



**James Canham**

as the ideal student to progress to the National Final.

James is just 18 years of age and is an Assistant Greenkeeper at Weston Park Golf Club.

He started his career at Ryston Park, before moving onto an 18 hole course at Weston Park one year ago. James is currently working towards his NVQ Level 2 at the College of West Anglia.

His major goal is to become Head

Greenkeeper at one of the most highly regarded courses in the world.

When not on the golf course James gardens professionally, plays football and is also keen on karate.

For the South East interviews, held in Hemel Hempstead, Ken teamed up with Ian Semple and Toro's Peter Mansfield once more. After much deliberation two Finalists were chosen from the South East. Alastair Higgs and Alex Shore will be making the trip to North Yorkshire.

Alastair is a 19 years old Assistant Greenkeeper at Calcot Park Golf Club, Reading, where he has worked for over three years.

He has spent the past four years gaining his PA1, PA2, PA6 Chemical Applicators Licence and NVQ Level 2, and he is currently studying for his NVQ Level 3 at Sparsholt College.

Between studying and supporting Reading FC, Alastair finds time to get out onto the golf course to improve on his already excellent handicap of 7.

Alex is an Assistant Greenkeeper at Woburn Golf and Country Club, where he has been for the past five years.

A passion for golf got him into the profession, and with encouragement from his Head Greenkeeper Alex decided to undertake his NVQ Level 3 at Oaklands College.

Newly wed Alex, 26, believes his study will help him realise his ambition to one day become a Head Greenkeeper himself.

The South West Regional Final was based in Cheltenham. This time Ken was flanked on the interview panel by Richard Barker and John Pike, of Toro. Here Katherine Walls greatly impressed, and she was rewarded with a place in the National Final.

Katherine works as an Assistant

Greenkeeper at Taunton and Pickeridge Golf Club, Somerset.

Katherine, or Katie, already has a NVQ Level 2 and three 'A' levels under her belt, and is currently in the first year of her degree in Sportsturf Science

at Myerscough College, the same institution 2003 Student of the Year winner Keith Scruton attended.

She has major ambitions, as she would like to get into Course Management while still in her twenties, while also playing as much competitive golf as possible. Katie, 21, plays off 3 currently and has represented both Somerset County and Wales.

The Regional Finals proved once more that there remains a rapid increase in the amount, and quality, of qualified greenkeepers in the UK and Ireland. The interview panels are increasingly impressed by the standard of the student candidates, the work that they put in and the support they receive from their golf clubs.

"We had a good young group this year, they were all very prepared and because of this there were some difficult decisions the panels had to make," said Ken.

"The support from a student's golf club and their Course Manager is crucial. When students are supported it makes a significant difference to the standard. It was obvious which candidates had received such support and guidance and we want to promote that.

"The eight candidates that progressed to the National Final stood out in particular for their determination to win the competition and progress in greenkeeping. They had done their research, one even contacted a previous winner for advice, and that was clear for the judging panels to see."

The final, at BIGGA HOUSE on September 27, will consist of two stages.

Firstly, the eight candidates will face a final interview. The interview panel will comprise BIGGA Chief Executive John Pemberton, BIGGA Board of Management Member David Walden, Peter Mansfield and Andy Brown, of Toro.

Secondly, the Finalists will conduct a survey of the Aldwark Manor Golf Course. This will involve the candidates evaluating nine holes of the course.

The Finalists will be joined on the day by the 2003 Toro Student of the Year, Keith Scruton, and the Regional Judges.

The National Winner will receive the Toro Scholarship, which includes an eight week trip to the USA. Six of those weeks will be spent on a residential Turf Management study course at the University of Massachusetts.

The lucky winner will also spend time visiting the Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis, and the GCSAA Show and Conference in Orlando.



**Katherine Walls**

**The experiences of last year's winner Keith Scruton are featured on the next two pages.**



# Reflections from over the Pond

20000 miles, 56 days, 14 flights, eight destinations, 250 hours of lectures temperatures of - 40°C to 27°C and life out of a suitcase.

Sound surreal? That's the opportunity of a lifetime that awaits the 2004 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. Well it certainly was for me as the 2003 winner.

From the moment that Ken Richardson reads out the name of the 2004 winner life will become surreal, if my experience is anything to go by. Although the trip doesn't begin until the January following the final at the end of September, the months in between are full of planning, activities and packing.

The real trip began at 3.30 am on the morning of January 4 2004 with a trip to Manchester Airport for the first of three flights that day. Prior to all of that was the worst part of the trip, having to sneak around the house and kiss goodbye to my wife and the boys.

As they were lying fast asleep it was hard to believe that it would be two months before I would see them again. The faces, fast asleep, were with me all the way to America and for the next eight weeks.

First up was the shuttle to Heathrow followed by a flight to Washington and finally a connecting flight to Hartford in Connecticut and a transfer to the Quality Inn in Hadley, Massachusetts.

The whole process took 23 hours and left me feeling disorientated and tired.

On landing in Hartford a cold wind whistled through me and I was greeted by icy rain. After panicking about the cab driver being on the 'wrong' side of the road I reached my new home for the next seven weeks, room 236 of the Quality Inn.

The university course started on the following day at 9.30am, so it was important to meet people who could give me a lift there or find out the bus times. Following the good advice from Murray Long, 2002 Toro winner, I hit the breakfast room early. In the room were at least 20 people that were all doing the winter school at UMASS; a lift was soon fixed up.

It is amazing at how greenkeepers, even from different continents, can mix together so easily with the golf course providing the level playing field. Naturally everyone become intrigued with the guy from England and a somewhat celebrity status is endowed upon you by the others, as I am a novelty.

When we arrived at UMASS the scale of the campus is unbelievable, we had a 25 minute walk from the parking lot to the first class room, which is not the far side of the campus. In the campus is a 20,000 all seated hockey stadium, a 20,000 open-air football field, 10,000-basketball area, a hotel, three churches and enough classroom space to accommodate the 28,000 students that attend the university. It resembles a town rather than a campus.

Classes ran Monday to Friday, starting at 8am and finishing a 5.30pm, with an hour break for lunch. Lectures on Monday start at 10am and Friday lectures finish at noon. Four lectures were given each day from a total of 11 different topics. The subjects were: -

Irrigation, Soil science, Turf grass management, Weed management, Arboriculture, Mathematics of turf grass management, Advanced topics in turf grass management, Personnel management, Architecture, Entomology and Pathology.

The vast majority of the teachers had doctorates in their specific fields.

As for the students a total of 56 attended the winter school at UMASS. The vast majority were from the Northeastern States, although other parts of the US were represented. There were also a number of international students present, including eight Canadians, one Australian woman, at Banff, Canada, one Brazilian, working in America, and an Englishman. Quite a cosmopolitan feel to the place.

There was a wide range of ages and backgrounds to the students. Ages went from 20 – 45, with people from a lifetime of turf management to relative new comers having two to three years experience.

There were some cultural aspects of being a Brit that took some explaining. We don't all work on links courses and the rules of cricket do take some explaining, as does the whereabouts of

Blackburn. Fortunately soccer is catching on in the US and numerous people had heard of the world famous Blackburn Rovers, although most, sadly, only knew of Manchester United.

The reason for the great popularity of the winter school course at UMASS is that it is one of the most respected turf courses in the whole of the US. Over the years it has help the careers of greenkeepers throughout the US, with many of them becoming superintendents at the top courses in America, such as Pine Valley, Pinehurst and the Congressional, to name but a few.

Through my conversations with Murray I had quite a few tips on how to get through all of the hours of study and lectures, however my expectations of the course were undefined before the start of the course.

Having completed the course I have to say that it was very similar to the HND Turf Science award that I took at Myerscough, but with an American twist to it all. It is great credit to the staff at Myerscough that I was able to keep pace with the work,

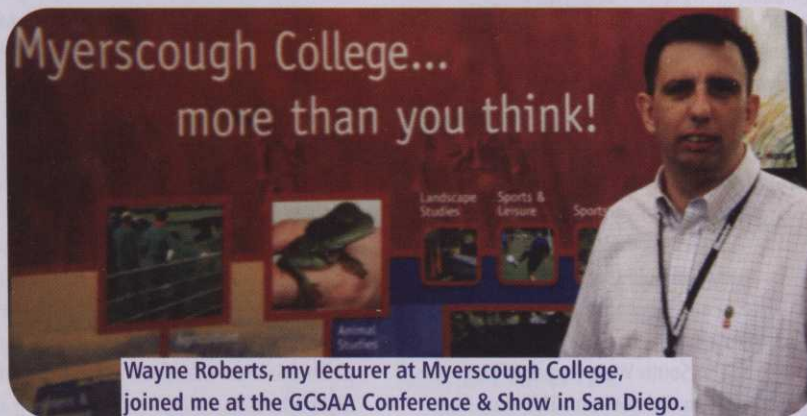
as there was very little time to spare in each class. It was very difficult to cram in subjects that usually get taught over a 16-week period into just seven weeks.

Full time students have to cope with four to five modules per annum, we get all 11. All of the subjects that are taught have to be completed in the 250 hours that is allocated to the delivery of the winter school.

My day started at 6am, due to a combination of jet lag that woke me up at 3am every day, and the fact that I had to revise for a test almost every



My home for seven weeks – the Quality Inn.



Wayne Roberts, my lecturer at Myerscough College, joined me at the GCSAA Conference & Show in San Diego.



# by 2003 Winner Keith Scruton



Me in Boston – what a view!

day. The 6am start allowed me an hour of study prior to breakfast. For breakfast the Quality Inn was taken over by up to 30 greenkeepers chewing the fat over the day to come.

Dependant upon the particular topics that were allocated for that day's tests could either be for every subject or even none for the day, however for the 17 weekly sessions expect to take at least seven to 10 tests.

There was a sporadic nature to the testing, some subjects had no tests at all while other had tests for every session, which could mean three to four on the same subject per week. The manner of tests varied too, apart from the session tests there were mid term test, end term tests, home work assignments or a combination of all of them.

As the end of the seven weeks drew closer, the intensity of testing increased, as did the homework assignments. This began to put a strain on everyone as we all began to dream of home, wherever home was, I had to keep reminding myself of the fact that I had an additional week flying around America before I could go home.

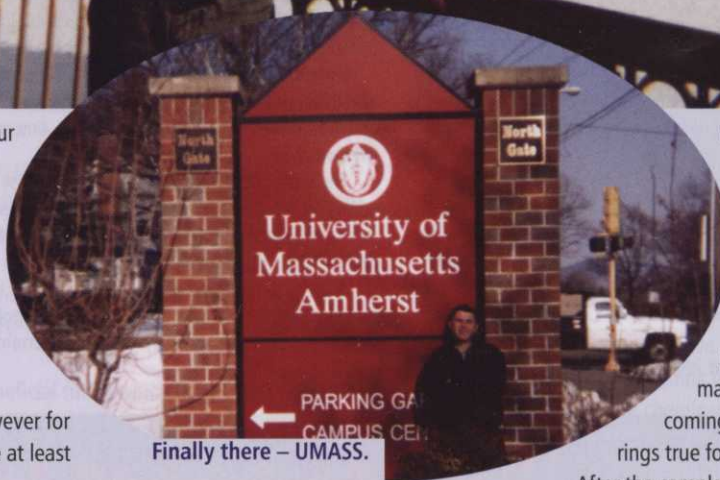
The final week brought the final tests, exams and thankfully the results of our endeavours. To my relief and surprise I had acquitted myself well and all but one of the graded subjects I managed to get into the 90% and above range, soils was 85%.

## THE TORO TRIPS

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy", or so the saying goes. Apart from the academic side to the prize, Toro gives an invaluable insight into the workings of the American greenkeeper movement and the work of the Toro Company.

Toro arranged a total of three trips for me to attend, the first being the USGAA Golf Show in San Diego, California.

It is surprising how similar BTME is to the USGAA show, there are the vast amount of exhibitors carrying the same message, of course there are



Finally there – UMASS.

more of them, but its very much of a muchness. One of the prominent themes of the show appeared to be the environmental stewardship of golf course management.

There were numerous examples, throughout the two days that I was present, to illustrate the responsible management of the environment that is coming from American greenkeepers, this rings true for the UK.

After the completion of the university course, as others departed for home, my trip was far from over. I had a further four flights to take before I could think of the three flights home.

My first destination was to Minneapolis in Minnesota, via Chicago. This is the home of Toro machinery, where every machine was designed, manufactured, built, tested and then shipped all over the world. For this and the subsequent leg of the trip I was the special guest of Toro, and Toro certainly know how to entertain.

I was to be shown around with the Canadian winner of the Toro Future Superintendents Award, Kendall Costain. Kendall was also staying at the Radisson. It was a pleasure to meet up with Kendall to exchange views on the trips we had, Kendall's trip was to Scotland, where he studied at Elmwood College and worked at Kingsbarn golf course and on the Old Course at St Andrews.

The next day was the final leg to Riverside, California, to be given an insight into the design, production and manufacturer of Toro's irrigation line. After a successful and informative seven weeks I flew back to the UK.

Now the dust has settled on an amazing trip I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Mansfield and Lely UK, Andy Brown of Toro, and all at BIGGA for helping to make this dream come true.

A special thanks to all those people that were kind enough to look after the English man abroad, to the people of UMASS, Toro in Minneapolis and Toro in California for looking after me so well and giving me remarkable stories to tell for years to come.

■ A full version of Keith's diary can be found on the BIGGA website.



The rest of the world team – three Canadians, an Australian girl and me the solo Brit.



## FIRE RISK

### Tutorial Four

## How safe is your Club from Fire?

**Too many golf clubs in recent years have had serious fires putting lives at risk; don't let this happen to your club**

#### What Is the Legislation?

The Fire Risk Assessment is carried out to comply with the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations Amendment 1999. The purpose of the Fire Risk Assessment is to ensure all fire and explosion hazards are correctly identified and reasonable measures are in place to manage the hazards and allow safe escape of all personnel from the premises.

#### Scope for the Fire Risk Assessment

The assessment should be completed systematically for all risk areas for example; Offices, Professional shop, Clubhouse areas incl. kitchen, machinery shed, battery store and other functional areas of the golf club.

#### Methodology

The process should be systematic and involves dividing your facilities into areas and for each area applying the following guidewords. The Fire Risk assessment should identify whether the area is safe or not and be recorded in writing as such;

What are the fire and explosion hazards in that area. E.g. electrical, gas, heaters, smoking, boilers, oil/liquids, hot surfaces, Electrical overload, Open Flame, Flammable materials, Welding, Grinding, Fat Fire/Chip Pan, Petrol fire, Diesel Fire.

What is the likelihood of the fire or explosion occurring? I.e. Low, Medium and High.

What Fire Detection and Safety equipment is required for this event and the

work carried out. Eg. fire detection and alarm systems, fire fighting appliances, and the maintenance requirements.

Are adequate Escape routes and emergency exits provided. Eg. number, illumination, free from obstruction, and correctly signage.

What training is required for fire fighting on the premises?

Other additional measures may be required and these will form recommendations.

#### Corrective Actions

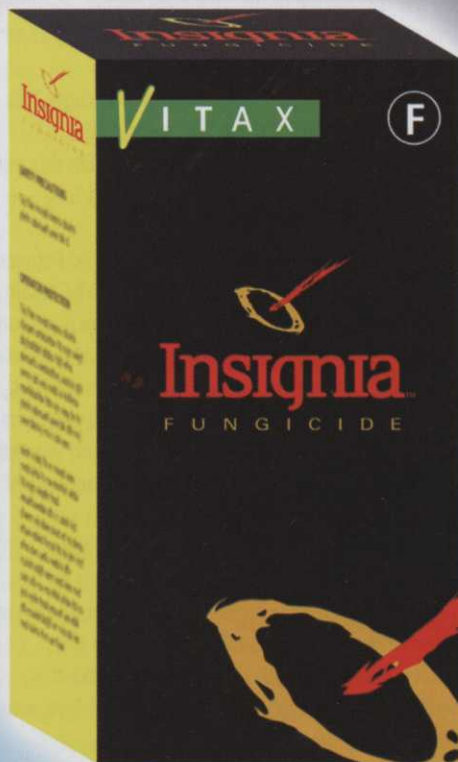
Once all areas have been assessed the club should end up with a number of corrective measures to ensure fire and explosion risks are reduced to as low as reasonably practicable. Some measures may be to review the following systems;

Sprinkler systems, Hose System, Smoke alarms, Fire Extinguishers, Gas Shut Off Lever, Fire Doors, Oven Extinguishing Systems, Rescue equipment (Axe etc), Fire Plan and Procedures, Escape Routes, Signage, Emergency lighting, Training

#### On Completion

The club should have a written Fire Risk Assessment reflecting the fire and explosion hazards and the corrective actions taken to reduce the risks. Any changes to the structure, equipment or mode of operation of the club should result in an update to the fire risk assessment.

Haztek International have completed many golf club Fire Risk assessments and will offer assistance if required by contacting Jerrard Winter on 0208 905 7552 or email: [info@safegolf.co.uk](mailto:info@safegolf.co.uk).



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you the best



# From Lab to Links

Scott MacCallum talks with Dr Alan Gange about the work that he and his students are carrying out at Royal Holloway College

Finding a link between the hard running fairways and firm greens of a well maintained golf course and the microscopes, test tubes and lab coats of a university research laboratory may at first seem a tall order but a visit to Royal Holloway, University of London, brings it all together and into sharp focus just how important the academic work currently being carried out could prove be to for Course Managers in the next few years.

The students of the Biological Science Department, under the tutorage of Dr Alan Gange, are currently investigating among others the biological control of *Poa annua* and finding ways of turf becoming more resistant to *Fusarium*.

There, I knew that would attract your attention!

"Our big project is looking at the biological control of *Poa annua* using beneficial fungi in the roots (known as mycorrhizas) and trying to find a way which we can slowly reduce the amount of *Poa* in a golf green," revealed Alan, as we sat in his office in what must be one of the most impressive buildings in the country, just a stone's throw from The Wentworth Club.

"We're also looking at the beneficial fungi which exist in the foliage of plants known as endophytes and Paul Stevens, our Masters student, is looking at these fungi. Increasing their abundance in sports turf which would make grass much more disease and pest resistant," he explained.

Indeed Stevens, a turf professional who has taken time out to complete his Masters Degree, has been looking for golf courses which haven't been sprayed in recent times so he can use evidence collected from them in his work.

The project which launched Alan into golf course research was into the conservation potential of heathland on courses, which was part funded by the R&A, and Alan still has undergraduates researching into the subject.

The relevance of the work of Alan and his students will become ever more important as chemicals are lost to the increasingly tight legislation the fine turf industry is now working within.



▲ Dr Alan Gange.



▲ Laboratory observation of leaf subduction by *Tipula* larva.

"I won't ever suggest that we are going to see the end of chemicals on sports turf. I don't actually think you can grow sports turf in this country without the use of some chemicals, but by the same token I don't believe that in 10 years time greenkeepers will have the number of chemicals they have at their disposal now. I think they'll have one or two. However, it is fair to say that the natural remedy will be the only sustainable method in the future," said Alan.

Having such a limited arsenal of chemicals will in itself have knock on problems with pests and diseases able to build up resistance to the smaller choice of chemicals available whereas before, if a chemical was losing its effectiveness, it was relatively simple to change to one with a slightly different chemical make-up.

"I'm not sure if greenkeepers realise just how many chemicals are going to disappear so there's a lot riding on our research," he warned.

Despite the almost universal agreement that there is a lot of work to be done in view of the move towards a reduction in chemicals, Alan finds golf singularly apathetic when it comes to funding research into alternatives.

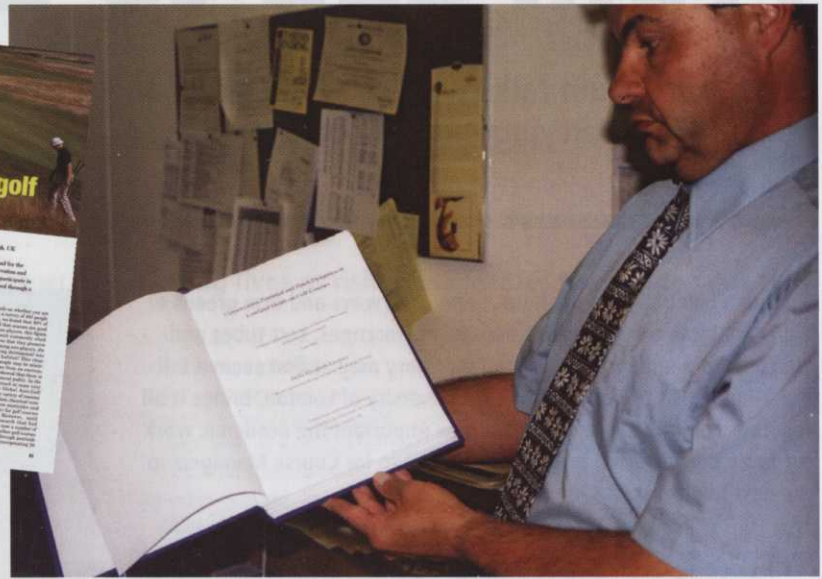
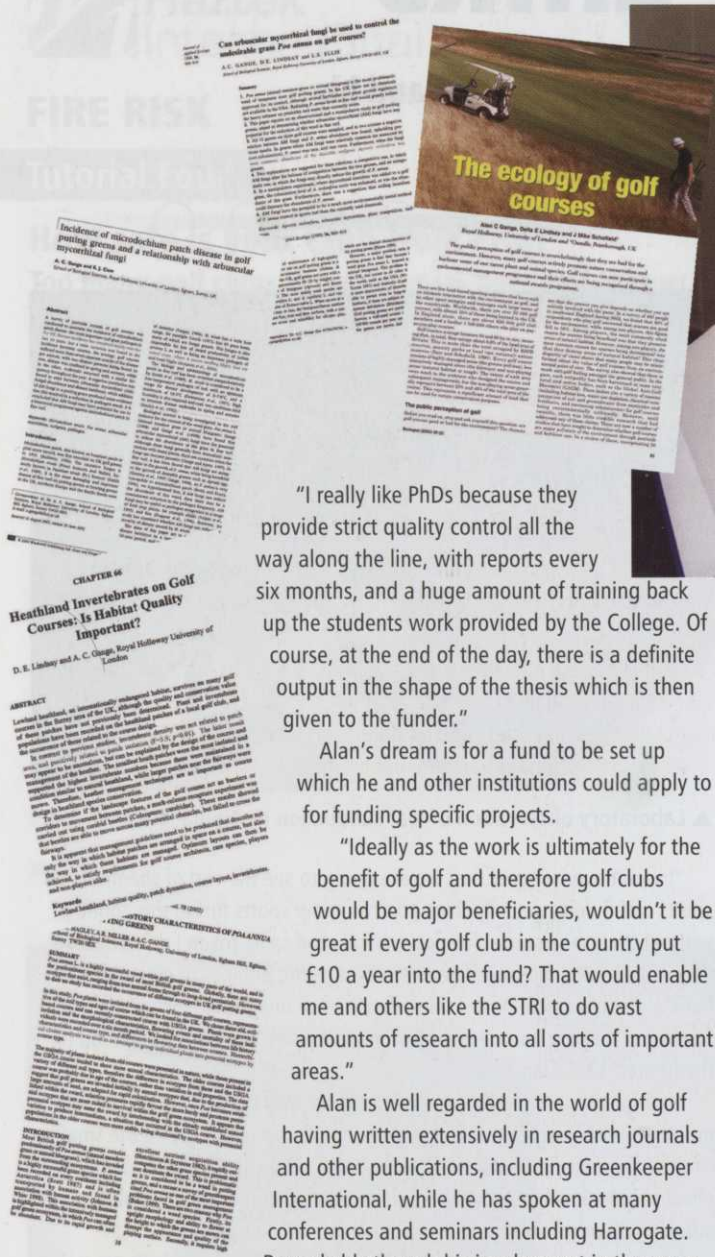
"It really does depress me just how hard it is to get funding and I'd certainly like to see a better funding system for golf course research and believe the industry is in desperate need of it. I look enviously across the pond at the way universities are funded by the industry and organisations such as the USGA, but over here companies within the industry, who don't think twice at spending vast sums of money in other areas or on advertising their products, balk at the thought of investing relatively small sums on potentially vital research projects."

The lack of funding has certainly curtailed much of the work that Alan and his team of talented students wish to undertake.

"We've been trying to do studies looking into the diversity of the golf course but getting funding has been virtually impossible. Other than the R&A funding the heathland project, and some other notable exceptions, we've had to fund everything else ourselves."

Alan points out that financing a doctoral (PhD) student to undertake research is an extremely cost effective way for a company to obtain valuable information.





▲ Dr Gange and his published work.

"I really like PhDs because they provide strict quality control all the way along the line, with reports every six months, and a huge amount of training back up the students work provided by the College. Of course, at the end of the day, there is a definite output in the shape of the thesis which is then given to the funder."

Alan's dream is for a fund to be set up which he and other institutions could apply to for funding specific projects.

"Ideally as the work is ultimately for the benefit of golf and therefore golf clubs wouldn't it be great if every golf club in the country put £10 a year into the fund? That would enable me and others like the STRI to do vast amounts of research into all sorts of important areas."

Alan is well regarded in the world of golf having written extensively in research journals and other publications, including Greenkeeper International, while he has spoken at many conferences and seminars including Harrogate. Remarkably though his involvement in the game came about pretty much by chance.

"I was interested in mycorrhizal fungi in the soil and how they affected the diversity of natural communities of grass land and in order to do that I was using a fungicide – Rovral – to try to reduce the diversity of fungi. I was also interested in subterranean insects and how they could affect the diversity too.

"I wanted to set up lab trials of insects and fungi but couldn't find any insects. I was moaning about this to a friend in the pub when he suggested I go to a local golf club."

Having no interest in the game whatsoever, Alan thumbed through the local phone book and the first club he came to was The Berkshire so he called up, got through to then Course Manager, Bob Moreton, and asked him if he had chafer grubs.

"At the time I didn't know that it was such a rude question to ask a greenkeeper but Bob, being the bloke he is, said 'Yes, millions of them, come and help yourself'. He couldn't believe his luck that this idiot was wanting to dig up his grubs and take them away!

"I began chatting to Bob about greenkeeping and discovered that he was applying Rovral to the greens to control Fusarium and I told him I'd been using it for years to control beneficial fungi in the soil. Bob then wondered what affect it was having on his greens and whether beneficial

fungi might exist in a golf green. I said I'd no idea but that I could find out.

"That was in the early 90s and ever since we've been using The Berkshire as a natural laboratory to obtain chafer grubs, leatherjackets and beneficial fungi, so we didn't have to spend time culturing them in the lab here," said Alan.

He admits that until then his perception of golf had been quote "awful" and that he was one of those who felt it was more bad than good when it came to protecting the environment.

"Walking The Berkshire looking for chafer grubs enabled me to see that most of the golf course isn't really playing areas at all but natural habitat. I was astonished because I'd been teaching students about heathland ecology and why heathlands are rare and why the amount of heathland had diminished over the years. But the old surveys by English Nature in this area never included golf course land.

Now Alan is a real convert and even runs a survey among his prospective students and their parents on their perceptions of the game. It turns out that if they play golf they believe a course is good for the environment and if they don't they say it's bad. Almost a perfect mirror image and therein lays the problem.

"I ask people if a lovely course like Sunningdale didn't exist what would it be? The answer is concrete. If Sunningdale or Wentworth were closed tomorrow and the land went up for sale a developer would buy it and it would become a housing estate."

Holloway College itself is an amazing building and the story behind it is even more amazing. Thomas Holloway made a fortune, a fortune which



▲ Students at work in the lab.



would equate to around £500 million at today's rates, from patented medicines in the 1880s which the College's chemistry department discovered, but which had no medicinal value whatsoever!

Having made this fortune he put a letter in *The Times* asking for advice on how to spend £250 million. In the end he took the advice of his wife and built a university for the education of young ladies, which was opened by Queen Victoria. Royal Holloway remained an all female college until the late 1960s.

"It is now ranked in the top 10 universities in Britain while the Biological Science Department, which boasts around 300 students, is rated as world class," said Alan proudly.

He is equally keen to dismiss the notion that much of what goes on in his department is of no practical value.

"It is all applied research. I talk to greenkeepers and ask them if what we are doing is of use to them. If it isn't then we won't do it. I could do a whole lot of what I think is really interesting but it would be a waste of time if it is not going to benefit the industry."

So the link between golf course maintenance and the hallowed portals of universities like Royal Holloway College is probably closer than you think and the work that they are carrying out might just make your lives a great deal easier in future.

### Students

**Donald McGregor** is in his fourth and final year and when we spoke was writing up his thesis, which is on soil aeration and looking at the effect of it on microbial populations within the soil, the research is sponsored by Redexim Charterhouse.

"I have gone into it with a completely open mind, and obviously we



▲ A student at work



▲ From left to right, Dr Lynn Whitfield, Paul Stevens and Donald McGregor, whose research will benefit golf courses in the future.

can't influence the outcome, but the results are not always what one might expect. I will certainly get some interesting data, but it will also create more questions and open the door to more research," said Donald.

**Dr Lynn Whitfield** is working on Mycorrhizas in sports turf specifically trying to develop a mycorrhizal fungus which will combat *Poa annua*.

"I have been working on the project for two years, based on the work Alan has been doing for several years now. It is going very well at the moment," said Lynn, whose work is funded by the Leverhulme Trust, which funds projects which fall outside the remit of Government Research Councils.

**Steven Ixer-Pitfield** is in the early stages of his work, studying how mycorrhizas affect the growth of three grass species, including *Poa annua*, to see if he can achieve increased growth of the desirable grasses, to fight the *Poa*.

"I'm really pleased I got this project and I'm now going to start a Masters course with Dr Gange after I finish this work," said Steven.

**Paul Stevens** is a turfgrass professional who has worked in the UK and abroad before enrolling at Royal Holloway. He is looking to find endophytes which might combat *Fusarium*.

"I believe that new build golf clubs should be able to manage their nutrients properly and thus reduce the amount of fungicides and pesticides," explained Paul, who is looking to move back into greenkeeping once his work has been completed.



▲ Royal Holloway College – a view from the courtyard and a view from the air.



# NEW PRODUCTS



## SISIS AER-AID SYSTEM

Sisis had launched its new Aer-Aid System, which is to be used with the Sisis Javelin vertical action aerator.

The equipment will allow greenkeepers to give their turf a blast of air every time they aerate. The air injection tines alternate with conventional solid tines and both are 10mm diameter and carbide tipped.

The cam trigger system ensures that the air is always expelled at the bottom of the tine penetration, ensuring a precise and constant working depth. The depth is infinitely variable to a maximum of 127mm.

Working at 150mm (6ins) spacing air is

introduced at a rate of 88 litres per minute. The air injection tines are specially designed to use the maximum air available from the compressor, which produces clean, fresh air at a constant rate.

The Aer-Aid System can be de-activated very easily when not required, and the Javelin fitted with conventional tines can be used for other operations such as hollow coring prior to top-dressing, or cluster heads and needle tines in the summer months.

Compaction tests showed a hardness of 95.07 on the untreated ground, 93.67 after spiking and 84.5 after treatment with the Aer-aid system – an 11% reduction.

For further information TEL: 01625 503030

## INSTANT HEDGE

Practically Brown, in partnership with Elveden Estate, has released another 600 linear meters of Elveden Instant Hedge. 27000 metres of instant hedge are now available to satisfy demand for truly instant screening.

In addition to 2003's unveiling of Green Beech, Laurel, Holly and Mixed Native hedge, the company now have Yew, Box and Hornbeam available.

Elveden Instant Hedge is grown using a unique system that allows stress free installation of this product all year round, so gone are the days of seasonal planting. It is planted in root strips and once planted it is virtually impossible to see the join.

To ensure successful reestablishment on site, a dripper hose irrigation system is installed linked to a simple battery operated tap timer or it can be integrated into an existing irrigation system if available.

Elveden Instant Hedge is grown using automatically irrigated controlled release nutrition, which ensures that the product is always in peak condition.

For further information TEL: 01753 652022



## NEW V-TWIN ENGINES

Briggs & Stratton Commercial Power has launched its new range of V-Twin engines, aimed specifically at the demanding commercial turf applications market.

Available in two displacements with six different horse power options (18.65 – 26.1kW / 25 – 35HP), these are robust, powerful and environmentally friendly application engineered V-Twins, available as both air and liquid-cooled models.

The Vanguard air-cooled V-Twin engines have been developed with 'cooler cleaner' technology, including an advanced debris management system, ideal for heavy duty mowing applications.

The Vanguard liquid-cooled V-Twins feature a 360 degree cooling water jacket, efficiently cutting oil and engine temperatures. All engines feature a large volume muffler, which ensures the engines comply with all European noise and emissions regulations.

The engines are manufactured through a joint venture with Daihatsu and contain revolutionary V-Twin Overhead Valve (OHV) technology delivering superior balance and reducing vibration and component wear, whilst improving fuel efficiency and enhancing durability and performance.

Designed with total flexibility in mind, the engines are completely interchangeable since they feature the same envelope and identical PTO and mounting dimensions, enabling OEM's to keep product development costs to a minimum.

Featuring a single ply, super thin metal head gasket, the new engines optimise the combustion chamber function and thus overall engine performance. In addition, each light compact model in the range is precision balanced to achieve the lowest possible vibration levels.

A cast iron block further dampens noise emissions, whilst a fine-tuned timing gear tooth profile, and helical angle, pushes the gears away from the cover, eliminating transmission of gear train and internal noises.

All engines come with a two year commercial engine warranty and lifetime Magnetron ignition warranty.

For further information TEL: 04126 460 7932





## TWO WHEEL DRIVE SUZUKI



Suzuki has added a two-wheel drive model to its range of 400 class "Eiger" ATVs.

The new model has been introduced to meet the demands of users who need a powerful ATV but do not face the extreme conditions or terrain that demands the additional expense of a four-wheel drive model.

The two-wheel drive Suzuki Eiger 400 combines stylish looks with advanced engineering features which ensures outstanding performance, versatility and value for money.

It has a five speed manual transmission and high/low gear ranges. In common with the selectable two/four wheel drive automatic and manual transmission models, it has a long wheelbase and low seat height giving a low centre of gravity for good stability.

Rider comfort and protection is provided by independent front and swing arm rear suspension with an all round wheel travel of 170mm (6.7in), large mudguards and full floorboards.

The 235mm (9.3in) ground clearance and underside skid plate protect the machine from damage.

The 376cc long life four-stroke OHC four-valve engine provides good low and mid range torque and incorporates Suzuki's advanced cooling system.

This passes a high volume of oil from a large cooler through the cylinder head to prevent overheating even in slow, heavy duty operations.

A start in gear system provides easy starting even in difficult conditions by allowing the starter to be operated in any gear when the front brake lever is applied.

Large 190mm (7.5in) front disc and sealed rear drum brakes ensure consistent stopping power.

Other features include, twin halogen headlights, full instrumentation and sturdy carrying racks with 30kg (66lb) front and 60kg (132lb) rear capacity. Tow hitch capacity is 450kg (990lb).

For further information TEL: 01293 766000

## SELF PROPELLED MOWER

The MAS Mower 01 is a self-propelled, laser-guided, reel-type mower capable of creating a multitude of geometric patterns on turf without an operator being present.

While mainly used on football and rugby pitches, this product is the first sign of the future of technology and the huge advances in the turf equipment field. It will surely only be a matter of time until this technology is used for the benefit of greenkeepers. Fully self-contained, the electrically powered machine combines a conventional 914mm (36in) wide cutting unit with an advanced laser guided steering system.

The mower includes cylinder cut-off for turf rolling without mowing, automatic emptying of its 65 litre high-tip grass collector and a wealth of inbuilt safety features, allowing safe unattended operation.

The mower is equipped with a long range, eye safe rotating laser scanner which operates in conjunction with a series of fixed reflectors positioned around the area being mown.

An onboard computer linked to the laser continuously calculates the mower's position on the surface to centimetre level accuracy, sending signals to the steering system to keep the machine moving along its pre-programmed path.

Powered entirely by rechargeable batteries and electric motors, the MAS Mower 01 can work for more than six hours unattended, with no emissions and at a very low sound level.

At an average mowing speed of 2mph the machine is able to cover over 12,000 sq metres before it needs recharging. The mower contains six blades and the cutting height is adjustable



between 15mm – 70mm.

Low maintenance and running costs are assured thanks to the absence of an engine and hydraulic system.

For further information TEL: 01453 544135

## KUBOTA'S KX SERIES

Kubota's KX Series range of mini excavators has not stood still since its introduction within the UK and Ireland more than 10 years ago.

Continued model development and growth has seen the KX Series expand into a formidable line-up of machines capable of handling the toughest of tasks on the most difficult of terrains. One of the newest models in the series is the KX36-3.

The KX36-3 model weighs 1580kg with a cab and has a maximum travelling



speed of 2.2km/hr. Its 950mm long arm provides a maximum digging force of 7.2kN (735 kgf) and the digging force of the bucket is 13.0kN (1327 kgf).

It features a 3-cylinder Kubota diesel engine with a 778cc displacement.

An advanced hydraulic system improves response and reduces energy wastage, giving the KX36-3 the ability to outperform larger and more costly machines.

This is enhanced by the ergonomically designed control lever layout for smoother operation with reduced driver fatigue.

For added safety the top boom mounted cylinders and hydraulic hoses are routed through the boom.

For further information TEL: 01844 814500





# News from the Chief Executive

**August - what a month for rain and I wonder if we have seen the last of summer for this year. I realise how time seems to pass quicker and quicker each year as preparations for the forthcoming BTME and Clubhouse become more involved.**

The staff at headquarters have been out of the office to several region and section events during the month and the feedback that I am getting from members on this policy is positive and reassuring. These included several Golf Management Trophy days sponsored by Scotts and also the final of the John Deere Team Championship that was held at Forest Pines Golf Club in Lincolnshire. Our thanks go to both companies for their support.

August has also been a busy month with regard to staff. My congratulations go to Marie Whyld, BIGGA's designer, who gave birth to a baby girl, Jessica. Marie is on maternity leave until 31 January 2005 when she hopes to return to full-time work. In the meanwhile we are employing the services of a freelance designer.

There has also been a change in the Sales Department with the appointment of Sarah Craven who replaces Sam Richardson. Sarah will be working mainly on display advertising tele-sales. The two vacancies for regional administrators have been re-advertised and the response for the South East post in particular has been encouraging.

My own change of role has resulted in a change in the accounts office with Tony Cocker, my old assistant – "less of the old," says Tony - stepping up from four to five days a week and taking on the responsibility for the day to day accounting. This has left a vacancy and I am pleased to announce that Stephen Coates will join the Association on 1 September.

We are now back up to a full complement with the exception of a part-time cleaner following the resignation of Sue Hancock, who has been offered more hours at her main job. The search for a replacement goes on and we hope to come to some agreement with the hotel to use their housekeeping services. In the meanwhile we are all having to learn to be far more responsible for our actions.

I don't wish to sound patronising but what a pity I cannot say the same about some of our members. I have been in many mess rooms in greenkeeper's sheds and mess is an appropriate word. In my opinion there is no excuse for lack of hygiene and care.

Before everyone starts jumping up and down I must add that I have also been in some rooms where it has been a pleasure to sit down and enjoy a chat and a mug of tea. I know at times greenkeeping can be a dirty job but it does not need to spill into the canteen and become a health and safety risk!

I am also aware that golf club funds do not always stretch to providing the most modern of facilities, however, it's not always about money more a question of basic housekeeping.

Mugs not washed, floors not swept, litter not disposed of properly, surfaces not kept clean, filthy toilets, perhaps a coat of emulsion on the walls now and again would not go amiss. Do you recognise the scene? If so what are you doing about it?

The biggest investment is time and effort not money. BIGGA is working hard to raise the public opinion of the greenkeeper and gain recognition for the professional job that its members do. The Association however can only do so much, the rest is up to you.

**John Pemberton**



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

## SCOTTISH REGION

### East

Well here we are, after a few months away we're back! So anyway down to business. I hope you are all enjoying this weather, I think over the last few weeks the grass growth has been more than it has been all season due to the moisture and rise in temperature, which is good for the rest of the season.

Well congratulations to some of our East Section clubs, namely West Linton Golf Club and Gullane Golf Club, on achieving top environment status by becoming winners of the Scottish Golf Environment Groups National Environmental Excellence Award. This prestigious award puts both clubs into the top thirty clubs in Europe for care of the environment. So congratulations to them and their continued drive forward in environmental excellence, also congratulations to the other winners of this award St Andrews Links Trust, and Downfield Golf Club, well done to them.

Well done to Andy Forrest, Swanston GC, and wife Kirsty on the birth of a baby son Cameron in July, mum and baby are doing well but Andy is having a few sleepless nights (shame), so congratulations to all the family and a little brother for Nathan which he will enjoy, so well done from everyone in the Section.

At our last Section meeting we decided on a few changes. Firstly I am taking on the position of Education Officer for the East Section as we don't have one at the moment and I have thought about this for a long time and after being asked at the meeting I was very pleased to accept this position.

As I am coming to the end of my term as Chairman for the second time I wanted to give something back to the Section, because after 23 years on the committee its become part of my life and I look forward to this new chapter with vigour as education is a very big part of our profession, so I cant wait to get started on your behalf.

Secondly, the Willie Woods Tournament has had a revamped as it had become stale, we've now changed this to a three man Texas scramble with you inviting guests from your committee/green staff, but preferably your committee members, for a fun day with the emphasis on fun because golf is becoming to serious. You will receive notification of this along with your Autumn Tournament entry form so lets see a big turnout for both events.

The AGM this year will take place at Gullane Golf Club on October 26, details will be with you soon, hope to see you all there.

Apologies for no report from the Spring Tournament, but here it is. We had a great day at Craigiellaw Golf Club. A first visit for a number of us and what a test of golf it is, I look forward to returning soon to tame the beast. A big thank you to the management team who made our day most enjoyable, the bar and restaurant staff and last but not least Head Greenkeeper Mark Reid and his staff, the course was in great condition apart from a few severe pin positions?? Well done lads.

There was some good scores and some high scores to say the least and here are the results;

Scratch. Stephen Gray, 78; Class 1. 1. Craig Gilholm, 82-7-75; 2. Keith Burgon, 83-7-76; 3. Ryan McCulloch 87-9-78. Class 2. 1. Colin Irvine, 80-10-70; 2. Rory Campbell, 85-10-75; 3. Chris Yeaman, 89-11-78. Class 3. 1. Jimmy Neilson, 106-21-85; No other players in 3rd class handed in a card. Best Nett. Alan Russell, 89-10-79. Veterans Prize. Graeme Wood, 88-7-81. Trade prize. Iain Lauder, 73-0-73.

Well done to all prize winners and yes your handicaps have been adjusted in time for the Autumn Tournament, hope to see you all there.

Well that's it all for this month and I WILL be back with more news, etc next month, so if you have any news let me know so we can get it into print ok. The usual numbers (h) 01968661313 (w) 01968661721 (m) 07719580449 (ADDRESS) Westwyn, West Linton GC, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7HN.

So I'm ready and waiting for your info so will be back next month - see you then.

**Chris Yeaman**

### Ayrshire

Hello everyone just a few things to let you know about. Loch Lomond Golf Club has generously offered the Dundonald Course to the Section for our Autumn outing.

The date for the outing is Thursday October 7. Tee times will be from