



Close up of turf affected by rapid blight disease, note healthy fescues

NEW 'FUNGAL' DISEASE IN THE UK

Back in August 2004, I received a telephone call from a Course Manager who told me that he had noticed an unusual disease on his greens and the symptoms looked like a cross between take-all patch and fusarium patch. He was concerned enough to want to find out the cause of the strange symptoms and I was excited by the 'unusual' description of the problem and couldn't wait to look at a sample of the affected turf.

The sample duly arrived at my lab and the turf showed water soaking of the bentgrass and meadowgrass in the sward, but not the fescue that appeared completely healthy. Commonly, water soaked plant tissues could be associated with fungi like *Microdochium*, *Rhizoctonia* and *Pythium* species, but none of these were found either on the leaf or in the root or crown tissues.

In fact, there was no fungal mycelium evident on the sample at all. Analysis and investigation of this apparent disease, which included sending photographs to researchers in the US of the organism that I eventually found in the affected plant tissues, ultimately concluded in confirmation of the disease known as rapid blight - previously but mistakenly called Chytrid disease.

Rapid blight is a turfgrass disease not previously recorded in the UK - a new disease! The organism that causes the disease rapid blight is a *Labyrinthula* species and strictly speaking, *Labyrinthula* are not fungi. This disease was initially seen in California, in 1995, (Martin et al, 2002) but it wasn't until 2004 that details of a new species of this organism, *Labyrinthula terrestris* sp. nov., were published by Bigelow et al. which confirmed the cause of these symptoms. Therefore we definitely do have a new disease on turf in the UK but it is not strictly correct to say that it is caused by a fungus.

The organism *Labyrinthula* is unique and although it is often referred to as a marine net slime mould, it is still being formally classified. It is currently placed in a group alongside the Oomycetes, a group which contains *Pythium* and since we commonly refer to *Pythium* species as fungi I don't see why we can't do the same for our *Labyrinthula*, especially in informative articles like this where it is the symptoms and the management that are of primary concern, rather than the taxonomy of the organism.

Other diseases of cool season turfgrasses that you may want to look out for include grey leaf spot and summer patch. These are now well known turfgrass diseases in the US and across Europe but not in the UK and Ireland - yet.

I am certain that disease problems are misdiagnosed on our golf courses and with the difficulty of being able to identify certain fungi in older turfgrass samples, the same is also potentially possible in the lab. We do have the fungi over here that have been implicated in disease problems elsewhere around the world but confirmation of the link between the pathogen and the disease has, as yet, not been achieved.

As with the case of the rapid blight, we are reliant on information and turf samples from Course Managers who are interested enough to ask questions about the expression of disease in order to identify new problems. There is certainly no shame or stigma attached to having a previously unidentified disease on your course and it is only through your direct involvement that we will ever know what disease problems are really out there on our courses. If you see symptoms that appear slightly different from those you normally expect to see, take a sample out and have it analysed.

Pathogens are as much a part of the turfgrass environment as they are any other part of the natural world and in turfgrasses, as in all other areas, new diseases will be continue to be discovered. I firmly believe that there are other turfgrass diseases waiting to be found and named and that with time, they will be.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE WAY THAT YOU MANAGE YOUR TURF?

Well, for most turfgrass diseases, the symptoms only appear when the conditions allow the pathogen population to become overwhelming. The fungal population will eventually decrease with changes in the environmental conditions, the symptoms will subside and all traces of the damage will be erased as the turf recovers.

This is the case for many diseases, regardless of the name that you give them, but if you correctly identify the cause of the symptoms, you can learn more about the conditions that favour the development of that particular pathogen. In knowing that, you might well be able to prevent the problem, or at least reduce the severity of its impact, in subsequent years.

I have always been fascinated by the interaction between fungi and plants and I can think of nothing more rewarding in my professional life than to identify a new disease. Confirmation of the new disease rapid blight will be published as a new disease report in *Plant Pathology* later this year (Entwistle et al, 2005) - will the next new disease be found on your course?

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TALKING HEADS

Compiled by Gareth Jones

1

Most memorable moment when hosting The Open?

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP



Name: Billy McLachlan
Years as a Greenkeeper: 24
Club: Royal Troon Golf Club
Staff: 13 full time & two Seasonal
Number of Opens/where: 4 (Royal Troon, 97 & '04 as Course Manager)

In truth, it would be the picture of the face of my four children when all the equipment was being brought onto the course. We live right on the course, so everything was being literally dropped on the doorstep and they just couldn't believe how much kit there was.



Name: Chris Whittle
Years as a Greenkeeper: 34
Club: Royal Birkdale Golf Club
Staff: Eight
Number of Opens: 3 (Birkdale, Muirfield & Royal Lytham as Deputy)

It has to be Justin Rose's chip at the 18th last time The Open was here in 1998. He was just a 17 year old amateur when he played and matched the lowest amateur score with a 66. I was standing next to his Mum and Dad when he pulled that famous chip off and they went mad.



Name: Colin Irvine
Years as a Greenkeeper: 24
Club: H.C.E.G. Muirfield
Staff: 10
Number of Opens/where: 3 (Muirfield, 1 as Course Manager)

My most memorable and favourite moments when being involved in the Open Championship would have to be standing on the 18th green at the Championship Presentation.



Name: George Brown
Years as a Greenkeeper: 51
Club: The Westin Turnberry Resort
Staff: 35
Number of Opens/where: 2 (Turnberry GC)

In 1986 at the prize giving ceremony Concord flew down the 18th fairway and over the grandstands. In 1994 I was making my way back to my house after The Open dinner. I came across four people playing our pitch & putt course, there was some joviality, chinking of glasses and on approaching them I realised it was Tom Watson and Jack Niklaus arm in arm.



Name: John Philp MBE
Years as a Greenkeeper: 41
Club: Carnoustie Golf Links
Staff: 25
Number of Opens/where: 2 (St Andrews 1984, Carnoustie 1999)

Most people will remember Jean Van De Velde's collapse at the 72nd hole where a 6 would have taken the title, but Paul Lawrie's 4-iron to 6 feet in the final play-off hole was tremendous. His final round 67 was one of the great Open rounds and gave us a Scots' winner on home soil.



Name: Neil Metcalf
Years as a Greenkeeper: 24
Club: Royal St Georges Golf Club
Staff: Nine plus a Mechanic
Number of Opens/where: 2 (Royal St Georges GC)

The biggest highlight from my two Open experiences has to be in 2003 with Tiger Woods holing his bunker shot from the bunker back left of the 7th green. He finished tied fourth that year.



Name: Paul Smith
Years as a Greenkeeper: 19
Club: Royal Lytham and St Annes
Staff: 11
Number of Opens/where: 1 (Royal Lytham and St Annes)

My memorable moments are the positive feedback from the press and players and David Duval's humbling speech. Also Mrs Smith informing me that she was expecting after some years of trying, I'm not sure how that could be.

2

Biggest headache - pre and post The Open?

The stand and tent contractors are excellent, but you always worry something bad could happen. The major issue was the increased demand on the course in spring and the summer. Everyone wants to play the Open Course and to watch extra play, with rough being flattened, etc does make you slightly concerned.

We had a long draught from spring to early summer. It only broke two weeks before the start of the competition. The problem it created was that we couldn't get any definition into the course as we had no grass. Luckily the rain came in enough time for us to put that right.

Before the Open it was the weather, with double the average rainfall in both June and July. This made it much more difficult to produce a hard and fast running links course. After the Open it was the dismantling and removal of the infrastructure, which caused a lot of damage due to the wet ground conditions.

Biggest headache both pre and post The Championship has to be entertaining BIGGA members, greenkeepers and friends from all corners of the world until the early hours.

Fortunately there were no major incidents in the build-up to the event. Stand erection and other installations went to plan. The mass exodus that followed the Championship was a headache. It needed careful monitoring and metal detectors were used prior to turf maintenance procedures. Luckily none of the dodgy golf buggy drivers ended up in the Barry Burn.

Before the Open I had no major headaches other than the tent contractor driving a stake straight through an irrigation pipe and flooding the entire area by the range tee.

Before The Open was coping with the uncertainties of the British climate, having experienced an extremely wet winter and plagued by a infestation of cutworm in the rough in spring. Post event was dealing with the aftermath, the restitution of the course and, in particular, the tented village, while balancing the expectations of the membership and maintaining satisfaction.

3

What advice would you give to anyone else hosting an Open Championship?

It's obvious, but enjoy the whole event. You put in so much work for the years before The Open and know that you will have to work equally hard after the event in tidying up. The event itself goes in a flash, so I would say try and enjoy that one week, because before you know it, it's all over.

It sounds simple, but just plan well in advance. Sit down with a piece of paper and plan everything, from set up to maintenance, and decide what and when you will do it all. That way you can avoid any nasty surprises.

Make sure you have enough equipment and staff to cover every eventuality. Also I would say you have to do your best to enjoy the whole experience of an Open Championship.

Dedication, planning and teamwork are essential. Being open minded and flexible are just a few of the necessary requirements when hosting any major tournament.

Don't be overawed. Thorough preparation is vital and can often take a number of years. The key is to fully understand how your course performs in different weather conditions for tournament requirements and address the weaknesses. For an Open especially, ball reaction in the turf is important and similar firmness and resilience should be targeted through fairways, approaches and greens.

The best advice I could give would be to try and relax and enjoy the moments, if possible. If you are outwardly relaxed it can help your staff to relax also, as they must enjoy the special moments of hosting The Open too.

Planning should be exhaustive, maintain a schedule as a guide but remain flexible and be prepared to carry out minor adjustments, as no season remains the same. If there's a problem and you're unsure of the solution be professional and obtain a second opinion. Utilise what professional services you may have available to you so that the best possible solution can be found.

4

Having fulfilled the dream of most greenkeepers of preparing an Open Course what are your new dreams and aims?

To still be at Royal Troon Golf Club and drawing breath for when the next Open Championship is held here, whenever that might be.

It is a wonderful dream to set up for The Open. I guess the new dream is to do as many Opens as possible before I retire. Of course, each time you host one you want to do it better and improve and that's the next challenge.

To continue to improve Muirfield for regular play and in preparation for the next time The Open returns here.

My new dream is to achieve the impossible in having a golf course in perfect condition for 52 weeks of the year.

I am looking forward two years to the buzz of an event like The Open brings. For most of the staff it will be a repeat experience, for others it will be their initiation. We are looking to improve on certain aspects of course maintenance and design. You can't stand still in any business and golf is no different.

The aim now is to maintain and improve the course to the highest standard for the membership year on year.

Looking forward to the next project really and to continue to strive towards the highest, sustainable and achievable standards. At the same time maintaining sound agronomic and environmental stewardship practices is important. Finally, I want to ensure that the Links at Lytham St Annes is preserved for future generations.

5

What worries or nightmares kept you awake in the lead up to The Open Championship?

The worry is the unexpected. You can plan and plan and plan, but it's those unexpected, uncontrollable elements that can cause the biggest concern and problems. Things like vandalism or oil leaks or the weather. In 1997 we had a huge down pour the Thursday before the event and a lot of the practice ground flooded.

It was probably that long draught we had. But once it broke, two weeks before the Championship, we were OK and any looming panic was over. To be honest, nothing really kept me awake at night, I'm normally too tired from a hard day's work to stay wide awake.

None that I can really remember. During the Championship itself you do not have time for sleep, let alone nightmares.

Apart from vandalism or oil leaks, the weather conditions as in 1986. Then we experienced almost gale force winds and horizontal rain. Then the opposite occurred in 1994 when weeks before the Championship we were experiencing drought conditions. Then, five days before the start, we seemed to have constant rain. The Man upstairs always has the last word.

However well you prepare there are always concerns about vandalism, hydraulic oil damage, adverse weather, etc. An added element in 1999 was the new hotel construction immediately behind the 1st tee / 18th green, which was opened with just two months to spare. We were still busy with finishing works around the 1st tee and Starters' Box at the end of May.

I think the worst nightmare for me in the lead up to the Championship was the fear of a major leak from the watering system or a sprinkler going off when you least want it to.

I honestly cannot remember having any. I was only fit for a good night's sleep on retiring home. However, I'm sure it will be different next time. I'll be older, wiser, have greater vision and awareness, attributes that will contribute towards success. I'll know that perfection is difficult if not impossible to achieve.

Scholarships

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A Textron Company



Coming to Market

Nigel White studies the tactics that can be employed by a golf club to market, promote and attract new members to their product.

For any organisation in any industry a number of marketing concepts and strategies must be adhered to if that company wishes to be, and remain, successful. These concepts and strategies can be adapted to suit every business, including the golf industry.

Writing in 'Principles of Marketing' Philip Kotler said: "Today's successful companies at all levels have one thing in common - they are strongly customer focused and heavily committed to marketing. These companies share an absolute dedication to sensing, serving and satisfying the needs of customers in well understood markets. They motivate everyone in the organisation to deliver high quality and value for their customers."

The management of any organisation is in control of the market mix, the so called four P's of product, place, promotion and price. The success or failure of any company relies heavily on the successful blending of these four characteristics.

The following report aims to show, in theory, how a golf club can attempt to achieve a successful blend, not only to consolidate, but to improve its position and standing in the local private members golf market.

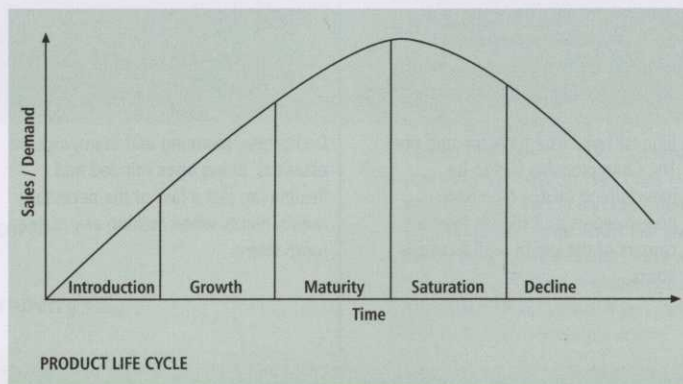
PRODUCT LIFE CYCLE

Writing in 'Management Concepts and Practices' Hannagan said: "That new products or services typically follow a pattern that includes four or five identifiable stages, each related to the passage of time and the levels of sales or demand."

Those stages are (see Product Life Cycle Graph above right):

- **Introduction:** A period of slow growth as the product/service is introduced.
- **Growth:** A period of rapid market acceptance.
- **Maturity:** A period of slower growth because the product/service has been accepted by most of the potential buyers.
- **Saturation:** A period when there are many competitors in the market, which itself is no longer growing. This period is combined with maturity.
- **Decline:** A period when performance starts a strong downward drift.

It is thought that if a club continues to keep a breast of technological improvements and market trends it will continue to sway between periods of growth, maturity and saturation. Market saturation would be a period where a waiting list for membership was in place.



INCOME FROM GOLF

The main sources of income for a club comes from the membership, guests of members, occasional societies and takings from catering and the bar. After the annual fixed costs have been accounted for any additional monies can be invested into the infrastructure of the club, such as new tees, painting the clubhouse, etc.

If expenditure were to rise then the membership price would rise accordingly Let's look at the following as a basic example of most club's membership.

TYPE OF MEMBER	NUMBER	PERCENT	PRICE	REVENUE APPROX
7 day full members	294	42%	£770	£226,380
5 day members	254	36%	£550	£139,700
Juniors members	50	7%	£95	£4,750
Total	700			£370,830

All figures approx.



A club must get the most value from its key resource - the course

It would seem that the most profitable product is the seven day membership, based on the fact that these members will pay slightly more but not use the course proportionally any more than five day members. It can be assumed many of the costs/overheads are fixed - greens staff, machinery leasing and consumables like fertiliser. This means that a golf club could concentrate on getting the most value from the key resource - the land on which the course is built.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY

Writing in 'Business', Needham and Dransfield described promotion mix as: "Comprising all the marketing and promotional communication methods used to achieve the promotional objectives of the marketing mix. These methods can be broken down into two distinct areas, non-controllable and controllable.

"Non controllable methods are marketing messages on the basis of word of mouth, personal recommendation, etc. Controllable methods are marketing messages which are carefully directed to achieve the objectives of an organisation's promotional campaign."

There are four typical distinct areas of promotional activity that a club can carry out and we will use these as examples; the first is non-controllable while the others are controllable:

1. The promotional activity, which is the one of choice, is non controllable through personal recommendation or perceptions of the club's historical heritage. An added benefit of this type of marketing is that the target markets are people who are friends or relatives of already existing members, so reinforcing a club's traditions.
2. The industry as a whole is saturated, with very few waiting lists at any clubs within the area. With this in mind the club could decide to second guess the competition and do some controllable marketing by advertising on a small scale.
3. There are issues at the majority of traditional members clubs in that the average age of the playing member is too high, there are too few younger members coming in at the bottom to replace them. A club's marketing efforts must be targeted at younger potential members to change this trend.
4. Crucial is the main way in which a club carries out promotional activities is to its existing customers by producing a golf course and clubhouse that satisfies the customer's needs and expectations.

CONSUMER MARKETS

All marketing campaigns require some degree of investment, whether this is for the cost of producing a few posters, or at the other extreme, buying advertising time on a local radio station.



A golf course and clubhouse house that satisfies the customer must be produced

Before a marketing campaign is due to begin, the costs should be evaluated against the potential results, i.e. a return-on-investment calculation. This can be used to determine which components in the marketing mix will produce the best value for money.

Another method for getting best value for money from your marketing expenditure is to 'pilot' your marketing ideas. Try out the ideas in a small, limited way and then measure the results that you get. Before starting piloting ideas, there should be a clear idea written down of what results are expected. If the results are higher than average and fit within the return-on-investment calculation, then increase the level of activity in this area and commit more expenditure to it.

There are times of the day or week when the course is quiet. Therefore the golf club needs to concentrate recruiting new members who can play at these times. For example, if the course is quiet during the week, then perhaps focus on retirees or others who can play at any time. During the weekend the course is generally full, so any marketing should be aimed at those potential customers who would take up the five day membership.

MARKETING THE PRODUCT

The fundamental market for a club is the existing members segment, reaching or surpassing their expectations is key for the continuing success of a club and the introduction of additional play from 'outside' organisations is by its very nature an emotive subject for the members.

- **Visiting Societies.** These groups are not controllably marketed and are perceived to have little impact on the tee availability for members.
- **Members Societies.** The member uses the club as a marketing tool for his/her business. They pay for food, green fees and drinks as do the other societies, the only difference being the organiser is a member of the club.
- **Corporate Day/Memberships.** These are deals where a large organisation hires the whole club for the day and uses all the facilities.

CONCLUSION

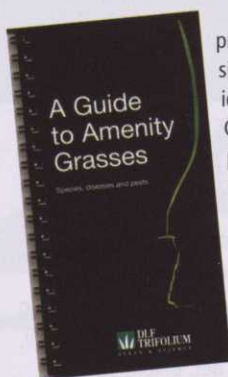
The key issues to continued success at any club are reaching or surpassing existing member's expectations and the organisation's primary objectives. This can be achieved by marketing two main segments, firstly the existing members should have their values reinforced and any reduction in numbers should be quickly combated. This can, I believe, be achieved by marketing the right segmentation of potential customers.

Caution should be exercised when considering introducing large numbers of well paying society's because even though financially it appears to be a good ploy it undermines the organisation's objectives.

Nigel White is part of the Ransomes Jacobson Scholarship Scheme and is Head Greenkeeper at Scraftoft Golf Club, Leicestershire.

NEW PRODUCTS

A GRASS GUIDE



Do you need reminding if there are rhizomes present in a particular grass or not? Here in a pocket size, full colour book is all the information you need to identify grasses and their related diseases and pests. Combining useful technical information with photography DLF Trifolium has released their new Guide to Amenity Grasses.

The Guide includes sections on grasses with useful information covering shoot density, germination period and cutting heights as well as distinguishing features and special properties of the particular specie. This section is followed by Fungal

Diseases, their symptoms, hosts and when they occur and finally a section on Pests. Many of the photographs are courtesy of the STRI, who have contributed with their expertise to the technical contents of the Guide.

For further information Tel: 01386 791102.

LLOYDS LAUNCH MORE MOWERS

The new Paladin range fine turf mowers, with the latest operator presence controls and low Vibration Handles, have been launched by Lloyds & Co Letchworth, along with the new Hovermower and recently added Commercial Rotary range.

Lloyds Fairway Mowers are mounted on a range of tractors, which can also be fitted with an endless range of equipment. This includes the Lloyds range of cylinder rotary or flail mowers and other golf/groundcare equipment, meaning an end to valuable equipment left laying idle.

For further information Tel: 01462 683031.



A KUBOTA FIRST

The RTV900 all terrain utility vehicle has now been added to the Kubota (UK) Ltd Construction Equipment Division product range.

An extremely rugged machine, this four-wheel drive vehicle is the first of its type to be designed and built by Kubota. Where required, four wheel drive can be de-selected for reduced tyre wear and enhanced fuel consumption when driving on firm surfaces.

Powered by a Kubota 22hp E-TVCS three cylinder water-cooled diesel engine, the RTV900 is equipped with a three range variable hydrostatic transmission system. The system is actuated by a single foot pedal that gives variable forward and reverse travel up to a maximum speed of 25mph.

For further information Tel: 01844 214500.



H2 GOES PRO

H2Pro turf treatment, launched by Scotts UK Professional, has been proven in development trials to be capable of both overcoming the problems associated with dry patch and cutting irrigation needs by over 50%.

The formulation of H2Pro offers a multi-matrix mode of action, which means a number of different wetting and spreading agents have been combined with long term wetting agents to specifically address the water management needs of sports and amenity turf.

H2Pro penetrates deep into the soil through any thatch layer, and then spreads evenly. The product also lasts much longer, with its unique combination of short, medium and long chain surfactant molecules attaching themselves to water repellent deposit throughout the whole zone and enhancing water uptake and retention for the entire season.

For further information Tel: 08712 205353.

AMENITYWISE BROCHURE

Amenitywise has launched their new Fertiliser Brochure for 2005/06. The new brochure lists over 40 fertilisers to accommodate every greenkeeper's needs. The brochure features the Amenitywise own label alongside the leading manufacturers' fertilisers.

Soon to follow the fertiliser brochure will be the company's Seed Brochure, which will again have technical advice and information on all Amenitywise's own range of products but again all the leading manufacturers'. Also included in this brochure are micronutrients and biostimulants, as well as soil management products.

For further information Tel: 0845 4569850.

VARISEEDER 1300

Sisis has introduced a new version of their Variseeder. The Variseeder 1300 has a wider working width and a simpler, more accurate method of selecting the seeding rates.

This compact seeder is designed for use on golf greens, tees and approaches, it can be used with any tractor with three point linkage and can be adapted to fit most trucksters.

Seeding rate is variable and is simple and accurate to set by Zero Max box. A transparent cover is fitted for seed level visibility. Surface disturbance is minimal so overseeding can be carried out without taking the ground out of play. The Variseeder 1300 offers a fast work rate and low maintenance with few wearing parts.

For further information Tel: 01625 262450.



SELF SPECIFICATION

Rytec has introduced a series of new Self Specification tractor mounted sprayers.

There are six capacities to choose from, from 200 to 1000 litres, all fitted with integral system rinse tank and hand wash tank, a 60 litre/min 20 bar diaphragm pump, integral system filter and self filler with hydraulic agitation and a four section control unit with pressure regulation on an adjustable mounting system to suit any tractor from small compact to large agricultural models.

Booms come in six, eight, 10, 12, 14 or 16 metre width with either single nozzles or quick change triple nozzle holders with rotating rapid change system for different application rates.

For further information Tel: 01944 768232.



NO SCANDAL AT THIS WATER-GATE

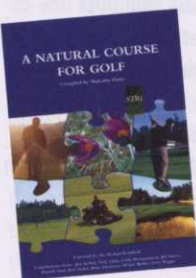
Two River Solutions Ltd (TRS) has announced the arrival of the Water-Gate water barrier to the UK and Ireland. The Water-Gate design makes it possible for the water to enter inside the fabric and stabilises it instantaneously.

When installing a culvert or working in water the barrier allows better work to be done in less time.

TRS offers an overflow diverter tunnel that is installed on top of the Water-Gate and connects to a spillway. This system lets you channel the overflow further downstream, giving you a dry streambed.

For further information Tel: 01608 664814.

THE NATURAL COURSE



STRI are set to release a new publication, A Natural Course for Golf. The book has been compiled by Malcolm Peake, who is also known for his work at Temple Golf Club and his book 'Confessions of a Chairman of Green'.

A Natural Course for Golf proves how money can be saved when managing a golf course responsibly. The chemically orientated approach to agronomy, which was previously considered to be the modern way, is shown to be an unsustainable short-term philosophy, which will ultimately lead to irredeemable golf course decay.

The book contains some memorable quotes from a variety of interesting and diverse sources.

"I think the over-watering and over-fertilising of golf courses is one of British golf's biggest sins. A liberal irrigation and fertilising policy merely succeeds in dampening a course's interest and character. I would encourage all golfers to read and digest the wisdom that is contained in A Natural Course for Golf," states Nick Faldo.

BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack has written the book's foreword.

For more information Tel: 01274 565131.

EYE OF THE TIGRONE

Antonio Carraro has introduced seven new models to their Tigrone range of tractors. The series are a line of compact tractors with equally sized wheels designed for increase stability and reduced surface compaction.

Marketed in Britain by Carraro UK, the new series includes the S 5400V, SN 6500V and SX 8400 with articulated chassis and the T 5400, TN 6500, TN 8400 and TC 8400 with steering chassis.

Features in the series include a lowered profile, a moulded streamline design, sprung and adjustable seats, adjustable trailer hook and collapsible roll bar. The moulded front grill and the lateral guards on the bodywork protect the engine by guaranteeing ideal thermal exchange even in high temperatures. The vertical opening of the bonnet allows easy access to the engine for routine maintenance.

The driver's seat is well protected and positioned on a platform with silent block anti-vibration mounts. The steering wheel, control levers and pedals have a new concept anti-stress design. Direct injection ensures low fuel and oil consumption.

Maximum speed varies between 30-40 Km/h depending on the model and the internal brake discs result in a reduced stopping distance.

The tractors also boast good ground clearance and a low centre of gravity.

For further Information Tel: 01420 479606.



MAKING AN IMPACT

Rigby Taylor has launched Mascot Impact, a line marking system incorporating Integrated Paint Technology (IPT).

Impact centres on the combination of a ready-to-use concentrated paint, a multi purpose spray marking machine and environmentally friendly packaging. Impact offers total control of line marking operations, providing measurable time and cost savings. There is no water, no mixing, and no mess.

The multi-purpose Impact spray marker is a high pressure, battery operated machine that applies a controlled volume of paint time after time, ensuring consistency of line and making life easy for the operator.

The concentrated Impact paint formulation totally eliminates the need for any water compared to traditional methods, and comes in 10-litre bag-in-a-box packaging. The empty inner plastic bag can be disposed of with standard refuse and the outer cardboard carton is totally recyclable.

For further information Tel: 0800 424 919.



NO MORE DRIFT

The new Turbo TeeJet Induction spray tip design is ideal for use when off target drift is a concern and overlap distribution is required. Using a unique pre-orifice design, the smaller droplets in the spectrum are eliminated and large, air-filled, drift-resistant droplets are produced.

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News from the Chief Executive

I would like to start by offering my condolences to John Crawford and his family upon the sad loss of his partner, Ailsa, who died recently following a period of illness. John was Chairman of BIGGA in 1993 and is Section Secretary for Central Scotland.

On a brighter note, I would like to congratulate my fellow members of staff who, under the able stewardship of Ken, have helped BIGGA pass an Investors in People audit with flying colours. In the inspector's report we have been praised for our achievements and commitment and he placed us within the top 10% of companies in the country. The Association first gained the award in March 1999.

The main theme for June has been meetings, meetings and yet more meetings. During the month the General Purposes' Committee met to progress the development of an updated business plan, certain sections of the plan have now been referred back to the other sub-committees for their consideration.

I have had several meetings with companies, including Ransomes, who have confirmed that they will once again sponsor the National Tournament in October, and also Bernhard & Co, who will be sponsoring a delegation of 10 BIGGA members to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in New Orleans in February 2006.

On June 27 the Association held its annual golf day at Aldwark Manor and the chosen charity this year was Macmillan Cancer Relief. I would like to thank all those companies who sponsored a tee for the day, thereby making this event possible. Anyone involved with raising sponsorship will appreciate how difficult it is, as companies see their budgets being more and more restricted and I would ask members to acknowledge the support given over the year by the various individuals and companies. A simple word of thank you is all that is sometimes needed but all too often forgotten!

The Association continues to work closer and closer with the Association of Golf Club Secretaries and at my most recent meeting with their National Secretary, Keith Lloyd, we discussed joint production of recommended health and safety policy documentation and also the development of an educational programme at Harrogate for AGCS members. We agreed to set up a health and safety working party comprising four Course Managers, four Club Secretaries, BIGGA and AGCS staff and an independent adviser with other advisers being invited to contribute in due course. The inaugural meeting is scheduled for early September and I will keep members advised of progress.

Finally, I would like to wish Patrick Gosset, the Chief Executive of the IOG, a long and happy retirement when he closes his office door for the last time at the end of July. Pat and I have enjoyed a very close working relationship and I am sure he will be a difficult act to follow.

John Pemberton

SCOTTISH REGION

West

Welcome to this month's report. I hope I find everyone with great optimism for the season ahead. Congratulations to Peter Boyd for once again arranging a fantastic Scottish Conference. There was a great attendance even though the weather was horrendous in March with heavy snow around the country.

The Club Masters versus Greenkeepers match was played over Clydebank and District Golf Club on March 14 and may I thank my team for playing so well on the day and returning the trophy to the greenkeepers. We are due to play again in October and hopefully it will be as good as the last one. I would like to thank Ronnie Manson for arranging the day and we look forward to our match in October.

This year's Convenors versus Greenkeepers match was held over Millport GC. There was a good turnout with Millport retaining the trophy. Well done to Joe Bell and partner, they must have played well in the gale force conditions.

This year's spring outing was held over Ranfurly Castle GC and there was a great turnout, with approximately 50 playing. The course was in first class condition with a lot of hard work put in from Course Manager, John Barr, and his staff. Many thanks to the Captain and Board for courtesy of their fine course. The competition was Stableford format.

The results where: Scratch. Stuart Taylor. First class. 1. Chris Kerr, 33pts; 2. John Brown, 32pts; 3. Scott Ballantyne, 30pts. 2nd Class. 1. Craig Wylie, 38pts; 2. Gavin Jarvis, 38pts; 3. Neill McLennan, 36pts. 3rd Class. 1. Robert Phillips, 31pts; 2. Michael Maxton, 29pts; 3. Alan Dykes, 29 pts. Trade Prize. Jim Smith, 30pts. Longest Drive. Scott Ballantyne. Nearest the Pin. Stuart Taylor. Visitor's Prize. Marshall Sloss. Marshall is the Chairman of the Ayrshire Section, many thanks for attending our outing.

A presentation was held on the day for Trade member Ian Mackay. After 30 years' service with Sisis Equipment, also a short time with Mc Nabs and Scottish Grass, Ian was calling it a day or so we thought. He will still be around, he will be carrying out freelance work for Sisis and you can contact him on his mobile as before. On the day he was presented with a silver Quaich for services to the West Section over the years.

John Scott Snr, a long time member of the West Section, recently passed away after a long illness. John was known to most members, as he called on them over the years working for various companies in the trade. He attended most of the Section's outings and was always in good form. Our deepest sympathies go out to the family at this sad time.

It's with sadness that I inform the members of the death of David Peacock, who was the Head Greenkeeper of East Kilbride Golf Club from 1955-1986. Our thoughts go out to the family at this sad time.

On the job front there has been some movement in the Section during the last few months. Ronnie Myles is heading down south to Scarcroft Golf Club, in York, after many years' service at Helensburgh Golf Club. Ronnie, I hope you enjoy your new challenge.

Gavin Jarvis is taking over the post at Helensburgh after 14 years' service at Lenzie. Also Garry Burns, the First Assistant, has been appointed as Gavin's successor. Gary has been at Lenzie for 24 years. Many congratulations to all.

New members this month are Bobby McDougall, Hilton Park, Sean Quinn, Hilton Park, Vincent McNally, Elderslie, and McLaughlin Cathkin, Braes Arm. Welcome to all the new members.

This year's annual night out will be held at Victoria's nightclub. Over the past few years it has been a great success. Anybody wishing to come along contact myself on 07970 366355 or Gavin Jarvis on 07921 060402. Well that's all for now, more news next month.

Fraser Ross

NORTHERN REGION

North West

Sad news this month of the death of Jim Arthur, a man dedicated to greenkeeping and greenkeepers. I did not know him personally but I have read his book and many times read his letters in the magazine, all of which made sense. I am sure he will be sadly missed by all that knew him.

Whitefield Golf Club was the venue for the Spring Tournament on May 25 and although the day started with rain as usual, the weather did improve after lunch, enabling us to keep dry during the game. Considering we had rain for several days before, the course was in good condition thanks to Danny Chamberlyn and his staff.

The disturbing part of the day was that there was only 16 attending and five of those were trade members. The Section has over 500 members, so the percentage attending was very poor. These golf days are also a day that gives you all a chance to socialise with other greenkeepers, gives you the chance to see other courses and how they are set up. We had the tee from 2pm giving every one time to finish work and enjoy a good day.

Please try to support the Section at the next golf day, which will be the Summer Tournament at Childwall Golf Club on Wednesday July 27. All entries to Bert Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool, L18 3HU. Including a cheque for £20 payable to BIGGA N/W Section. Closing date is Sunday July 24.

Back to the Spring Tournament the winners were. Best Nett. Alan Donlevy. Best Gross. Bill Merritt. Vets. Peter Hogan. Guest. Andrew McMahan. Longest Drive. Alan Donlevy. The Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive was sponsored by Bathgate Leisure.

Finally, I intend to retire from the position of Secretary for the N/W Section, also the N/W Committee at the AGM in December. I will have completed 30 years on the Committee next year, also as Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of the Northern Region Board and representative for the Section on the Regional Board, plus Representative for the Northern Region on the Board of Management. I now feel it is time to hand over to a working greenkeeper in the Section.

Some of the Secretaries duties include: Writing Section notes for the magazine, contacting golf clubs and caterers for tournament venues, balancing Section accounts, dealing with members queries, keeping contact with HQ and dealing with new memberships, being the Section member on the Regional Board (approx. four meetings a year at BIGGA HOUSE), organising the Mere Seminar, assisting the Administrator with Regional seminars, organising Section Committee meetings, enrolling companies to the Patron's scheme, etc, etc.

A snippet of news, Anthony Davies, N/W President, will be getting married in October after taking his fiancée to Paris, and going down on one knee and proposing under the Eiffel Tower. Good luck to them both. If I got down on one knee I would not be able to get up again.

Any queries or observations ring 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583 387.
Bert Cross

Northern

First this month, congratulations to Richard Pull and his wife, Philypa, on the birth of their twin baby girls, Charlotte and Freya. I hear that both Philypa and the girls are doing well and we wish them all the best for the future.

A note of thanks must go to Scotts UK for their sponsorship of the Spring Tournament.

I realise it's a touch short notice, but the date for the Rigby Taylor sponsored Sheffield match is Wednesday July 13. Anybody interested in playing please get in touch as soon as possible. The venue is Hillsborough Golf Club and I know that Chairman, Andy Slingsby, is looking forward to going to that particular area of Sheffield.

Don't forget that the barbecue night is Saturday July 16. This year it is being held at Otley Golf Club. The cost is £10 per person and for that there is a disco and as much food as you can eat, so please let's see as many of you there as possible, and don't forget to invite family and friends.

Invitation Day will be held at York Golf Club again this year after we had to cancel last year due to the weather. It is scheduled for August 10, with first tee off at 1pm. The day is again sponsored by Rigby Taylor. Please get your names in early as this event has only a limited number of places available.

Next month I will be reporting the results of President's Day, which took place at Scarthingwell Golf Club on July 15. This day was also President Dennis Cockburn's 70th birthday. Happy Birthday Dennis, I hope you enjoyed your day. The day has kindly been sponsored by CSC.

If you have any news you would like to share with the Section, then please do get in touch. Tel: 01274 638366; Mobile: 07739 319060.

Adam Speight

Sheffield

Once again our golfing season has started. On May 10 we held our President's Salver Competition at Bondhay Golf Club. It was a dry day but the wind made it a very testing one, but I'm sure it was enjoyed by everyone who played.

The main sponsors for the competition were Pro-Turf, who we would like to thank for their continued support of our Section. I had the pleasure of playing golf that day with Seymour Harris, from Pro-Turf, and we had an enjoyable day, he also showed me how to play golf.

The eventual winner, on 35pts, was Ron Ullathorne, who it was nice to see after a few years' absence. Well done Ron. The runner up was Dave Womack. The Trade Prize winner was Russ Latham. Well done Russ, your game's coming on nowadays, especially since you haven't played golf with me for a bit.

Congratulations go to Andy Stirr and his staff for the excellent condition of Bondhay. Well done to you all. Also we would like to thank Stan Lee, Captain of Bondhay, and ask him to thank everyone at the club for giving us the courtesy of their course. A big thank you also goes to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. As usual, thanks to the rest of the trade who also provided prizes. Oh I nearly forgot, thanks Steve for selling so many raffle tickets.

Can you please remember that we require everyone to wear jackets and ties for the meal after golf. I will ask anyone once again with any news from the Section to contact me on 07793111845 or jv.lax@tesco.net. You must have some news sometimes out there because I have received none so far, it just helps to fill these notes.

John Lax

North Wales

As I was sat out in the garden deliberating over the notes for the July edition, I was thinking why the Frisbee my son had just thrown to me was getting bigger as it got closer... then it hit me.

Welcome to 'Open Fever' month as the world heads up to the home of golf and the Old Course at St Andrews will have many a blade of grass trampled on, along with our BIGGA Support Team. There will be some great crack to be had in Mar belle's just off the scores road, along with the many other watering holes around the historic town.

Who will your money be on this year, another unknown American to follow Ben Curtis and Todd Hamilton or can we see a British hopeful lifting the famous Claret Jug at the end of play on Sunday July 17? If your not going up there, be sure to get the multi pack of crisps and nuts in and tune to BBC2 for the full coverage.

Back to home matters in the North Wales Section and the results from our Spring Tournament on May 25, held at Upton-by-Chester GC. In reverse order. 5. Les Parry, recently back from injury, Arrowe Park GC, 28pts; 4. Phil Watson, Wallasey GC, 30pts; 3. Jez Hughes, Section Competition Secretary, 31pts; 2. Richard Kevin Lewis, Machinlech GC, 34pts; 1. Iwan Jones, with local knowledge, Upton GC, 36pts. The Trade Shield was won by Dave Austin, from RT, and he will be reduced by two shots for the autumn competition, this is not in the constitution but I have decided he is playing too well.

There were three guest prizes and first was Roger Greenhalgh, from

Sutton Hall, 2nd was Tom Durban, from Conwy GC, and 3rd, from BIGGA HQ, was our Regional Administrator Peter Larter. The Best Gross went to Andy Peel, from Bull Bay GC, and Nearest the Pin, 4th Hole, Trevor Morris, from Chirk GC, and 15th Hole, Jez Hughes Vale, of Llangollen GC.

The course was in very good condition as presented by Justin Chung and his greenkeeping team. The newly constructed greens and all the alterations over the past 18 months prove a very good test of golf and with the mammoth task of rebuilding has been a credit to Justin. Our thanks also go to the caterers and the staff at Upton for their hospitality. A most enjoyable day was had by all.

One group of four golfers who were noticeably missing from the day were Dave Parry, Islyn Luke, Steve Roberts and Terry Adamson, who have played together in the Section golf days for the past 67 years. This was due to Steve Roberts sustaining a broken ankle at his home course, Flint GC. The things some people do to get out of paying the 20p bets. We wish Steve a speedy recovery and hope to see the pack back together in our autumn competition at Eaton GC.

Many got back home from Upton just in time for the Liverpool verses AC Milan game that had a turnaround result for Liverpool after the half time 3-0, coupled with a touch of luck in the penalty shootout. I ended up paying out on my bets.

On a final note I mentioned that Shaun Pritchard rejoined the happy band of greenkeepers back at Llanynymech. Since then they have had another new member of staff on the greens. Following in his father Allen's

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