



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY MEMBERSHIP

Unlock the doors to progress through BIGGA's Education and Development Fund - the key to a great future for greenkeepers, golf clubs and the game of golf.

Golden and Silver Key Membership is available to both companies and individuals.

For details, please contact Ken Richardson on 01347 833800 or via ken@bigga.co.uk

Golden Key Supporters



Golden Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Kubota (UK) Ltd	01844 214500
Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 677777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01480 226800
TurfTrax Group Ltd	01722 434000

Golden Key Individual Members

J H Fry; J H Greasley; WJ Rogers; David S Robinson; Stuart Townsend; Andrew Cornes; Andy Campbell MG; CGCS; Roger Barker; Chris Yeaman; Iain A MacLeod; Bruce Cruickshank; John Crawford; Stuart Cruickshank; Frank Newberry

Silver Key Supporters



Silver Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Ernest Doe & Sons	01245 380311
General Legal Protection Ltd	01904 611600
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Heath Lambert Group	0113 246 1313
RainBird	01273 891326
Syngenta Professional Products	0041 613 233 028
Wolf Garten	01495 306600

Silver Key Individual Members

Clive A Archer; Douglas G Duguid; Robert Maibusch MG; Elliott R Small; Steven Tierney; Richard Lawrence; Clive Osgood; David Robinson; Richard Stillwell; Stephen Dixon; Ian Semple; Paul Jenkins; Robert Hogarth; R Steele; Lee Relf; Raymond Warrender; Nichollas Gray; Trevor Smith; Ian Barr; Richard McGlynn; Alex McCombie; Paul Murphy

Education Update



As this spring's regional training courses draw to a close, it is time for members to start thinking about the training they require in their Regions and Sections for autumn 2004 and spring 2005.

If you have a particular training need then speak to your Section Secretary/Regional Administrator or contact Sami or me at BIGGA HOUSE. Thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, we are able to keep the cost of training down to £50+VAT for a one day course and £100+VAT for a two day course.

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

Final negotiations are taking place to secure a third sponsor for the, annual, BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. Thanks to the continued support of Scotts UK Professional and of Syngenta Professional



Golf Environment Competition

Products the introduction of a third sponsor will ensure that the Competition will continue to attract high quality entries from Golf Clubs in Great Britain, help golf clubs to manage their golf course with the environment in mind and spread the word that golf courses are environmentally friendly.

The 2004 Competition will run on similar lines to previous years and details will be sent out later this month. Entry forms will have to be returned to BIGGA House by the end of May when the Competition judges, from STRI, will look at nine areas of environmental management:

- Nature Conservation
- Energy Efficiency
- Landscape and Cultural Heritage
- Education and Training
- Water Resource Management
- Turfgrass Pest Management
- Communications
- Public Access and Awareness
- Waste Management

Those clubs judged to meet the criteria best will be selected to progress to the second stage of the Competition while clubs not selected will receive extended feedback on their entry.

Clubs selected to progress to the second round will be visited by the judges who will, subsequently, select the prize winners for 2004.

The National Winner will receive a cheque for £2,000, a Scott's Weather Master Weather Station and the BIGGA Golf Environment Trophy.

Each of the other four area winners and the runners up in the winner's region will each receive a cheque for £500

Prizes of £500 will be awarded for:
The Best Environmental Initiative
The Most Impressive Newcomer
The Best Use of Recycled Materials

All prize winners receive a plaque to display in the Clubhouse.

Whether your course is large or small, it provides an important link in the environmental chain, helping to achieve long term ecological benefits.

Let your members, local residents and the World see what you are doing by entering this year's competition.

Who knows, it may be your turn to join this year's winners at the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition in Harrogate next January.

Watch out for details of the Competition Sponsors in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

Continue to learn

Remember that copies of each talk given at Harrogate, complete with Powerpoint slides are available on DVD.

Each DVD contains four talks and costs £20. Contact Sami or Ken at BIGGA House for further details.

Toro. Riding high with John Shaw

Groundscare equipment specialists John Shaw Machinery will next year celebrate 20 years unbroken service as a Toro commercial products dealer.

This is just one of many statistics that confirm the depth of knowledge and experience that John Shaw Machinery offers Toro customers throughout its area covering the South East of England. Another is that five of the company's personnel have more than 100 years combined Toro working experience between them.

Chairman and proprietor John Shaw tops them all with 29 years of Toro; while managing director David Cole and sales and marketing director Steve Vogels each boasts 23 and 16 years respectively. Area sales manager John Colebrook weighs in with another 26 years. Finally, commercial director Miranda Meaden, John Shaw's daughter, also chips in with 14 years.

David Cole said: "John Shaw Machinery was founded as the Toro dealer for Sussex in 1985 and has been one ever since. This is a business that tries hard, has a lot of experience and knows a great deal about Toro."

The company was set up to provide sales and service to professional users and larger private gardens and estates of commercial groundscare machinery, compact tractors and allied equipment. Since 1987 it has been based at Holmes Hill, which is located on the A22



Riding high: John Shaw Machinery directors with Toro distributor Lely personnel. From left, Steve Vogels, John Pike, Jeff Anguige, John Shaw, David Cole and Peter Mansfield, John Pike is Toro area manager covering the South East.

between Hailsham and Uckfield, in East Sussex.

About 70 per cent of the business is in golf, 20 per cent in sports and the rest spread across amenity, leisure and private estates.

From its roots serving Toro customers in Sussex, John Shaw Machinery has expanded its operations, which now extend to cover Kent, Surrey, south London and east Berkshire.

David Cole said that as the firm's business area has grown, measures have been built-in to ensure that wherever they are located Toro customers will receive the best possible service.

"These days, being a successful

machinery dealer means investing heavily to meet the level of commitment and quality of resources that manufacturers such as Toro are rightly seeking for users of their products," said David Cole.

"John Shaw Machinery has invested heavily in its infrastructure. For example, in August 2002 we opened a new 6,000sq ft warehouse. This trebled our parts storage area, substantially increased our whole goods facilities and gave us a much larger area for our PDI department, which trebled its staff. Then there is our £1/4 million demonstration fleet. You need a territory of substance to pay for all that."

A range to count on

John Shaw Machinery sells and services the complete range of quality Toro golf course machinery. This starts with the renowned Toro Greensmaster pedestrian and ride-on (pictured below) greensmowers, and includes Reelmaster fairway units, Groundmaster models for roughs, plus tees mowers, as well as aeration equipment and Workman utility vehicles.

Toro has recently been busy introducing many new products. They include the revolutionary new DPA cutting system. This enables ride-on Greensmaster mowers to shave golf greens closer than ever before - to just 1/16th of an inch, which is 1/32nd of an inch lower than previous units.



The firm has also just given its Workman 3000 and 4000 heavy-duty utility vehicles a stylish new appearance and a host of new features for greater driver comfort, easier operation and better control.

Toro's new 6ft cut Reelmaster 2000-D triplex unit is being hailed as the most economical diesel trim mower on the market and delivers a superior quality of cut on golf courses.

Also new is the ProCore 648 self-powered, pedestrian greens aerator. It cores faster than anything else in its class and the wheels are located in front of the tines so it never runs over the cores.

You can count on Toro and John Shaw Machinery to serve you well...



First choice for sales, parts, service and finance

Setting up three Toro-approved service centres was a key part of John Shaw Machinery's strategy to ensure quality customer service in all parts of its dealership area. They are located at Sittingbourne, Kent (Mobile Mower Services), Shepperton (Turf Machinery Engineering), and West Sussex (LRS Mechanical Engineering).

Managing director David Cole said: "We still serve the whole territory ourselves and our customers can deal with us personally. But the service centres are there to give additional support and more choice where customers

prefer it. Between us, we now have 18 service technicians covering the area."

On parts, a carriage-free service is offered. Orders received before 4pm are despatched that day for next day delivery to customers. A new bespoke courier service is also available in emergencies.

The company through its finance partners can offer all the usual kinds of finance deals at attractive terms, including operating lease, hire purchase and finance lease agreements.