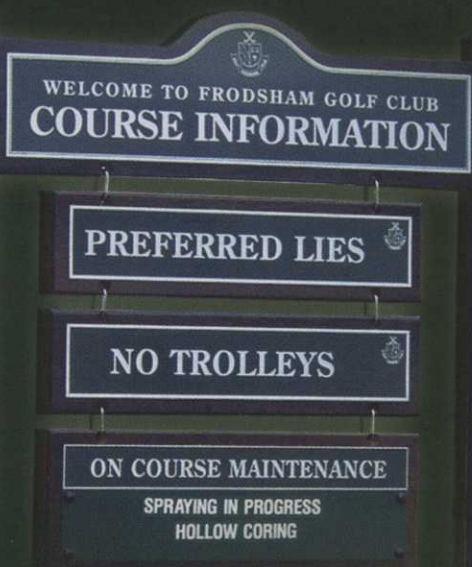




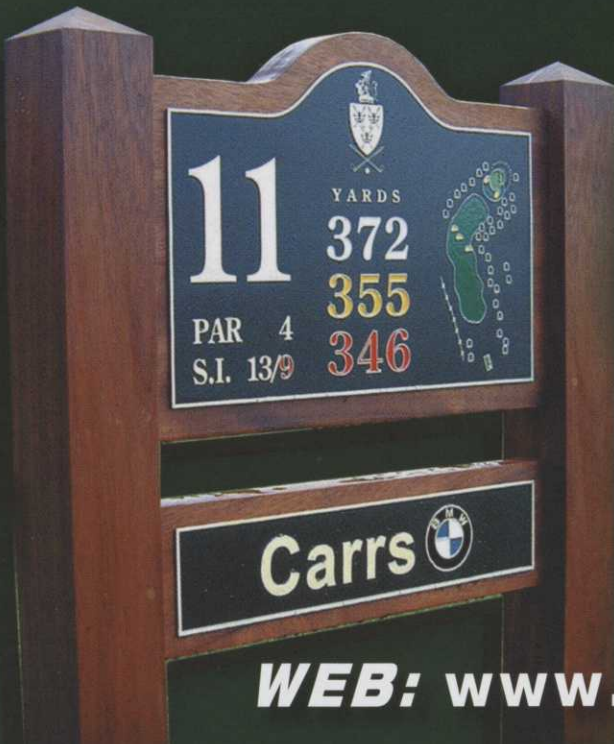
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

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Welcome

## MEMORIES OF NEIL THOMAS

Everyone who knew Neil Thomas well will have a memory of him that in the years to come, whenever his name is brought up in conversation, they will be able to recall, and then smile.

Having been with Neil at virtually every one of BIGGA's major events over the last nine years – ironically poor health didn't prevent either of us from attending any of these until Neil's devastating illness – I have been fortunate enough to have quite a few of these memories.

There were the Harrogate weeks which Neil always used to relish, despite the fact that the pressure on the week to succeed was immense; there were also Saltexes; National Championships; Open Championship weeks and any number of other occasions which we attended on behalf of the Association – he to do the formal bit and me to record them for the magazine.

After a long day it would be back to the hotel for a wash, a change and then out for a meal. It was often then that you saw Neil at his most relaxed, enjoying a glass of wine and entering into whatever conversation happened to be amusing the table at the time. He had an insatiable thirst for gossip but, such was his knowledge of what was going on in the industry, he was able to pour cold water on many of the tales which, let's be fair, do tend to grow particularly tall in this industry.

You see he had a vast network of "informants" who kept him up to date with movements and events within the industry. It wasn't the first time I'd shoot off to his office with news, hot off the press, only to learn that he'd heard it some time before.

But back to the memories. There was the trip to Finland, back in the mid-90s where Neil and I were introduced to the invigorating delights of the Finnish sauna, completed with a plunge into a freezing cold lake; the series of Hayter competitions, including the Hayter International Cup match in Atlanta, an experience no-one privileged enough to attend will ever forget and, of course, the opening of BIGGA HOUSE, by HRH the Duke of York, in October 1998.

Neil often used to talk about how he started off in a single room in the STRI building, at Bingley, with just himself and a secretary. To have seen the Association grow to the extent that we had our own purpose built office building, opened by a member of the Royal Family, showed just how far the Association had come. I know it made Neil extremely proud.

We also shared an interest in rugby and we would often sit in his office and bemoan the current form of our two national sides. The fact that Wales cuffed Scotland in the Millennium Stadium just before he died would certainly not have been lost on him. I know he was the first person I thought of when the final whistle went.

There you are. One of those memories popping up already.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

## NEW AWARDS

The IOG is launching new Senior Awards this month which will provide important career advancement opportunities for greenkeepers as well as sports and amenity turf managers.

The IOG has been granted Delegated Authority by City and Guilds to award Licentiate and Graduate in Sports Turf Management.

The Licentiate Award (comparable to NVQ Level Four) is suitable for team supervisors and first line managers who have already achieved a NVQ Level Three equivalent qualification and have at least five years experience in the industry. Assessment is by means of a review of a detailed portfolio of career extension evidence.

The Graduateship Award (comparable to Honours Degree or NVQ Level Five) is aimed at more senior managers. The IOG offers two routes of entry for this award – the Project Route which requires a 10,000 word work-based thesis, and a direct route for those who have already achieved a Level Four equivalent qualification and who can provide a comprehensive statement of management achievement together with supporting evidence. Both routes require attendance at an interview board. Award holders are entitled to use the appropriate letters LCGI or UCGI after their name.

## A HISTORIC REUNION

At The BTME Clubhouse exhibition in January this year, I had the pleasure of re-uniting an ex-greenkeeper with the 1964 18-inch Auto Certes greens mower he used on a daily basis at Cotswold Hills Golf Club during the 1970s. It had his name

"Rob" on the fuel tank. Robin Greaves, went on to become Head Greenkeeper at Bristol and Clifton and then Course Manager at Thornbury Golf Centre, Avon, before becoming a salesman for Countrywide, sports turf division.

It is an honour to be associated with the history of these machines. Think of all those man-hours and expertise that Rob's

mower witnessed over its 40 years of frontline service cutting greens on a daily basis for at least 20 years and then as a back-up unit for 20 years. All those special days for club events.

Peter Hampton



## SISIS ADD TO TEAM



▲ Ian Campbell

Sisis has made three new appointments to its sales team.

After 22 years with Sisis, firstly in development and then as part of the demonstration team, Ian Campbell has now been appointed Territory Manager for Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffs and North Wales. He has a huge amount of experience of Sisis products and looks forward to meeting customers old and new.

Allan Gray is the new Territory Manager for N.E England and Cumbria. His experience in the industry will be of great value to Sisis customers,

many of whom will know him from his time as a Director of Yorkshire Mowers, and more recently as Area Manager for IBEA.

John Milner has been appointed as Demonstrator for S.E. England, working from the Sisis Depot at Merrist Wood College, supporting the S.E Sales team. Jon has experience of the hire trade and has four year's experience as a cricket groundsman at Championship Division 1 level.



▲ Allan Gray



▲ John Milner

## SPEEDCUT JOIN UP

Speedcut Contractors Limited based in Oxfordshire, have been elected associate members of the BAGCC, following a recent invitation to join the Association.

"Having admired the professionalism and

quality of workmanship set by the Association and its members for many years, we are delighted that we now have the opportunity to contribute in a positive way from the confines of this prestigious organisation," said Kevin Smith, Contracts Manager.



## INCREASING COVERAGE

Lloyds & Co, Letchworth, has appointed dealers in some areas not currently very well covered by its direct sales team.

EAZI lif'e Groundcare a division of Malpas Tractors based in Wrexham has been appointed as the new dealer to cover North Wales and Shropshire.

They have taken on demonstration equipment, Leda gang mowers and Paladin fine turf mowers, which are available for demonstrations to customers while larger equipment will be supported, in the short term, from Lloyd's demonstration fleet.

Pictured with the Lloyds Paladin Mowers, from left, are Roy Williams, Groundcare Sales Manager with Jeff Stockton and Rachael Reeves, Managing Director of Malpas Tractors, and Clive Nottingham Managing Director of Lloyds & Co.



## ON COURSE WINNER

One of the first duties of BIGGA's new Chairman, Andy Campbell, was to draw the winning ticket in Vitax's annual greenkeepers' raffle at BTME.

Mike Stokes, of Whitchurch (Cardiff) Golf Club, took the prize of a gift voucher entitling him to £150's worth of BIGGA merchandise, which he is hoping to put towards the Association's "On Course" software package.

"This is a package compiled by greenkeepers, for greenkeepers. As well as spread sheets for fertiliser and maintenance, the software covers report writing, which I would find very useful. There was a demo disc here when I arrived two years ago, but it has now run out. Hopefully I'll soon be using the latest version," said Mike.



## GREEN APPLE AWARD

MOX UK, specialists in the contract hire of golf vehicles and turf machinery, have recently been awarded the prestigious Green Apple Award. The award was presented was to Glynn Patrick, MOX's General Manager, at a ceremony at the Houses of Parliament where the likes of Ford, Fiat and Toyota were also honoured.

The Green Apple Awards are given each year by The Green Organisation which is an independent group dedicated to promoting the positive side of environmental endeavour. They achieve this by recognising and publicising individuals and organisations who are making the effort to preserve and protect the environment for future generations. MOX received their award for their work on pollution free electric golf vehicles.



The photo shows Glynn Patrick (right) receiving the award from Roger Wolens, of The Green Organisation. BIGGA won a Green Apple Award several years ago.

## NEW CHAIRMAN

John Hall, European Marketing Manager, of Bayer Environmental Science, has taken over the role of Chairman of the Amenity Horticulture Committee (AHC).

In future the committee will be called the Amenity Expert Group.

The AHC meets twice a year, bringing together representatives from all of the major companies in the amenity/horticulture industry.

It acts as a channel through to the Health and Safety Executive and Trading Standards as well as the Pesticides Safety Directorate and also works to promote the Government's Voluntary Initiative on minimising the environmental impacts of pesticides.

John Hall brings a wealth of experience to the committee, having worked in the technical/commercial and marketing areas of the industry for over eight years.

"It is my aim to continue the good work of the committee in promoting best practice in the amenity and horticulture industry to work towards a better environment," John commented. "In the short/medium term this will be achieved through the important channel of the voluntary initiative," he said.

## WRONG NUMBER

The telephone number listed for the White Horse Contractors (Northern) Ltd appeared incorrectly in last month's magazine. The number should have been 01845 567711. Apologies for any confusion.

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year [www.tonyhusband.co.uk](http://www.tonyhusband.co.uk)





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HARD WINTER YOUR TURF  
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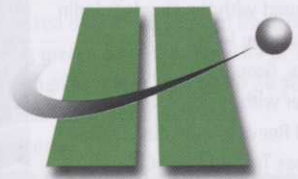


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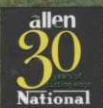
# National 68

## Taking the rough with the smooth



Our Triple Mowers are designed to tour around the greens day-in, day-out which means they're course leaders when it comes to cutting quickly and efficiently. You'll eliminate hours of hand trimming as our outboards boast the longest overhang in the industry. Being belt driven, the three floating cutting units hug the ground giving you a close, even cut without scalping – even on steep slopes. These top performers give you championship quality with price tags that are certainly not out of range – and the new National 68 now includes a rear aerator feature too. You'll need to go a fairway to beat our cylinder cutting units...National have been welding them longer than the competition have been around.

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## JOBS IN IRELAND

www.golfjobs.ie is the only website dedicated to recruitment for the Irish Golf Industry. Jobseekers can register immediately and gain access to the best golf positions available.

It has been established in response to the increasing demand for specialist staff to service the expanding golf industry in Ireland. The internet has revolutionised the way employers recruit the best candidates and the golf industry has been neglected, until now.

www.golfjobs.ie is a central point for all employers and golf clubs to pool their marketing power and create an easier way for candidates to find golf related positions from Greenkeepers and ground staff to golf shop assistants and catering staff.



▲ Christy O'Connor Jnr launched the site

## NEW MAN FOR BARENBRUG

Barenbrug has added to its sales force with the appointment of Warren Jefford as Area Sales Manger for the north of England and Wales as well as all of Scotland.

The position has been made



available due to the promotion of Jayne Leyland, who used to oversee the north of England, to Senior Area Manager.

Warren, who lives in north Manchester, will be working closely with distributors, and increasing the sales of the Barenbrug product range among local authority, amenity and sports customers, as well as turf growers.

Previously, he spent three years as technical sales representative with construction and amenity products distributor Rigby Taylor, in Lancashire.

## NIGHT OF AWARDS

The Hayter Dinner, a Harrogate tradition for ten years, was its usual splendid occasion crowned at the end of the evening with the presentation of dealer awards.

Commercal Dealer of the Year was George Brown Implements Ltd; Outstanding Commercal Dealer of the Year was Oakleys Ltd, of Shropshire;

Export Dealer of the Year was Lyngfeldt of Denmark while the special Achievement of the Year went to Harry Gillespie of Cyril Johnston & Co Ltd.

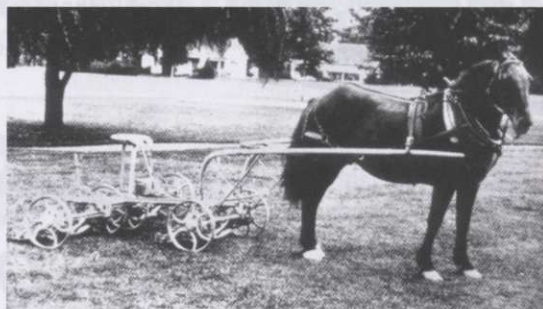
Amid a host of other presentations was a selection of cycling accessories for Hayter Managing Director Derek Boulton, who is about to cycle the length of Britian.



Picture shows Robert Bland, Director of Oakley's being presented with his award by Sales Director David Sturges.

Email press releases and new product updates to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

## HERITAGE !



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Don't put our heritage in a skip.  
The machine's a dog and very old  
It's obsolete so you've been told,  
It stops when hot and won't start cold  
And you're now due for your watch of gold --  
Don't put our heritage in a skip.

Don't put our heritage in a skip Mr Greenkeeper  
Don't put our heritage in a skip.  
You've followed it for years and years  
Through all the highs and all those tears,  
So now retire it to pastures new  
For all your friends to admire and view  
Don't put our heritage in a skip.

Don't put our heritage in a skip Mr Greenkeeper  
Don't put our heritage in a skip.  
It's given all it's life to you  
So please now take the longer view.  
People are here that think it's great  
To fix it up and show your mates  
Don't put our heritage in a skip.  
I beg you Please Mr Greenkeeper, Please Mr Greenkeeper

Scribbler: Peter Hampton

"With no regrets to Mr Noel Coward"

UK Territory Manager, Bernhard and Company Ltd

Home phone: 01225 755864. E-mail: [peter@bernhard.co.uk](mailto:peter@bernhard.co.uk)

## NEIL HOTCHKIN

Neil Hotchkin, a past President of the English Golf Union and described by many as perhaps the most outstanding man in the history of the union, has died, two days after his 90th birthday.

Mr Hotchkin was the man behind the sale of Woodhall Spa to the union in 1995 which not only ensured the future of one of the finest inland courses in the world but secured a modern headquarters for the EGU.

## IS IT A RECORD?

With the golf season just around the corner I reflecting on achievements at McDonald Golf Club, Ellon. Without checking the Guinness Book of Records I believe McDonald Golf Club could have two records.

Firstly 16 holes in one were recorded during the year. Secondly, ten of these holes in one were at the same hole. The 15th. The Girdle, 147 yard par-3.

So is there a golf club out there who can surpass this achievement? I look forward to reading or hearing from anyone.

PS. Two holes in one have been recorded on the same hole during January of this year.

John Geddes, Head Greenkeeper, McDonald Golf Club, Ellon



# Education

Ken Richardson gives a brief update on training courses and gives those who missed the Continue to Learn programme at Harrogate a chance to see what they missed



## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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.

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For details, please contact Ken Richardson on 01347 833800 or via [ken@bigga.co.uk](mailto:ken@bigga.co.uk)

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Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 677777
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TurfTrax Group Ltd	01722 434000

### Golden Key Individual Members

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Ernest Doe & Sons	01245 380311
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# Continue to learn

The spring range of courses has been very successful with more than 60 greenkeeper benefiting from high quality training presented within easy reach of their home. Subjects covered include: tractor driving, risk assessment, COSHH awareness, computer skills, fire safety, manual handling and supervisory management.

Places are still available on the Communicating with Committees course at Shirley Golf Club on 16 and 17 March, on the Influential Manager course at De Vere Carden Park on 25 and 26 March and on the Integrated Pest Management Course also at De Vere Carden Park on 14 April.

Each one-day course costs £30 + VAT and each two day course costs £60 +VAT.

Contact Sami for further details.

Planning is underway for Continue to Learn at Harrogate in January 2005, when the theme will be Back to Basics. There will be even more opportunities to continue to learn with 5 workshops and an extra day of seminars being provided. Workshops we hope to run include: Golf Course Design, Irrigation,

Continue to learn with BIGGA Regional Training Courses, at very low prices, thanks to the Education and Development Fund sponsored by the companies and individuals shown on this page.

Drainage, Soil Science, Course Preparation, Golf Course Management and a return of the Master Greenkeeper Workshop.

The same themes will run through the BTME Seminar Programme that will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, with ClubHouse Seminars taking place on Tuesday afternoon. If you want to hear a particular speaker or have a favourite subject or wish to volunteer as a speaker then please let me know.

Anyone who missed Continue to Learn in January can now catch up on what they missed by buying a copy of the Continue to Learn DVD. Complete with audio and slides used on the day, a DVD of 4 presentations costs £20.

2 disks cost £34

3 disks cost £48

4 disks cost £62

5 disks cost £76

6 disks cost £90

Contact Sami for details

## TORO Student of the Year

Brochures and application forms have been sent to all training providers in the UK and Ireland. If you have not received your mailing then contact BIGGA House as soon as possible.



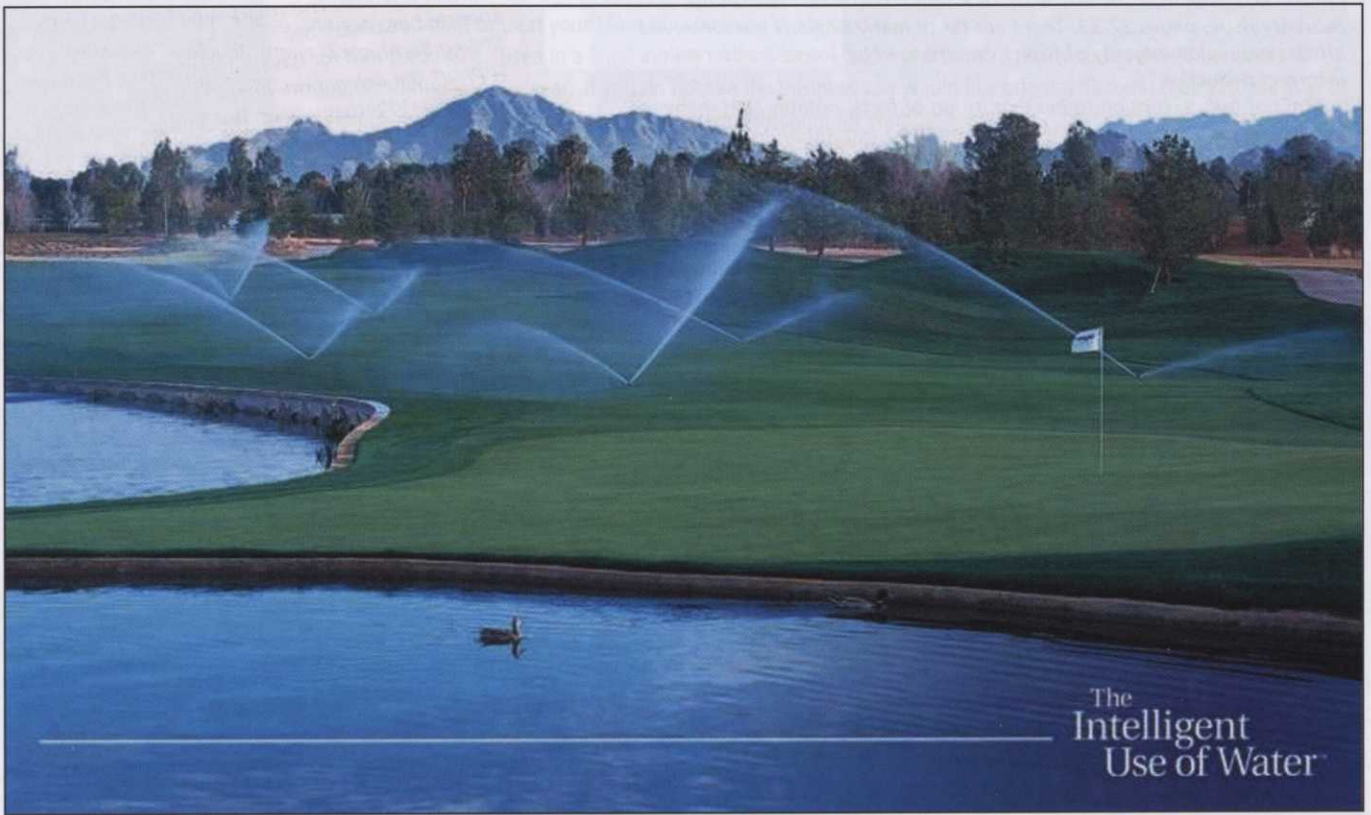
Golf Environment Competition

## BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

Watch out for further information on the 2004 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in the April edition of this magazine.



# 2004 Golf Controller Training



## Rain Bird Controller Training

Tuesday March 30<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup> and Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup>

✂ -----  
Return by fax to 01283 841024 before 14<sup>th</sup> March 2004

### I would like more detailed information about Rain Bird's 2004 Controller Training

Course Name : .....  
Contact person : .....  
E-mail : .....

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Fax number : .....  
Number of participants : .....

System Type: (please tick relevant box)

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- Master II Junior
- Master 3
- MDC 50-200

- Stratus
- Stratus LT
- Stratus II
- SDC-1

- Nimbus
- Nimbus II
- Cirrus
- Other : .....



## YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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)

### Taking Issue

I feel strongly that on behalf of the silent majority of good greenkeepers I must take issue over the article by Dr Kate Entwistle on "Fus" in the February issue, pages 37-39. There are far too many similarly misconceived articles on a wide majority of topics, summarised by "correct observation, incorrect deduction".

I do not take exception to her exposition of facts, notably that many potentially damaging fungi live happily on dead vegetation in all soils but if encouraged will attack, disfigure and even kill fine turf.

I do not agree, and most greenkeepers will not either, that "Fus" is primarily a winter (cold temperature) disease, or that, as she has stated elsewhere, that it is developing as a summer problem! It has, in all my half century of experience and for long before that, also been a summer problem!

There is an age old greenkeeping adage that "chronic fus is an infallible sign of bad greenkeeping". Partly this is because the incorrect management encourages *Poa annua* which is by far the most susceptible greens to be attacked (partly due to its soft sappy leaves). Nowhere in this article is this point mentioned, let alone emphasised.

The commonest fault of bad greenkeeping is over-feeding. The link between excessive quantities, of frequency of application and the incidence of disease is clearly shown by an R&A funded survey last year, with a big response from golf clubs of all types, status and financial standing.

This showed that 91% of all respondents used less than three tonnes of fertiliser per annum per 18 holes (21% well under one tonne). Few if any of these used autumn fertilisers. The amount of fungicide used annually related directly to fertiliser use. One club using 24 tonnes of fertiliser p.a also spent £24,000 on fungicide.

Frequency of spraying varied from fortnightly - often all year round - to nil) the last time that could be remembered in some cases was several years ago!) Perhaps the results could be published in GKI - they are freely available\*.

The deductions must be important. First, cost, which is very relevant in these days of the reduced profitability of golf. Second, due to often unjustifiable prohibitions and even more so to withdrawal of some fungicides by manufacturers because of reduced returns on smaller markets, we shall soon have no fungicides available other than sulphate of iron. Those with lush *Poa* greens and high feed and water input will have no defence against serious chronic "Fus" attacks.

In passing, there is no evidence that potash induces disease resistance - in fact even low levels will in time encourage *Poa* invasion and so disease.

My advice to avoid, other than ephemeral attacks under humid summer/autumn conditions, is to use nitrogen only (sparingly), stop in late July, treat ephemeral attack with iron promptly, cut down shading trees - and especially "stagnating" undergrowth - keep greens well aerated and dry, stop irrigation early (late August) and limit watering any way and avoid smothering as well as over-feeding.

In short, with sound sensible greenkeeping you will never get chronic "Fus" - but some sufferers may have some leeway to make up.

Meanwhile, it would be helpful if cologists gained more field experience and resisted the temptation of correctly identifying spores etc under a microscope but wrongly assuming that the fungus was causing the problem, thus encouraging sufferers to pollute by over use of fungicides, instead of adopting sensible greenkeeping preventative practice.

I would get less despondent if culprits would learn from well over a century of proven research and practice that austere natural greenkeeping really does work, but for lasting success we must achieve the impossible - educating today's golfer that green is not great - and that we play golf on fine turf not colour.

For independent corroboration log in to the R&A website [www.best.courseforgolf.org](http://www.best.courseforgolf.org)

J H Arthur, Honorary Member, Budleigh Salterton

\* The results of the survey were published in the May 2003 issue of the magazine

### Many Thanks

Having just returned from attending the GCSAA Conference & Exhibition in San Diego, I would like to register a big thank you, to everyone involved in making the visit possible. This may sound like a BAFTA acceptance speech, but please bear with me. I would like to thank Steven Bernhard for having the vision to continue to support the delegation, now in its fourth year.

Steven, together with Sam McLean, were excellent hosts. A big thank you must go to Kim Furnell, who "mothered" us all week, making sure that we were correctly dressed and keeping our hectic itinerary on the rails. Thanks to BIGGA for supporting the initiative and the members that gave up their time to assist in the selection process.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank the other nine delegates, friendships were forged that will last for a very long time. So, to Chunky, Young Burt, Dad, Irish, Warren "Don't mention the passport photo", Steve "Tea Total" Tierney, Terry "I must have an early night", Joe "I must go shopping", and Will "The Scribe", thanks guys, for a great week.

I will not go into any detail regarding the week as Will "the Scribe" will be doing that in next month's edition, suffice to say that we all came back more knowledgeable and would urge you all to enter, for a chance of attending the GCSAA Conference & Exhibition 2005. A great experience!

Paul Jenkins

### Sharpening Debate

Having spent in excess of 20 years in the groundcare industry, I have to say I personally agree wholeheartedly with the piece in the magazine a couple of months ago, about non contact, cylinder to bottom blade, grasscutting.

However, this is not a new concept. The practice of none contact mowing has been around for many years.

Although I am not a greenkeeper, but a mechanic/engineer for a large local authority, I have, for many years, adopted this method. Not only for golf courses, but also for roadside verges. This method works very well as quality work always shows up. Damage and downtimes are extremely minimal over machines which have been (spin) ground and set up with contact.

In order to achieve this none contact combination, you require a machine which will relief grind the cylinder spirals individually. This method was demonstrated, proved, and taught to me twenty three years ago.

I have, for many years, used a Hunter Juno grinder, which is probably the only true way to relief grind the cylinder correctly to achieve the razor edge necessary for none contact mowing.

I think that it is nice to see someone bringing this to the fore, as I am sure that like myself, many other people have been adopting this practice for a great many years.

Although we have recently purchased a Hunter Jupiter grinder, purely for capacity and spin, and now have the best of both worlds, I still tend to use the single blade relief method, especially where the machines are used in high profile, showpiece areas.

Mark Hesp, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council