

# Saltex - new products

## THE WHOLE PACKAGE

It has been a busy summer for John Deere, as the company have been busy unveiling their new range of ground care products across Europe. Saltex was the official UK public launch, and the exhibition allowed the company to show off its new choice of ground care products.

The range comprises two new Gator utility vehicles, two zero turn mowers and the new 20 Series compact tractor, which consists of five models.

The CX Gator is intended for lighter capacity work in confined areas, while providing the same Gator performance. The HPX is especially designed for heavy duty haulage and for rough terrain.

Powered by a 20hp Yanmar diesel engine the HPX is available with two or four wheel drive, and is equipped with all wheel suspension as standard, front and rear hydraulic disc brakes and a two speed high-low continuously variable transmission.

The 20 Series compact tractor is the major focus for John Deere. Their slogan is 'The power to make it happen', and power is certainly what these tractors possess.



The horse power of the five models range from 31hp to 52hp, and the lower emissions engine features up to 30 percent more torque and lower fuel consumption, which all combine to provide an improved performance.

"We have designed the compact tractors with many of the features of our larger agricultural models, thus the operator gets the best of both worlds.

"The compacts are very user friendly and we have deliberately

designed them to make it easier for the user to get the maximum power out of the tractor," stated Howard Story, European Golf and Turf Market Manager.

Like the whole range, the 717 and 997 zero turn mowers made their public debut at the Saltex exhibition.

Zero turners mower have been slower to catch on in the UK than the major manufacturers expected, but times are changing.

"In the US zero turn mowers are

now used by the majority of superintendents. Their sale figures have soared, while other models have fallen.

"Once people are trained on zero turn mowers they realise just how easy they are to use, and because of that we are confident that we'll see similar sale increases in the UK as we did in the US," said David Hart, C&CE Divisions Sales Manager.

For further information Tel: 01949 860491.

## RADIO CONTROLLED SLOPE MOWER

The new Ransomes Spider is a remotely controlled rotary mulching mower specifically designed for mowing slopes up to 40°.

It has four-wheel drive and four-wheel steering and can mow in any direction. The rotary unit has an 81cm (32") cutting width and can mow sloping ground with up to a 40° incline.

It is remotely controlled, using a radio frequency transmitter with a range of 50 metres and can offer up to six times greater productivity than a petrol driven string trimmer.

Safety features have been designed in. If the machine moves out of signal range or the signal becomes obstructed, the central STOP command is generated and it stops immediately. If another machine with the same frequency is working in the vicinity, again it stops immediately.

There are two emergency stop buttons, one on the transmitter and one on the body of the mower. Also it cannot be started if the mowing blade clutch is engaged; if the hydrostatic gear is not set to neutral or if the transmitter is more than 50 metres from the machine.



There are significant health and safety benefits to the operator. It is no longer necessary to stand with a string trimmer or walk with a mower on steep slopes putting excess pressure on hip, knee and ankle joints which can lead to joint stress in later life.

The potential danger of roll over associated with ride-on mowers in marginal areas can now be eliminated. Also, the operator is not subjected to any vibration, as there is no physical contact with the machine, and there is no exposure to the constant noise levels inherent with a pedestrian or ride-on machine.

For further information Tel: 01473 270000.

## NEW TOTAL HERBICIDE

The non-selective, residual herbicide is designed for control of annual and perennial weeds on land not intended to bear vegetation and in amenity situations.

The first of the actives in the formulation works via a unique 'barrier activity' which inhibits the germination of weeds coming up to the surface. The second active controls weeds already at the surface.

The product will be capable of being applied via either knapsack or hydraulic sprayers, post-emergence of weeds, with the main period of control being from March through to September.

This will be the first new residual total herbicide on the Amenity Marketplace for a number of years.

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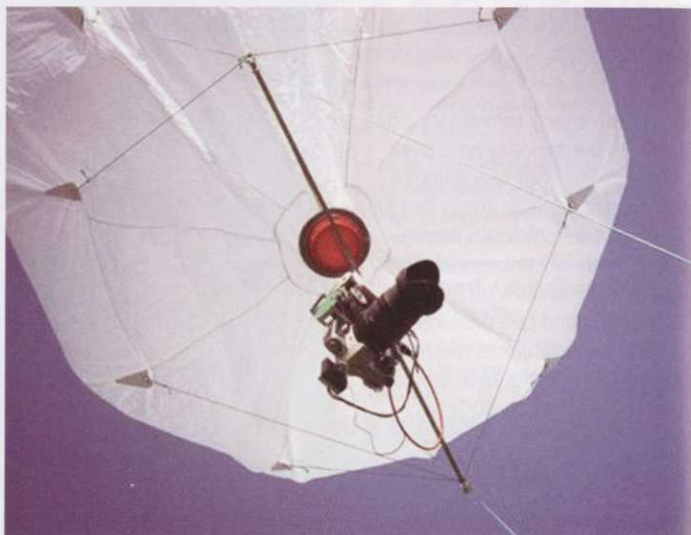
## NEW AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY SYSTEM

Tonick Watering have announced a new, unique aerial photography camera system to augment the comprehensive range of services for golf course mapping.

The new system, the only one of its kind in the UK and Ireland, provides a "birds eye view" for photography missions; this technique is complementary to traditional, costlier aerial photography methods using helicopters and light aircraft.

A professional, remotely controlled captive balloon system, the S30 provides an aerial platform for high resolution cameras and offers an unparalleled capability in ecologically or environmentally sensitive sites. Non polluting, and totally silent, the S30 can be manoeuvred into position by a pedestrian operator, providing non-intrusive access in difficult locations.

One very key advantage of this exciting new system is the ability to produce high quality digital photographs immediately on site. This provides the clients with the opportunity to acquire 'exactly' the images they want, and for them to have a direct and immediate input to the photography session. This eliminates the frustration of discovering at the end of a very expensive helicopter photography detail that the final results



are less than perfect. The S30 system allows a re-shoot of the subject almost immediately and with minimal expense.

For further information Tel: 01269 832325



## BE SET TO BE BLOWN AWAY

This Tirlo BL960 three-point linkage mounted blower unit is designed to exceed expectations, making it one of the most powerful available.

The size and design of the fanhouse, along with the unique nine-bladed 960mm fan, gives a maximum airflow and optimum airspeed.

The result is impressive and combined with the 4" antiscalping roller and the low-pressure, line-profiled front castor wheels gives good flotation not only on sport fields, but also on undulating areas.

The blower BL 960 is easily operated behind a tractor of a minimum of 45hp and has low maintenance.

The air outlet is on the left hand side, with an adjustable flap to arrange your optimum airflow and airspeed.

Being a TRILO product, it is of course, built to their usual high standard, making the BL960 durable with years of reliable service.

For further information Tel: 01638 720123

## THE NEW PROFESSIONAL BRUSHCUTTERS

Joining the respected range of outdoor power tools from STIHL, the new STIHL FS 480 brushcutter is a powerful yet light weight professional.

The engine produces an impressive 2.2 kW power and its 2.8 Nm torque effortlessly drives the range of cutting heads available through tough grass, weeds or brambles, even gnarled bushes and thin tree trunks.

The new models STIHL FS 480 and STIHL FS 480 K have a powerful 48.7 cc engine fitted with electronic ignition and a carburettor compensator for easy starting, plus smooth and consistent performance.

The long-term air filter system and robust construction ensure long service life, and from start-up to switch-off the machines are designed to be pleasant, comfortable and easy to use.

The STIHL decompression system and ElastoStart grip for example, considerably reduce the effort needed to pull the starter rope and the four point anti-vibration system further promotes comfortable use.

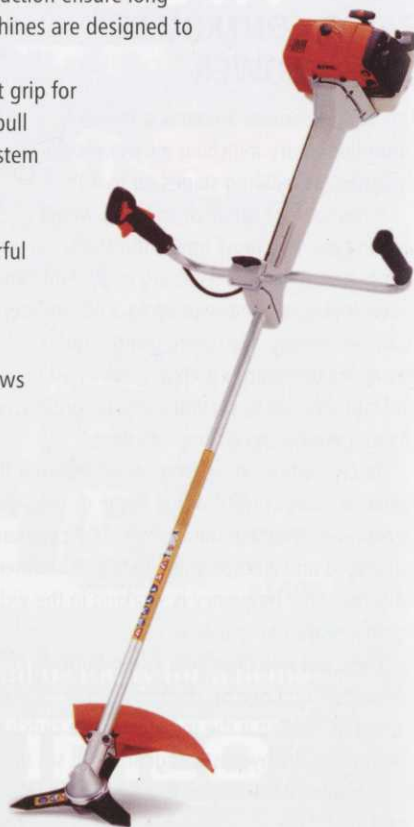
Equally significant in the contribution to user comfort, the new STIHL FS 480 may deliver a powerful 2.2kW performance, but it weighs only 8 kilos - making it one of the lightest machines in its displacement class.

STIHL's professional brushcutters and clearing saws are versatile machines and the choice of shaft-mounted cutting tools available enables a range of clearance tasks in both expansive and hard-to-reach areas.

The new STIHL FS 480 for example, is supplied with an AutoCut line head as standard and with its special contoured handlebars is ideal for continuous mowing operations.

Its small brother, the new STIHL FS 480 K has an identical engine and power unit; the primary difference being its shaft length, which is reduced to ensure comfortable operation by shorter users.

For further information Tel: 0800 137574



# Saltex - new products

## NEW HEIGHTS REACHED

The new JCB HI-TIP Dumpster will feature all the class leading benefits of the existing tracked dumper range with the added capability of tipping to a height of 1.65 metres, ideal for unloading into a high-sided skip or drop-sided truck.

It also has the option of a variable width undercarriage, which retracts to allow access to narrow or restricted areas, but widens to give greater stability when working.

Ideal for transporting earth, debris, building or landscaping materials, the new model - as with the existing TDIOSL Dumpster - can reduce the physical effort required for landscaping and earthmoving projects with the added benefit of a self-loading shovel.

The JCB Groundcare Dumpsters can also be used to stockpile excavated material ready for an excavator to dump what has been collected into a skip.

Alternatively, they can be used to transport materials such as ready mixed concrete to its destination before releasing it into place.

The optional self-loading shovel has a specially constructed scoop on the front, which can be controlled by the operator to gather material directly into the skip.

This eliminates the need for the operator to leave the controls and manually fill the machine, increasing productivity and reducing operator fatigue.

With low ground bearing pressures of 0.19kg/cm<sup>2</sup>, JCB Groundcare Dumpsters can work in wet ground conditions where wheeled machines could not.

The new HI-TIP Dumpster features a powerful 13HP engine and a load capacity of 400Kg, while the TD10SL has a load capacity of 750kg.

For further information Tel: 01889 590312.



## ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY HAYTER MOWER

Being shown for the first time at Saltex was the LT324G four wheel drive triple mower. Developed from the highly successful diesel powered LT324, the new machine uses LPG and will satisfy the current demand for environmentally friendly grass cutting machinery.

Outwardly similar to the LT324, with the new engine cover redesign and other styling changes made to give the machine a more aesthetically pleasing appearance, the LT324G has all the benefits associated with Hayter ride on products.

These include a comfortable operating position, hinged or removable panels for easy access to all components for maintenance and common parts across the range wherever practical.

The obvious visible difference between the LT324 and the new machine is the two LPG tanks, one on either side of the engine behind the operator. These carry enough fuel to operate at full load for 10 hours of continuous cutting, more than will ever be required on the most demanding grass cutting rounds. The power unit fitted is a 4 cylinder 1600 cc engine built by General Motors. This develops 40 hp at normal operating speed and ensures the machine has more than enough power to cope with demanding applications and yet is quiet and smooth in operation.

For further information Tel: 01279 723444.

## TURF RENOVATION

Completely renovating 18 golf greens in one day may sound like a tall order, but that is what can be achieved with the Koro Field Top Maker Unit, when fitted with a special scarifying reel.

The Koro Field Top Maker is available in 1.2m and 2m wide versions. Fitted with the scarifying reel, it can treat fine turf at spacings of 20mm or 40mm, using 1.5m or 3mm carbide tipped blades. Its integral conveyor simultaneously removes material directly into a trailer alongside for operational efficiency.

Depth of operation is easily adjusted via screw jacks on each roller, from 1-50mm. A mid-mounted anti-scalp roller allows the machine to float over undulations. The Koro Field Top Maker requires a tractor of 27hp or more to power it, with hydrostatic drive or a creep gearbox.

The Field Top Maker comes from a broad line-up of Koro attachments developed to maximise the playing potential of sports turf.

For further information Tel: 01260 224568



## EXPANDED PESTICIDE RANGE

TANGENT, Headland's newest addition to their pesticide range, highlights an expanding portfolio of weed and pest control products for the UK amenity market.

The 450 g/l glyphosate formulation features "Envision Technology" - a unique surfactant system that increases reliability of total weed control as well as providing both user and environmental benefits.

The product is classified as non-hazardous, and may be used in aquatic situations.

TANGENT joins the selective herbicides BLASTER - used on woody and difficult-to-kill weeds in grassland, and RELAY TURF, the popular wide-spectrum, broad-leaved weed control for managed amenity turf.

TORDON 101 provides control of a wide range of deep-rooted perennial broad-leaved weeds and woody species including Japanese Knotweed, in amenity grassland such as roadsides, railway embankments and industrial sites etc.

Other products include CYREN, a soil insecticide for use in combating leatherjackets and Frit Fly, and SNARE, the recently launched turf fungicide active against a wide range of turf diseases.

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## THE S600 COMPACT LOADER

Vermeer has unveiled the new S600 Compact Mini Skid Steer Loader, which is a multifunctional machine.

Whether landscaping, utility work, fencing or materials handling, the compact skid steer loader offers excellent versatility and user friendly features. Its ride-on design coupled with high manoeuvrability provides a superior alternative to traditional methods, particularly when utilising the base unit with the wide range of attachments.

A universal mounting plate and auxiliary hydraulic connection powers various attachments including bucket, forks, land leveller, tiller, auger and trencher. High hydraulic flows – 45l/min – to the attachments allows the S600 to carry out its duties with power and efficiency.

The ride-on design with cushioned operator platform gives the operator excellent visibility and protects him/her from poor site conditions. The 25hp Kubota diesel engine is a proven unit and, coupled with a 60 litre tank capacity, offers long operating times.

Simple multi-function controls allow both machine and attachment operation with both hands whilst still holding onto the handlebars.

Safety features are always at the forefront of any Vermeer machine. The



S600 has excellent mounting plate visibility, boom and tilt lockout, operator presence including auxiliary hydraulics, neutral start interlocks, built-in lift-hook and tie-down locations and a parking brake.

The S600 has an oil cooler and offers easy battery access.

For further information Tel: 01933 274400.



## SETTING A SHARPER STANDARD

Grinding specialist Bernhard and Company have introduced the new Express Dual 5000 cylinder grinder to the UK.

Renowned the world over for superb grind quality and lightening speed, the Express Dual range combines simplicity of use with tremendous reliability.

This 5000 model sets new standards in cylinder spin grinding. A unique auto-cut provides an accurate finish, which eliminates the need for lapping and relief grinding. This dramatically reduces maintenance costs and significantly improves turf health through a sharper cut.

Reducing labour costs, mowers are ground in-situ which completely eliminates the need to remove the bottom blade or rollers.

Greenkeepers will find the 5000 a real boon as the grind cycle can be completed unattended and finished in as little as five minutes for a greens unit and 12 minutes for a fairway unit.

Additional benefits of the new Express Dual 5000 grinder include: Up-rated control and feed system, grinding totally enclosed in a safety cabinet for environmental control and operator comfort, remote set-up, selectable automated grind cycles and manual operation via a remote handset.

## COMPLETE INDUSTRIAL ENGINES RANGE

With more than 80 years engine production experience, Kubota is the global leader for industrial engines under 100hp, with well over 21 million units already supplied for an extensive range of industries and OEM applications, including the agricultural, construction, industrial and marine sectors.

Kubota now leads the way in industrial engines with a seamless range of high quality, light, compact and highly durable models from 6.5hp to 97hp, including the new V3 series and Super Mini series. All designed to provide maximum performance and fuel efficiency, minimal noise and vibration, together with enhanced working life and unbeatable reliability.

The two latest additions to the V3 series of liquid-cooled, low emission diesel models, the 3.8 litre V3800 DI-E and the V3800 DI-E (Turbo) versions, incorporate Kubota's unique Centre Direct Injection System (E-CDIS).

"We are already well established in the under-50hp range and these new engines will help us expand in the industrial sector up to 100hp; making us a one-stop engine source with a comprehensive range to match individual power requirements", said Kubota (UK) Ltd – Engine Division Sales & Marketing Manager, Ian Darler.

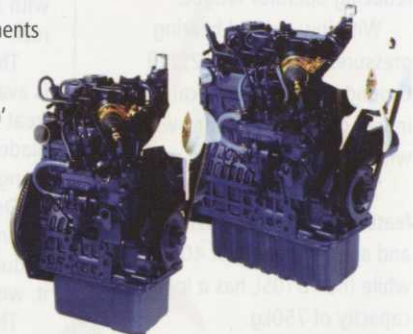
Two lightweight but powerful additions to its Super Mini series of diesel engines have also recently been introduced. Thanks to major design improvements, the new 2 cylinder .6 litre Z602 and the 3 cylinder .9 litre D902 models pack a big punch despite their compact size. This is due to their larger bore and stroke sizes, with a shallower, higher capacity oil pan also helping to reduce engine size.

The net intermittent power output of the Z602 at 3200 rpm is 13.5hp, and the D902 is 20.6hp.

They join the .48 litre Z482 and the .72 litre D722 in an extended Super Mini series of engines designed for an extremely wide range of applications.

With its technical improvements the new D902 has the same power as the far heavier D905 model in Kubota's 'next size up' 05 range, despite being 60.6mm lower in height and 30.7mm shorter in length.

Both new Super Minis share many of the features to be found in larger Kubota engines.



► More new products from Saltex 2004 will be featured in our November issue.

# Your Letters...

## Standing up for himself

I wish to express my thanks to Ian MacMillan MG, Course Manager Murrayshall Golf Course. Ian acted as my Paralegal consultant in my recent unfair dismissal. Thankfully we won handsomely, where Aberfoyle Golf Club settled out of court. I am sad not to be in the trade now after studying to Hnc Golf Course Management. I have began as a Landscape Contractor, taking over my Father's business. Hopefully I will get an opportunity to return to my chosen career. I would advise any greenkeeper having problems at their golf club, through no fault of their own, to seek legal advice and stand up for themselves as it seems to be getting more common.

Niall Gibb  
Via email

## 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)

## Too fine by half

Your article 'Too fine by half' in July's edition raised some very interesting points regarding the problem of finding the right product for the right job. The author is right to have highlighted the problem, what the industry needs is a solution, which is where I believe WRAP can help.

WRAP (the Waste & Resources Action Programme) are proactively promoting the availability of recycled products, which are both competitively priced and, more importantly, fit for purpose.

For those greenkeepers wanting particular grades of sands, recycled glass derived sand can be processed and graded to any particle size required, as tested and reported on by the STRI.

Similarly, the author stated his preference for 'fen soil' due to its source of essentially needed organic matter. Good quality compost derived from organic matter, which is well decomposed and carefully screened has been found to yield excellent results.

These recycled products are on the market and suppliers are capable of providing a consistent and reliable supply.

Anyone who wants more information should visit the WRAP website, [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk).

Andy Dawe

Market Sector Manager (Glass)

Waste and Resources Action Programme

## A fond farewell

I am writing to your magazine as I thought it might be of interest to your readers that my father will be retiring this coming month. My father's name is Richard Neil Maltby (but everyone knows him as Neil!) and on September 13 he will have celebrated his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and by the end of that same week his retirement. After 47 years of greenkeeping he's finally parking up his mower for the last time!

He began his long career at the age of 15 in 1954 when he became an apprentice at Woodhall Spa GC in Lincolnshire.

He stayed there until 1966, taking three years out to complete his national service in 1959. He then moved on to Sherwood Forest GC and spent seven years as an assistant greenkeeper.

His final move was to Doncaster and Wheatley GC as Head Greenkeeper in 1973, where he has been now for 31 years. As well as being a long serving member of BIGGA for many years he was also chairman of the Sheffield Section and has recently been voted in as President.

This past year though he stepped aside as Head Greenkeeper and has decided to take it easier as he works towards retirement. The world of greenkeeping is such a different place now compared to my father's day and now after 47 years it seems a perfect time to bow out in style.

My mother, brother, sister and I are very proud of what he has achieved during his long career.

Miss Alison K. Maltby

# 2004 John Deere National Team Championship Final

Steve Mitchell reports on a successful National Final and John Deere's contributions to BIGGA's educational funds.



Course Manager David Norton (seated front right) with Tony Jenkins of John Deere dealer Adamsons, and the club's greenkeeping team, pictured at the 16<sup>th</sup> hole.

Worfield Golf Club, from Shropshire, has won the Great Britain and Ireland National Final of the 2004 John Deere Team Championship, held for the first time at Forest Pines Golf Club, Brigg, North Humberside.

Worfield's net score of 56 - 17 under par - in the modified scramble event was two shots ahead of Bingley St Ives Golf Club, from Yorkshire, in the GB field. Downpatrick Golf Club, of County Down in Northern Ireland, carded 60, beating Kanturk Golf Club, of Co Cork, on countback to become the Irish champions.

As overall winners, the team from Worfield - made up of club chairman Trevor Williams, secretary William Weaver, professional Steve Russell, greenkeeper Mike Fowkes and John Deere dealer salesman Pete Worthy of John Osman Groundcare, Oswestry, Shropshire - will be travelling to America in November to play in the World Team Championships at

Grayhawk Golf Club, Scottsdale, Arizona, against teams from North America, Canada, Australia, Germany and Sweden.

"We are naturally delighted to be representing Great Britain and Ireland in the USA in November," said Trevor Williams. "Everything just gelled on the day, we always thought we were playing very steadily, and just tried not to give a shot away to the card at any point. I think the key to our success was that everyone played their part. We all got our drives away, so we weren't putting ourselves under pressure at the back end.

"We also had a very good professional in Steve Russell, and with him playing well it gave us all confidence. Mind you, we did cheekily suggest to our dealer player Pete Worthy that if we won, Steve had to give him some free lessons!

"I first played Forest Pines about five years ago, and I have to say that the course is a credit to the owners and to Course Manager David Norton and his greenkeeping team. For a young course like this to present such good quality in its layout and finish is exceptional.

"The attitude and friendliness of all the hotel staff was excellent, and the club's head professional David Edwards made the day go extremely well. I'd also like to pay tribute to John Deere for its support, particularly through the financial contributions it makes to BIGGA and GCSAI," added a delighted Trevor.

Like Worfield, Downpatrick's team - club captain Fred Hamilton, competitions convenor Gerard McStay, professional Robbie Hutton, golf course superintendent Emmett Curran and John Deere dealer salesman Ricky Neill of Johnston Gilpin & Co, Lisburn - thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

"We thought 13 under around Forest Pines was a great score. We played really well as a team. I think we really only left two shots out on the course, and with only two teams making better scores I think we did the best we could," said BIGGA member Emmett Curran.

"We could not have caught the winning team, their score was terrific and we wish them well in the Grand Final at Grayhawk. The John Deere Team Championship is a great format, and Forest Pines is a great course. We're certainly glad to be the top Irish team, and we'll definitely enter again."

Altogether 24 John Deere dealerships organised regional qualifiers for this year's tournament, with a total of 426 teams competing across Great Britain and Ireland. Donations are traditionally made to greenkeeping associations in all the countries which take part in the Team Championship, and this year John Deere Limited has contributed a total of £10,650 to support the educational activities of BIGGA and GCSAI.

In the battle of the Associations the GCSAI team, comprising Patrick Holohan, Terence McShea, Alan Mahon, Barry McElroy and John Deere Limited Managing Director Alec McKee, reversed last year's final placings



▲ The BIGGA Team, from left to right; John Pemberton, Iain McLeod, Ian Semple, Past Chairman George Brown and John Deere's Malcolm Jackson.



▲ What a Team! - The Worfield golfers receive their winners' prizes from MD Alec McKee (centre). They are, from left, William Weaver, Steve Russell, Trevor Williams, Mike Fowkes and Pete Worthy.

# The Championship Course

Forest Pines Golf Club, near Brigg in north Lincolnshire, was established as a brand new championship course in 1996. It features three challenging loops of nine holes fashioned out of mature woodland by golf course architect John Morgan.

Course Manager David Norton and his greenkeeping team are now using a fleet of over 30 John Deere machines, supplied by Adamsons. This has almost doubled in size since the course first opened.

"With 27 holes plus a practice area, and very heavy usage of the course all year round, we need a big machinery fleet and a lot of staff to keep on top of the workload," said David Norton.

"All three nine hole loops start close to the clubhouse, so we also need to work quickly around the whole course.

"We cut the greens every day, and the fairways three times a week, depending on the time of year. Because there's so much tree cover, we also

do a lot of aeration to keep everything breathing and draining freely.

"This is why it's such a good winter course, as it doesn't get waterlogged or muddy. It's challenging to get all the holes in perfect condition all year round, though, and that's why the equipment is used to the maximum."

Forest Pines hosts a number of pro-ams, PGA and Euro Pro Tour events and other tournaments, some of which, because of its location, are open to both Midlands and Northern PGA sections, and many of which take place over the winter months – hence the heavy traffic on the course.

As a result, some of the playing areas have recently been overseeded with ryegrass, to maintain the presentation and improve wear, and several tees have been expanded. The club has also invested in a new machinery shed, fuel station and an eco-friendly self-contained wash-off system.

"Obviously we've been very happy with the John Deere equipment, which is why we've committed to an ongoing replacement scheme," said David.

"The machines are comfortable, manoeuvrable and easy to set up and operate. The range meets our specifications, and the parts and service back-up from the dealer is excellent."



▲ BIGGA Chief Executive John Pemberton is presented with John Deere's contribution to the Association's education programme by MD Alec McKee (left) and C&E Sales Manager David Hart (right).



▲ Iain McLeod with his award for winning the amateur Nearest the Pin competition.



▲ The Downpatrick Team from left to right; Gerard McStay, Ricky Neill, Robbie Hutton, Fred Hamilton and Emmett Curran.

by beating the BIGGA team of John Pemberton, Ian Semple, Iain McLeod, George Brown and John Deere's finance & administration manager Malcolm Jackson by seven shots - 55 to 62.

The BIGGA team did have something to celebrate thanks to Iain McLeod winning the amateur prize for Nearest the Pin.

"The 2004 John Deere Championship has been a major success, and some magnificent golf has been played. Our congratulations go to both Worfield Golf Club and Downpatrick Golf Club on a wonderful

Championship, I am sure Worfield will represent us all very well in the US. Personally the BIGGA team had a good round, but we just couldn't pip the GCSAI this year," said BIGGA Chief Executive John Pemberton.

"On the business side of things BIGGA's educational activities are important to the development of greenkeeping and it is crucial this is supported. John Deere's support and financial contribution is very much appreciated and ensures we at BIGGA can elevate the level of greenkeeping through education," added John.



▲ Past Chairman George Brown shows how it's meant to be done, while his team looks on.



▲ The BIGGA Team look set for birdie.

# Nothing to Fear from Best Practice

The R&A's Steve Isaac, Assistant Director of Golf Course Management, explains the role of the Best Practice website.



The R&A's Course Management Best Practice guidelines website, [www.bestcourseforgolf.org](http://www.bestcourseforgolf.org), provides the opportunity for clubs across the world to compare their operations against the basic principles of best practice. Many will welcome this challenge, some will already match up to its checklists and a few may exceed the demands of this interactive site.

The benefits of operating to best practice cannot be overemphasised, for the greenkeeper and the golfer. The result of such is sustainability, in environmental and economic terms, which provides consistency and reliability of playing surface, budget and minimal impact on the environment.

The information on the site is available, free of charge, to anyone, anywhere – which should help enlighten golfers on the technical demands of course management. It is certainly a tool the Course Manager or responsible Committee can use to educate their members.

Convincing golfers that “green is not, necessarily, great” remains, probably, the greatest challenge we face in terms of promoting sustainable course management.

By registering to the site, golf clubs can work through the checklists which are found at the foot of many pages of text in five main sections; Management, Greenkeeping, Environment, Planning and Development, Advice and Research.

After registering, each club is given secure access to their management area. To date, over 670 clubs from 62 countries have registered.

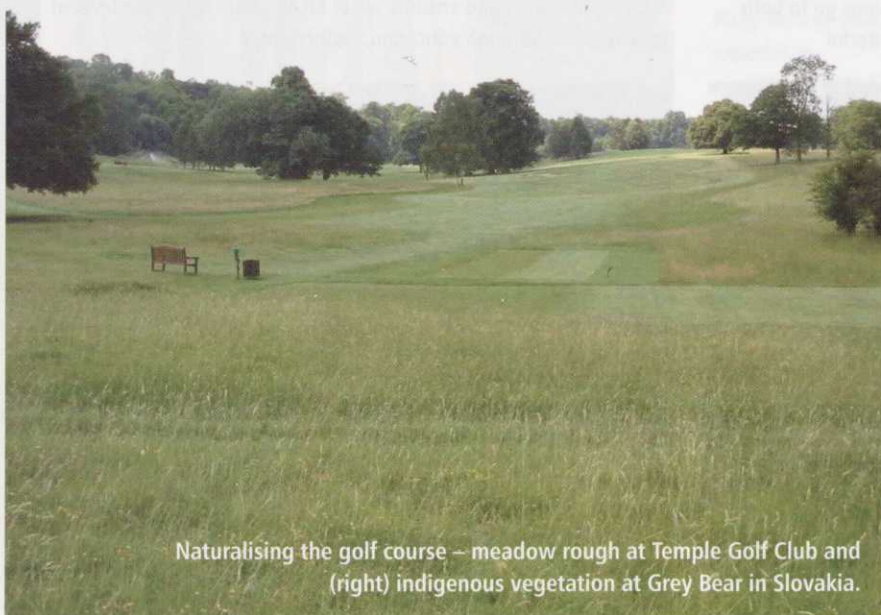
Before setting out on the road to best practice, we strongly advise you read the User Guide to the site, which is available as a downloadable pdf file. This explains how the site works and how the most appropriate individuals within the club can be allocated the task of working through any given section.

## Building the case for golf

There is a vast amount of material to work through and documentation to produce to complete the checklists. Some may balk at the size of the task, but this is the beauty of a website – you do this at your own pace and as your resources allow. It is not a race.

The R&A want to promote the sustainable management of golf courses and this requires planning and long-term commitment. We believe that many courses are already being run on these lines, though there is always room for improvement.

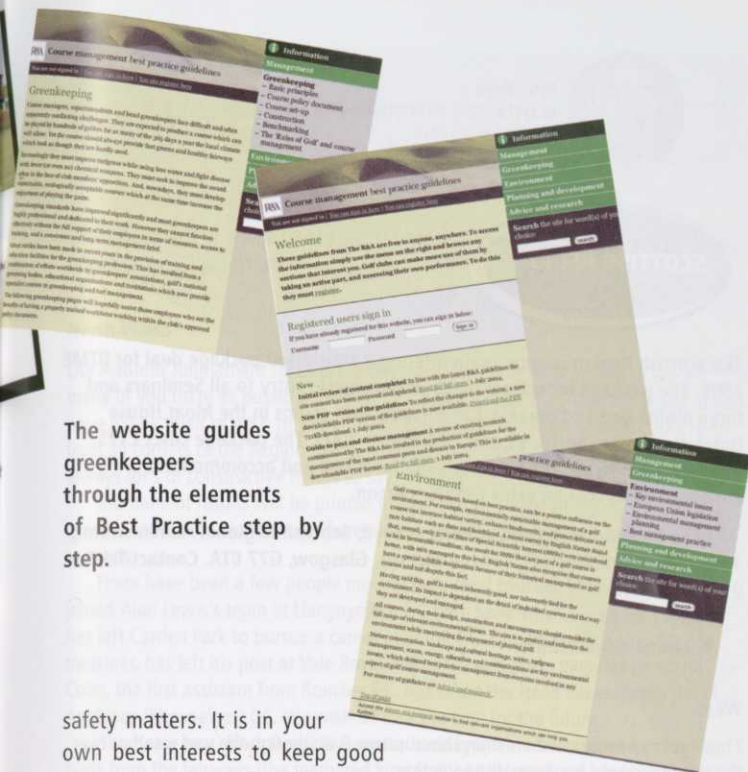
The down side is that relatively few will possess detailed documentation of their programmes and achievements. This is a weakness if we want to persuade environmental organisations of the positive credentials of golf – and a potential liability when it comes to health and



Naturalising the golf course – meadow rough at Temple Golf Club and (right) indigenous vegetation at Grey Bear in Slovakia.







**The website guides greenkeepers through the elements of Best Practice step by step.**

safety matters. It is in your own best interests to keep good records, not in your head but on paper and organised in such a way that everything is to hand.

The R&A's Best Practice website will help guide you through the paper mountain, highlighting vital documents and the process for their production and development. A vast array of useful contacts can be found in the 'Advice' section of the site, including many organisations that can give practical help in the information gathering exercise.

Clubs completing the checklists for all five sections on the site will receive official recognition of their achievement from The R&A. As for the weakness in the self-regulation of the checklist system, those who believe they can pull the wool over our eyes are only fooling themselves. Environmental legislation will be policed and those paying lip service will be caught out.

However, do not think that working to best practice is all about filling in forms and collecting data - the most vital aspect is in its implementation and for that basic reason it is the greenkeeping fraternity who are the key to promoting best practice. Hopefully, those already working hard to demonstrate the sustainability of golf will be more confident to express their views now they have the full, and very visible, backing of The R&A.

These days it is not enough to believe that golf, generally, operates in an environmentally friendly way – or at least as friendly as any form of land management will allow. Legislators and an increasingly discerning public demand facts and figures, not rhetoric and anecdotal evidence.

We are convinced golf can demonstrate it is a positive contributor to the natural and social environment. Working through the guidelines will help you make your contribution to this end and provide golf with the ammunition to shoot down its detractors and secure the future development of the game in a form that we would recognise.

**Do not settle for second best!**

Do not shy away from best practice, embrace the concept. It is not something to be afraid of. It is for the good of the environment, club economics, our courses, greenkeepers, golfers and the future of the game itself. Best practice, appropriately applied, is a win:win situation.

Register at [www.bestcourseforgolf.org](http://www.bestcourseforgolf.org) today.



- ▲ Good soil husbandry through compaction and thatch management is crucial.
- ▼ Good practice will result in strong roots and a healthy sward.





# News from the Chief Executive

## By the time you read this column news will have got around about the appointment of Clive Osgood as the Regional Administrator for the South East Region.

Clive was one of four candidates short-listed for interview in mid-September following a rather protracted recruitment process. Until earlier this year he was Course Manager at Walton Heath Golf Club in Surrey, a position he had held for many years.

He is also a past Chairman of BIGGA (2001) and is well known to many, both within the Region and elsewhere. I am sure his enthusiasm for BIGGA, his passion for greenkeeping and the respect that he commands will set him off to a good start in his newly chosen career.

He will be working from home and full contact details for Clive will be announced in next month's issue of Greenkeeper International once a business telephone line has been installed. Meanwhile should you need to contact him then this can be done through Headquarters.

The search for a Regional Administrator for South Wales and the South West Region continues at the time of writing although a few CVs have now been received and will be considered at the regional board meeting on September 20.

Hopefully this will result in an appointment in the not too distant future. In the interim period the affairs of both Regions have been administered through Headquarters with help from members in the respective Region. The fact that it has been 'business as usual' is a credit to those few unsung heroes who seem always ready to rally together. They know who they are!

The Association's financial year-end is September 30 and the management accounts to July 31 showed that we are ahead of budget, hopefully this trend will be carried through into August and September. In what has been a difficult year on many fronts I would like to thank everyone at Headquarters for their support and their determination to progress the Association.

During the month I was pleased to be able to send a cheque for £1,918.06 to St Michael's Hospice, Harrogate, in respect of the surplus from the golf day held in memory of Neil Thomas. It is proposed that this is an annual event in aid of this very worthy cause.

I would like to remind Sections that it is also their year-end at the end of September and that, in accordance with the Constitution, Section accounts should be submitted to the Regional Administrator by October 31 having been approved by an AGM.

Many Sections are looking for help on their committee or help running specific events. If you feel you can spare a few hours, even on an ad hoc basis, then I would ask you to give it serious consideration. It does not have to be too onerous and there is always plenty of assistance on offer from the Regional Administrator and Headquarters.

To avoid any doubt I would like to clarify that the position of Regional Administrator is that of a permanent member of the Headquarters staff and as such their salary and all employment and administrative costs are paid for out of central funds.

In talking with members there seems to be some confusion over the role of the Futures Committee and its powers. This committee was set up with the specific aim of looking at the future of BIGGA through the eyes of a cross section of members, with a view to making suggestions on development and improvement of the Association to the Board of Management.

The committee has no power to force issues or make policy or management decisions and is ably chaired by Elliott Small who was the Association's Chairman in the year 2000. Details of the current committee can be found in the recently distributed member's handbook and this group forms another medium through which you can express your own ideas.

I hope in any event all members feel able to approach Headquarters staff at any time, the Board of Management or their own Regional Board members.

Next month I will be able to report on the progress of BTME and Clubhouse and the outcome of the September steering committee meeting that includes exhibitor representatives.

Having spoken to several industry representatives at SALTEX there is still concern in some quarters about the number and frequency of trade shows in the UK. Our show is vital to the future of your Association and the future of greenkeeping, please give it your maximum support.

**John Pemberton**



Peter Boyd  
SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND  
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

## SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish Region is once again offering a subsidised package deal for BTME 2005. The package includes a coach to Harrogate, entry to all Seminars and three nights bed and breakfast in en-suite twin rooms in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate, on 18, 19 and 20 January, 2005. The package costs £175. Partners are welcome at a cost of £150 for travel and accommodation. Banquet tickets cost an extra £35 per person.

For a booking form contact Peter J. Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA. Contact Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

Peter J. Boyd  
Regional Administrator

## West

I hope every one has had an enjoyable summer even though the wet weather over the last few weeks has been disappointing.

Firstly there are a few new members to welcome to the Section. Steven Briody, Daziel Park GC, Kevin Cross, Whitecraigs, Graham Kirkpatrick, Clydebank Hargate, Niall McDonald, Drumpelie, Stephen Duffy, Cochrane Castle, and Victoria Cavinue, Hamilton GC, a warm welcome to all new members.

Once again the Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich had a great turn out and this was played over Bellisle GC during July.

The Norrie Whytock Trophy was held at Auchterarder GC with Brian Bolan, Neil McLennan, Chris Kerr and Robert Phillips representing the West and they scored a commendable 90 points, finishing fourth. Well done lads.

The Stewards match against the greenkeepers will be held at Clydebank Hargate on October 4.

This year the annual night out will be held at Madness in Glasgow. It's a bit different from the norm so hopefully there will be something for everyone. We are limited to 40 tickets so it's first come first serve. Give me a phone nearer the time to find out starting time.

As I said in my last report the AGM will be held at Hampden on October 27 with a tour of the premises and a presentation from Scottish Grass Machinery who always put on a first class day. I hope there's a big turn out as I am taking over as Chairman.

During July I had the pleasure of going to the Drymsine Estates in the Ayr Gll Hills where I played golf over their nine hole course and I must say after preparing Renfrew for the Open pre-qualifier it was nice to see a lovely course situated in this fantastic setting and to play golf with Bryce Houston, the Head Greenkeeper, who does a fantastic job and who made it a terrific day for myself and Robert Bruce. We look forward to playing again in the near future.

You can contact me on 07970 366 355 for any info or ticket sales for the night out.

Fraser Ross

## NORTHERN REGION

### BIGGA NORTHERN REGION – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2004

A Northern Region Seminar on Environmental Issues is planned for Thursday November 25 at Penrith Golf Club.

The subjects to be discussed will cover many aspects relating to the environmental management of golf courses and how new European Legislation will impact on the sustainable management of golf courses.

It will be a full day programme, with speakers including Bob Taylor, from the STRI; Bronia Allen, from the Government sponsored Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP); Tim Earley, from ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd; John Albutt, from John Albutt Associates, Steve Oultram, from Wilmslow Golf Club, and others.

If you would like to attend please contact Peter Larter (Northern Region Administrator) for an application form at "Tamarisk", High St, Corby Glen, Grantham,