

SEMINARS AT SALTEX 2005

Thursday September 8

10.30	Seminar	Soil and Water - The Critical Mix; Taking Time To Think Alex Vickers, Cranfield University
11.30	Seminar	As Safe as Necessary - Being Serious About Play David Yearley, RoSPA
12.00	Seminar	Playground Insurance & Inspections - Don't Waste Your Money Rob Wheway, Child Accident Prevention Trust
12.30	Groundsman Live Debate - Safe Surfaces	Panellists include: David Yearley, RoSPA; Andy Chalmers, API; Rob Wheway, CAPT
13.30	Seminar	TBC
14.30	Seminar	From Cow Field to Cricket Pitch - Converting a Farmer's Field Chris Wood, ECB Pitches Consultant

All seminars are subject to change

HOW TO GET TO SALTEX

SALTEX is hosted at Windsor Racecourse, which is accessible from the M4, M25, M3 and M40 motorways.

BY ROAD:

From the M25:

Leave the motorway at Junction 15, where you'll join the M4, heading west.

From the M4:

Westbound - leave the M4 at junction 6, follow the brown signs for Windsor Racecourse or yellow AA signs for IOG SALTEX 2005.

From the M4:

Eastbound - leave the M4 at junction 8/9, follow the brown signs for Windsor Racecourse or yellow AA signs for IOG SALTEX 2005.

BY BUS:

Windsor Express bus number 700 connects London with Windsor. They depart from London Victoria Green Line Coach Station and you alight at Maidenhead Road, a short walk from the Racecourse.

BY RAIL:

You can travel by rail to Slough station from Paddington or the South West, or to Windsor Riverside & Eton station from London Waterloo. There will be a shuttle bus running from near Windsor Riverside & Eton station to and from the exhibition site every day.

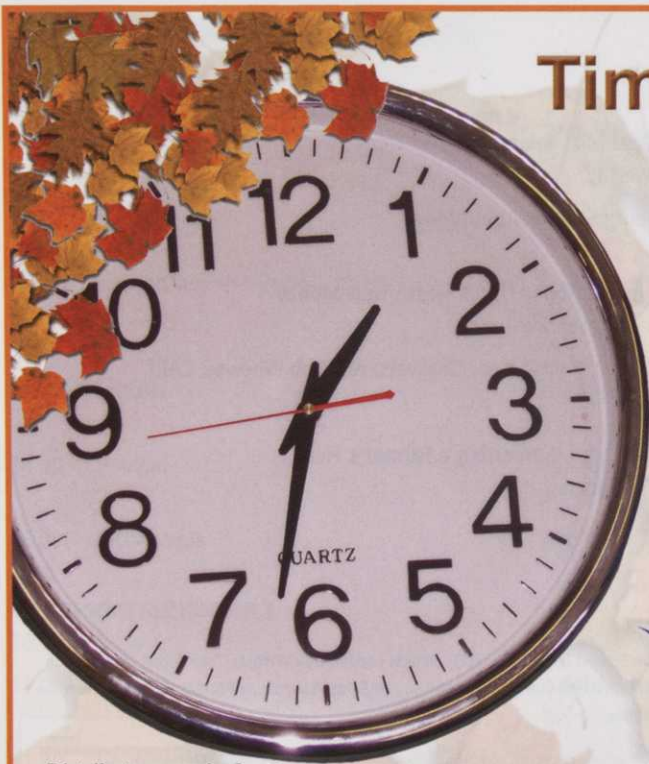
In addition, the IOG has introduced a water taxi service for visitors travelling by public transport.



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Your Letters...

A Bright Future

I am 21 years old and I am a newly qualified greenkeeper. I started playing golf at Leyland Golf Club when I was 13 years old in 1997. I have grown up from a teenager to a young adult, coached by Head Professional Colin Burgess.

On July 20 1984 I was born in Bolton's special care baby unit, three months premature. I was on an artificial respirator to help me breathe for two months. Through my life I have overcome a lot of problems to live a normal life.

After I finished school in 2000 I went to Myerscough College in Lancashire. I started off on two Basics courses, NVQ level 1 & 2 in Horticulture before progressing into the sportsturf department. For two years I concentrated on getting my First Diploma and National Certificate. I have to thank my lecturers, Gary Andrews, Terry Robinson, Lance Butters, Malcom Eckton, Brian King and Robert Hughes.

As part of the First Diploma one day release I acquired work with my local golf club. I started my greenkeeping career off at my local golf club, Leyland Golf Club.

Head Greenkeeper, Charles Bevan, has over 25 years of experience and I would like to thank him and his team for all that I have learnt in two placements. One over the winter months and summer months.

Living just a short distance away from the club, it was easy to get to work with a 10 minute walk. There I learnt the basics jobs to progress and further develop, such as bunker raking, resanding, strimming, fly mowing and turfing tees. In the summer of 2004 I started my first seasonal post for six months.

March 2005, I started my first full time job at the Marriot forest of Arden Golf and Country Club, home to the European Tour's British Masters. This is my first time living away from home learning all the basics, such as how to look after yourself and lead a healthy life.

I have done my first Championship event and have loved every minute of it. I have respect for Robert Rowson, who has started his first Head Greenkeeper's post. In four months I have learnt how to tipple tees, cut semi rough and how to set up a course. I know the basics for these jobs, now I want to perfect these and get them spot on.

I want to work on getting my NVQ level 3 and PA2 Spraying Certificate. I have an ambition of becoming a Course Manager in 10 years time, where I end up that's up to me. No one is perfect at the end of the day. Two people were perfect, God and Jesus Christ. Everyone has got strengths and weaknesses, which they want to perfect in the greenkeeping industry.

Alastair Gauld

Many Thanks

I write to express my sincere thanks to the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team for their excellent work during The Open Championship. I'd also like to thank everyone on the St Andrews Links team who worked tirelessly for the months prior to The Open and during the week itself

St Andrews is known for its bunkers and the Support Team maintained them superbly during the hours of competitive play complementing the fine work our team did in preparing them at the beginning of each day.

I was delighted with the way the Old Course looked and played for the Championship and the feedback I've had since has been extremely positive.

Once again thank you to everyone involved with the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team your work was much appreciated.

Euan Grant, Head Greenkeeper,
Old Course, St Andrews

Chemical Error

What is the worst thing that could happen during a heat wave? Chemical burns on the course!

This is what happened to our course. One of my experienced staff carried out some routine spot weed spraying on the semi-rough areas of the course on a dull Friday in June. This was followed by a heat wave over the weekend. On the Wednesday I noticed some areas in the rough browning off and I thought it was the combination of the weed killer and the drought, but it got worse over the following weekend.

On closer inspection of the areas concerned, speaking to the member of staff in question and checking the empty containers I discovered the error. Total weed killer had been used instead of Selective. On checking the label the wording was not as clear as we would have liked. Yes, I know what should have been done - ask someone to check it properly before use and so on.

I suggest that a simple way to identify different products could be for companies to consider colouring the caps on all containers uniformly, i.e.

GREEN	Liquid fertiliser
BLUE	Wetting agents
RED	Total weed killer
BLACK	Selective weed killer
YELLOW	Pesticides
WHITE	Fungicides, etc.

The same could be placed on the seal itself, so you could tell what chemical it is before opening it. This is just an idea of a few examples to consider that would help reduce the risk in future. Pass on your experiences and thoughts to the relevant companies or to the BIGGA magazine to help others.

J. A. Smith (Tony), Teesside GC

Thank You

A big thank you to all members who provided such willing and able support at The Open in St Andrews. It was a tremendous Championship and the condition of the course and the teamwork shown by our dedicated band of greenkeepers was a credit to our profession.

Well done to Euan and all the team at St Andrews, fabulous stuff, and well done to BIGGA staff for keeping everything running smoothly throughout the four days.

It was a great pleasure for me to be back in my home county and to see the world's top golfers in action. It was an even greater pleasure to share in the camaraderie and spirit generated by the warm and generous people of our industry.

K Daly, Chairman

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

Life After Anthracnose

Tony Smith faced his worse nightmare and came through the other side a stronger man

I finished work on Friday evening on a high. It was mid August 2003 and I was pleased with the course and the way the greens were playing as they had all summer. Members and societies were both praising the condition of the greens and the course.



Anthracnose of *agrostis palustris* golf green

I returned to work on the Monday and checked the greens as usual. I noticed a touch of yellowing in the grass, but didn't think much of it until a few days later when I checked again, found and confirmed to my horror that I had got Anthracnose - *coletotrichum*. This disease was fairly new to me, I had read about it in magazines but took little notice of it until now.

I immediately set about trying to find out more about it by talking to friends in the greenkeeping world, various companies and on the Internet. They all said not to panic as sometimes it comes and goes without a problem. So I did just that and waited like a fool.

Well it didn't disappear, it got worse. The only way to describe my feelings at that time were empty and gutted inside; after so much praise of the greens and my biggest competition of the summer due in couple of weeks time, it didn't look good.

After a few days of deep thought and taking advice from some companies, I decided on a plan of action and set to work. To my surprise the advice checked the disease but not without the thinning of the sward on large areas of some greens. The competition came and went with very mixed feelings, some of sympathy, some of criticism, but rightly or wrongly, it cut deep. To my shock a couple of weeks later it returned with a vengeance, more alopecia and thinning out of the greens. I now needed to take drastic measures.

First I had to inform my Executive Committee of the situation and my plans, to come off the greens for the whole of the winter period. This did not go down well but they knew it had to be done if we had any chance of full recovery by the summer, hoping to have a good growing start in spring.

My staff knew we had an extra hard task to do, having to prepare winter greens to a high standard like we had never done, so that the members would accept our proposal. The staff did exceptionally well.

I kept the Committee and membership informed at all times of my plans, work, extra budget, results and progress of the situation.

My work programme started immediately by micro-tinning/topdressing for the next three weeks to help start root development and improve the putting surface on the greens until all competitions had finished.

On some of the greens the disease had checked, on others it spread rapidly over large areas of the green with very little if no grass on them. By the end of September the greens were in a very poor condition, with less than 60% of the grass remaining on some of them. By this time my name was mud, or some thing similar. With over 40 years experience and 20 years' loyal service some members still wanted my head on a platter. I had everything to lose, most importantly my pride. I set out to prove that I was good at my profession and got to work on the task ahead, with only six months to go and very little if any growing weather left.

Firstly I studied my past diaries for evidence of my work and fertiliser programmes to find out where or if I had gone wrong in my planning. To my surprise I found it. Over the years the greens had received less and less tinning work, one way or another. This I can only put down to allowing the window of opportunity to work on the greens to pass me by, probably because of the praise we had received over past years. So I think we did less work on the greens.

With the golfers requesting faster greens and the dry/hot drought conditions in summer 2003 and using more water on the greens than in a normal summer, the result was stress. The grass gave up the ghost and started to die on me. With this combination and a lack of foresight on my part, I blame myself for the condition of the greens.



Anthracnose of a *poa annua* golf fairway, with survival of *agrostis palustris*



Anthrachnose of a poa annua golf fairway

The first thing I did was to inform the Committee of my finding and if my theory was right the greens could be back in good condition by the end of May, given the weather/growth and my plan of action. I decided to go back to basics, starting with short tinning at first working my way down to as far as the machines would go (21ins).

The work plan was completed by the end of March; micro-hollow tined (4 times), micro-solid tined (3 times), earth-quaked Sin deep (twice), 5in x $\frac{3}{4}$ in solid (twice), slit tined 9ins (heavy duty fairway machine), slit tined each week (green machine) and robin-daggered to 21ins every metre. This task took about five weeks and top-dressed five times between March and May.

When the spring came the greens had started to fill in but not as quickly as I would have liked, so a little boost of fertiliser was needed. People asked if we were going to over seed, I said not immediately but would do later if needed. In my experience the greens at Teesside are predominately poa annua greens and when managed well can and do produce excellent results.

By the end of May they had filled in and we could start to work to produce a good putting surface. What the golfers don't see is under the surface the roots. This problem will take years to put right as we all know and the spiking programme will go on for years to come.

The greens in the summer had been excellent. Each month we continued to micro-tine/top-dress during the summer with no complaints but it will take years to get the roots back down to a reasonable depth.

Throughout my 42 years in greenkeeping I have seen quite a lot of changes and problems but never have I had greens turn on me like this before. With all the modern machinery, fertilisers, chemicals, herbicides, fungicides, modern training, up to date information, etc it shouldn't happen. So what goes wrong, do we take all these modern things for granted and hope it makes our job better or easier? No.

Let's look at some of the problems in the industry at the moment, weather, climate changes, environment, Health & Safety, Committees, television, magazines and not forgetting the membership.

Weather and climate changes: This has a very important impact on the way we manage and present our courses; heavy spells of rain, long periods of sun/drought, last summer's drought. This all puts pressure on our staff and equipment. One day trying to make grass grow the next trying to keep on top of cutting.

Television and Magazines: The way we manage our courses and the way we should present them are being published more and more each year in every magazine on every golf tournament shown on TV. The members then expect to play on the same condition every day, which adds pressure to our jobs.

Environment, Health & Safety: This in itself adds extra pressure to our jobs. We have to do risk assessments of the course, machines, staff and chemicals for the members, the time this takes is not always taken into account but it is still expected that such tasks are carried out. More emphasis is now being placed on the environment on golf courses these days. We are expected to provide a happy living/playing environment for golfers and animals, our staff's safety/well being all year round and use the modern, technical and up to date equipment that is around these days.

Committee and Members: Over the years these have changed very little in the number of years I have been in this profession. Committee members still have to take complaints/suggestions from members whenever they socialise in the golf club or play golf. Some take it seriously, others take it personally, and all have different ways of dealing with complaints/suggestions. Most committee people have the golf club's interests at heart when doing

this role and do a good job most of the time.

There are times when we don't agree on tasks or how they should be done. It's at these times when a clash of personalities usually gets caught up in the decisions that can cause people to fall out with each other and create a poor working environment for each other. Sometimes when this happens to me I take a step back and analyse the situation before taking action and think about their thoughts/ideas and mine then find a compromise to the problem.

Talking to the members on a daily basis and being friendly seems to help at our club. We get to know what they think of the course, the work being done, staff and Committees' ideas. All my staff acknowledge the golfers by a simple wave, greeting or a chat. It all helps moral in a difficult working environment in our working profession. I think people/golfers in general don't realise how difficult it is to work on a golf course.

Firstly it's the only sport in the world where people play their sport during the preparation of the sports areas (the course). This in itself is hard. Golfers of all ages and handicaps trying to play while we are in their way so why not try to ease the pressure and try to be friendly with everyone you come into contact with on or off the course.

I hope this article gives you a taste of the pressures we all feel at times and that you are not on your own when this occurs. If I had to give any advice it would be to tell you to talk about your problems and not bottle them up inside until a crisis is reached. Finally, remember your staff's feelings when you are under pressure. They will feel it to.

Tony Smith is Course Manager at Teesside Golf Club.



Anthrachnose of agrostis palustris golf green



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Greenkeeper International brings you 'In the Shed', a new puzzle page to keep you entertained when the weather forces you in or for when times are slow.

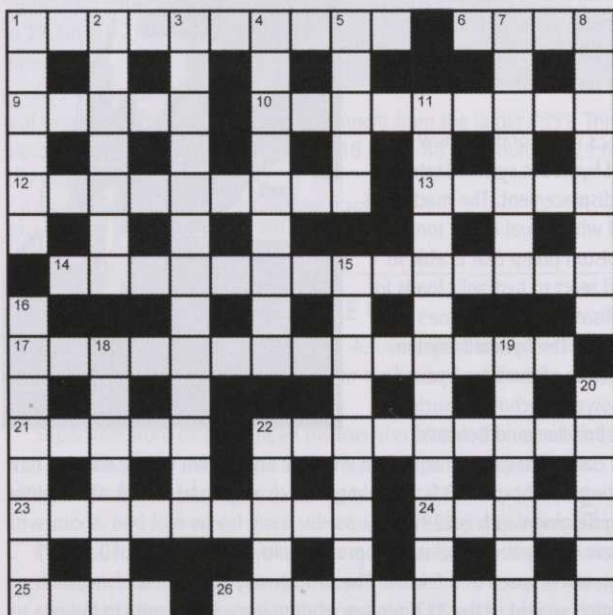
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 Beer and lemonade drink - name often shortened (10)
- 6 British athlete who dominated middle distance running in the 1980s (4)
- 9 Small branch (5)
- 10 Revolving tray on a dining table (4,5)
- 12 Principal adversary (4-5)
- 13/14 Of horses, about to begin racing (5,8,6)
- 17/21 1933 film starring Spencer Tracy as Tom Garner (3,5,3,3,5)
- 22 Alan ---, economist and Chairman of US Federal Reserve Board of Governors (9)
- 23 Communication sent "par avion" (3,6)
- 24 Block of metal (often gold) (5)
- 25 Mountain range of south central Europe (4)
- 26 Producer of white blood cells (5,5)

DOWN

- 1 Walk loftily (6)
- 2 Type of fruit similar to peach (7)
- 3 Type of old photograph produced on silver plate (13)
- 4 1995 James Bond movie (9)
- 5 Blurred, indistinct (5)
- 7 Leftovers, surplus (7)
- 8 City in Angus, Scotland, on mouth of South Esk river (8)
- 11 Kind of activity at an American country knees-up (6,7)
- 15 Produce of tenant farmer (5-4)
- 16 Marks similar to Christ's wounds on the cross (8)
- 18 An act designed to highlight one's own importance (3,4)
- 19 Ancient underground chambers such as catacombs (7)
- 20 Joined, combined (6)
- 22 US multi-billionaire 1892-1976 (5)



ANAGRAM

Decipher these two well known television cartoon characters.

ARMPIT SNOBS

SNIFFLED ROTTEN

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

Why not answer these questions during your break!

1. Tiger Woods' victory at St Andrews was his second Open Championship title, how many Majors has he now won?
2. Which former Beatle opened Live 8 with U2?
3. The British Lions were white washed by New Zealand 3-0 in July, but what was the record aggregate score from the three test matches?
4. Which British actor stars as the new Batman in Batman Begins?
5. Arnold Schwarzenegger is Governor of which US state?
6. Five players in the England team to play in the first Ashes Test had not played a Test match against Australia before, name them.
7. In which city did actor Tom Cruise propose to Katie Holmes?
8. Rodger Federer won his third consecutive Wimbledon Title in July, name the other two players to have achieved the same feat.
9. Who has replaced Christopher Eccleston as the New Doctor Who?

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

5		1					7	
		9	4					2
	6			1		9		8
			1			7	8	4
2	5	4			6			
4		5		7			3	
1					2	4		
	9					1		5

Supplied by www.dailysudoku.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Look closely at the pictures below and try and spot the difference between them. You should be able to spot six!



ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 55

NEW PRODUCTS

LUNAR LANDING

Sherriff Amenity has announced the launch of Lunar, a new addition to their fungicide product portfolio. Lunar contains both a systemic and a translaminar fungicide.

It contains two different active ingredients with two different modes of action, it has exceptional levels of disease control. Fusarium Patch can be effectively controlled in both curative and preventative situations. Lunar can also be used as part of an overall disease control programme.

For further information Tel: 01638 721888.



MOVING UP

Terrain Aeration has launched Airforce Scamper, the smallest, lightest and nimblest of the company's four wheeled, ride-on, deep compressed air de-compaction machines to date.

Sporting flotation turf tyres and driven by an 11 hp Honda engine, Scamper weighs in at $\frac{3}{4}$ tonne less than Airforce, the larger combined engine and compressor ride-on, and is aimed at golf courses with steeply undulating ground and/or waterlogged golf greens.

This machine has a maximum weight of 600 kilos and a top speed of 7mph. Though light, Scamper is stable and the hydraulically powered back wheels enable the negotiation of steep banks and tight corners.

For further information Tel: 01449 673783.

LINDUM AT THE BASE

As one of four UK turf growers accredited to use Barenbrug's new Rhizomatous Tall Fescue cultivar in its turf products, Lindum are launching the new turf on a reinforced felt base.

Extensive trials on RTF have confirmed its excellent wear tolerance, similar to perennial ryegrass. It also has good tolerance of shade, salt and frost and can withstand water logging and drought due to its rooting depth capability.

RTF is capable of rooting to a depth of 1.5 metres, which means that alongside its shade and wear tolerance is a strong resistance to drought. RTF Grassfelt is available in a choice of biodegradable or non-biodegradable growing mediums, and like the original Grassfelt can be harvested to any size or shape required, eliminating the joins which result from turf harvested in conventional rolls.

For further information Tel: 01904 448675.



GUIDELINE FOR GREENS

For many years there has been a need for construction guidelines for golf greens specific to the United Kingdom, driven by the demand for good quality golf courses able to sustain play all year round. Recognising this need, STRI has now produced STRI Guidelines - Golf Green Construction in the United Kingdom.

Following extensive research, STRI's guidelines are based on technical and practical experience. They aim to outline a construction method and materials requirements that will result in well-drained putting surfaces of high quality without excessive management demands, particularly in terms of fertiliser and irrigation use.

Dr Stephen Baker, Head of Soils & Sports Surface Science at STRI, has sought comments from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the final production of the guidelines. These include the USGA Green Section, BRTMA, EIGCA, RAPTA and the R&A.

For further information Tel: 01274 518908.

BUNCE INTRODUCE FUJII

Bunce (Ashbury) Ltd has launched the new Fujii, Japanese, ride on brush cutters, ideal for cutting rough and overgrown areas. Powered by 18 or 21hp Kawasaki engines, they are powerful and had a large fuel capacity.

Both have two range hydrostatic drive, 0-5.8km/hr and 0-10km/hr range, a cutting width of 950mm and easy adjustment of the four step cutting height. The machines also have adjustable seat and steering columns for different sized operators.

A differential gear makes for easier operation on slopes and awkward places and the height of the machine is designed to avoid damage from low hanging branches. Cutting height is adjusted using a gas spring assisted lever and the cutting knives can be changed easily.

For further information Tel: 01793 710212.



BOBCAT DIGS DEEP

Featuring a new engine and a new hydraulic system, the 323 mini-excavator has been launched by Bobcat to replace the previous 322 model.

The 323 incorporates a new advanced hydraulic system featuring variable displacement. The machine is equipped with a dual outlet torque-limiting piston pump that is able to sense and react to hydraulic loads for better utilisation of the engine's torque curve. The hydraulic system offers 30 l/min of auxiliary hydraulic flow to power attachments such as hydraulic breakers and Bobcat's hydraulic clamp attachment. Equipped with cab and rubber tracks, the 323 has an operating weight of 1743 kg. Maximum reach at ground level is 4014 while maximum digging depth is 2297 mm.

The new two-speed travel motors provide a low travel speed of 2.3 km/h and a high travel speed of 3.8 km/h. The turf-friendly rubber tracks distribute the operating weight of the 323 mini-excavator over a larger area to lower ground pressure to 27.1 kPa.

For further information Tel: 01724 289009.





WELL DRESSED

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has added two new machines to their range of Rink top-dressers, designed for high work-rate performance on sports and amenity turf. The DS1200 and DS800 models are both 1.45m wide and 1.6m high.

The 3.4m-long DS1200 is a trailed unit that can be operated with a 25hp tractor, while the DS800, which is 2.4m long, attaches to utility vehicles. These two new models feature a specially designed, continuous loop guided belt system that delivers the topdressing to a pair of spinning discs which distribute the material evenly across the desired width, which can be adjusted to a maximum 10m.

The application depth can be set between 0.5mm and 15mm. The machines weigh in at 450k and 220kg respectively, and have carrying capacities of 1.2cu m and 0.8cu m.

For further information Tel: 01428 661222.

TWIN SPIN

Turfmech has introduced a new twin spinner for the ProPass 180 low impact top dresser. The twin spinner is designed to fit all ProPass 180s, enabling existing owners to take advantage of the resulting improvements brought by the latest technology.

The new twin spinner delivers improved spreading consistency across the entire bout width, irrespective of whether the machine has been set to spread materials narrow or wide, light or heavy. An additional feature of the new twin spinner design is its ability to produce a clearly defined edge when applying heavy applications across a narrow bout width.

Available in tractor-trailed or worktruck-mounted, the ProPass 180 has a hopper capacity of 18 cu ft, sufficient for light dressing of up to four golf greens. Angled slightly downwards, the new twin rear spinner for the machine give a consistent and even spread of materials across bout widths from 4.5m to 9m.

For further information Tel: 01889 271503.



TORO GET PRECISE

Toro Irrigation's new generation of golf sprinklers are designed to give greenkeepers greater versatility and water conversation.

The new 835S and 855S units, the latest additions to the company's 800 series, are the industry's first sprinklers able to provide both part and full circle operation from one, single unit - with full 360deg capability.

Both new sprinklers incorporate Toro's TruJectory technology, which allows nozzle height to be fine-tuned from 7-30deg. This compensates for windy conditions, allows for accurate application round obstructions and on slopes, and minimises wastage by ensuring turf is watered precisely where it's needed.

The 835S is the smaller radius unit, designed predominantly for fairways, approaches and small greens. It has a 1in inlet and a radius ranging from 16.8m at 52 litres/min to 27.8m at 171 litres/min.



Approaches, larger golf greens and broader fairways will benefit from the larger 855S. This model has a 1.5in inlet and a radius between 18.6m at 68 litres/min and 29.6m at 227 litres/min.

For further information Tel: 01480 226800.

MAXTER RANGE

There are five models in the new Maxter range from 48hp to 70hp featuring the quality of build and performance associated with Goldoni compact tractors. The Maxter can mount implements, PTO driven or otherwise, for use in both forward and reverse drive.

The 70hp model has the option of having the ability to reverse its direction of operation, which gives the Maxter a degree of flexibility that allows the operator far greater precision in difficult conditions. The Maxter is essentially a Super Quad with all the advantages and manoeuvrability of a BSG Quad Tractor but with the higher powered engines and additional features found on larger tractors for even greater versatility.

The Maxter Rev W70RS is aimed at the top end of the compact tractor market and has a 70hp VM 3 cylinder turbo engine. It is fitted with a synchronised gearbox that provides 32 speeds; 16 forward and 16 reverse. It has a 1750kg rear lift capacity, a 2-speed electro hydraulic PTO and hydro-static steering.

For further information Tel: 01026 212092.



NEW HOLLAND BOLSTER LINE UP

New Holland's latest series, the TCD-A, of compact tractor includes the 27hp TC27DA, the 40hp TC40DA and the 45hp TC45DA. For maximum performance, units can be fitted with New Holland's SuperSteer front axle.

SuperSteer front axle equipped tractors also feature the Sensitrak four wheel drive system, which automatically disengages four-wheel drive when any difference in speed is detected between the front and rear axles during turning. The tractor can make the turn in two-wheel drive mode, and four-wheel drive subsequently re-engages, minimising the risk of turf damage.

The modern styling of the tractors is more than just aesthetic. Curvaceous panels are highly practical, such as the sloping engine hood, whose narrow profile gives excellent visibility. Access for servicing is straightforward and the curved bodywork is easily cleaned. The fully glazed cabs are spacious, giving panoramic vision and safe protection from noise, dust and the elements.

For further information Tel: 0800 0150105.





News from the Chief Executive

Another Open Championship comes and goes and with it the stark realisation that July is nearly over and the golfing season is steadily marching on. Congratulations must go to the R&A for their smooth running of this great Championship and also to Gordon Moir, Euan Grant and their team for presenting the course in such wonderful condition. My thanks also go to the members of the BIGGA Open Support Team, who were in action for the four competition days, they represented the Association very well and I know gained a lot from the experience.

Places on the team are always a point of contention with applications usually exceeding availability by two to three times. The team is selected as fairly as possible and comprises of a dependable core drawn from those who have been to The Open before and therefore know what to expect and just as importantly we know that this group can be relied upon. They are topped up by a number of 'Open novices', many of whom will never have experienced Championship golf at this level, let alone find themselves within a few feet of some of the world's greatest golfers, which in itself can be a daunting prospect.

For most The Open is more than about raking bunkers following errant golf shots, its also about meeting new colleagues, exchanging views, sharing problems and perhaps the chance to talk with the resident greenkeeping team about the venue and competition preparation. Anyone interested in being considered for Royal Liverpool in July 2006 should contact Scott MacCallum at HQ.

Many of you will have read Trevor Ledger's article on Harrogate in his latest publication in which he 'poses' thoughts about the management of this Association and in particular how staff may be 'living it up' at the Majestic Hotel during BTME at the members' expense. I have received many, many calls and emails of support from those members who know the staff better and I thank them for their concern. If there are any of you who wish to discuss any aspect of his writings then I invite you to contact me. I believe in open government and in fact there is, and always has been, a standing invitation to members to visit Headquarters and see for themselves what is being done for the benefit of not just its members but also for greenkeeping as a whole.

Plans for Harrogate Week in January 2006 continue to progress and it is intended that we host an Open Day on August 18 at Harrogate International Centre in order to explain developments to current and potential exhibitors. If any members would like to come along then please contact Pauline Thompson or Sami Collins at HQ by Friday August 12, so that catering arrangements can be made, additionally there are a limited number of free parking facilities.

In the near future we are looking to set up an email based regular information service to members and if you would like to be included can you please send an email to Rachael (rachael_p@bigga.co.uk) or Gemma (gemma@bigga.co.uk) in our Membership Office so that we can capture your details.

Finally I would like to wish Tony Cocker, the Association's Accountant at HQ, a speedy recovery. Tony has recently undergone surgery for a knee problem and is expected to be off work for about six weeks.

John Pemberton

SCOTTISH REGION

East

I write to advise you that after many years' loyal service Chris Yeaman has decided to retire! However, before you all rush your CV's off to West Linton Golf Club, I can assure you that the only retirement Chris is planning is from writing this column. A big thank you to Chris for all his efforts over the years, and I will endeavour to keep the flag flying on the Section's behalf.

On returning to Scotland in 1992, after many years' absence, I was frankly appalled at the poor facilities used by greens staff, many of which did not meet basic Health & Safety standards. During the intervening years this is no longer the case, with quality Greenkeeper Compounds now the rule rather than the exception. The latest to get new facilities is Cardrona, which at the time of writing is almost complete.

On the move in April was Alan Campbell, formerly of Eyemouth Golf Club, to Jedburgh Golf Club. Alan takes over at an exciting time, with maintenance of the existing 9 holes and growing in of a new 9. The course designer at Jedburgh is Alistair Connell and the contractor is Souters of Stirling. Another gentleman on the move is Brian Sharp, the Deputy Course Manager at the Roxburghe, who takes over the role of Head Greenkeeper at Westerhope, which is not far from Newcastle Airport.

Finally, Monksford House, which was once owned by David Murray, is currently for sale, and includes a top quality 9 hole course. So, if any of you have a spare few million, it would be worth putting an offer in.

Any news please call me on 07831 855182 or email: info@thorntreesamenity.co.uk.

Mike Dooner

NORTHERN REGION

North West

Well on the day of writing it was the final day of the greatest tennis tournament, with Roger Federer winning once again, so next was the greatest golf tournament at St Andrews, the home of golf. I am sure that those of you lucky enough to have been chosen for the Support Team enjoyed your week.

One member of the N/W Section who has already taken his holidays, and I am sure enjoyed himself, is Steve Johnson, Wilmslow GC, who has just married Jennifer Callwood. They have taken off to Thailand for a three week honeymoon. Good luck to you both.

Neil Atkinson, a Section member who works for John Greasley, tells me that a new course near Crewe has just opened, called Gorstly Hill GC. Perhaps some of you Cheshire lads might like to try it out. I have just recently attended the Regional Board and the Board of Management meeting at HQ and at both meetings Education has been discussed. The Education fund, which is financed by the Gold and Silver Key Companies and also from BIGGA funds, is there to run Regional funds, so why not take advantage of it.

There are many courses available of one and two days, for example Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross Cutting, Computer skills, Risk