



ON COURSE FOR SAFETY

Nia Frost looks at the improvements in chemical safety on the golf course

Has chemical safety on the golf course improved in recent years? The answer is, without a doubt, yes. For many years chemicals have been used without adequate information about their hazardous properties or what risks are involved in their short- and long-term use. But that is not the case now that improved information about chemicals creates greater transparency and helps identify chemicals of concern.

The EU Review of control products is probably the single most influential factor affecting the access to control product for turf and amenity managers. The review is actually officially known as – EC Directive 91/414/EEC and its aim is to ensure that all pesticides on the market before 1991 meet present day safety standards.

The review has been initiated to:

- Harmonise national arrangements for authorisation of PPP within EU.
- Ensure that all countries operate to a high standard be implemented in UK by Plant Protection Product Regulations (PPPR) 1995.
- Use European data for national registrations.

The management and maintenance of golf courses relies on a wide range of tasks, each of which may present associated hazards or risks to the health, safety or welfare of employees and visitors.

The HSE (Health & Safety Executive) has published guidance on this subject in 'Health and Safety in Golf Course Management and Maintenance' (HS(G)79. This involves setting a clear health and safety policy; risk assessment and control; training; monitoring and review of working practices; effective communication; accident recording, reporting and investigation.

Certain hazardous substances used on golf courses (e.g. pesticides) may require an assessment of risks under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1999 (COSHH). Deciding what precautions are required, and then preventing or controlling any risks follows this.

Only approved pesticides should be used and labels should include a MAFF or HSE number. The 'conditions of use' should always be followed and anyone working with pesticides must be competent and has obtained their PA qualifications. Ongoing training for the spray operators is essential.

New Product Development

New chemical control products entering the market have to meet stringent new guidelines laid down by the EU, so it is fair to say that any new products brought onto the market will be the most efficient and safest products ever seen in the turf and amenity industry.

Most new chemical actives now tend to be of a much lower rate and have a more efficient formulation resulting in fast uptake, low residues and less active ingredient needed for control. This greatly reduces the amount of active ingredient released into the environment during application and therefore the risk of mammalian toxicity.

Heritage and the new fungicide Banner MAXX both have one of the lowest use-rate ranges in the turf grass fungicide market. They offer several significant advantages to the spray operator:

- Low acute toxicity
- Non-sensitising
- Low use rates, which reduce the amount of product handling
- Non-neurotoxin, non-carcinogenic and non-oncogenic
- Not readily absorbed through the skin
- No buffer (no spray) zone required

Local Environmental Risk Assessment for Pesticides

Certain pesticides have an aquatic buffer zone requirement when applied by horizontal boom or broadcast air-assisted sprayers, as some are very toxic to aquatic life. If you want to reduce this aquatic buffer zone, there is a legal obligation to carry out and record a Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides (LERAP). It is important to remember that without effective buffer zones many sprays may not remain on sale. LERAPs provide greater flexibility in the application of buffer zones without additional restrictions.

Follow these six steps to produce a LERAP:

- Map out and categorise streams/ponds/rivers
- Display the map where spray operators can see it
- Establish whether any products used are LERAP category A or B
- If A leave a 5m buffer zone. If B refer to LERAP website for recommendations depending on type of spraying equipment being used
- Inform spray operator of required buffer zone
- Record your decision and relevant factors





There are new products coming through, although probably not as fast as we have been losing them. Therefore the industry does have to look at alternative methods for controlling pests and diseases. IPM (Integrated Plant/Pest Management) has been around for a long time, especially in the horticultural industry. The definition is: 'Attempt to control pests using various different proactive management strategies, considering everything that may affect pest development'.

After considering and adopting all cultural and preventative treatments it may still be necessary to use a 'control' treatment, with the most appropriate control product. Control products are still very much part of IPM! Scotts is committed to helping turf and amenity managers to manage their turf and amenity areas in a proactive and environmentally friendly way. This means providing advice and information to help prevent attacks in the first place.

If attacks do occur, try to find out why they are occurring and work on a plan to prevent it happening again. The idea is to have a specific plan for all areas that are managed.

The basic plan components include:

- Site assessment – Understanding conditions that favour the pest – unique to your turf area (map of area needed)
- Monitoring – accurate identification needed of more unusual diseases/include training in the plan
- Setting thresholds – how little/much is acceptable
- Identifying management options – e.g. cultural
- Building pest profiles – for each disease – now and for the future
- Proactive turf management – what is actually being done to manage disease
- Evaluation – is the plan working.

Application technology and equipment

Application and equipment has played a huge part in improving the efficacy of chemical usage and in protecting the operator and the environment.

The efficacy of a chemical application is clearly dependant on the chemical itself as well as its formulation, as already mentioned, but most importantly it's the delivery to the target site.

Here are some examples of efficient application technologies:

- Low drift nozzles
- Better boom suspension
- Re-circulating systems
- Pre-mix tanks, less handling of AI
- Shrouded (covered) booms
- Computerized calibration systems

Conclusion

Despite the major developments throughout the years, the ultimate safety of chemical usage is dependant on the operator. Therefore regular ongoing training is essential for the safety of not only the operator but for the general public and the environment.

For further details about Scotts' products, contact the company at Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich IP8 4BZ. Telephone: 0871 220 5353, fax: 01473 830386, email: prof.sales@scotts.com website: www.scottspromotional.co.uk

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.

Category A products: Alpha Chlorpyrifos 48 EC; Mavrik.

Category B products: Alpha Atrazine 50 SC; Alpha Briotril Plus 19/19; Alpha Bromotril P; Alpha Linuron 50 SC; Alpha Protugan Plus; Alpha Simazine 50 SC; Harlequin.

Nia Frost is Scotts Technical Manager, plant protection products.



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WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?



Name: Clive Nottingham

Company: Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd

Position: Managing Director

How long have you been in the industry?

"I've been working for Lloyds for 32 years."

How did you get into it?

"My father was on the parish council and a driving force in keeping the village rec and football teams going. As an engineer he acquired an old set of Lloyds Pennsylvania Gang mowers and we visited the factory in Letchworth to acquire spares. Much of my youth spent on a tractor trailing a set of Lloyds gangs, when my father said, "Sit here and drive this around the field." My weekends were spent cutting the sports ground. After leaving school I wanted to go into engineering and Lloyds were taking on staff."

What others jobs have you done?

"Initially I worked part time. I started work at Lloyds as a Trainee Engineer, then at 21 I was promoted to Shop Floor Supervisor, then Production Manager in '88 and Production Director in '92, followed by the role of Managing Director a year later - a role I still carryout along with my main role as Sale Director."

What do you like about your current job?

"I have used Lloyd's equipment, worked and now run the company for so many years it has become a big part of my life. I thrive on the daily chase for business and carrying out demonstrations. I still

get a kick out of the hard work that's required and receiving praise about the traditional values that we still offer.

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

"Most notably the compulsory complete tendering in local authorities made major changes to our customer base, many customers in this sector are now contractors. GC's have grown and the standards required have increased. H&S has become a big issue and machines have been modified to make working practices easier/quicker."

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"Socialise with friends at our local. I enjoy live music and travelling."

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"Still running Lloyds but hopefully travelling more for pleasure than work I hope."

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

"You can't help but make friends in this industry. It's not unusual to be sharing a drink/meal with another MD or sales team."

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

"7 seems to have some meaning to me and it used to be my clock number."

Pick a number "40."

Clive has picked John Oldfield from Optimize Golf



SALTEX 2007

Like BTME & ClubHouse, held every January in Harrogate, all Saltex displays focus on labour and money saving products for the effective maintenance and management of turf and sports surfaces.

More than 15,000 visitors attend the annual three-day event at Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire, where approximately 400 exhibitors display the latest developments in fine turf and sports surfaces; turf maintenance equipment; landscaping; contractors; commercial vehicles; outdoor leisure and facilities and estate management, as well as software and security equipment.

Launched in 1938 as a grounds care show, IOG Saltex has grown in size and stature to cover every aspect of open space management. The show covers every open space profession from groundsmen and greenkeepers to play officers, architects, designers and surveyors.

The Greenkeepers' Training Committee (GTC) will again occupy a joint stand with the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), reinforcing a link that has served the fine turf profession well for many years. The strong relationship between the GTC, BIGGA and the key education and training stakeholders, coupled with the progress in the professional development of greenkeepers and greenkeeping, is the envy of many.

The GTC represents golf clubs and greenkeepers with regard to qualifications, training standards and all associated matters including assessor and management training. Visit the stand and view the latest materials that are used by the GTC Approved Training Providers. You can now purchase these together with the internationally acclaimed Training Manual.

With over 6,500 members BIGGA is the UK's leading professional organisation for greenkeepers and all those persons involved in the management of turf. In addition to providing a wide range of member benefits the Association also acts as training provider, supporting in particular the work of the GTC.

Website information
www.bigga.org.uk and www.the-gtc.co.uk

The show is open from 9am until 5pm (Tuesday and Wednesday September 4 and 5) and 9am until 4.15pm on Thursday, September 6.

Visitors to IOG Saltex can register now for their free entry badge at: www.iogsaltex.co.uk or call the Visitor Hotline on: 0870 429 4524 to order free visitor tickets.



HOW TO GET TO SALTEX

VENUE:

Windsor Racecourse is set in 165 acres of beautiful Berkshire countryside, on the banks of the River Thames and overlooked by Windsor Castle. The Racecourse is well located, with easy access of the M4, M25, M3 and M40 motorways, and has a railway station close by with a FREE water taxi running throughout the three days of IOG SALTEX from Windsor town centre to the exhibition. Heathrow Airport is just a few miles away from Windsor Racecourse.

BY ROAD:

From the M25:

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

From the M4:

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

From the M4:

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

BY BUS:

Windsor Express bus number 700 connects London with Windsor. They depart from London Victoria Green Line Coach Station and you alight at Maidenhead Road, a short walk from the Racecourse. For more information call: +44 (0)870 608 7261.



BY RAIL:

You can travel by rail to Slough station from Paddington or the South West, or to Windsor Riverside & Eton station from London Waterloo. Then pick up the FREE water taxi service at French Brothers Pier beside the River Thames.

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To register, book education or find accommodation, visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk



HARROGATE NEWS...

Planning is well under way for Harrogate Week with the world's major players showcasing the latest equipment, technology and innovations all in one place, you can't afford to miss out. This is the perfect opportunity to build a stronger, more profitable business and keep up with a fast-moving industry.

EDUCATION

The Continue to Learn education programme is, once again, supported by The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC). Aimed at all those working within the turf industry, it leads the world in quality and content. The comprehensive workshop and seminar programme is again, supported by The Greenkeepers Training Committee.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The keynote speech will inspire you by giving you an exciting insight from an experienced fighter pilot, delivered by a recent former Red Arrow, about what high performance teamwork actually means in practice. You will be given a unique perspective and approach to achieving excellence in subjects such as performance under pressure, teamwork and leadership.

PARK & RIDE

The Park and Ride proved a huge success at Harrogate Week 2007 and is due to take place again at the Yorkshire Showground in 2008.

Alongside the exhibition will be the tried and trusted, Careers Clinic, Job Shop and Internet Café.

Keep an eye on the website for up to date information. www.harrogateweek.org.uk

FEATURE



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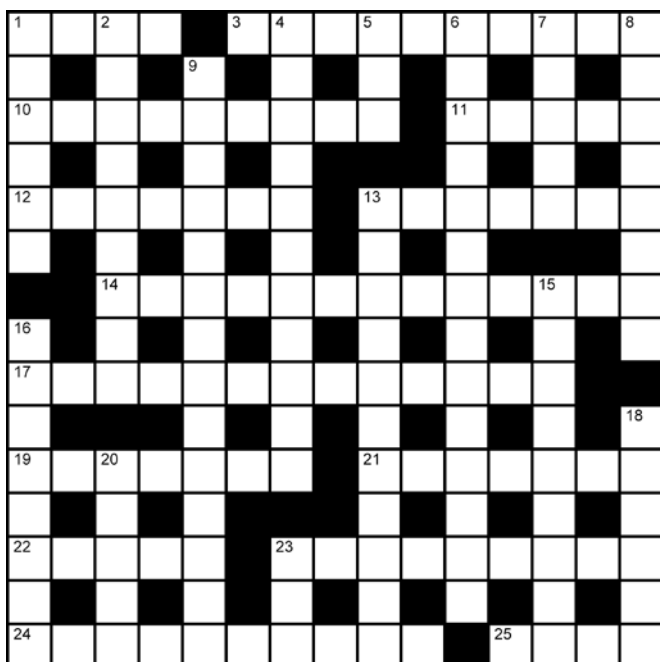
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Printed matter of little worth (4)
- 3 Piece of furniture alongside a bed (10)
- 10 Position of man whose wife is unfaithful (9)
- 11 Reasoned judgment (5)
- 12 Mythical Arabian bird which renewed itself in fire every 500 years (7)
- 13 Major fishing port near the mouth of the Humber (7)
- 14 Christmas carol sometimes attributed to Martin Luther (4,2,1,6)
- 17 Name given to the period of Egyptian history spanning the 11th to 13th dynasties (6,7)
- 19 Siberian dog breed with cream or white fur (7)
- 21 1973 Al Pacino film based on true story of police corruption (7)
- 22 Texan mission, site of military siege in 1836 (5)
- 23 Yacht's triangular headsail (9)
- 24 In conversation, a person not mentioned by name (3-4-3)
- 25 US naval officer and explorer of the Antarctic (4)

DOWN

- 1 Typically the muscle that flexes the forearm, any muscle with two origins (6)
- 2 Britain's first Labour prime minister (9)
- 4 Scaled in proportion to changes in the cost of living (5-6)
- 5 Dried grass used as fodder (3)
- 6 Lewis Carroll novel split between Fairyland and the real world (6,3,5)
- 7 Hornless breed of Scottish cattle (5)
- 8 Waterfront area where ships are built or maintained (8)
- 9 Type of alcoholic drink which is distilled rather than fermented (4,10)
- 13 Type of green eating apple (6,5)
- 15 The use of original but unnecessary devices (9)
- 16 Envoy, representative (8)
- 18 Car modified for acceleration and speed (3,3)
- 20 Feline sound (5)
- 23 Hand tool with toothed blade (3)



QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

- 1 Who invented the hot air balloon?
- 2 In 1744, which British golf course established the first golf club?
- 3 What do you get if you multiply the number of hoops used in a game of croquet by the number of shots under par an albatross is in golf?
- 4 Which golfer is nicknamed the 'Great White Shark'?
- 5 What sport would you be playing if competing for the Harry Vardon trophy?
- 6 In which year was the Ryder Cup golf tournament launched?
- 7 What is the amateur equivalent of the Ryder Cup golf tournament called?
- 8 In which year was the first women's golf tournament held?
- 9 In which year was the first British Open Golf Championship held?

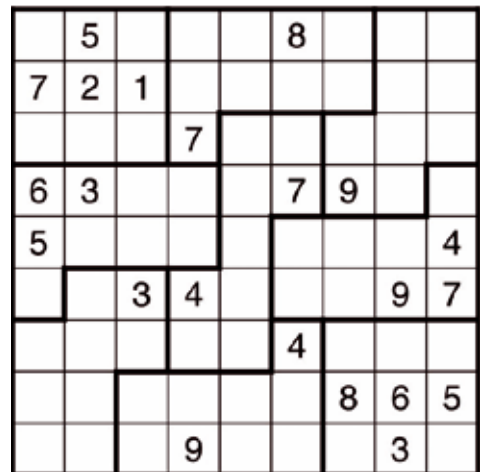
MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 and the letters A,B and C.



SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 12 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.



IN THE SHED ANSWERS ON PAGE 59



IN THE SHED



News from the Chief Executive

Regrettably the meeting with the IOG scheduled for July has had to be postponed until the middle of August due to Wimbledon commitments of two IOG representatives. This will inevitably put pressure on the original timescale and I will report to members on the outcome via the Association's website and in the September edition of GI.

We have once again witnessed a remarkable Open Championship. The course was in excellent condition and congratulations are well deserved to John Philp and his staff. The course was tough but fair - a true test of ability. Once again BIGGA had a marquee in the tented village, it was heartening to meet members and their guests. The BIGGA Support Team operated in a very professional manner and their work is valued by the R&A. Congratulations also go to David Coupland who, until as recently as April, was a greenkeeper at Boston GC. David battled his way through qualifying (actually winning his final qualifier at Monifieth GC) to compete in his first Open. I understand he has only been playing eight years and currently plays off +2. Time is on his side and this won't be his last Open.

Inside this copy of GI you should find details of the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota (UK) Ltd. The venues are excellent and we are due some better weather! If you wish to play please ensure that you return your entry form promptly as places are limited. There is a 'Trade' category and it would be encouraging to see some support from within our Trade and Associate membership. In July the launch of the long awaited Safety Management System (SMS) was completed. I would like to express my thanks to Exact and Ken Richardson who have worked extremely hard on this project. We are already receiving accolades for the comprehensiveness of the SMS and I believe that this demonstrates once again that BIGGA continues to work in the best interests of its members. Some greenkeeper members continue to question why the Association needs to get involved in commercial business matters. The reality of life is that BIGGA needs the income to provide benefits such as this. Were it not for the sponsorship of Ransomes Jacobsen then the SMS project would still be at the conceptual stage. Sponsorship is getting harder and harder to source and I take the opportunity to point out that in the case of the SMS the sponsorship covered the production cost however Exact were paid nothing and there was no recompense for staff costs in respect of either BIGGA or GCMA nor the members who assisted the development process. While on the subject of commercialism I can report that arrangements for Harrogate Week are progressing well. There is a full education programme planned with a particularly interesting event being organised for Monday night. You will have to wait for the programme to discover more details however I think that the evening will be highly entertaining, very educational and demand for seats will be high. Demand for exhibition space remains buoyant and with some careful planning it has been possible to reincorporate the major machinery manufacturers into Halls A,B,C and M. Having listened to members' comment regarding the BIGGA website I can confirm that programming has been started on a spell check and edit facility for the Bulletin Board.

Finally, I hope that none of you have been badly affected by the severe weather. I sympathise with those that have seen their homes and lives ruined by the flooding. While the Association does not have a formal benevolent fund it is never-the-less always prepared to consider help in cases of genuine hardship. Any contact should be with myself, in writing.

John Pemberton



SCOTLAND - AYRSHIRE

Hello all, just a few things to let y'all know about. Firstly to congratulate John Wilson (Irvine GC) on winning the third class division at the Scottish National Tournament last month.

A reminder to get Tuesday, September 25 highlighted in the calendar as that's the day I lift the Harry Diamond Jug over in Arran and I'd like as many of you there to celebrate with me as possible, unless of course you've got something you'd rather be doing?

Our trip to Northern Ireland will be fast approaching as you read this so those looking for a nice relaxing break across the water need not apply! We need fearless warriors and lad's who aren't afraid of getting a round in! Seriously though I 'm looking for names. We will be sailing the morning of Friday, October 5 and returning Sunday, 8. Two nights B&B is £50 pp while Big Brian will be sussing out a deal on the ferry for us. Any questions call me on: 07939 104701 or email: denis.t@hotmail.co.uk. Ta Ra for now then.

Denis Tweddell



SCOTLAND - CENTRAL

At this time of year the summer should be well underway and the monsoon season hopefully behind us. This spring has been one of the wettest I remember and I'm sure that it has created many challenges for us all. The hard work of the club competitions and Opens should be over and we may be starting to plan the winter programs for this year. If you have any projects or pictures you would like to share with others let us know and we'll post them on the website.

Welcome to the following new members: Thomas Adams, Kieran Coll, Graham Copland, Barry Currie, Gary Kilday, Scott MacFarlane, Raymond Perrins, Joseph Smith, and Craig Sword. I hope to meet you sometime this year at one of our golf outings or educational events.

By the time you read this John Philp and the team at Carnoustie will have hosted The Open Championship. I'm sure it will be a great event and that the players will have faced a stern test of their skills to find the Champion Golfer of 2007.

I have just returned from attending the Scottish Tournament which this year was held over the border in Northumberland for the first time and was played at Goswick golf course. It was a great day. Geordie Thompson and his team had the course looking great and playing great, a real test of golf for everyone. Many thanks on behalf of the Central Section to the golf club for their first class hospitality on the day, and also to Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator, who once again organised a fantastic event for us all. I know from experience how much work it takes to organise these events, but Peter makes it all seem so easy. The Section was proud to have scratch winner, Kenny Stirling and the handicap winner, Dougie Barr, both playing on form. Well played guys.