a dead faint. Apparently I'd said: "My son has cut off his foot." Her assistant was made of sterner stuff and pressed some sort of panic button while jabbering away into a tannoy.

Things did get a little blurry after that - klaxons were going off and lights flashing, and what could only be described as a SWAT team of French paramedics appeared out of nowhere carrying all sorts of arcane resuscitation equipment and stretchers, and systematically kicked in an entire row of cubicle doors before finding Rob cowering in the end one, patiently waiting for me to return with an Elastoplast.

Happily, after everyone realised that a simple mistake had been made, it only took a couple of hours to sort things out and repair all the damage, but I haven't exactly been made a freeman of Le Touquet. "Do come back and see us again M'sieur" and other false platitudes. However, it is a really good place for a short break. Lets have some proper news next month.

Paul Worster

paul.worster@tesco.net, Tel/Fax: 01453 837355 / 07768 394593

South Coast

Firstly, can I please apologise for passing on some incorrect information to you. It was Ian Greenfield who sadly passed away and not Ian Greenwood as stated. I do hope I did not cause any distress to his family and friends and cannot apologise enough.

Some good news from Came Down Golf Club. The club have received an environmental award from the English Golf Union in recognition of their outstanding work in environmental management. Rightly the club are extremely proud and the award is a testament of the hard work that Derek Parker and his greenkeeping team are carrying out on the course.

It's well to remember that none of this very important work could have been carried out without the full backing of the golf club and its members. Golf is now a leading force in promoting and developing environmental management and we have a significant role in protecting the environment for future generations. Well done Came Down! Some more news from the boys from Came later!

I have just returned from another great and hectic Harrogate week. I travelled up on the Monday with my Course Manager, Bill Garner, and Trevor Smith, Project Manager at Remedy Oak Golf Club. Those of you who know Trevor can imagine that Bill and I hardly managed to get a word in! Trevor actually lost his voice on the Tuesday and when I bumped into him on Wednesday he told me how lonely he had felt. I felt quite sorry for him as I assumed he must have been missing Wendy, but when he said he had missed the sound of his own voice the sympathy was soon lost. Sorry Trevor!

Those of us who travelled up on the Monday had a free day as the Shows and seminars started on the Tuesday. We have some very cultured members in the Section and Derek Parker and Julian Cherry, from Came Down, travelled across to York and visited the railway museum. Apparently the museum has the Mallard and Flying Scotsman on display and the boys from Came Down conveyed their excitement at seeing these great engines. I'm not sure if the anoraks they ordered have arrived yet!

Anyway onto the BTME week. The seminars started on the Tuesday and covered a wide range of subjects. The show was excellent with many new products on display and plenty of friendly faces to catch up with. The AGM ran fairly smoothly and Section member Ted West was honoured with Life Membership for his outstanding support of the Association. The whole week was rounded off with the banquet, which was a great night of good food and company. All in all another memorable week and I'm looking forward to next year already.

Parkstone's Chris Sherrington has every reason to feel proud of himself as he has been chosen to join the Ohio State University Scholarship Scheme and jets out to America at the end of the month. Chris will be spending six months working at Oakhill, in Rochester, which hosted the last Ryder Cup, before moving south to work with the warm season grasses. We wish Chris every success for the future and will miss him enormously at Parkstone, but he has a fantastic opportunity ahead of him and he's living the dream.

He's not the only one leaving us at Parkstone, as Alan Magee is moving to Remedy Oak Golf Club. The exciting opportunity will see him working on a fantastic course with exceptional standards. The chance to work with Penn A4 will also be a great experience. Alan has been at Parkstone for nine years so will be sorely missed by us all, but we also wish him every success for the future.

Ian Noble will be running the London Marathon this year and raising money for McMillan Cancer Research, which is a fantastic cause. I know Ian is busy training at the moment and would appreciate any offers of sponsorship, so if you wish to sponsor him please contact him. I would just like to pass on the Section's thoughts to Colin White as he continues his treatment. Our thoughts are with you Chalky and we look forward to seeing you in better health soon!

I'll have full details of our Section seminar in next month's column. The day is a sell out which is fantastic. If you have any news you wish to include please contact me.

Until next month

Alex McCombie

Devon & Cornwall

The New Year commenced with our Section's first meeting at the superb Trevose Golf Club, sponsored by Barenbrug UK Ltd. The course was designed in the 1920's by Harry Colt, one of the pioneers of course design around the turn of the century, and apart from the 13th and 14th holes the original design remains essentially the same.

The course was in excellent condition thanks to the Head Greenkeeper, Neil Taylor, and his team. Neil even provided the blue skies and, of course, very windy conditions. To say it was a test of golf would be an understatement.

The Barenbrug Competition was a Stableford, playing of the white tees, and the winners were as follows: 1. Gordon Tamlyn, Mullion, 37pts, Hcp 6; 2. Chris Pearson, Newquay, 35pts, Hcp 4; 3. Mike Bush, St Melllion, 31pts, Hcp 13.

The non golfers went on a course walk with Neil Taylor, who enjoyed showing them his new satellite watering system, which has recently been installed with a total of 32 miles of irrigation pipes.

Having consumed an excellent lunch we were entertained by our guest speaker, George R Shields, the subject being "Meeting the needs of the Modern Golfer" when endeavouring to maintain old greens.

On behalf of the Section I would like to offer our congratulations to Mike Symons, the Head Greenkeeper at Bovey Castle Golf Club, most of you will remember the course's old name, The Manor at Mortonhampstead. Mike has just won the 'Unsung Head Greenkeeper 2004 Award'. This award is presented by Terrain Aeration, and is for Outstanding Performance and Dedication to Bovey Castle Golf Club and the Industry as a whole.

Mike has been Head Greenkeeper at the club for 15 years. For the majority of those years he has struggled with a lack of machinery and working without a budget to maintain the course, that has all changed now since the Manor Hotel was purchased by Peter De Savary two years ago.

In the last few years Mike has spent £1.75 million pounds on the course, this includes levelling out the 1st and 18th fairways, a massive drainage programme on all the fairways and greens. All 18 greens have had work carried out on them, restoring them back to their original design, and every bunker on the course has been redesigned. The major feature on the course is the 3rd hole, a par 3, it has been lengthened to 205 yards and the green is surrounded by water, a real challenge, once again Mike, many congratulations.

It is my sad duty to report the loss of Ben Adams who was tragically killed in a car accident a few weeks ago. Ben worked at Portsmore Golf Club under the leadership of Colin Webber. The Section's sympathies go to Ben's family and he will be greatly missed by all.

Finally I would like to end by thanking everyone involved with the recent BTME Exhibition. It was a great success and I was delighted to see so many Greenkeepers from the South West, Devon, and Cornwall.

Please remember our meeting at Churston Golf Club, on Wednesday March 16, with guest speaker Ann Murray, who is the Laboratory Manager and Director at The European Turfgrass Laboratories. Her subject will be on Top Dressings and Rootzones, it's not to be missed.

Donovan O Hunt

BUYERS' GUIDE

AERATION

HYDROJECT AERATION AND CHEMICAL INJECTION SERVICE
(WITH NO SURFACE DISTURBANCE)
KEITH DRIVER
(SPORTSTURF CONTRACTOR)
Tel: **01273 679994** Mobile: **07958 532008**
124 Warren Road, Woodingdean, Brighton BN2 6DB

MOORE'S
TURF MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS LTD

Earth Quaking, hollow tining, core collection, over seeding, stone burying, seeding, top dressing, verti draining.
All sportsground renovation works undertaken
Tel/Fax: Alistair Moore 01283 210 456
or 07889 771341
email: mooresturf@btconnect.com
www.mooresturf.com

AERATION HIRE

PETER MANNINGTON
Vertidrain Contractor now offers
1½ m & 2 m
EARTHQUAKING SERVICE
Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211
or Mobile 07850 612061
1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green, Etchingham, East Sussex TN19 7QA

AGRONOMY

B Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd
Bruce Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd, is an established company offering expert advice on;
- Golf Course maintenance
- Tournament preparation & presentation
- Machinery selection
- Budgeting
- Staff recruitment
- Soil & turf analysis
- Establishment of new golf courses

Contact: **Bruce Jamieson**
Browntop, 17 Haywarden Place, Hartley Wintney, Hants, RG27 8UA Telephone: 01252 844847 www.bjgolf.co.uk

AMENITY SPRAYING

WEED FREE
'Home of The Spraying Mantis'
T: 07000 481011
F: 07000 481022
E: spraying@weedfree.co.uk
W: www.weedfree.co.uk

ARTIFICIAL GRASS

VERDE SPORTS LIMITED
Tel: 01254 831666 Fax: 01254 831066
- VERDE TEE FRAME
  Steel platform, woven grass top
- VERDE TEE TURF
  Sand and rubber infill for top quality all weather tees
- VERDE DRIVING MATS
  Top Quality - Long Life - Best Prices
  Replacement inserts for ALL Tee-Mats any size - made to measure
- ARTIFICIAL GRASSES
  Comprehensive range for pathways, winter tees and putting

Gabbotts Farm Barn, Bury Lane, Withnell, Chorley, Lancashire PR6 8SW
www.verdesports.com www.artificialgrass.org.uk
email: sales@verdesports.com
Please call for samples & information

BIO-TECHNOLOGY

IMPACT GREEN
'Professional'
MAKES QUALITY TURF
IMPROVED ROOT & TOP GROWTH, FINE GRASS GROWTH, DISEASE & STRESS RESISTANCE, RECOVERY, THATCH MANAGEMENT
Piltland Technology Ltd
Tel: **01780 783758**
Fax: **01780 783818**
Web: **www.piltland.co.uk**

Our 14th year supplying biotech solutions
SYMBIO
Reduce Chemical Use
Improve Fine Grass Growth, Disease Management and Thatch Reduction to the Sports Turf Industry
Tel: 01372 456101
www.symbio.co.uk

BUILDINGS

Greenkeepers' Stores Driving Ranges
Machinery Storage
Maintenance Workshops
Fertiliser and Weedkiller Storage
Offices and Staff Mess Rooms
FREE initial designs and costings
THE COOPER GROUP
Industrial and Commercial Buildings
Tel: 01538 702282 Fax 01538 702662
e-mail: ivanjcooper@fsbdial.co.uk

BUNKER RAKES

BUNKER RAKES
from **£2.50** each
MEMBERS STRONG TRADITIONAL SHAPE
15" wide black plastic head complete with 48" wooden shaft. FREE SAMPLE
ASK FOR OUR COLOUR BROCHURE PACKED WITH HUNDREDS OF GOLF COURSE ITEMS AT UNBEATABLE PRICES
FAIRWAY PRODUCTS
Unit 3, Peel Industrial Estate, Bury, Lancs. BL9 0LU
Tel/Fax: **0161 763 7060**

BUNKER RAKES from only £2.49 each DELIVERED FREE
Strong construction with replaceable threaded wooden handle.
Fewer than 50 £2.90 each DELIVERED FREE
50 or more £2.49 each DELIVERED FREE
HEAD GREENKEEPER/ CHAIRMAN OF GREEN? Ask for a FREE SAMPLE
Prices are for complete rakes. Free delivery UK mainland. Rake support pegs 80 pence each.
Made in the UK by **MW Dyason Ltd, The Old Church, Brentingby, Melton Mowbray LE14 4RX**
Tel: 01664 411911 Fax: 01664 569546
Email: MikeDyason@aol.com

Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry
TIME TO TALK
www.bigga.org.uk

BUNKER SANDS

Fife Silicia Sands
a division of Patersons of Greenoakhill Ltd
Burrowine Moor Quarry, By Alloa, Clackmannanshire FK10 3QD
Tel: 01259 731379
Fax: 01259 730686
PRODUCERS OF:
USGA Rootzone
Bunker Sand
(as supplied to Loch Lomond Golf Course)
Top Dressing Sand

CONSTRUCTION

MJ ABBOTT LIMITED
SPECIALISTS IN:
- GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
- REMODELLING & RENOVATION
- SPORTSGROUNDS
- MAINTENANCE

Dinton • Salisbury • Wiltshire SP3 5EB
Tel: 01722 716361 • Fax: 01722 716828
www.mjabbott.co.uk

CONSTRUCTION

BARRELFIELD CONSTRUCTION
Barrelfield undertake all types of course construction work from refurbishment and improvements through to total new course build
020 8390 6566
www.barrelfieldgolf.co.uk
email: melvin@barrelfield.co.uk

CONTOUR GOLF · LIMITED
INTERNATIONAL GOLF COURSE CONTRACTORS & CONSULTANTS
UK OFFICE: 00 44 (0)1327 879464
IRISH OFFICE: 00 353 (0)64 39965
e-mail: enquiries@contour-golf.com

Delta Golf 2000 Limited
Construction • Remodelling
Water Features
Tel: 01604 468908
Fax: 01604 474853
www.deltagolf2000.co.uk
180 Ruskin Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton NN2 7TA

J & E ELY
GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
Reading, Berks
Tel/Fax: 0118 9722257
E-mail: ely@btinternet.com
BAGCC
40th Anniversary 1961 - 2001
ELY
www.elygolfconstruction.com

GRASSFORM LTD
Green Tee and Bunker Construction
Driving Ranges, Seeding and Preparation
Turfing, Buggy Paths and Tracks
FOR QUOTES / ADVICE OR ENQUIRIES
Grassform Ltd
Dunsteads Farm, Trueloves Lane
Ingatstone, Essex CM4 0NJ
Tel: 01277 355500 Fax: 01277 355504
email: enquiries@grassform.co.uk

COFFEE BREAK TEASER

Take a look at the picture on the left and try to work out what problem you think it might be.

The answer wil be hidden somewhere in the Buyers' Guide section.

Okay, for the time being we may not be giving you a prize to work it out, but just think of the satisfaction of getting the problem solved!

Supaturf
SPORTS & AMENITY PRODUCTS

CONSTRUCTION

NEW GROUND GUARDS
Prevent turf and tarmac damage by vehicles up to 50 tons
LIGHTWEIGHT HI TECH PLASTIC
Phone for FREE info pack & sample
GreenTek 0113 267 6000

John Greasley
Specialists in Golf Course Construction
JOHN GREASLEY LIMITED
"Ashfield House" • 1154 Melton Road
Syston • Leicester • LE7 2HB
Tel: 0116 269 6766
Mobile: 07836 553899
Fax: 0116 269 6866
BAGCC

LAND UNIT
CONSTRUCTION LIMITED
Sportsground and Golf Course Construction
Hanslope, Milton Keynes, MK19 7BX
Telephone: (01908) 510414
Fax: (01908) 511056
web: www.landunitconstruction.co.uk
e-mail: sales@landunitconstruction.co.uk

DRAINAGE

AFT
COST EFFECTIVE TRENCHING
A.F.T. Trenchers Ltd
16-17 Addison Road, Chilton Industrial Estate, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2YW
Tel: 01787 311811 Fax: 01787 310888
Email: info@trenchers.co.uk www.trenchers.co.uk

DRAINAGE

Duncan Ross LTD
Sportsturf Drainage Specialists
Piped Drainage Systems
Sand Slitting • Vertidraining
Topdressing • Overseeding
Design • Installation • Maintenance
Appley Bridge, Wigan, Lancashire WN6 9DT
t: 01257 255321
f: 01257 255327
e: duncanross.ltd@virgin.net

GRASSFORM LTD
Land Drainage Systems
Gravel Banding, Sand Slitting
Sand Spreading / Top Dressing
FOR QUOTES / ADVICE OR ENQUIRIES
Grassform Ltd
Dunsteads Farm, Trueloves Lane
Ingatstone, Essex CM4 0NJ
Tel: 01277 355500 Fax: 01277 355504
email: enquiries@grassform.co.uk

Drainage Systems
Lytag banding of greens & fairways plus traditional drainage
North Staffs Irrigation Ltd
Tel: 01785 812706
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com
www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk

PHILIP DIXON
LAND DRAINAGE
Golf Course • Sportsfield
Drainage • Construction
Renovation • Maintenance
Sand Slitting • Gravel Banding
Vertidraining • Overseeding
Top Dressing • Spraying
Tel: 01772 877289
Fax: 01772 877479
Preston, Lancs

SPEEDCUT CONTRACTORS LTD
SPORTSTURF
Construction
Drainage
Renovation
Sandslitting
Contact: Kevin Smith
OXFORD 01865 331479

DRAINAGE

Turfdry
Golf Course Drainage Specialist
For fast and friendly UK service call:
Melvyn Taylor
on 01283 551417
or 07836 259133
www.turfdry.com

White Horse Contractors Limited
Southern Office Tel: 01865 736272
Northern Office Tel: 01845 587800
whitehorsecontractors.co.uk

DRIVING RANGE EQUIPMENT

European Golf Machinery
Range Ball UK Ltd
Manufacturers and suppliers of Golf Range Machinery
Golf Course Practice Ground Equipment and Accessories
Large stock of Range Balls
Mats and Winter Tee Platforms
Distributors for Kawasaki Mule and ATV
Kawasaki
Bucklesham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP10 0DN
Tel: 44 (0) 1473 659815
Fax: 44 (0) 1473 659045
E Mail: sales@golfmachinery.com
www.golfmachinery.com

EDUCATION & TRAINING

BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY MEMBERSHIP
BIGGA Education and Development Fund
UNLOCK THE DOORS TO PROGRESS
www.bigga.org.uk

Want to be a cut above the rest?
Study Sportsturf at Myerscough College, Preston
For more information please call course enquiries on
01995 642211
or visit the website
www.myerscough.ac.uk
Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY
Myerscough College
Providing opportunities for all

FERTILISER

H & M Products Ltd
Derryogue
Kilkeel
Co Down
BT34 4JL
Suppliers of Seaweed Meal and Natural Fertiliser to the sportsturf industry.
Tel: 0284 1762060
Fax: 0284 1769787
Email:
info@hmproducts.co.uk

FINANCE & LEASING

FINANCE:
• Replacement machinery
• Course improvements
• Clubhouse redevelopment with a flexible package
Golf Finance
SPECIALISTS IN GOLF COURSE FINANCE
TEL: 01620 890200
sales@golffinance.co.uk

GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES

BOYD GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES
32 years in business
Ireland's no.1
For a free catalogue
Manufacturers of quality on course accessories
Tel: 02891 271163 Fax: 02891 471136
www.boydgolf.co.uk sales@boydgolf.co.uk

BUYERS' GUIDE

GOLF MATS

GOLF MATS UK
are the manufacturer of the Dunlop Golf Mat System

All weather mat in framework
Tel: 01580 892 002
Fax: 01580 891 918
sales@golfmatsuk.co.uk
www.golfmatsuk.co.uk

GRASS CUTTING

Bredy
GRASS CUTTING
Shibaura equipment for all your requirements
Call us for a free initial consultation for your golf course
Tel: 01305 267151
www.bredycountry.co.uk
Louds Mill, St.Georges Road, Dorchester

THE Articulator

For a World That Isn't Flat
LASTEC UK
01622 812103
www.lastec.com

IRRIGATION

British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association
"Quality by Association"

Our aim is to ensure you have the best possible irrigation system so we constantly monitor, maintain and raise the standards of our members.

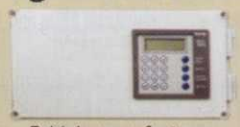
For a full list of members contact Martyn Jones

Tel/Fax: 01995 670675
Website: www.btlia.org.uk

Cameron IRRIGATION
Suppliers of Irrigation Equipment to Golf Courses Bowling Greens, Landscapes, Horticulture.
Existing systems renovated and upgraded
DESIGN • INSTALLATION • SERVICE
BS EN ISO 9001 Registered Company
Telephone: +44 (0) 1425 474614
Fax: +44 (0) 1425 471296
http:// www.misc.irrig.co.uk
e mail: enquiries@misc.irrig.co.uk
MISC

IRRIGATION
GlenFarrow
DESIGN SUPPLY INSTALL
For specialist irrigation advice call...
01775 722 327
e-mail: info@glenfarrow.co.uk
www.glenfarrow.co.uk

Heron
Irrigation Controllers



- British manufacturer
- PC or stand alone systems

01903 724343 www.heron-electric.com

IRRIGATION

irrigation
designed
supplied
installed
maintained
systems
AutoFlow Systems Ltd
tel: 01603 759701
sales@autoflowsystems.co.uk

irritech limited
Independent Irrigation Consultants
Specialising in:-
- Existing system evaluation
- System design & upgrade
- Project management

Contact Roger Davey on:
01823 690216
www.irritechlimited.co.uk

IRRIGATION

20+YEARS EXPERIENCE

YOURS FOR THE ASKING...
Irrigation systems, lakes and reservoirs, plus servicing, repairs, system updates and extensions a speciality.

TORO iss Hunter
IRRIGATION & SYSTEMS SERVICE
Unit 18, Downton Industrial Estate, Batten Road, Downton, Salisbury, Wilts SP5 3HU
TEL: 01725 513880 FAX: 01725 513003

MJ ABBOTT LIMITED
IRRIGATION SPECIALISTS
- DESIGN
- SUPPLY
- INSTALLATION
- MAINTENANCE

RAIN BIRD
Dinton • Salisbury • Wiltshire SP3 5EB
Tel: 01722 716361 • Fax: 01722 716828
www.mjabbott.co.uk

Irrigation Systems
Professionally designed installed and serviced
North Staffs Irrigation Ltd
Tel: 01785 812706
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com
www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk

IRRIGATION

OCMIS bringing water to life
IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation & Service throughout the UK
Golf Courses
Sportsgrounds
Recreational
Landscape Areas
Tel: 0870 600 5131
Fax: 0870 600 5132
E-mail: info@ocmis.com
Website: www.ocmis.com

Independent Professional Irrigation
Golf Courses, Bowling Greens, Sports, Racecourses, Gardens +++
Design/Advice
New Installations
Contracting
Supply & Sales
Servicing
Service Contracts
System Upgrades
PC Systems
PAR 4 (IRRIGATION) LTD
TORO Area Dealer
Telephone
01765 602175
01765 690598
Fax 01765 603488
Email:admin@par4.co.uk
www.par4.co.uk
BTLIA
BTLIA 2001 CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD

OAKDALE T&G IRRIGATION
Phone: 01427 874200
Fax: 01427 875333

TORO IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
Whatever your needs, we have the solution.
Call Lely: 01480 226800 or email: toro.info@lely.co.uk
www.toro.com

2ic consultants
For impartial advice on your irrigation system management, water supply, and for independent engineering design.
01529 300224 irrigation@2ic.co.uk
01432 263559 www.2ic.co.uk
Lincoln - Hereford - Surrey

Supaturf
SPORTS & AMENITY PRODUCTS

LAKE CONSTRUCTION/LINERS

LINERS

Liners for lakes, ponds and storage lagoons from the UK's leading contractor

Comprehensive advice regarding design and construction of water areas

Tel: 01206 262676 Fax: 01206 262998
E-mail: sales@geosynthetic.co.uk
www.geosynthetic.co.uk

LAKE & POND MANAGEMENT

clearwater
pond & lake management

All the answers from Ponds to Reservoirs
Specialising in: Algae Control, Aquatic Maintenance and other Services
Please ring for brochure:
Tel: 01442 875616 / 07971 263588
16 Middle Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3EQ
www.clearwaterplm.com

LANDSCAPING

Tony Holmes Landscapes Ltd

Golf Course & Sports Ground Construction Specialists

- USGA & sand based greens
- Laser levelled tees
- Bunker construction & revetting
- Greens, Fairway & Sports Field Drainage inc:-
- Gravel banding, sand slitting and vertidraining
- Car parks, pathways & storage bays

- **Mob: 07885 303557**
- **Fax & Tel: 01772 813270**
- **Email: THLandscapes@hotmail.com**
- Visit our web: **www.thlandscapes.com**
- ***Over 30 years experience***

MACHINERY

order machinery or parts online any time of the day...

...it's enough to make you smile!

ggm.com groundscare
MACHINERY • PARTS • SERVICE

www.ggmgroundscare.com

MOLES

Phostoxin®

Kills Rabbits & Moles Underground

Suppliers to the Trade

Piltland Technology Ltd
Tel: **01780 783758**
Fax: **01780 783818**
Web: **www.piltland.co.uk**

MOWERS

Mobile Mower Services Ltd
"giving you the cutting edge"

Experts in the quality repair and maintenance of all types of golf course machinery throughout the South East. We also provide a rapid turnaround for mower cylinder grinding.

☎ 01634 200248
Fax 01634 200400
www.mobilemowers.co.uk

NETTING

TILDENET

- Ball Stop Fencing
- Germination Sheets
- Practice Nets
- Bunker Membrane
- Driving Range Nets
- Target Nets
- Turf Reinforcement Mesh

Tel: 0117 9669684
Fax: 0117 9231251
Email: enquiries@tildenet.co.uk

PEST CONTROL

SCRAPEAWAY

A New Organic Rabbit Deterrent
10 years in the making
Non-toxic
Biodegradable
AVAILABLE NOW
For further details, brochure & sample
Email: enquires@swigley.freeserve.co.uk
Website: www.scrapeaway.co.uk
Mobile 07881 782975 / 07766 686506

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

LANDSCAPING GRADE SLEEPERS
SELECTED HARDWOOD AND TELEGRAPH POLES
BEST QUALITY PRICES
ALSO
COCKLESHELL PATH MEDIA
BULK LOADS – DISCOUNTED PRICES
FINETURF PRODUCTS
Tel: 01702 714004

Railway Sleepers £6.50 each
New Untreated Oak £14 each
Sandstone Paving £12/m
Oak TGV Flooring
Why Pay More?
www.seahawes.com
Tel/Fax: 01869 253176
Mobile: 07976 955382

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

FULL RANGE OF NEW, USED, TREATED UNTREATED, HARDWOOD OR SOFTWOOD SLEEPERS AND CROSSING TIMBERS
TELEGRAPH POLES ALSO AVAILABLE
DELIVERY ANY AREA
BEST PRICES ON ALL GRADES & SIZES

Tel: 0845 230 8866 Fax: 0845 230 8877
Website: www.sleeper-supplies.co.uk
Email: sales@sleeper-supplies.co.uk

ROOT ZONE

National Suppliers of
USGA & ECONOMY ROOTZONES
FAIRWAY DRESSINGS • BUNKER SANDS
Banks Amenity Products Ltd.
01858 464346 / 433003
www.banksamenity.co.uk

RUBBER CRUMB

The use of RUBBER CRUMB on grass as top dressing has been granted a PATENT in the UK and Ireland under Number EP0788301BI

TEBBUTT ASSO. ARE THE LICENSEES

with CROWN III rubber crumb Turf Reinforcement, the licensed product

Contact Tebbutt Asso.
on 01253 342003 or Fax 01253 346644
e-mail: tebbuttassociates@tiscali.co.uk

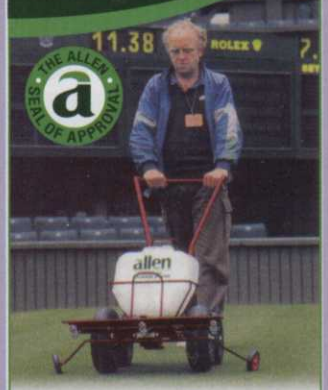
SOIL CONDITIONERS

Earth-Tec ltd

The Vital Link
The vital link to natural turfgrass management and rootzone technology "as nature intended"
Tel: 01543 450757
e-mail: earthtecltdinfo@yahoo.co.uk

SPRAYERS

WALKOVER SPRAYER



Perfect Results

Accurate and economical with a perfect spray pattern plus a simple pump design – Allen's durable spayers are winners.

Call 08456 750730 for a brochure Quote GIW02

Allen Power Equipment Ltd
The Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8ES
sales@allenpower.com
www.allenpower.com

allen

Snow mould

One, or a combination, of Microdochium nivale, Typhula incarnata, Typhula ishikariensis and Sclerotinia borealis, can cause Snow mould. They occur in areas of Northern and Central Europe where snow cover exists for certain periods of the year. Microdochium nivale causes pink snow mould, T. incarnata causes grey snow mould.

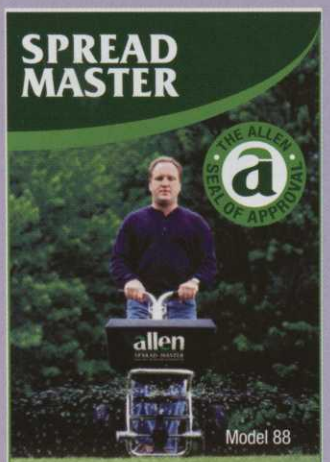
Snow cover prevents photosynthesis reducing the plants metabolism. The snow cover also encourages contact with the snow mould pathogens. Snow mould kills the grass plants by maceration of the tissue, leaching of the plants cytoplasm, depletion of carbohydrates and desiccation.

BUYERS' GUIDE

Supaturf
SPORTS & AMENITY PRODUCTS

SPREADERS

SPREAD MASTER



Controlled Economy...

Save up to 20% of material costs. The durable Spread-Master range offers the most accurate delivery rates.

Call 08456 750730 for a brochure Quote GI502

Allen Power Equipment Ltd
The Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8ES
sales@allenpower.com
www.allenpower.com

allen

TOP DRESSINGS

National Suppliers of FENDRESS™ Original, FENDRESS™ GREENTOP and SAND / LOAM DRESSINGS

Banks Amenity Products Ltd.

01858 464346 / 433003
www.banksamenity.co.uk

BOURNE Serving the South of England

Manufacturers of quality dressings, inc. green compost, fensoil & loams, for fairways, greens & tees, in loads of all sizes

Tel: (01797) 252298 www.bourne.uk.com

LOVIE LTD
QUARRY & CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Producers of quality Top dressings, Specialist sands, Rootzone soils, Grit, Gravel and Pathway materials for Golf Courses, Playing Fields and Sports Pitches

Cowbog, New Pitsligo, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB43 6PR

Tel: 01771 653777
Fax: 01771 653527

TOP DRESSINGS

Shirley Aldred & Co. Ltd

Suppliers of high quality granular charcoal for over 200 years

- Use one of the oldest products known to man to treat black layer
- Prevent thatch build up
- Improve drainage and rootzone
- Totally organic product
- Large stock levels of all grades
- Delivery anywhere in mainland UK within 3-4 days

Tel: 01433 620003
Fax: 01433 620388

ISO 9002 UKAS

TREES

FAST-GROWING TREES

Growth of 6-8 feet per year

For rapid improvement to new and developing Golf Courses

Hybrid Poplars used for specimen and group plantings to make handsome trees and perimeter windbreaks.

Hybrid Willows used for screens, hedges, wind-breaks, and dense cover on course.

Both are tolerant of poor soils and sites and require little post-planting care.

All sizes available from 12 inch slips to 8 foot well-rooted trees.

Prices including delivery to most areas from £42 per 100, plus VAT or £380 per 1000, plus VAT

Free information pack and advice without obligation
Phone John or Monica Spanton-Coates on 01404 812229 or Fax on 01404 815800
Bowhayes Trees Ltd, Lowlands Farm, Toadpit Lane, Ottery, St Mary, Devon EX11 1LQ
or visit www.bowhayestrees.co.uk

LARGE TREES FOR SALE

NURSERY SECONDS FROM £3.50 EACH

TEL: 01925 821002
FAX: 01925 821022

TYRES

PUNCTURE PROOF TYRES FOR ALL TURF MACHINERY AND GOLF CARS

CALL HANCOX ON 01564 824343 OR VISIT WWW.HANCOX.CO.UK

AMERITYRE
World's Finest FLATFREE Tires

TURF

Fineturf

Dedicated to Growing Quality Sportsturf
Custom Grown Root Zone Turf
Install n Playball Turf Tiles

Tel 01400 250796
Fax 01400 251606
www.fineturf.net

The Fastest Growing Name in Turf

TURF

Tillers Turf
growers of fine turf

SPECIALITY TURF FOR GOLF (2004/2005)

ROOTZONE TURF FOR GREENS
Grown on USGA rootzone and mown at 6mm
Predominantly bent sward

TURF FOR TEES, SURROUNDS AND APPROACHES
Top cultivars, including Bargold, Barcrown, Greenway

Tel: 01652 678 000
Email:info@tillersturf.co.uk

VERTIDRAINING HIRE

NATIONWIDE VERTIDRAIN HIRE

SELF OPERATED OR WITH OPERATOR

TRACTOR WITH 1.6m *£500 PER WEEK*

TRACTOR WITH 2m *£700 PER WEEK*

TEL: 01522 869100

www.countygrass.co.uk

PETER MANNINGTON

Specialist Verti-Drain Contractor for the South
For greens, tees, fairways and sportsgrounds
Experienced operator, competitive prices and reliable service
Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211
or Mobile 07850 612061
1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green, Etchingham, East Sussex TN19 7QA

VERTIDRAIN HIRE COMPANY LTD

OFFERING A HIGH QUALITY SERVICE
FULLY TRAINED OPERATORS,
FULLY INSURED, COMPETITIVE QUOTES.

SPECIALISTS IN:
VERTIDRAINING * OVERSEEDING
GRANULAR FERTILIZER SPREADING
MICROTINING/CORING * HOLLOWCORING
ON GOLF COURSES AND ALL SPORTS SURFACES

CONTACT DAVE ON:
TEL/FAX 01427 613035
MOBILE 07747 153972
E-MAIL vertidrainhire@hotmail.com

Unit 6 Corringham Road Industrial Est., Gainsborough, Lincs, DN21 1QB

WORTH DRAINING

VERTI-DRAIN HIRE 2.5 & 1.6M
SAND SPREADING & OVERSEEDING
2M BLEC GROUNDBREAKER FOR HIRE
Distance no object

Tel/Fax: 01476 550266
Mobile: 07855 431120
Email: bloodworth@onetel.net.uk

WASTE/WASH WATER TREATMENT

BYWATER
the wash water recovery specialists

Effective wash water recovery systems for remote washing and full environmental compliance

- Competitively priced
- No drainage required
- Reduced water costs
- Low maintenance
- Clean recycled water
- Small footprint
- Indoor/outdoor option

The ENZYMATIC15 wash water recycler. Designed & built in the UK by ByWater

Tel: 01530 563388 Fax: 01530 563399
Email: sales@bywaterservices.co.uk
Web: www.bywaterservices.co.uk

HYDRO SCAPE

WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

The Latest in Biological Wastewater Treatment

TEL: 01425 476261
FAX: 01425 472380
E-mail sales@hydroscape.co.uk

Visit Our Website:
www.hydroscape.co.uk

Waste2Water

BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.
Tel: 01782 373 878
Fax: 01782 373 763
E-mail: info@waste2water.com
Web:www.waste2water.com

WEED CONTROL

complete weed control FREEPHONE 0800 7832884

- Weed Control
  - Total
  - Selective
  - Aquatic
- Moss Control
- Fertiliser Application
- Disease & Pest Control
- Grass Growth Control

www.completeweedcontrol.co.uk

CLASSIFIED

MACHINERY FOR SALE

Jacobsen AR250 Turbo
2001 year of manufacture
Mint condition
Fully serviced & ready to go

Cost: £11,500 +VAT O.N.O
Tel: 077178 74129

MACHINERY FOR SALE

1 set of Toro thatching reels to fit Greensmaster 3000D onwards.
Very low use

£600

CONTACT:
Norwood Park Golf Course
on 07976 215230
or 01636 816626 and ask for Dan

LANGDON HILLS GOLF CLUB

www.golflangdon.co.uk

'An excellent opportunity to develop your career in golf course maintenance'

COURSE TECHNICIAN

£20,000 TO £25,000

(2 POSITIONS AVAILABLE)

Minimum qualifications required:

- NVQ 2 or equivalent
- PA1, PA2 and PA6 Spraying Certification
- A minimum of three years fine turf maintenance experience
- Current full driving licence

The above positions have become available following a full review of all operational procedures. Combined with a major investment in new machinery and course maintenance facilities in the excess of £1M with further development planned. Only dedicated and qualified professionals who have total commitment should apply in writing to:

Tony Dunstan, Course Director, Langdon Hills Golf Club Ltd,
Lower Dunton Road, Bulphan, Essex RM14 3TY
or email: tony.dunstan@virgin.net

Closing date for applications 30th March 2005

NORTH OXFORD GOLF CLUB

Requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

For a Private Members Club (est. 1907)

The successful applicant should ideally possess the following qualifications and abilities:

- Qualified to NVQ Level 2 (PA1, PA2 and PA6 an advantage)
- 2 years experience preferable but not essential as full training will be given.

(Salary negotiable)

Applications in writing, enclosing full c.v. to:
Mr C Page, Manager, North Oxford Golf Club, Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 8EZ

CROWN GOLF

Require a

GOLF COURSE MANAGER

at Pyrford & Traditions Golf Clubs

This is an exciting opportunity to become part of Europe's largest golf course management company. Both clubs are in the heart of Surrey, near Woking and require differing styles of management.

Applicants must have a proven track record to lead a committed greens staff and to help manage and further develop the profile of these two courses.

The successful applicant should have all the necessary experience and technical ability to manage modern golf courses with sand based greens to a high standard.

Applicants for the position should have the following:

- NVQ3 or similar plus spraying qualifications
- A sound knowledge of irrigation systems and machinery
- Health & safety Awareness
- Excellent management and leadership skills
- Ability to work within and understand budgets

Salary by negotiation

Apply in writing by 20th March, with full CV to: Laurence W. Pithie, Director of Maintenance, Crown Golf, Blue Mountain Golf Centre, Wood Lane, Binfield, Berks RG42 4EX or Email - L.pithie@crown-golf.co.uk

FLIXTON GOLF CLUB

HEAD GREENKEEPER

To manage a small team at this 9-hole parkland golf course west of Manchester. (See www.flixtongolfclub.co.uk)

- Applicants should possess or be near completing through current study HND/HND or NVQ to level 3 with PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates.
- Minimum of 5 years as assistant or senior assistant
- Demonstrate ability to work in enthusiastic manner
- Conversant with current Health and Safety legislation

This post will suit an enthusiastic person who is looking to a first appointment as Head Greenkeeper

Accommodation is not available; candidates should ideally live within reasonable travelling distance of the course

Closing Date: 23rd March 2005

Applications in writing with CV and current salary to: The Secretary, Flixton Golf Club, Church Road, Flixton, Urmston, Manchester M41 6EP Tel: 0161 748 2116 email: flixtongolfclub@mail.com

KINGS NORTON GOLF CLUB

27 Hole Championship Golf Course

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are looking for someone who is highly motivated and able to work as part of a team. You should be qualified to N.V.Q. Level 2 and spraying certificates would be an advantage.

The successful applicant will be encouraged to undertake further training if they so wish.

Written applications including full C.V. should be sent to:
The Course Manager, Kings Norton Golf Club Ltd, Weatheroak Hall, Brockhill Lane, Weatheroak, Alvechurch, Birmingham B48 7ED

LANSDOWN GOLF CLUB

Require a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Enthusiastic and committed person required to join our energetic and professional team.

Qualified to NVQ level 2/3, PA1, PA2 and PA6 would be an advantage.

Applications in writing with CV by 31st March 2005 to:

Jon Jarvis, Head Greenkeeper
Lansdown Golf Club, Lansdown, Bath BA1 9BT

First Assistant Greenkeeper

Up to c£20k + Benefits

Full time - 37 hours per week - Flexible according to the needs of the course

Brandon Wood Golf Course has been at the forefront of golf in Coventry since opening in 1977. Set on the banks of the River Avon with excellent views of the Warwickshire countryside, it is an 18-hole championship standard course with a par of 72.

Working closely with the Head Greenkeeper, you will be involved in a range of tasks both on and off the course. These will vary from delivering regular course maintenance to the highest standard, to managing and developing the green keeping team, and contributing towards the development of the course.

Ideally qualified to NVQ Level 2 in Sports Turf Maintenance, you will have excellent land management skills and a sound understanding of the maintenance requirements of specialist golf course machinery. Highly literate and numerate, with good communication skills, you will be committed to high standards of customer care.

In return we offer a range of generous benefits, which may include a final salary pension scheme, and free use of many of the Trusts facilities.

For further information and an application pack please email jobs@coventrysports.co.uk or call the JobsLine on 024 7625 2576.

Closing date: 30th March 2005.

Interview date: 12th April 2005.

COVENTRY SPORTS TRUST

HARPENDEN GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

MECHANIC / GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be fully conversant with a range of greenkeeping equipment, particularly Toro machinery and Bernhard grinders, fully qualified with at least five years practical golf course experience.

Salary negotiable.

Applications in writing, with full CV, by 31st March 2005 to:
The General Manager, Harpenden Golf Club, Hammonds End, Redbourn Lane, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2AX

MIDDLESBROUGH GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Minimum requirements:

- 5 years Greenkeeping experience
- NVQ Level 3 and PA1, 2 & 6
- Must be enthusiastic with demonstrable organisational skills
- Salary negotiable in line with experience

Apply in writing with CV to:
The Course Manager, Middlesbrough Golf Club, Brass Castle Lane, Marton, Middlesbrough TS8 9EE

Tel: 01642 344515

Closing date: 21st March 2005

Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

FOR ALL YOUR RECRUITMENT NEEDS!

Call the Sales Team NOW on:
01347 833800 or email: sales@bigga.co.uk

WE CAN HELP YOU FILL THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:
Course Manager • Head Greenkeeper • Deputy Head Greenkeeper
Assistant Greenkeeper • Sales Representatives and Sales Managers
Engineers, Technicians and Mechanics

CUDDINGTON GOLF CLUB

A leading traditional members Club, is seeking a self motivated

COURSE MANAGER / HEAD GREENKEEPER

to supervise and lead our greenkeeping staff in the enhancement of the Course.

USGA spec greens were installed 4 years ago and the objective is to further improve the playing characteristics of the Harry Colt design Course.

The successful candidate will accept a hands on role and will possess the following qualifications:

- Minimum NVQ Level 3 and PA1, 2 & 6 Spraying Certificates
- Understanding of current Health & Safety Legislation
- Computer Literate & Report Writing
- Drawing up Budgets with the Green Chairman

Good golfing ability would be preferable.

The position offers an attractive salary, accommodation and additional benefits.

Please apply in writing with CV, showing current salary, no later than 20th March 2005.

D.M. Scott, Secretary/ Manager,
Cuddington Golf Club, Banstead Road, Surrey SM7 1RD

WILDWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

N.V.Q Level 2 Preferred.

A knowledge of modern machinery and automatic irrigation systems would be an advantage.

Single accommodation, can be provided at a favourable rate, within walking distance of the club.

Please apply in writing, with full C.V. to:
Mr Simon Osborne, Course Manager, Wildwood Country Club, Horsham Road, Alfold, Surrey GU6 8JE

GOLF BURY CLUB
FOUNDED 1890

BURY GOLF CLUB

requires

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant should have a minimum 5 years experience in a senior position, not necessarily as a Head Greenkeeper, be fully conversant with modern greenkeeping practices and a sound understanding of current Health & Safety procedures. NVQ level 3 or equivalent would be required.

Salary negotiable dependant on qualification and experience.

Applications in writing together with a full CV to:

Mr K Pendleton
Bury Golf Club
Unsworth Hall
Blackford Bridge
Bury
BL9 9TJ

Aphrodite HILLS

Aphrodite Hills Resort

For the love of life

Aphrodite Hills Golf, Cyprus' premier golf course is part of the first integrated resort on the island. The Cabell Robinson designed championship course was the first segment to open in 2003. Other facets, including a five star Inter- Continental hotel, tennis academy, luxurious spa and village centre which will all come on line this spring. Along with over 1000 properties on site, the philosophy of the resort is life in a community or sport, heath and leisure in the Cypriot Greek tradition - for the love of life.

We are currently seeking an

Assistant Golf Course Superintendent

Reporting to the Resort Superintendent the successful applicant will be responsible for the daily operation and management of our quality golf product. In addition to this you will be required to manage, motivate and develop the golf course operations team.

You must be experienced in all aspects of turf establishment and maintenance, preferably with warm season grass experience but not essential. The position will carry responsibility for staff training and a comprehensive knowledge of equipment repair, maintenance, irrigation systems and drainage and chemical usage with relation to pest and disease control in these environments.

Excellent benefits package offered.

Please send you curriculum Vitae to:
Antigoni Pavoul, The Human Resources Manager
Lanitis Development Ltd.
Euro House, 82 Academias Street,
Yermasoyia, 4043, Limassol, Cyprus.
Email: antigoni.p@lanitisdev.com

GOLF Aphrodite Hills

LANITIS DEVELOPMENT
MEMBER OF THE LANITIS GROUP OF COMPANIES

Feature listing from March 2003

March 2003; The Berkshire Profile; Meloidogyne; Overseeding Golf Greens; Talking Heads - Health & Safety

April 2003; Oakmere Park GC; Spraying; Golf Course Security; Bernhards Delegation; Ransomes Jacobsen Profile

May 2003; Cardrona Golf & Counrty Club; Poa Annua; Rough Mowers; Mole Control; Rootzone; Green Construction

June 2003; Irrigation; Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarships; Fertiliser; Fairway Mowers

July 2003; Irrigation Water; Greens Mowers; Bent Grasses; Course Management; Rakes

August 2003; Aeration; Open Review; Saltex Preview; Waste Water; Toro Student of the Year

September 2003; Hanbury Manor; Irrigation; Disease; Integrated Pest Management; Communication

October 2003; Construction Machinery; Pay Recommendations; Saltex Review; Pesticide Legislation; Finance

November 2003; Temple GC; Trees; Environment Competition Results; Sandy McDivot; Drainage

December 2003; BTME & ClubHouse Preview; Downfield GC; Compact Tractors; Architecture; Bio-tech

January 2004; Ipswich GC Profile; Grass Seed; Environment Competition Awards; Utility Vehicles (sit in)

February 2004; Harrogate Review 2004; Tyneside GC; Utility Vehicles (sit on); Irrigation

March 2004; R&A Best Practice; Trentham Park GC; Drainage; Spraying

April 2004; Know your Rules; Tournament Preparation; Landmarks in Greenkeeping; Security

May 2004; Goodwood Club; Seed or Turf?; Biological Product Survey; Water Features; Recycling; BIGGA Environment Competition

June 2004; Fairy Rings; Biologicals; The Grove; Kubota Profile; Turf; Sand and Rootzone

July 2004; Royal Troon Open Preview, Mowing, Disease Analysis

August 2004; Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day; Open review; Royal Cinque Ports; Irrigation; Mowers (2); Saltex Preview; Best Practice; Top Dressing

September 2004; Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Preview; Ravensworth Golf Club; Turf Disease; Royal Holloway College; Tractors; The Greener Approach to Greenkeeping

October 2004; STRI 75th Anniversary; Kenwick Park GC; Ecology; John Deere National Team Championship; Best Practice; Top Dressing; Saltex Review; Aeration

November 2004; Toro Student Greekeeper of the Year Final; The BIGGA National Championship; Comrie GC; CV Advice; Drainage; Construction; Fences

December 2004; BTME & ClubHouse Preview; Henley GC; Grass Identification; Trees; Environmental Winner; BIGGA Delegation; Interview Advice; College Listings

January 2005; Sir Michael Bonallack; Parkstone GC; Machinery Servicing; Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship; Recycled Products; John Deere Team Championship; Tees; Negotiation Advice

February 2005; Harrogate 2005 Review; Meet the Chairman; Environmental Competition; Tyres; Coombe Hill GC

Chairman's Column

Education, Education, Education - Too Much Education?

You will have by now received the news that the British and International Turf Managers Conference scheduled for March 19 and 20 at Staverton Park has had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. This is extremely disappointing and it begs the question about how much education our Association can maintain and where best we should target our education funding.

Are we suffering from too much education? The array of conferences now all competing for the same audience has led to a situation where choices have to be made about what to attend and what not to attend. There are conferences or similar educational events by the IOG, STRI, NTF, EGU, BIGGA, GCSAA, FEGGA and more besides.

There are architects' and constructors' conferences, irrigation conferences, turf suppliers' conferences and one day greenkeeping conferences run by the trade. This year we have ended up the losers but it will be someone else's turn next and this does none of us any good.

Maybe it is time that we got together to use our combined resources to produce an international sports turf industry conference at a major venue. As a combined conference we could run our own programmes but with the ability to sit in on other related areas as suited to each individual. It could reduce the participating Associations' costs, stop the competition for each others time and bring together the lead players from all sectors of our industry so that we might be able to understand each other better and help move each other forward. Course Managers could relax after a full day conference with secretaries, trade members, groundsmen, agronomists, architects, Home Union officials and maybe even the odd golf professional, discussing how we can all work together to take the industry forward.

With today's low cost travel we could maybe even hold such an event during the winter in Southern Europe at little or no extra cost. What a mouth watering prospect that would be! The fact that British greenkeepers were willing to sign up to Orlando before Staverton Park makes you wonder.

This might all sound pie in the sky but I believe we need to dream big. Not so long ago we did not have our own national headquarters and BTME, as it is today, was just a pipe-dream. Without the vision and the will of those who have gone before it would have remained so.

I talked last month about the need to embrace change, as change is inevitable. I think we would all do well to remember the message of Charles Darwin: "It is not the strongest or the most intelligent that survive but the ones most responsive to change."

With all this talk of change it seems to me that the real area where we need to enable change most is amongst core greenkeepers. While catering for those who are fortunate enough to be able to attend national conferences or BTME, it is vitally important that we nurture the young talent and energy at the boiler room of our industry. They are the future and they need to be encouraged to become active, supportive members of the Association and to share in its benefits.

Those members who complain about the Association have paid their pound and have every right to do so. Indeed I would encourage them to do so, in a constructive manner, so that we can try to better satisfy their needs. It is those who do not complain or are apathetic which worry me the most. Either they feel the Association has nothing to offer or they are simply not getting the message in an appropriate way.

We need to recognise that we have members in difficult situations with little encouragement from their employers to take up the training and development we offer. They are the ones who currently need us most and maybe they are where our resources should be targeted. How we do that is not for me to say. I do not have all the answers, ask my staff.

Maybe a round of golf and a talk on irrigation is not what they are looking for. Maybe they are not allowed to go for a round of golf and a talk on irrigation. Maybe we should get together with the Golf Unions, thank them for the seriously good work they are doing with the GTC, and ask them if they can help to the mutual benefit of us all.

Maybe the annual Section or Region seminar, aimed in the main at Course Managers, is no longer the priority. Maybe we should target small groups of local clubs who are not engaged and persuade them that having young, active members of BIGGA as staff on their golf courses is going to be of great benefit to them by improvements in the quality of their course.

As I said earlier, I do not have all the answers but I do know that there are greenkeepers out there who could not care less about the conference at Staverton Park because they do not have the opportunity to attend. It is they who deserve our most serious attention.

I am well known for quoting the lines of my favourite Bob Dylan songs and have often used one of his most famous 'The times they are a' changin". Mr Dylan has a new song out, it is called 'Things Have Changed' - they have - we must!

K. Daly

Kerran Daly MG,
Chairman