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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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Advertisers' Index

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ALLEN POWER	01235 515400	18
BARENBRUG	01359 272000	34
BAYER	01992 784260	63
BERNHARD & COMPANY	01788 811600	50
BRITISH SEED HOUSES	01522 868714	33
CANNONS TURF	01526 354411	38
CLUB CAR	01204 690644	6
FAIRFIELD CONTROL SYSTEMS	01623 835350	13
FAIRWAY MUNICH	0208 9404625	38
GOLF INNOVATIONS	01737 649911	31
GREENSWARD	0113 2676000	17
HARDI	01788 861150	28
HAROLD FISHER PLASTICS	01484 661271	38
HAYTER	01279 723444	2
HEADLAND AMENITY	01223 597834	52
HUNTER GRINDERS	01207 270316	46
JOHN GREASLEY	0116 2696766	22
LASTEC	01622 812103	13
MASTER FARM	01206 210732	18
MJT CONTRACTS	01638 720123	52
MOX UK	08701 646004	28
OTTERBINE	01480 226800	10
PRISM	0113 228 8600	13, 18
RANSOMES JACOBSEN	01473 270000	64
RIGBY TAYLOR	01204 677777	INSERT
SCOTTS	01473 830492	36, 40
TOP GREEN SAS	01652 633433	34
TORO	01480 226800	24
WASTE2WATER	01782 373878	INSERT
WOLF GARTEN	01495 306600	38

January 2004

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by 20 February 2004

REGULARS

News

Pages 4 & 5

9 Education

Ken Richardson looks forward to a New Year of Education and Training that starts with Continue to Learn at Harrogate later this month.

11 Membership

12 The Total Exhibition Experience

Pauline Thompson takes a look at what the exhibitor and visitor can expect during the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition in Harrogate.

20 Continue to Learn: An Irishman Abroad

Morgan O'Sullivan reports on his American Adventure saw him visit some of the best courses in the States.



42 Talking Heads

Environmental Matters - Six head men talk us through the environmental work going on at their clubs.

44 New Products

46-54 Around the Green

62 Features Listing

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

62 As I see it ...

BIGGA National Chairman, George Brown, writes his last column as his year in office edges towards a close.

FEATURES

14 In Safe hands

Scott MacCallum visits Ipswich GC (Purdis Heath) an environmentally pro-active golf club which employs two full time Conservation Officers.

22 California Dreaming for the BIGGA Delegation

Meet the 10 delegates for the fourth annual BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard & Co, to the GCSAA Conference and Show in San Diego.

25 A Purposeful Approach

Roland Taylor takes a look at the latest utility vehicles on the market.

29 Greenkeeping in Denmark 2

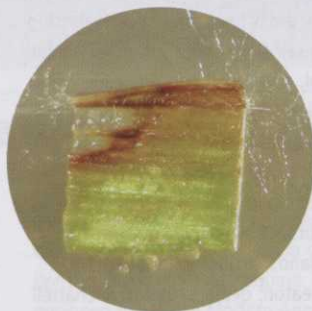
Ian Tomlinson gives an update on his work at Rungsted Golf Club, in Denmark.

32 A Better Breed of Seed

Gerard van't Klooster looks at the breeding of disease resistant turfgrass varieties.

37 Notts Golf Club Takes the Initiative

Andrew Wood looks at the New Initiative category winners in the 2003 BIGGA Environment Competition.



32 Breeding disease resistant turfgrass varieties

WIN

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See page 54



Welcome

WHAT IS IT ABOUT GOLF?

As I write the BBC are running a series of programmes in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of their Sports Personality of the Year Award with a view to identifying who is the Best of the Best.

Most sports are represented. Football by Bobby Moore, Paul Gascoigne, Michael Owen and David Beckham. Not, surprisingly, by George Best, who was beaten into second place by Princess Anne one year. Motor Racing has John Surtees, Stirling Moss, Jackie Stewart, Nigel Mansell (twice) and Damon Hill (twice). Athletics has more than any other, including reigning champ Paula Ratcliffe, David Hemery, Seb Coe, Steve Ovett, Liz McColgan, Daley Thompson, Linford Christie, Steve Cram and Jonathan Edwards among others. Cricket has Jim Laker, David Steele and Ian Botham. Boxing is represented by Henry Cooper (twice), Barry McGuigan and Lennox Lewis. Tennis has Ann Jones, Virginia Wade and Greg Rusedski. Even skating has John Curry, Robin Cousins and Torvill and Dean.

The point I'm getting at is that golf is very poorly represented. In 49 years golf has only had two winners, Welshman, Dai Rees in 1957 and Nick Faldo in 1989. Now bearing in mind that golf is a truly global game and is one of Britain's most successful sports, with players consistently in the world's top ten, not to have won more than Henry Cooper, a European but never World Champion, on his own is quite bizarre. Not only that, it's fewer than tennis, in which Britain have more often than not been a laughing stock, and fewer than figure skating. I'll repeat that. Figure Skating! It's shameful.

Tony Jacklin won The Open in '69 and the US Open in '70, and was the best in the world for a short time but in '69 Ann Jones won it and in '70, Henry Cooper. Sandy Lyle won The Open, the first Brit since Jacklin, in '85 and became the first Brit ever to win The Masters in '88, but in those two years it went to Barry McGuigan and Steve Davis.

For one reason or another golf doesn't catch the public's imagination. Class ridden; sexist; harmful to the environment; a prime candidate for the fashion police are all charges laid at the door of the Royal and Ancient game but much of it is down to false public perception and dare I say, lazy journalism.

I was listening to Radio Five Live a couple of weeks ago and the game was again coming in for a hammering. They had a woman from the Campaign to Protect Rural England and gleefully loaded the gun for her. The pro golf side of the argument was heavily weighted against. It's the same with the "Mickey Mouse" educational courses for which golf also takes a pelting.

A positive message must be put about or eventually we'll be forced to form support groups, along the lines of Golfers' Anonymous, to ease our way through life.

"My name is Scott MacCallum and I am a golfer."

Scott MacCallum, Editor

EX-GREENKEEPERS JOIN HEADLAND

James Watson and Steve Crosdale, both former greenkeepers with a total of 24 years experience in the industry behind them, join Headland Amenity as Regional Technical Managers.

James has responsibility for South East England, including South London, Surrey, Sussex and Kent, while Steve Crosdale takes East Anglia and North London including Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.



▲ James Watson

Andy Russell, Headland's Sales and Marketing Director said that the creation of these two new posts is indicative of the way the company is growing. "We've never had full time regional managers in these areas and we need to give more support to our distributors on the ground. James and Steve will be responsible for sales and technical support to both end user customers and distributors."

Steve, a practising greenkeeper for the last 10 years, has always been interested in the technical

side of the business, as well as the practical.

"This position provides the ideal opportunity to concentrate on this area and help customers achieve the best possible results from a technical perspective," he said.

James, whose father retired as a Course Manager in December, and who practised the profession himself for 14 years before moving into sales a year ago, says that he needed a new challenge but wanted something where he could use his experience built up on golf courses around Europe.

"This way I could take a leap of faith but I didn't have to leap too far," he explains. "I'm familiar with quite a lot of Headland's products, having used them myself in the past, and I like the fact that we are a flexible, forward thinking company that can respond rapidly to customer needs."



▲ Steve Crosdale

TURNER GROUNDS CARE OPENS NEW MIDLANDS DEALERSHIP

Turner Groundscare is to open a new dealership in the Midlands to sell and service John Deere's full line of professional, golf & turf and domestic equipment, including 5010 Series utility tractors.

This follows E T Breakwell's recent announcement that it will be closing down its groundscare dealership in Solihull in the New Year. The new Turner's branch will cover Staffordshire and the West Midlands, including Birmingham, Coventry and Nuneaton; dealers Henton & Chattell and Parks & Grounds Machinery will now take on the whole of Leicestershire and the Rugby area respectively, in addition to their existing sales areas.

This will be Turner Groundscare's fourth John Deere commercial & consumer equipment (C&CE) dealership, joining branches in Bedfordshire,

Buckinghamshire and Cheshire. The first was established 10 years ago in Tarvin, near Chester.

Initially six staff, including Breakwell's salesmen Kevin Wise and Robert Page, will be based at the new branch. This will operate alongside the established Mitchell Diesel Group engines business Central Diesel at Erdington Industrial Park, off the Chester Road in Birmingham.

Temporary sales and service support will also be provided from the Turner Groundscare branches at Tarvin and Bledlow until the new business is completely operational on April 1. Plans for development of the premises include a new showroom for domestic equipment, as well as dedicated parts and service departments and workshop facilities.



Joey Ibbotson, John Deere Territory Manager (Left) ▲ greets Brian Spruce, of Turner Groundscare

Email press releases and new product updates to: scott@bigga.co.uk

MASTERLY

The third annual EGU Greenkeeping Master Class last month gave the 90 delegates an ideal opportunity to feed their minds as well as see the superb set-up at Woodhall Spa, both on and off the golf courses.

The programme, chaired by Colin Spurr, Chairman of the EGU Golf Services Committee, and organised by Neil Cockbill, started with a paper from Steve Isaac, Secretary of the R&A Golf Course Committee, on the European Perspective on Pesticide Regulations.

Steve was followed by Stella Rixon, of the STRI, who gave an update on the Institutes' research into biologicals.

Management and Communications was next on the agenda with an "interactive" presentation involving the delegates hosted by Kerran Daly, Courses Manager at Gog Magog Golf Club and Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager, at Potters Bar GC.

The evening saw a superb dinner, hosted by the EGU, with the guest speaker, Eddie Seaward, Head

Groundsman of the All England Lawn Tennis Club, who gave a speech which contained real moments of hilarity but didn't disguise the fact that his job is one of the more pressurised and stressful in the fine turf industry.

The second day was kicked off by Andy Newell, Head of Turfgrass Biology at the STRI, who gave two statistically based papers, looking at Grasses for Golf and which variety is best suited to each time of the year.

He was followed by Andy Cole, Senior Agronomist at PSD Agronomy, who gave a very interesting paper on green speed. Andy revealed that in the 1970's the average greenspeed in the USA was between 5' 6" and 7' 6".

Last up was Tim Earley, Managing Director of Waste2 Water Europe Ltd, who highlighted the dangers of falling foul to recently introduced regulations relating to wash off water pollution and demonstrated the benefits of his product on Peter Wisbey's recently installed Woodhall Spa unit.



SCOTTISH MODERN APPRENTICE AWARDS

Three Greenkeepers from across Scotland were among the six finalists in the recent 'Scottish Land-based Modern Apprentice of the Year Awards 2003'.

Kevin Jackson, a greenkeeper at Troon Municipal Golf Course took second place, receiving a special achievement award in recognition of his commitment and positive attitude to learning.

George Mitchell, of Newmacher Golf Club, and Fraser Cochrane, of St Andrews Bay Golf Club and Resort, also received certificates of achievement at the evening award ceremony hosted by Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the Environmental and Land-based Sector.

Eligible candidates from across Scotland competed for the award, representing a range of land-based industries including greenkeeping, floristry, agriculture and equine. The award is designed to reward Modern Apprentices in Scotland who have demonstrated a commitment to training, gained knowledge in a specialised land-based subject and supported others as part of their personal development.

Around 800 individuals are currently following a Modern Apprenticeship in the environmental and land-based sector in Scotland. Over 300 have completed since 2000.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



75 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

Next year STRI celebrates 75 years in the turfgrass industry. To mark this milestone the Institute is planning a programme of events which will run throughout 2004, starting with a celebration launch at the BTME and ClubHouse Show in Harrogate in January.



All four issues of the International Turfgrass Bulletin magazine, along with the STRI's website, will carry special features highlighting the key developments and major achievements in the industry from 1929 to present times, alongside the regular editorial.

The October Bulletin will be increased in size to act as a commemorative record for the 75th Anniversary. Over the years STRI's unique position has enabled close ties to be formed with many eminent individuals and organisations throughout the turfgrass world. They will be inviting editorial from some of these key players for inclusion in this issue, to reflect the past and future of the sportsturf and amenity sectors worldwide.

To coincide with the publication of this commemorative edition, the STRI are also holding it's official celebrations in October around our 'Open Day' on Wednesday 6th, followed by a dinner in the evening.

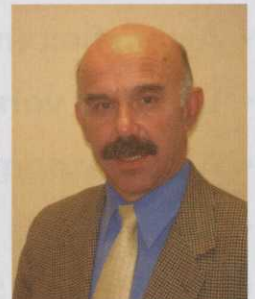
A special logo has been created to mark the event, which will appear on all literature over the next 12 months.

ACQUISITION FOR AITKENS

Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd has acquired R.E. Rushbrook and Son.

Rushbrooks have been trading in Bramford, Suffolk since 1912. Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd purchased this family business in November.

Colin Rushbrook will continue in his present role, as Technical Sales representative for Aitkens Sportsturf. Aitkens are taking the opportunity to increase their coverage of the UK and to continue Rushbrooks level of service along with increasing the range of quality products available to the customer. Aitkens and their partnership in Avoncrop Amenity Ltd now mean that they have national coverage of the UK mainland.





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

Chemical Prices

I wonder if any other Golf courses have had a similar experience to us in respect of chemical prices? We have recently paid £750.00 to treat one hectare of greens for fusarium. When I was farming I would have expected to pay this amount to treat 25 hectares of beans! I understand that the public have access and have to be protected but chemicals on feed crops could be a potential threat. Through your columns I would be interested to learn why there is this difference between us and farmers and don't forget we don't get subsidies. We have to earn our money

Thank you for your help in this matter.

John H. Button

Appeal for Stories

I am currently editing a portion of a national golf magazine, and need some help collating information. One section to be featured every month (to take up about half an A4 page in the mag) will be entitled "It shouldn't happen to a Greenkeeper". I know every one of you out there has an amusing story about something that has happened in your working life (have you ever driven a fairway machine into a pond, or played a hysterical but unfair prank on the new apprentice, for example), and I would be very appreciative if you would write and tell me about it.

I will, of course, give credit to the sender when their efforts are printed.

Please send all stories to: Simon Freeman, 25 Mansefield Road, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, PA42 7AN, or email: sifreeman007@hotmail.com

Double Summer Time

The Golf Services Committee of the EGU is proposing to launch a campaign for the introduction of Double Summer Time to Britain. Before we do, however, we wish to consult, as there may be implications for greenkeepers that we have not identified. We are obviously aware that this not something that golf alone will achieve, but before wider support is sought it is important that all of golf is in favour.

The proposal is to move the clocks forward two hours in the spring (rather than one) and two hours back again in the autumn. (It is also likely that the clocks will have to go back a few weeks earlier in October in order to avoid unacceptably dark mornings.) The benefits to golf are an extended period of time in the spring and summer months when it will be possible to play a full 18 holes after normal working hours and the corresponding extra revenues from green fees and food and beverage. A number of other sports will also benefit from this and it is perceived that it will generally improve the quality of life for the population during spring and summer.

History* shows that the previous attempts to move to double summer time have been included in a move away from GMT altogether. The consequences of this are dark mornings in the winter, particularly in the north of England and Scotland.

Hence most of the objections came from sectors of workers who traditionally start work in the early hours - construction, postal, refuse, agriculture and the Scottish population were generally against because of the dark mornings. In favour were a wide range of organisations from the Police and Medical Authorities to the RHS and Sports Councils. There was much debate over the effect on road fatalities, particularly involving children going to and from school, which was inconclusive.

Our proposal for Double Summer Time leaves the winter months as they are and therefore the majority of objections raised last time should not apply.

We hope you will be able to lend your support to this initiative and look forward to receiving your response at the earliest opportunity.

Neil Cockbill, Golf Services Secretary, National Golf Centre, EGU, Woodhall Spa, Lincs

*British Time (Extra Daylight) Bill (1995/96), Research Paper 96/4, 15 January 1996

Many Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Andy Brown, Peter Mansfield and all of BIGGA staff for the fantastic experience and the warm welcome I had in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year final at Aldwark Manor. To be there with the other seven finalists was an experience itself and we all had a great time with a good atmosphere around us. I hope to see you all soon, and all the best for the future.

I also would like to say thank you to my tutor Graham Wright, from Welsh College of Horticulture, and Steve Jones, my Course Manager, for the support and encouragement that led me to the final.

Again I want to congratulate Keith for the Award, and I hope you will have a blinding experience in America, all the best!

Dylan Hughes, Greenkeeper, Pwllheli Golf Club

A Bit Out of Order

Though I have been retired over 12 years I do feel that the Royal Inverdivot Golf Club cartoon in the December magazine was a bit out of order.

The early 70's came to mind. When I was at Bromborough GC, the steward, putting me up, said, "Jim, when you go on holiday, or even if you feel ill, you organise everything and complete it, ie fertilising, spraying, machines and even give the answers when the Chairman of Green tries to take over. Leaving the job is chaos."

James Rimmer, Retired Member, Wallasey



&

ClubHouse

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Ken Richardson looks forward to the New Year of Education and Training that starts with Continue to Learn at Harrogate later this month.

Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn at Harrogate this month when the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme, presented in association with the GTC, take place prior to the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions.

There are still places left on the National Education Conference, which is supported by the John Deere Team Championship, that takes place on 19 and 20 January in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre, when a range of speakers from the United Kingdom and the United States look at how the game of golf and the business of golf are inseparable. Moreover, they will show how both have an impact on golf course management.

Three one-day Workshops also supported by the John Deere Team Championship will take place in the Moat House Hotel on Monday 19 January. They are:

1. Water On the Golf Course presented by Dennis Mortram.

This Workshop explores water resources, evaluating the need for water and justifying its future need.

A must for all those wanting to see how they can minimise the effects of dry weather in a time of scarcer water resources.

2. Real Influencing Skills presented by David Bancroft-Turner

Anyone attending David Bancroft Turner's talk at the 2003 Conference will know that he has some innovative ways of presenting his slant on people management.

Find out how a knowledge of organisational politics can help you to create effective working relationships.

3. Health and Safety presented by Jerrard Winter

What can you do to make your golf club safer? Where do you start? What must I do?

Find out the answers to these and many more questions by attending this Workshop.

BTME & ClubHouse Seminars

Please remember that the BTME & ClubHouse Seminars begin at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday 20 January 2004 also in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre. The first afternoon of Seminars looks at Golf Club Design, Development and Redevelopment. Aimed at golf club managers, this Seminar will cover the Financial Potential of Golf Facilities, Clubhouse Food and Beverage Operations, Refurbishing Locker and Changing Rooms, Constructing a New Clubhouse and Where to Start with a New Project. Completely free to all delegates, please check in at the Seminar Registration Desk on Stand Q8.

Wednesday morning of BTME & ClubHouse always begins with the Presentation of BIGGA Awards. This year is no different and the presentation of the prizes for the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition will take place at 10.30 a.m. in Hall D. This will be followed by the Presentation of three new Master Greenkeeper Jackets.

BTME & Clubhouse Keynote Speakers have always proved to be popular, inspiring the audience with their comments on motivation, team building and endurance. This year's speaker, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, should prove to be equally inspiring. Alvin Law calls his talk 'No such word as Can't' and when you see and hear this highly inspirational speaker, it should encourage you to be more positive in your life. Entry is free to all delegates.

Seminars continue on Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 January when a variety of speakers will be giving short snappy talks on a variety of subjects.

Watch out for an extra talk at 4.15 p.m. on Wednesday 21 January when you can find out about the workings of the Futures sub-Committee. This talk will be presented in Hall D immediately prior to the BIGGA AGM.

Thursday 22 January begins with yet another opportunity for delegates to discover what might be going wrong on their course when 'The Turf Doctor' holds his surgery at 9.30 a.m. in Hall D. More Seminars follow throughout the day with the final talk taking place at 12.45.

Please remember, that although it is best to pre-book Seminars to reserve your place, you can always book on the day, assuming that Seminars are not full.

Careers' Fair

BIGGA will be running a careers fair in Hall Q during BTME & ClubHouse. The Fair, which is sponsored by TORO, includes the Careers Clinic where you can get advice on writing your CV and letters of application plus learn how to really read job applications.

The Fair also includes information on careers including, Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management, Golf Club Management, Agronomy and Further and Higher Education. There will also be a job shop where you may find that next job.

OnCourse

Many enlightened Golf Course Managers are seeing the benefits of using OnCourse, the Golf Course Management software package supplied by BIGGA. Why not see what it can do for you and your club by asking to see a demonstration during BTME & ClubHouse. If you decide to buy the package there and then, you can save £200 off the normal selling price of £800.

Regional Training Courses

Members of BIGGA should have received their copy of the Spring Regional Training Programme in the December Edition of this magazine. Anyone wanting further copies should contact Sami at BIGGA House or on Stand Q8 at BTME & ClubHouse.

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