

**MASSEY FERGUSON**

**Scott MacCallum meets up with Massey Ferguson's new appointment, a man who has been around the industry for 25 years.**



The history of the company can be traced back to the mid 1800s and links two men on two continents.

Daniel Massey started to build agricultural equipment in a workshop in his home of Ontario, Canada, in the 1840s, while Ulsterman, Harry Ferguson, was the man who created the three point linkage which transformed modern agriculture. The remarkable Mr Ferguson was the first man in the British Isles to build and fly his own aeroplane while he also designed the suspension system on the Lotus racing car.

The union between the two men came in the 1930s and by the 50s Massey Ferguson was a true colossus in the agricultural machinery industry with as much as a 60% market share which translated to as many as 60,000 tractors a year in the UK alone.

Colin is keen to eat into market share of the golf tractor market and at the time we spoke he was in the process of recruiting a Sales Manager for the south with another coming on stream for the north and Scotland shortly.

"They will be set up with demonstration equipment and will work closely with the dealer network. If we have a potential new customer keen to look at a Massey Ferguson it is important that they see one in situ," he said.

"Many of our dealers have people with fine turf experience but the more successful we are the more likely they will be to appoint a specialist in ground care. Dealers can bend my ear whenever they want and we will put in demonstration equipment wherever they want to help them with sales."

While tractors are Massey Ferguson's real claim to fame it would be wrong to overlook their AgTV quad bikes that were launched a few years ago. Superbly constructed with a frame which enables tools to be carried around the golf course the AgTV has quickly found favour with Course Managers as a means of getting around the golf course effectively.



"The market is increasing and you do see more of them on golf courses not as a replacement to the utility vehicle but as a means of getting across the course. Our 250cc machine is a two wheel drive machine while the 300, 400 and 500cc come in either two or four wheel drive with automatic on the top two models and fully independent suspension."

Colin was delighted to have renewed his association with BIGGA and sees the opportunities it brings to meet people as extremely valuable.

"I enjoy meeting people and getting to know what they want and what they need and BIGGA provides opportunities with events like The Open, Harrogate and Regional and Section events. It's what BIGGA is all about and what I'm all about," said Colin, as he fielded calls from all over the country on his overworked mobile.

He is a big supporter of Harrogate and is delighted that the introduction of ClubHouse has seen more Club Managers and Club Secretaries attending the Show.

"It's all down to results and if you get the Club Manager or the Secretary going round with the Course Manager we are more likely to get sales."

He's also looking forward to attending Golden and Silver Key meetings.

"It's important to me to be involved not only with customers but competitors as well and I'm looking forward to meeting my colleagues from the other companies."

Meeting up with Colin again you can't help but feel that Massey Ferguson have made a very astute appointment. In football parlance he is the inspirational, hard working, been there and done that midfielder signed just before the start of the season. A man to turn losses into draws and draws into wins and you can be sure that the Massey Ferguson name won't be missing from any shortlist if one of his many contacts is in the market.

I wouldn't call him Roy Keane to his face though.

# Jazzing It Up

With places now to be won on the 2006 BIGGA Delegation to New Orleans, USA, GI tracked down three of the 2005 party, which travelled to Orlando, to find out what they gained from their once in a lifetime experience.

Less than a month after the UK's leading Golf and Turf Management Show, BTME & ClubHouse, the GCSAA Golf Industry Show will be held in New Orleans, USA. Taking place February 7-12 2006 in the Big Easy, the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard, is again offering the chance for 10 greenkeepers to win a trip of a lifetime to the American Show.

Previous BIGGA Delegates have been delighted with the chance to find out what life is like for US Superintendents. As well as visiting the week long GCSAA event, which includes seminars and workshops, the 10 greenkeepers have the opportunity to visit numerous leading American golf clubs to see first hand how the Americans cope with the demands for ever higher turf presentation standards.

GI tracked down three of the 10 greenkeepers who went to the Show, which was held in Orlando in February 2005, to discover their experiences and views on the greenkeeping profession both sides of the pond.



L-R: Terry Crawford, Tim Rockey, golfing legend Jack Nicklaus and Robert Needham

Tim Rockey, greenkeeper at Parkstone Golf Club, Dorest, discovered from his involvement in the BIGGA Delegation that Superintendents in the US have massive operational budgets and staffing levels, compared to the UK.

"What absolutely amazed me was the amount of machinery and the standard of workshops and maintenance facilities, where everything looked branded new," said Tim.

The Delegation trip involves visits to some of the leading golf courses in the US, with one of these trips, to the Ritz Carlton Golf Resort, leaving Tim stunned by the amount of money spent on bedding and pot plants alone.

"Planting schemes were changed five times a year and they employed 30 staff just to maintain this aspect. The total operational budget for the course was in excess of \$3,000,000, which was divided into budgets for the exterior planting, interior planting and on the golf course itself.

"Their style of management is quite different. Generally a course has a Superintendent, his Deputy and an Irrigation Technician with the remaining staff, mainly Mexican, trained up for just one job. With our courses everyone needs to be versatile and we are definitely more multi skilled," concluded Tim.

Terry Crawford, who is Course Manager at Clondeboye Golf Club, Northern Ireland, also had his eyes opened by the BIGGA Delegation. The trip confirmed the Course Manager's views on certain aspects of greenkeeping, while leaving him surprised at other elements.

"One thing that is the same for superintendents in the US and greenkeepers in the UK is that we all face tremendous demands from members. We can go under stress just like the grass plant," said Terry.

A dedicated greenkeeper for 25 years, Terry has tended the Clondeboye course for the last 15 years, but the greenkeeper's visit to the states courtesy of BIGGA and Bernhard has led to a major change in his course management at Clondeboye, namely a lighter top dressing programme, after all these years.

"I had been dressing the greens heavily twice a month but since my trip, to get a truer, faster, cutting surface with the same cutting height, I apply a lighter application once a week. Obviously we have far less staff than in the US but it must take a US Superintendent with more than 40 staff a lot of organisation to achieve good end results".

Head Greenkeeper at Hickleton Golf Club, Doncaster, Robert Needham was another one of the 10 BIGGA members who benefited greatly from his time in the States on the Delegation.



The 2005 BIGGA Delegation - You could be one of the 2006 party heading to New Orleans

"The main thing I noticed was the weather was a lot warmer than it is in Yorkshire," joked Robert when recalling his trip. "However this does create problems as we learnt from Champions Gate Golf Club. In Florida the snow birds, visitors from abroad and Americans from the north, want bright green courses to play on. This is not necessarily conducive to good greenkeeping but in spite of this they do manage to create excellent courses throughout the year.

"With 60,000 rounds of golf at Champions Gate two-thirds of play takes place in the first three months, so this puts tremendous demands on the course. The US throws much more money at golf, whereas we have to be very careful with our budgets, which are well structured," stated the Headman, who has been in the profession for 28 years.

One of the major elements that hit home on the trip was the superb greenkeeping facilities at most US courses. This is a fact not lost on Robert as Hickleton are currently in the process of building new, better facilities for their greens teams. Measuring 30m by 15m, dedicated new buildings have been created with the old shed being used as a maintenance facility.

**To apply for one of 10 places on the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard, contact BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800 for an application form. Entry is open to all BIGGA Greenkeeping members. Closing date for completed entry forms is September 9 2005.**

# Your Letters...

## Good Friend Gone

It is with great sadness that Lloyds and Company announce that Ray Potter, our Sales Manager, died suddenly in the early hours of Sunday August 7 2005 while on holiday with his family in the West Country.

Ray has worked in the turfcare industry for many years and had been with Lloyds for the last 10 years; he had a lovely personality and was liked by everybody he came in contact with. Ray will be great loss, not only was he a superb colleague but a wonderful friend to all that worked with him and he will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

Previous to Lloyds Ray had enjoyed a distinguished career as a professional footballer. He joined Beckenham Town as a youth player in 1951 and moved to the ground staff of Crystal Palace on leaving school at 15. In 1959 Ray was transferred from Crystal Palace to First Division side West Bromwich Albion where he went on to play over 220 First Division games.

The funeral took place at Portchester Crematorium, Hampshire on Friday August 19 2005 at 1pm.

Clive Nottingham

Lloyds and Company Letchworth Ltd

## Look after Number One

I couldn't help but notice that in recent months you have been looking for new ideas to help educate your members in your Tip of the Month Section, I have a suggestion.

For the last ten years people have been regurgitating articles on the maintenance of grass, soil, pipe work and engines. This is all well and good but there has always been a failure to comment on the most important maintenance tool, the greenkeeper.

How many greenkeepers have ended up with injuries such as tendonitis, trapped nerves, dermatitis, bad backs, and stiff joints? Not to mention the psychological effects of dealing with 600 members!

I think it is about time we started to pay more attention to ourselves. Perhaps you could employ a general practitioner to look into the health problems greenkeeping staff can encounter, their treatment and long-term effects. I am sure it would produce some interesting articles of great value, especially to the younger members who are all in one piece!

Mark Aynsley

## Still the Sun Shines

Sunday July 10, Belleisle, The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich. Again the sun splitting the tress, not to mention to few old bald heads suffering for lack of sun tan lotion. Golfers have got to the stage where they expect a good day for Harry's Quaich and we have never had a bad one. We feel that Harry must have some influence up there since for the past five years the weather at Belleisle has been perfect for golf on that Sunday in particular.

At 9.30am 130 golfers, good, bad and indifferent, stood on every tee on the course awaiting the blast from the claxon to engage in the struggle to secure the Harry Diamond Quaich for their foursomes. Stableford is an excellent way to play a sociable game of golf, not for the perfectionist, but it gives the sluggers a chance to do their wee bit even if you can't get out of the odd bunker and you hit the odd ball astray, someone else in the team getting the 1, 2 or 3 points to keep the team's peckers up. The great thing about a Stableford shotgun start is that we all finish at the same time and, believe it or not, everyone, or nearly everyone, waited for the presentation.

This year Harry's brother, Hugh, presented the prizes to the runners up. The Quaich was won by Steven Mason, Darren Dunlop, F. Alexander and J. Wilson and Harry's wife, Jessie, presented them with their prize. Harry had a big family of daughters. They were all at Belleisle to assist in any way, from mixing with golfers to just sitting around and smiling and being pleasant. I asked the girls: "Were there any boys in the family?" I was told by many coy looks: "There are two." Sometimes being a male can be hell.

As I have said in past years, it gives me a lift to know that the Belleisle Club and the Diamond family work for a year brings this very popular golf tournament to the memory of Harry to a successful conclusion which they most certainly have achieved this year.

It would be amiss of me if I did not mention the condition of the course. Billy Fulton and his staff are to be commended for the improvement of Belleisle over the past five years. It is a course well worth a visit to any greenkeeper passing that way, and if courtesy and respect shown to the six greenkeepers who played in the Competition are anything to go by I am sure you will get a homely Ayrshire welcome.

Another year has slipped away and another Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich Tournament has been won by worthy golfers. We look forward to 2006 to again play in this competition to the memory of a great friend and greenkeeper.

Cecil George, BIGGA Life Member

## YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

# A Trip of a Lifetime

Alex Shore, the 2004 Toro Student of the Year, reminisces on his prize to study in America at the University of Massachusetts for eight weeks.

When I was told I was going to be nominated for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award by my college lecturer, Andy Wight, I was surprised and honoured. But hearing my name called out as the winner of this prestigious award was just out of this world.

I was overwhelmed when I received a letter from Ken Richardson to say that I had made the National Final at Aldwark Manor, Yorkshire. The final for me came after an exhausting few days of preparing for the European Tour Event, the Heritage Competition held at my club - Woburn. I quickly had to turn my attention to preparing for what would be a very memorable weekend.

The final was made up of eight finalists from all over the country. After I had met all of these extremely keen and knowledgeable young greenkeepers I realised just how hard it would be for the judging panel to pick a winner. Any one of us could have won. I'm sure all the finalists will agree that the friendships created in Yorkshire will remain with us for a long time to come.

The final involved an interview with Peter Mansfield, Andrew Brown, John Pemberton and David Walden, and writing a report on Aldwark Manor's golf course. At the end of a nerve racking day we were gathered in the hotel for the results to be announced by Ken Richardson. With the quality of the other finalists you can only imagine the surprise, shock and delight when I heard my name called out as the winner. Thanks to everyone involved in the weekend, including the other finalists, for making that weekend a truly memorable experience.

After the final there was much to do before I could leave for the States. There were forms to fill in, a visa to get and many phone calls to the 2003 winner, Keith Scruton, with all sorts of question about the weather, university and where to get a decent beer! This did a lot to calm the nerves. I was in constant contact with Christine Wilson, who is Peter Mansfield's Secretary at Lely UK. Christine was organising my once in a lifetime trip and made sure I was in the right place at the right time. Christine must have been glad when I finally left for the States and stopped phoning her.

The next thing I had to do was attend the American Embassy in London, to secure my visa. With Christmas fast approaching there was little time to spare. After a few nervous days my visa turned up on Christmas Eve with only three working days before I flew out. A visit from Peter Mansfield brought delivery of my final itinerary, complete with tickets and traveller's cheques. It was only then that it sunk in that I was really going to America.

The flight over to Washington was done in style. My Managing Director at Woburn, Eddie Bullock, had very kindly arranged for me to fly first class. I could get use to all that legroom. On arrival in Hartford I was greeted by rain and a very cold wind, the weather was going to take some getting used to. After a short taxi ride I arrived at the Quality Inn in Hadley. Just two doors down from my room in the hotel, I met Craig Weberly, the Australian Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

The next day, with little time to settle in, I had to catch the 6.30am bus to the University of Massachusetts for my first day of study. It was very strange, new people, getting use to the American way of studying and dealing with the time difference. We were given a quick introduction to the 74th annual winter turf school and straight into lectures.



A satisfying reward after all that hard work

After our introduction we were handed a list of reference books that they required us to buy. So it was off to the bookshop to purchase \$800 worth of reading material. They would prove invaluable throughout the course, but very heavy when it came to getting them on the plane home.

My class consisted of 44 students of different ages and backgrounds, 36 Americans, six Canadians, one Australian and me, the only Brit, all with varying degrees of experience. In the States and Canada most of the golf courses are closed over the winter due to the snow, a perfect time for greenkeepers to study.

The first few days were a massive learning curve, from doing turf calculations in feet, gallons and inches, to dealing with chemicals and insects that I had never dealt with before. However, it was still very interesting learning about the different weeds, pests and grasses and how to manage them. I found the first few days hard, being 5000 miles away from home, friends and family took a bit of getting use to. Once the homework and tests started, there was little time to miss home. Subjects such as soil science, entomology, arboriculture, turf calculations, turf management, irrigation, turf diseases, financial management, weed management and golf course design were all started in the first week.

During my second week we had all started to feel more at home. Finding our way around this massive campus took some time. In some cases it would take 25 minutes to walk from one classroom to another. The whole campus was on a massive scale and resembled a town rather than a university.

During the weeks we started project work and reading assignments. The tests were coming thick and fast with most lecturers giving a test on their previous class. This meant in order to keep up we had to form evening study groups back at the hotel and study for the exams. Most days were 8am to 5:30pm intense with lectures. We clocked up over 250 hours of lectures.

Along with our regular lecturers we were lucky enough to have some guest speakers. One of these was Bill Spence, who is the Superintendent at the Brooklyn Golf and Country Club. He spoke on how he prepared the course for the 1999 Ryder Cup. This was a good opportunity to ask questions about staging such a major competition. At Woburn we have had several major competitions but nothing on the scale of the Ryder Cup.

Along with all this studying I had to quickly learn the rules of basketball and ice hockey in order to support the university teams. In the campus there was a 20,000 seater football and ice hockey stadium, along with a 10,000 capacity basketball arena. The minute men, as they were known, always put on a good show. I was able to attend these games with some of my new greenkeeper friends.

Weekends also gave us all an opportunity to catch up on washing and writing postcards home. This was also the time to phone home and speak to my wife and family. It was also time to stock up on microwave meals at the "Big Y's" supermarket. When you only have a microwave and a small fridge in your room it is difficult to produce too many culinary delights.

As part of the Toro prize Craig and I were invited to attend the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Florida. The show happened to fall the weekend before the end of the course, a well deserved break from studying. After a three hour flight, we arrived in Orlando for a whirlwind two days. A quick freshen up and it was off to the President's Dinner, where it was nice to meet up with some familiar faces from BIGGA and my college lecturer. The following day was spent looking round the Show, before returning to Massachusetts early on Sunday morning to complete the last few days of the course.



Class of 2005

Finally the end had arrived at UMASS; it was time for the Graduation Dinner. A few of us decided that a stretch limo was the way to travel for this occasion. It was a great relief to receive my certificate. The night was my last chance to say goodbye to everyone before the next stage of the trip. I had made some great friends and learnt tremendous amounts from my time in Massachusetts. It was not time to say goodbye to Craig, the Aussie, as he was travelling with me on the final leg of my trip.

Craig and I flew to Minneapolis to Toro HQ. This stage of the trip was done in style, staying in some very luxurious hotels. In Minneapolis we met up with John Faber - the Canadian Winner of the Award. He joined us for a trip around the Headquarters of Toro, in Lyndale.

On arrival we were given the tour of all the testing facilities. We were shown how Toro test their machinery to stand up to the stresses that us greenkeepers put their equipment through. After lunch we were taken to the Shakopee manufacturing plant. This is where many of the parts for the Toro machinery are produced. The tour showed us how complex and precise the manufacturing process is.

Robots and lasers aided skilled engineers to construct the parts. These parts are then sent to Toro's assembly plant in Tomah, Wisconsin. Many of the machines in this facility cost over a million dollars and made our workshop at Woburn look very small in scale.

The following day we were taken to Tomah, a three hour drive away. This was a very interesting day, seeing how the parts were welded together, dipped in the famous red and black colours of Toro and assembled to create the machines we all know at the 300,000sq ft factory. We had the opportunity to be the first people to sit on the machines as they came off the production line before

being shipped to their new homes all over the world.

After catching flight number six, Craig and I arrived in sunny California. Temperatures of 21°C were a welcome relief from the snowy conditions we had become used to over the last seven weeks. On this part of the trip we visited the Toro irrigation department where we were given a tour of the department and test facilities. It was interesting to see how irrigation parts and systems were designed and tested.

After a very interesting day it was time for Craig to make his long journey home. It was strange saying goodbye as we had had many adventures together.

However, the thought of spending a well deserved week's holiday in Los Angeles with my wife, Hannah, was very appealing and bought me back down to earth a little. So, after 64 days, eight flights, seven hotels, temperatures between -30°C to +21°C, and one too many burgers, I returned with enthusiasm and energy to put into practice all the knowledge I was fortunate to learn.

After my once in a lifetime trip, some people deserve a big thank you. Firstly, Andy Wight, of Oaklands College, for nominating me, Keith Scruton for all his hints and tips, Eddie Bullock, Chris Hunt and the team at Woburn Golf and Country Club for supporting me throughout. Thanks also to the team at BIGGA for giving me this fantastic opportunity and to the staff at the University of Massachusetts. Finally, to Peter Mansfield and Christine Wilson, of Lely UK, Andy Brown, of Toro Europe, Barry Beckett and Jace Bertsch, of Toro - Minneapolis, and Kenne James, of Toro - California, for all their individual involvement in the competition.

This whole experience will stay with me for many years. I feel honoured to have had this unique experience and wish good luck to all the nominees for the 2005 Competition.



The 300,00sq ft Toro Factory, Tomah



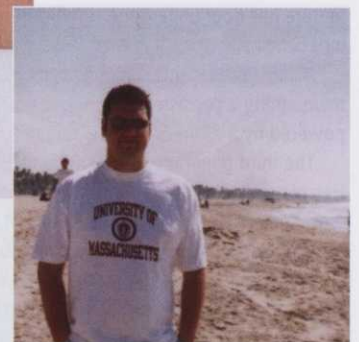
Florida - GCSAA Exhibition



Wrapping up warm was a must in Massachusetts



After completing the turf course it was off to visit Toro HQ in Minneapolis



Sun, sea and surf - at last

# NEW PRODUCTS

## IT'S ALL IN THE SIGN

A new range of club and course signage is being introduced by Eagle. To extend the range of zinc and bronze signage, Eagle is introducing a new range incorporating granite. Besides corporate, entrance and directional signage, the new granite range will be available in three main sign formats.

As a mow-over range in circular, square and rectangular shapes for both tee-based hole and distance information and as fairway yardage markers. As an alternative to zinc and bronze for the tee plates on the classic timber twin-post signage system. As a similar option for the tee plates on the single timber post range of signage.

The attraction of polished granite lies in the widely-held perception of its high quality, but for club managers and greenkeepers it also has other more practical qualities, including polished granite, which is extremely durable and very easy to maintain and keep clean. The sign's information is reproduced via a computer-generated stencil. A sandblasting process, into which weatherproof enamel paints are finally inlaid, then defines the lettering and figures.

For further information Tel: 01883 344244.



## THE ALL ROUNDER

A new product moulded in the shape of a golfbag has been released by the Polytank Group. The Polytee Golfbag Bin will not only help to keep golf courses and driving ranges free from litter, it will encourage impulse sales at golf shops and sports retail outlets, and could even generate extra revenues through advertising, according to the company.

The Polytee golfbag bin, manufactured in tough, durable medium density polyethylene, can be used either as a waste receptacle, outdoors and indoors, or in-store as an eye-catching dispenser for golf clubs, golf balls and other merchandise at the point of sale.

Polytee offers a great opportunity for small businesses to benefit from advertising and sponsorship revenues. These units are ideal for carrying the logos or promotional messages of external organisations. Alternatively, customers can use Polytees to advertise their own facilities and services claim the manufacturer. Available in a wide range of colours and it is supplied complete with inner moulded liners.

For further information Tel: 01772 632850.



## TAKE A LOAD OFF

The LoadRunner Micro-Dumper, from LoadMaster Engineering, is designed to make moving heavy or bulky materials easier.

The narrow, 28in (715mm) wide LoadRunner benefits from a two-axes Tumbletip self tipping mechanism. This allows the bucket to roll forward, clearing the front of the chassis before rotating to discharge. This facilitates tipping without the need for hydraulic or manual assistance. It also lowers the centre of gravity for increased stability.

The LoadRunner has select drive 2/4 wheel drive, whereby a friction system transfers power from the permanently driven front wheels to the rear wheels, as required, via an intermediate idler wheel. This improves handling, reduces fuel consumption and permits quick tyre changes to suit conditions on site. Several different tyre options are available including super wide low ground pressure tyres for use on very delicate turf.

For further information Tel: 0870 3867377.



## ENERGY SAVING CHAINSAW

The STIHL MS 650 is equipped with an anti-vibration system, which effectively absorbs vibrations even at high speeds. This saves energy and lets the saw operator work more comfortably, without tiring.

The secret of the chain's soft cut lies in a newly profiled cutter that enables a shock absorbing effect as the cutting edge enters the wood. Together with

the effective anti-vibration system of the MS 650, this makes working with this chainsaw much more comfortable.

Functions include hot and cold starting, run and stop can be controlled via the master lever control on the MS 650. This is both convenient and safer, as the operator's hand does not need to leave the handle.

For further information Tel: 0800 137574.

## ZERO TURN

Ferris' commercial family of zero turn mowers offers four wheel suspension as standard. This feature has now undergone significant improvements on the new IS 4500Z, combining front wheel independent suspension with rear wheel

Active Performance Suspension (APS) delivers greater comfort, speed and traction while maintaining a consistent cut. The IS 4500Z is offered with a 61" rear or side 10-gauge deck and is powered by a 27hp CAT diesel engine.

The third generation IS 5000Z now offers a range of advanced features including the new Ferris Hercules spindles designed to give three times more life and an up-rated rear suspension arrangement that incorporates new cast iron A-Arms enabling new softer springs with intrinsic absorption qualities. In addition, the Monroe shock absorbers have been finely tuned to match the exact requirements of the machine and operating conditions, delivering optimum chassis dynamics and allowing the operator to work even faster in greater comfort.

For further information Tel: 0121 5110400.



## DEERE ADD TO SERIES

John Deere have launched their brand new commercial mowers alongside a new compact tractor and a new range of Gator utility vehicles.

The 7H17 Commercial hydrostatic walk-behind mower is the first designed by John Deere for European conditions with a dedicated rear discharge deck, and is ideal for a variety of demanding commercial grass cutting applications. It features a 17hp engine and a 48in rotary mower deck, fabricated from heavy-duty 10 gauge steel for durability and a longer working life.

The new small chassis 2020 Series compact tractors join the larger mid and large chassis models in the 20 Series range. These 24 and 26hp machines offer increased torque and lower fuel consumption from a Tier 2 low emission engine, a new hydro transmission and a new deluxe cab. There is also a choice of new 'drive-over' mid-mounted rotary mower decks for easier attachment, including a 60in rear discharge unit. The new T (for Traditional) Series are the latest additions to the Gator range, and will include TE, TS and TX models.

For further information Tel: 01949 860491.



## FIVE ALIVE

Newly launched is the Series 5 range from Hunter Grinder equipment. Series 5 consists of the Jupiter Series 5, Jupiter ATI Series 5, Juno Series 5, Amazon Series 5 and the Orion Series 5.

All of these machines now incorporate as standard a number of features which are aimed not only at ensuring the best possible performance, but are also designed to address any health and safety issues that have arisen in recent years. In particular to ensure the operator can achieve a precision edge for maximum quality of cut, with greatest ease, speed and safety.

All models in the Series 5 range are now built on cast iron beds for stability and strength, in addition linear bed rails have been introduced, again as standard, for enhanced accuracy when grinding. All models now operate on 240volt single phase, with all Jupiters having fully enclosed interlocking guarding. The Amazon Series 5 bottom blade grinder has full guarding.

For further information Tel: 01207 270316.



## IT'S A MARATHON NOT A SPRINT

Marathon, the long release organo-mineral fertiliser range of Melspring International BV, is now available in a 2-5mm outfield range. In order to strengthen the position of Marathon in the UK, Melspring has nominated Sherriff Amenity as distributor in Great Britain for the 2-5mm outfield range.

Marathon fertilisers do not contain nitrate. The ammonium and long chain urea are buffered in an organo-mineral complex and hardly leach to groundwater. The Marathon Outfield range consists of the following formulas: Marathon Spring 16-4-8+2MgO+0,5Fe, Marathon NK 12-0-14+2,5MgO+0,5Fe, Marathon Repair & Preseed 7-13-9+2,5MgO and

Marathon Autumn 7-1-21+1MgO+0,3Fe, which is suited to the wet and mild winters of Great Britain.

For further information Tel: 01638 721888.

## THE AERAVATOR

The latest addition to the range of Blec machinery is the new Aeravator Multi-tine. This machine features a vibrating multi-tine rotor system, which will penetrate the hardest terrain with very little surface disturbance. It will sow all types of seeds accurately in random format without regimented lines.

The Aeravator Multi-tine is equally effective operating on fine turf, such as golf greens, bowling greens, sports turf areas such as fairways and sports pitches, or even on bare soil, aerating the surface as it performs its task. The Aeravator Multi-tine produces 600 holes per square metre, it is fitted with a swing hitch that allows it to turn a tight circle on the move ensuring maximum coverage and mobility.

For further information Tel: 01778 346222.



## MAX POWER

With the introduction of the three model C-Max range of tractors, McCormick is giving turf care operators and contractors a further choice of a power unit to match different implements and working situations.

In terms of size, weight and power, the newcomers slot neatly between the smaller McCormick New F series, which comprises seven models from 58hp to 99hp, and the full-size agricultural type McCormick CX XtraShift models, which go from 73hp to 102hp. The McCormick C-Max is a full size but lightweight cabbed tractor suitable for all manner of groundcare jobs, from loader and trailer work to mowing and turf aeration. All three versions are powered by Perkins 1100 series engines - a 3.3 litre three cylinder in the 58hp C60 Max and a 4.4-litre four cylinder in the 68hp C75 Max and 82hp C85 Max.

The tractors come with a choice of simple two wheel drive or the added traction that comes with four wheel drive, plus integral front axle disc brakes for added security both on and off the road.

For further information Tel: 01302 366631.

## NEW CHUTE

Campey Turf Care Systems have launched a new attachment that further increases the versatility of their Dakota 410 and 411 Turf Tenders.

The Cross Conveyor Chute fits conveniently in place of the rear spinner discharge assembly and is hydraulically driven. In transport mode it quickly slides and clamps within the width of the 410 or 411, and in use the chute extends to enable discharge of material neatly at the side of the left-hand rear wheel.

The Chute facilitates spot treatment applications, such as backfilling drainage channels and topping up bunkers accurately. The conveyor belt speed and rate of application is controlled from the driving position by the electro-hydraulic control panel.

For further information Tel: 01260 224568.





## News from the Chief Executive

Plans for Harrogate 2006 are slowly coming together and as you will see from other parts of this magazine there will be a massive increase in education on offer when compared with previous years. This will be spread over a six day period and there should certainly be something for everyone, from Student to Manager, and no matter whether you are a Greenkeeper, Groundsman, Golf Club Official or perhaps employed in one of the other turf related activities.

On August 18 we held an Open Day for Exhibitors, both current and potential, at Harrogate International Centre (HIC). The morning included a presentation by myself, Rosie Hancher and Ken Richardson and was specifically designed for them to be able to gain a better understanding of the scope of Harrogate Week and give them an opportunity to discuss the future direction of our event with the BIGGA Management Team. The day was well supported and there was representation from all aspects of the broad exhibitor base. In explaining the benefits available to both exhibitor and visitor it quickly became apparent that it is generally not appreciated how complex an event this has become and how today it is much more than just a show with a few 'fringe' activities. The exhibitors would like to see more visitors from not only golf course or golf club management but also anyone involved in turf care, especially decision makers or those who influence decisions.

The advantage of attending Harrogate Week as a visitor, whether in full or in part, will be widely marketed over the coming months and a web site has been developed to enhance ease of access to information. The address is [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk) and the site is now online. I encourage you to have a look at it and welcome any suggestions for improvement. These can be emailed to me at [john@bigga.co.uk](mailto:john@bigga.co.uk) or, of course, there is always traditional mail or telephone. Many of the exhibitors have offered to help with the promotion of Harrogate Week however members can also assist in this area.

I would like to thank HIC for use of the facilities on the Open Day, Crown Venue Catering for providing lunch, 2/10 Productions for managing the audio visual requirements and Joe Manby Limited for providing a registration booth.

I am aware that I and those of my colleagues based at Headquarters have not had as much opportunity this year as in the past to visit Region and Section events. We propose to address this by attending some of the Autumn and Winter events even though the workload at HQ shows no sign of easing off! I am also in the early planning stages of arranging more regular meetings with Section Secretaries, perhaps on a regional basis interspaced with a less frequent visit to BIGGA HOUSE.

Please do not forget that the Regional Administrators are members of HQ staff and as such attend HQ staff meetings on a regular basis. Communication is an ongoing challenge and we will be looking at ways of improving the flow of information. There is always an open invitation for anyone, member or not, to visit Headquarters and if you would like to incorporate this with a stay at the hotel then we can arrange for you to take advantage of our preferential rates.

**John Pemberton**

### SCOTTISH REGION

#### East

After a wet start to the year, summer has finally arrived with record temperatures in July putting a smile on the face of both greenkeeper and trade alike! There have been a few reports of brown patch, which I am familiar with from my time in the Thames Valley, but I have never seen north of the border before. A disease which attacks bents and fescues, it frustratingly leaves our old friend poa annua alone.

On behalf of the Section I would like to congratulate Craig Gilholm, former Deputy to Colin Irvine at Muirfield, on his appointment as Golf Course Superintendent at Royal Liverpool. With the Open Championship at Hoylake next year I am sure Craig will not have much time to draw breath. Also on the move is former Section member Alan Purdie, who has been appointed Course Manager at a new golf complex in Northern Cyprus - look out for visitors with buckets and spades Alan.

A young man making the headlines at present is John Gallagher (Junior). An extremely talented golfer, John made the decision to take a year out from his career as a greenkeeper at The Merchants to concentrate on his golf. This is already proving successful with a runners up medal and a quarter final finish at the recent Scottish Amateur Championship at Southernness.

Finally the autumn outing will be held on September 21 or 22, the exact date and venue to be confirmed shortly.

Mike Dooner

#### North

Well here we go, this is my first news report as I have taken over from Iain Gunn, who has now moved on to a new position as Head Greenkeeper at the North Shore Golf Club in Blackpool. A long way from Strathpeffer I hear you say, he will be able to take his frustration out on the donkeys on the beach now instead of sheep. That will be a nice change for him. I am sure we all wish him the best of luck, so now on to the rest of the news as there has not been any from our Section for a couple of months due to the change over.

The first thing I would like to do from the Committee and members is pass on our condolences to John Crawford and his family on the sad loss of his partner, Ailsa, our thoughts are with them.

The North Section held the National Tournament at McDonald Golf Club, Ellon, on June 23 and the course was in great condition, there was not a blade of grass out of place. So well done to John and his squad, also well done to Peter Boyd as the competition ran as smoothly as ever. Congratulations must go to Mark Main, from Moray, for winning the Friendship Trophy (Best Nett) at Ellon and qualifying to represent the North Section in the BIGGA National Championship in October - Martin will be chuffed. I will let you know how he gets on as soon as I hear, but the best of luck for now.

By the time this news reaches you we will have played in the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder. The team was John Geddes (Captain), Mark Main, Neil Kidd and Dean Mitchell, so hopefully we will have retained the trophy.

As you are all aware our autumn outing is at Garmouth & Kingston Golf Club on Thursday September 15. Hopefully it will be a nice day and a good turn out. I would hope everyone will have their money in before the date as I would prefer not to be taking money on the day.



The AGM golf outing this year is on October 13 and is at the beautiful and picturesque Swailend Golf Course at Newmachar (okay so I milked it a bit). No honest, the course is in great condition and if you have not played it yet, the course it is well worth the visit. Another date for your diary is the spring outing, which is going to be at the Montrose Championship links on Thursday May 11 2006.

Another new member has joined our Section. David Sutherland, an Assistant Greenkeeper at Reay Golf Club up in Caithness. So welcome to the Section and we hope to see you at an outing soon.

I cannot finish without saying well done to Robert Patterson and his staff for the superb condition of the course at Royal Aberdeen for the British Seniors Open. Knowing Robert, I am sure he is very proud of what the club and himself achieved over the whole Tournament.

If anybody has any news they would like to put in the report you can get in touch with me at home Tel: 01224 821574; Mobile: 07711274525; Email: dalengc@hotmail.com.

Dale Robertson

### West

Welcome to this month's report, I hope you are enjoying the warm weather, it makes a change from the last couple of years. I attended the Scottish National Tournament at McDonald Golf Club, Ellon. It was a fantastic day with the course in first class condition, also the catering and bar service were excellent, many thanks to all the staff at the club. I travelled up with three other members of the West Section, Ian Mackay, John Barr and Brice Houston. Hopefully next year there will be a better turn out as it's a great event.

Gavin Jarvis and Cecil George attended the recent Harry Diamond Memorial at Ayr Belleisle Golf Club, many thanks for representing the Section. I apologise for not attending as I was on my holidays.

The Spring outing will be held over Cardross Golf Club on Thursday September 22. This is a fantastic course so I hope to see a big turnout on the day. We will be playing our annual match against the Club Masters on Monday October 3 at Helensburgh Golf Club. We will need a team of 12 on the day so anybody interested please get in touch. The Annual Dinner will be held at Victoria's Nightclub on Saturday November 26. This includes a three course dinner and Christmas party night. Tickets will be £25 per head. Tickets are now on sale from any Committee Members.

Well that's all for now hopefully more news next month. Tel: 07970 366355; Email: Karen.ross@tesco.net.

Fraser Ross

## SECTION NOTES INFORMATION

In order to improve the sending and receiving of Section Notes, where possible can all future notes be emailed to [gareth@bigga.co.uk](mailto:gareth@bigga.co.uk) by no later than the 5th of the month prior to publication please.

You will receive an email back to confirm receipt of your notes.

If you do not receive this confirmation please get in touch with BIGGA Headquarters.

### NORTHERN REGION

#### NORTHERN REGION ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2005

A Northern Region Educational Seminar is planned for Thursday November 24 2005 at Penrith Golf Club. The subjects to be discussed will be Employment Law and how it relates to the Greenkeeping Profession; Health & Safety Update; Golf Club Policies and Management; and The Need for Healthy Soil.

Invitations will be sent to all BIGGA Northern Region members during September, but if you don't get one and want to attend, contact Peter Larter (Northern Region Administrator) for an application form at "Tamarisk", High St, Corby Glen, Grantham, Lincs, NG33 4LX or phone 01476 550115 office: 07866 366966 mobile or by email at [petelarter972@aol.com](mailto:petelarter972@aol.com).

#### North East

Having followed in the footsteps of Russ Black and Steve Pope I was lucky enough to be picked for bunker raking at The Open at St Andrews this year and what an experience that turned out to be. Just to put you in the picture of what it's like, it is certainly not easy getting up very early every morning. Everyone had to be down at the course from 5.30am to 7.30am, regardless of what time you were allocated to be on bunker duty. Long days hanging around for your turn like myself who's Thursday match teed off at 3.48pm followed by a 5 hours 50mins round and I was not the last match either.

This year we were lucky, as we did not have to do any divoting because, with the Old Course having a large staff, they did it for us whereas next year at Hoylake it will be probably be the bunker rakers' turn.

If you think we were down early in the mornings spare a thought for Bert Cross, Peter Boyd and Elliott Small. There were the people who were in their portakabin waiting for the rakers to book in. Let us not forget Ian Holaran, who was standing on the first tee making sure the bunker raker turned up on time most of the day, but also introducing the raker, referee, lady scorer and the person carrying the scores.

So if there is anyone out there in the north east Section who fancies going to the Open next year give it a try, you may get lucky enough to be drawn out, there was approximately 150 applicants this year, so you had a one in three chance of being picked. You meet other greenkeepers from around the country as well as from abroad, this year they came from USA, Sweden, Spain to name a few, and the biggest plus is you see golf at its best. I was fortunate this year, I only had eight bunkers all week to rake, some were not so lucky as me so before you send your form in its harder work than you think.

Matfen Hall's new driving range is now open and its quite impressive. A six bay sheltered building, playing off grass instead of mats, also the new 9 holes, which is under construction, now looks like its going to be a good test of golf, it should be ready in a couple of years' time.

The autumn competition is at Foxton this year, postcards will be sent out in due course.

Jimmy Richardson

#### North West

Today I received news of the sad death of Jim Entwistle after a long illness. Jim worked as a representative for Alpha Amenity and was a great friend to greenkeepers in the N/W. I can remember when he worked for



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**Peter Larter**  
**NORTHERN & MIDLAND**  
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Trident and always turned up at any golf tournaments with a prize for the table. Each year the Committee met for the Chairman's Dinner and Jim would sponsor the day. He will be sadly missed by his family and also by the N/W greenkeepers.

The Summer Tournament was played at Childwall GC on July 27 and we had a great day. The course was in magnificent condition, as always, due to Dave McAvoy and his trusty staff, who also played on the day. The weather was kind to us and the caterers did us proud with excellent food. Many thanks to Childwall GC for allowing us courtesy of the course. 22 members attended and some good scores were recorded. The results are:

Best Nett and winner of the Reg Vickers Trophy. Peter Hogan, 78-12-66. Best Gross. Stewart Brown, 73-1-72. Vets Prize. Bert Cross, 90-13-77. Guest Prize. Gary Potter, 84-16-68. Longest Drive. Jim Grainger. Nearest the Pin. Stuart Brown.

The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin were sponsored by Bathgate Leisure and were presented by Nick Gray. I think we will have to do something about Peter Hogan, as he keeps winning. Also I think we should have done a drugs test on Jim Grainger after seeing the distance he hit the ball. Anyway, a good day was had by all. Thanks to Childwall Golf Club.

The next golf after the Autumn Tournament will be the Whitelaw Bowl to be played at Penrith GC on September 14. If you wish to play please contact me in plenty of time. The President's Day and AGM will be at Wilmslow Golf Club on December 5. Please try to attend, I will give you a reminder next month. That's it for now, but you can contact me on 0151 7245412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

## Sheffield

There is not a lot of news really this month just little bits. The line up for the autumn seminar has been finalised and you should be receiving your invitations in the post very shortly. The date for the seminar is October 24 with a 10am start, coffee from 9. There will be some interesting lectures, so I hope as many of you as possible will attend to make this a success.

Our match against the Northern Section was a very close affair, but we eventually just lost out at the very end 3 1/2 to 2 1/2. Better luck next year lads. Our thanks go to Hillsborough Golf Club for letting us hold the event there. Well done to Ian Whitehead and his staff for the condition of your course.

Congratulations go to Steve Pickering on being appointed Head Greenkeeper at Grange Park Golf Club. Steve was at Rotherham Golf Club. Good luck Steve. Good luck to Alan Sampson in his new job, he has recently left Wortley Golf Club to become Area Rep for Bob Wild Grass Machinery Ltd. A new member this month. Carl Pigott, from Retford Golf Club. Hope to see you at our events soon Carl!

The speakers for the October Seminar are as follows: John Holt, Martin Jones, Jonathon Gaunt and John Stirling. The cost of the seminar is free and there is a buffet lunch and a free raffle with quality prizes. Invitations will be sent out shortly and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis so get your replies in ASAP.

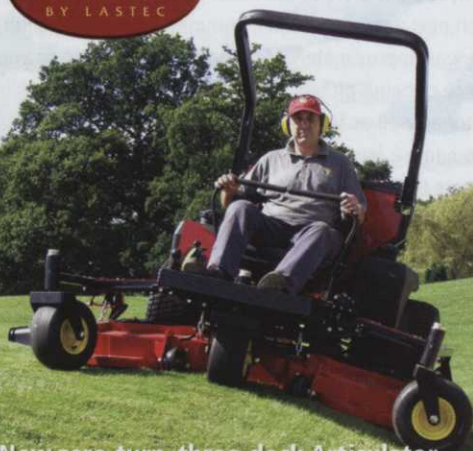
Once again any news don't hesitate to contact me on 07793111845 or at [jv.lax@tesco.net](mailto:jv.lax@tesco.net). I am pleased to say that I have received news from you out there, so there is some life out there. Hopefully this will continue.

John Lax

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