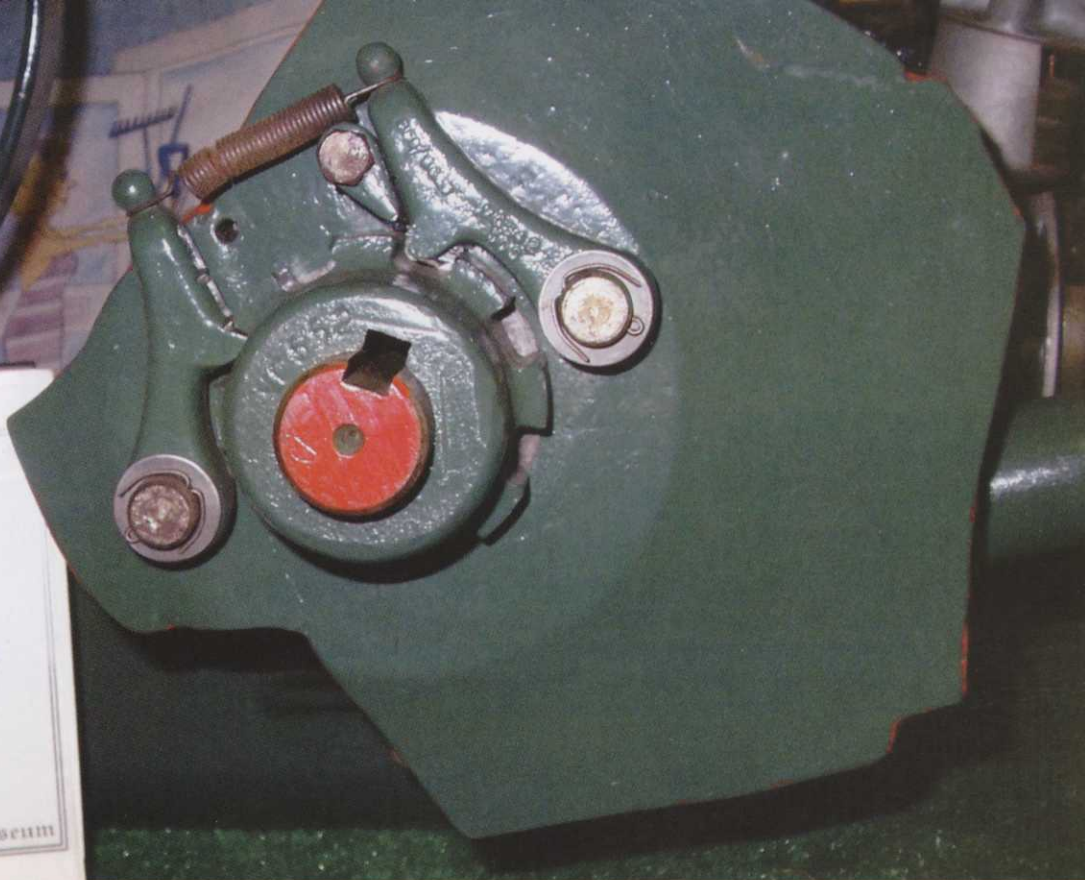
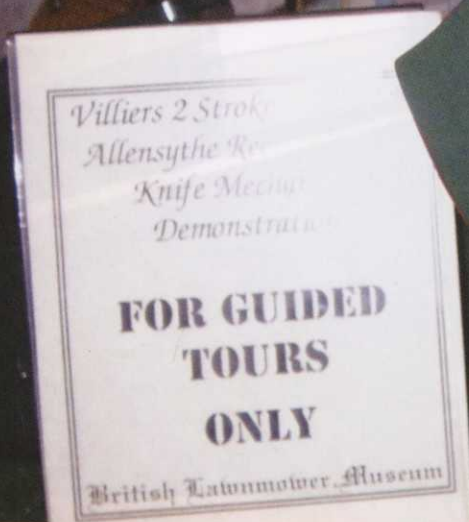


Villiers 2 Stroke Engine and Allensythe Reciprocating Knife Mechanism demonstration. Brian took this machine on the television programme Scrapheap Challenge. He has slowed the mechanism down to show how it works



Marvellous Mowers

Southport. Considered England's Golfing Capital with seven championship courses, including Royal Birkdale - which will host The Open in 2008 - Famous for its annual Flower Show, International Jazz Festival and Military Displays; Southport also holds claim to a museum unique in its field - The British Lawnmower Museum. Melissa Toombs reports.

One of the world's leading authorities on vintage mowers and the largest specialist in antique garden machinery, The British Lawnmower Museum houses a private collection of over 200 pristine exhibits, built up over a period of 50 years.

Included in this unique national collection are manufacturers not normally associated with the garden industry, such as Rolls Royce, Royal Enfield, Dennis and British Leyland.

Adding some variety to the vast array of mowers that the museum holds, solar powered and robot machines also make an appearance.



Brian Radam, The British Lawnmower Museum curator, aged 55

Situated above The Discount Garden Machinery Warehouse, this bijou museum is the only one of its kind in the world and understandably it attracts visitors from all over the globe, even celebrities and popstars such as Status Quo who visited the museum while on tour.

Brian Radam is the curator of this wonderfully unique museum, which opened in 1990. "It came about from a shop my father started in 1945 repairing lawnmowers. He ended up with an array of machines destined for the scrap yard, as they were beyond repair. Rather than throwing them out, we began restoring them," explained Brian.



Brian May from Queen donated his lawnmower to the museum

"We now get people from all over the country donating machines and we have some very rare lawnmowers of the rich and famous, such as Princess Diana and Prince Charles' machine, and also Brian May's," continued Brian, "They just phone up and ask if we would like them."

Greens Silens Messor - Latin for Silent Cutter - boasts a chain - the first time one had been invented. It made the machines much quieter



Marvellous Mowers

ATCO's wedding present to Princess Diana and Prince Charles



Paul O'Grady's rather fluffy lawnmower



The Unique British Anzani, ride-on mower made of aluminium. It had one or two faults; one being if you went around a corner too fast, you'd tip and fall off!

THE HISTORY OF THE LAWNMOWER

Edwin Budding of Gloucester invented the lawnmower in 1830. He worked in a woollen mill and was asked to design a machine to trim the nap from cloth. He was thought of as a madman for testing his invention at night and stated, "gentleman will find this an amusing and healthy exercise," when he unveiled it. It struck Budding that the same machine could be used to mow lawns and the cylinder machine he devised has not changed in principle since that date and has been the traditional lawnmower for formal lawns used throughout Britain.

ATCO built the first mass produced lawnmower out of wrought iron with a hand crank start and propeller for cooling, and priced it at 21 guineas, which was a lot of money at that time - about half the price of a car. This may seem expensive but you could aerate the lawn and cut it at the same time and as Brian explained "Lots of machines pre 1940's, when British engineering was the best in the world, were made to last a lifetime, nowadays people go out to buy a new lawnmower but come back with a grass cutter. We've pretty much lost all our British lawnmower manufacturers which is a shame as lawnmowing is a very British thing and with that in effect, we're losing all our lawns as well, which is sad."

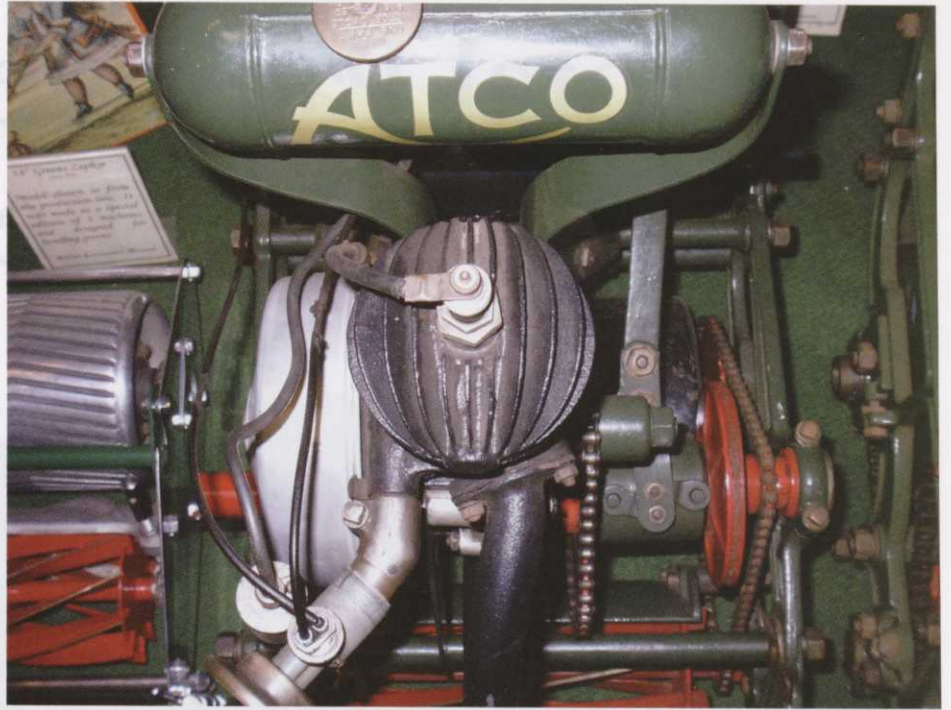
Materials were limited when lawnmowers first began to be built and a lot of machines were made out of cast iron or wood, whereas today plastic, aluminium and steel are generally used.

Ransomes produced the first electric mower in 1926, a time when not everyone had electricity in their homes and although classed as a lightweight model, the mower was still very hefty. It had a wood and copper switch which was considered a new gismo in '20s.

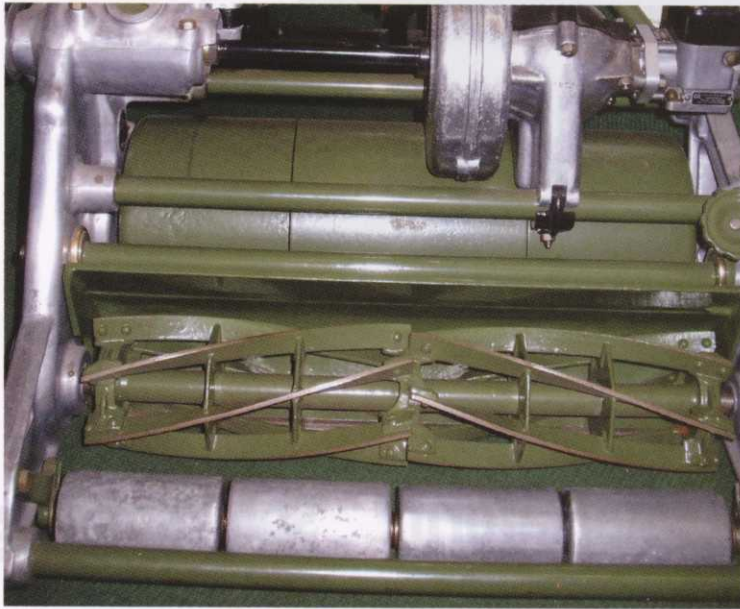
1965 saw the invention of the hovercraft lawnmower by Flymo. The mower is still orange to this day as a consequence of surveying 5000 housewives on their desired colour. At first these mowers would not sell as plastic was deemed cheap and not very strong in the 60s, so reps went to door to door to ask potential customers if they would like to try them out and the company grew and grew from there.



tius lliw
bnworg



ATCO's first wrought iron lawnmower



Jerram and Pearson, a precision engineering company, set out to make the best lawnmowers in the world and were considered the Rolls Royce of lawnmowers when they first came out. Rolls Royce then went on to buy the company out and continue to produce lawnmowers. This particular model, the 24in Water Cooled, was made in 1926, has a water-cooled engine and is made from cast aluminium side frame. The special cutters are designed to send the grass to the centre of the grass box. This mower would have cost the price of two cars or even a small house. It's one of Brian's favourites as "the engineering quality is so good, a lot of their mowers are handmade and therefore have a lot of character."



Shanks' Pony. The Scottish company Shanks built the pony drawn lawnmower - a similar model to this picture



Ransomes first ever lawnmower - the 8IN NEW Automaton

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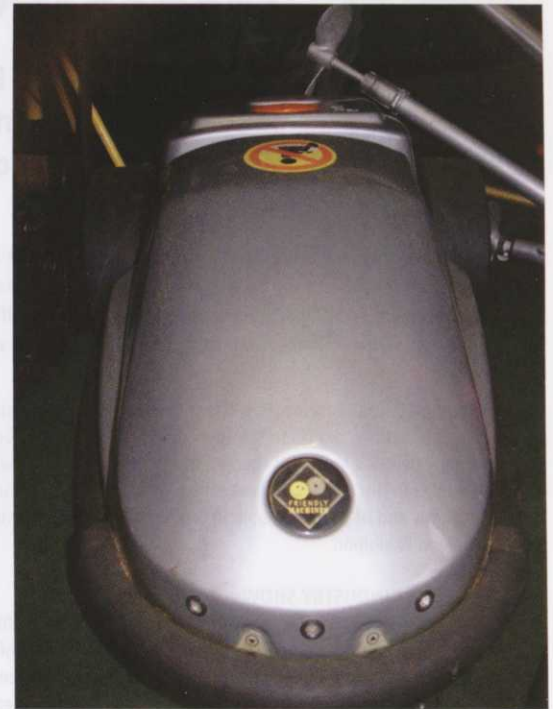


The first ever robot mower cost £1m to make and retailed for £2000. The mower is powered by daylight. The top is covered in solar panels - the same panels used on space shuttles - and you don't even need to touch the machine, it just wanders around the grass like a sheep cutting it!

*Husqvarna Solar Mower
1995 Husqvarna Sweden*

Automatic robot lawnmower, uses solar panels and integral computer as on the Space Shuttle, and only requires daylight to work. Environmentally friendly, no pollution, no fuel, no noise unless stolen, then emits alarm. The mower will cut your grass for you when you are not there. This was the first type of robot mower produced, and like the first calculator, quite expensive at £2,000. £ CUSTOMER £1,000,000 TO PRODUCE

British Lawnmower Museum



Made by Friendly Robotics, this machine will cut in straight lines and is run by a battery. When it senses the battery is running low, it goes back to its docking station to charge itself up and then continues to cut the lawn

Why cut the lawn yourself when you can get a robot to do it for you?!

RACING

It seems lawnmowers are somewhat multi-purpose!

The modern sport of lawn mower racing has its origins in a meeting of enthusiastic beer drinkers at the Cricketers Arms, Wisborough Green, West Sussex, one evening in 1973. At the time, motor sport consultant Jim Gavin had just returned from a rally reconnaissance in the Sahara, and talk naturally turned to other forms of motor and motorcycle sport. The main point of discussion turned around the horrendously escalating costs involved in all branches of motor sport, whether it be rallying, racing, scrambling or whatever. So a few beers later, minds began to explore thoughts of an alternative form of motor sport with the main criteria since it is competitive, lots of fun and above all cheap. But what could we race? Motorised barstools and wheelbarrows were soon passed as being passé and so we were left with Lawn Mowers.

The British Lawnmower Racing Association race mowers all over the country and it's quite a hit with celebrities. The late Oliver Reed used to

compete and Noel Edmunds and Stirling Moss are both participants of the sport. The lawnmowers can reach about 65/70mph and although this sounds like a crazy, unruly sport, it's quite the opposite as Brian explained "It's good fun but there are quite strict rules - the mowers must have been originally bought to cut grass and you are not allowed to go bigger than what the manufacturer intended for its engine.

"The museum used to have a team and we held the Championship for two years," explained a smiling Brian.

The museum holds a display of racing mowers and equipment.

A team of five look after the museum and Brian's shop - The Discount Garden Machinery Warehouse - which Brian opened in 1969 and displays over 150 new models, and caters for all aspect of sales, spares and service.

The museum have just made a film about lawnmowers - the only one in the world - which is currently available on dvd for £12.99 + p&p.

BIGGA readers can get free entry to the museum and an audio tour on presentation of this article. Please visit: www.lawnmowerworld.co.uk for more information.



Museum Manager Brian Radam, is an ex-lawnmower-racing champion.





BIGGA in the USA

10 members of the BIGGA Delegation will be travelling to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, thanks to Bernhard & Co. Melissa Toombs reveals the chosen ones.

Anaheim, home to the world famous Disneyland. Located just 20 miles east of Los Angeles, it seems there's more to this sunny Southern California City than just mouse ears and teacup rides. Anaheim is just minutes from the coast and some of California's best beaches, the area is home to some spectacular golf courses including: Anaheim Dad Miller Golf Course, Anaheim Hills Golf Course and Eagle Glen GC; continue a few miles further northwest and there's more family fun to be had at Knott's Theme Park and, if this wasn't enough, this vibrant city is to play host to the GIS Conference and Exhibition next month.

Once again 10 BIGGA members will be flown to the United States for the experience of a lifetime, thanks to the sponsorship of Bernhard & Co. While in Anaheim, they will visit local golf courses, attend seminars, meet with superintendents to discuss how greenkeepers do things the other side of the pond, attend functions and of course be able to enjoy the GIS (Golf Industry Show) Conference and Exhibition.

ABOUT THE GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

The Golf Industry Show is an innovative trade show designed for the owners/operators of golf facilities, and the professional members of the golf course and club management industries. Like our very own Harrogate Week, the event combines education, networking and solutions for golf course superintendents, owners/operators, general managers, chief operating officers, architects and builders.

GIS is presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) and the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA), along with other supporting organisations.

The 2007 event will take place from February 22-24 and is to be held at The Anaheim Convention Center. More than 25,000 golf industry professionals are expected to attend this year's show, which will feature around 1,200 exhibitors.

THE DELEGATION



Name: Mark Henderson
Club: Thorpeness Hotel and Golf Club, Suffolk
Position: Deputy Course Manager
Age: 36

Mark has been greenkeeping for 19 and a half years. He applied for a job as a trainee greenkeeper at Hartsbourne Golf and Country Club, Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire and started work there in June 1987. The job was advertised on the notice board of Burntisland GC, Fife, Scotland where his father was a member and has just recently retired, after working as a greenkeeper there for 20 years. Hartsbourne had successfully employed two other greenkeepers in 1982, which were from Burntisland so decided to continue recruiting greenkeepers from Scotland. Mark left Hartsbourne in April 2004 when he was Deputy Course Manager to take on the same position at Thorpeness.

Mark is currently working on a distance learning HNC in golf course management with Elmwood College. He regularly attends seminars and demonstrations and is also enrolled on workshops and seminars at the forthcoming Harrogate week.

"I have been greenkeeping for almost 20 years, and am still passionate about the challenges it presents each day. The enthusiasm I have for the job will be further fuelled by being part of the delegation to the USA, experiencing and learning more about the industry at the biggest greenkeeping show in the world. By spending time with like-minded greenkeeping enthusiasts and gaining an insight and knowledge into the different working methods and disciplines in America, that would certainly give me fresh ideas to help me take my club, Thorpeness, to the next level. To also be able to see at first hand the technology, materials, machinery and equipment used and compare working practices with my American counterparts, will help me to further inspire my colleagues, perhaps change working methods and procedures currently upheld, and help improve the golf course on my return," said Mark.



Name: Ian Somerville MSc
Club: Brocton Hall GC, Staffordshire
Position: Course Manager
Age: 43

Ian has an MSc in Sports Surface Technology - his highest qualification within the industry at present, although he is considering a Phd - and has been greenkeeping for over 25 years. He started as an apprentice at Heswall GC (Wirral) but first became interested while at school. During the holidays he would help switch greens with his uncle, Bob Goodwin - he was Head Greenkeeper at a course in Lichfield.

"I'm looking forward to seeing and speaking to American Superintendents about the way they do things and how they perceive the future of greenkeeping with global warming and reduced chemical use etc. I would like to thank BIGGA and sponsors Bernhard & Co in advance for choosing me as one of the delegation. I feel it is a great privilege to represent BIGGA at such an event," said Ian.



Name: Stephen Privett
Club: Alresford GC, Hampshire
Position: Course Manager
Age: 41

Steve ran his own landscaping business for seven years - redesigning and building gardens across the South of England - before taking a job as an Assistant Greenkeeper at South Winchester Golf Course in 1994.

Steve's highest qualification to date is his NVQ Level 3, although he has completed various NVQ's and spraying courses. While studying Steve was nominated by Sparsholt College for Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. He won the Regional Final managing to reach the last eight for the National Final, held at BIGGA HQ.

"I feel the chance to gain knowledge of the American industry would help me in the future to possibly work in the states for a while. I would hope to bring some ideas back from the states that I could use on my course in Hampshire. I will be looking for any educational opportunities for myself and my staff," said Stephen.



Name: Glenn Kirby
Club: The London GC, Kent
Position: Assistant Course Manager
Age: 30

Glenn's first greenkeeping job was in 1994 at Corhampton GC. Glenn studied turf to work on cricket pitches but after doing a placement year on a golf course he knew that was what he wanted to do.

Glenn has a National Diploma In Horticulture (Greenkeeping and Sports turf) from Sparsholt College, Hants and has also studied at Ohio State University through the Ohio State intern program.

"This trip will provide me with the opportunity to meet new people both from the UK and USA. It will also help me to keep up to date with the latest developments and give me an opportunity to learn. I'm really looking forward to visiting Anaheim," said Glenn.



Name: Rob Welford
 Club: Cleethorpes GC, Lincolnshire
 Position: Course Manager
 Age: 27

Rob has been in the greenkeeping industry for nine years and got into it by playing golf as a junior member at Cooden Beach GC in Sussex.

"After obtaining good GCSE and A level results I decided that I would never be good enough to play golf professionally, but wanted to work within the golf industry. After speaking to the Head Greenkeeper, which at the time was Stefan Antolik, I decided to embark on a three year HND in Golf Course Management at Reaseheath College. During the course I spent 12 months on placement at East Sussex National who offered me a full time position upon completion of the course. I spent 18 months there before moving to Cleethorpes as First Assistant. After 18 months at Cleethorpes I took over as Head Greenkeeper at Immingham GC for two years until I applied for the vacant Course Managers position at Cleethorpes in November 2005, which I now hold," explained Rob.

At present Rob has a HND in Golf Course Management and a PA1, 2, 6a-spraying certificates. He is currently working towards NVQ level 4 in Sportsturf Management and an A1 Assessors award.

Rob hopes that by going on this trip, he can gain an insight into the 'American Way' of greenkeeping and hopefully cement his opinion that British and traditional greenkeeping and greenkeepers, are the way forward.



Name: Paul O'Kane
 Club: Colne Valley GC, Essex
 Position: Acting Deputy Head Greenkeeper
 Age: 45

After 25 years working in the city Paul decided he wanted a career break and after taking nine months out to travel, he decided he wanted to get into an outdoor career - having had an interest in golf since he was a youngster, he decided to try and get into greenkeeping.

"I was lucky enough to find a job advert for summer greenkeeping at Five Lakes Resort and started there in May 2004," explained Paul.

After three months there he was offered a permanent post as trainee greenkeeper. He soon wanted to gain qualifications in the industry and studied up to NVQ 3 level while there. He then moved to Colne Valley GC in June this year and again has looked to further qualify himself while gaining more greenkeeping experience.

Mark completed his NVQ 3 while working at Five Lakes Resort and has also passed his PA1, PA2 and PA6.

"In September this year I started studying for a Foundation Degree in Sportsturf Science through Myerscough College and just last month I started training for my A1 and A2 assessor awards through Otley College," said Paul.

"I feel this trip will further educate myself. I will be able to view new products and will enjoy finding out about them. I will also be looking at the differences between greenkeeping operations here in the UK and those found in the USA and other parts of the world."



Name: Andrew de Wet
 Club: Staverton Park GC, Daventry
 Position: Deputy Head Greenkeeper
 Age: 25

Andrew got into the greenkeeping industry 10 years ago when he got a part time job at his local golf club during the school holidays.

"I am qualified to HND level in Golf Course Management and have an NVQ 2 as well as A1 and L12 assessor and trainer awards, and all spraying and chainsaw certificates," explained Andrew.

"I am looking forward to representing British Greenkeeping in America, building new contacts with our American counterparts and seeing how greenkeeping differs in America from Britain," said Andrew.



Name: Barry Crawford
 Club: The Carrick on Loch Lomond, Scotland
 Position: First Assistant
 Age: 26

Barry has been in the greenkeeping industry for 10 years and started his career at Prestwick GC. After five years there he moved to work for Loch Lomond GC for two years, before moving to America to work on the construction of Bayonne GC in New York and then to Augusta National GC for eight try months through the 2006 Masters.

"Going into the industry was a natural progression as I have always been interested in golf for as long as I can remember. I studied at Elmwood College and obtained an HND in Golf Course Management graduating 2000. I am currently working towards increasing my knowledge of managerial skills. I feel the trip will broaden my horizons throughout the industry - meeting greenkeepers of different Nationalities - and I will learn of the most advanced, up to date methods and technology," explained Barry.

"Since my current golf handicap is +2 I am also looking forward to hearing of golf courses throughout America."



Name: Roger Neale
 Club: Taunton & Pickeridge, Taunton
 Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
 Age: 25

Roger has been in the greenkeeping industry for 10 years. He was a keen golfer but realistic about his golfing ability and greenkeeping was the career that allowed me to work closely with the golf industry.

Roger is set to start his NVQ III this September and has already completed his CHE Golf Course Management and NVQ II Golf Greenkeeping, G3 Golf Management, A1 Assessor and various spraying certificates.

"Going to Anaheim will give me an insight into how the industry is run in the states while representing the Association. It will also enable me to share my gained knowledge and experiences with colleagues and fellow greenkeepers," said Roger.



Name: John Gubb
 Club: Bedfordshire GC
 Position: Course Manager
 Age: 31

John has been greenkeeping for 13 years. He started as a trainee at Ilfracombe GC when he left school at 18. John has also worked at East Sussex National GC in East Sussex and East Lake GC in the USA, before starting work at the Bedfordshire GC in 2000.

"I have a number of qualifications including NVQ levels 2 & 3, a National Diploma in Sports Turf Management. I also have PA1, PA2 & PA6, D32 & D33 qualifications.

"The trip will benefit me by meeting new people involved in our industry, also I hope to gain new ideas and techniques, including seeing all the new equipment at the show as well as learning something from the seminars," said John.

EDUCATION CONFERENCES

Along with the show, GCSAA, NGCOA and CMAA will be presenting their annual Education Conferences. GCSAA's conference will take place from February 19-24.





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What's your Number?

Name: David Mears
Company: Course Care
Position: Joint Managing Director



How long have you been in the industry?
"Around 15 years in this particular one."

How did you get into it?

"I met the previous owner of the company on holiday in Spain and he persuaded me to join the company."

What other jobs have you done?

"I was trained as a Marine Engineer and served in the Merchant Navy as an Engineer Officer - The most hairy moments probably being taking aviation fuel on a tanker into a war zone in Vietnam in the late 60's."

What do you like about your current job?

"As joint MD, there's never a dull moment as I'm kept pretty busy. The variety of work and the different contacts I make each day are rewarding, as too is being able to be a part in driving the company forward."

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

"Quite a lot of modernisation, an awareness of the need to meet demands of legislation and taking environmental responsibilities seriously. There is also a much more professional approach and, education and training are seen as key matters. Much has been done to support this by BIGGA and other professional bodies."

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"Mountain biking, walking, meals with friends (which includes barbecues as often as the weather permits!)"

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"As I'm 60 next birthday, retired should be the answer, but who knows!"

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

"That's a tough one! I have met such a lot of good folk, making friends with a number that it would be difficult to name all. They fall into three categories though, as they come from customers, suppliers and trade journals."

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

"Something I've not really thought about or been asked but 2, I suppose. Now I expect you want to know why? No. 2 has been on two of the three houses we have owned and there's two of us running the company and we get along well."

Pick a number.

"Well, I'm picking 2 of course!"

You've picked Colin Gregory from Massey Ferguson, do you know him?

"I met Colin for the first time during the Harrogate Week Steering Committee meeting on 7th June 2006. We introduced ourselves, exchanged business cards and had a pleasant chat. I think he was new to the team, as I was and I do recall his input during the meeting. But, I can't say that I really "know" him. I'm sure our paths will cross from time to time from now on!"

STAND
B47

Harrogate week



The new clip on blazer badges normally retail at £26 but will be available for the special price of £24 during the show

In the Shed

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

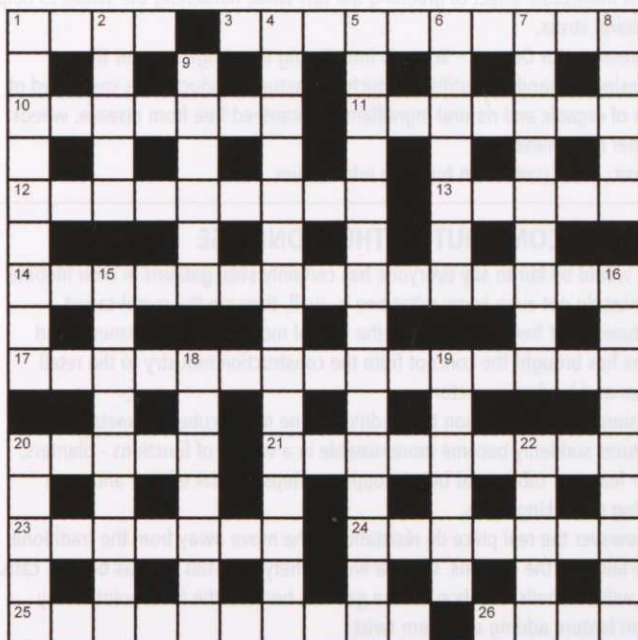
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 Form a bowed shape (4)
- 3 Maverick, breaking with tradition (10)
- 10 Flat region of highland (7)
- 11 Boss (7)
- 12 Informal military command to resume previous activity (2,3,4)
- 13 Wherewithal (5)
- 14 Phrase meaning that one should experience beauty at every opportunity (3,6,3,3)
- 17 1956 John Osborne play (4,4,2,5)
- 20 Flight support? (5)
- 21 Elaborateness (9)
- 23 Japanese paper-folding art (7)
- 24 Most important reincarnation of Hindu deity Vishnu (7)
- 25 Source of chocolate (5,5)
- 26 Fifth book of the New Testament (4)

DOWN

- 1 Assessment (9)
- 2 Song by Seal, reached No. 2 in 1990 (5)
- 4 School of French cookery using light sauces (8,7)
- 5 Fairy tale dwarf who destroys himself when his name is correctly guessed (15)
- 6 Word game based on guessing letters (7)
- 7 Ruthless (3-3-3)
- 8 Original name of Spanish town where sherry was invented (5)
- 9 In Greek mythology, woman who was transformed into a Gorgon (6)
- 15 Abnormally self-interested person (9)
- 16 Initial stages of, e.g., a project (5,4)
- 18 Female name which means strange, foreign (7)
- 19 Sour-tasting (6)
- 20 Unemotional, indifferent (5)
- 22 Concerned with a specific purpose (2,3)



ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 60

ANAGRAM

I wonder if you've made one of these?

LOONY TRUE WEARINESS

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Who won the first ever Grand Prix in Britain in 1950?
2. Which two drivers won a non-championship race at Reims in 1952 but would never win a proper World Championship Grand Prix?
3. Who had a 1993 album called 'Diva'?
4. On which record label was The Beatles 'Hey Jude' released?
5. What is Bono's (of U2) real name?
6. Which band did Ronnie Wood leave to join the Rolling Stones?
7. What is a Gopak?
8. How many races did Jim Clark win to wrap up the 1963 World Drivers Championship?
9. Which three drivers were tragically killed during the 1970 Grand Prix season?

SUDOKU

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

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

Supplied by www.dailysudoku.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

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



NEW PRODUCTS

GRASS MIXTURES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE REVEALED

Barenbrug is launching two new grass seed mixtures containing its unique Rhizomatous Tall Fescue (RTF). BAR 10 with RTF and BAR 30 with RTF have both been designed to provide greenkeepers and groundsmen with mixtures capable of withstanding the toughest weather conditions - from drought to waterlogging - with unrivalled recovery and superior wear tolerance.

For more information visit: www.barenbrug.co.uk



EROSION CONTROL OF FOOTPATHS, CART PATHS AND BUGGY PATHS

By the nature of their terrain, many golf clubs have slopes and embankments that have footpaths, cart paths and buggy tracks running down them. Unfortunately the inclement British weather can play havoc with the surface of these and any material laid down to prevent erosion is often washed to the bottom during heavy rainfall. Maintenance of these can be, therefore, very labour intensive.

Tenax have the ideal solution to this problem with their GridLock pavers. These are injection moulded cellular structures that hold the stabilising material in place preventing any further erosion.

Manufactured from HDPE, GridLock is resistant to oil, chemicals and extremes of temperature and has the strength to withstand loads in excess of 170 tonnes per square metre.

Visit: www.tenax.co.uk for more information.

WINTRY WEATHER

To accommodate changing spring weather patterns, Symbio has specifically developed ColdStart, a new low-volume concentrate total foliar nutrient package.

Freezing spring nights mean cold soil temperatures just as the playing season is getting started. Warmer daytime temperatures bring out golfers in numbers, leading to early heavy turf wear, on winter swards, conflicting with golfers expectations of quality playing surfaces.

Based on low soil temperature plant metabolism research, Symbio addresses this climatic problem by blending a full complement of major and micronutrients.

For more information contact: Kevin Munt or David Ward on: 01372 456101.



THE NEXT GENERATION OF FAST AERATORS HAS ARRIVED

Wiedenmann UK is launching the next generation of fast aerators and are unveiling three new i-series machines at Harrogate Week.

The new GXi is a dedicated greens and tees aerator incorporating Wiedenmann's revolutionary ATC technology, enabling it to work considerably faster than competitor machines without compromising quality.

The new XDi can aerate to a depth of 275mm (11") and is available with working widths of 1.6 and 2.1 metres.

Also featured is the XFi, which incorporates many of the new features of the GXi including less moving parts and less pivot points. This latest development of the machine that moved the goalposts in deep aeration is available with 1.6 and 2.1 metre working widths.

For more information visit: www.wiedenmann.co.uk

LATEST HI-TECH SOLUTIONS UNVEILED

Scotts is unveiling three new, high-tech turf products that deliver optimum nourishment, protection against stress, and ensure a beautiful-looking sward all year round.

Sierraform GT - This new product range contains both slow-release nitrogen and slow-release potassium, which create a unique dual effect, because nitrogen is delivered slowly, there are no growth spurts after application and the plant matures more evenly. The potassium ensures a stronger plant that is more resilient to external stresses such as cold, heat, drought and wear.

EffEffect - A new iron liquid containing seaweed that uses Scotts' slow-release technology to ensure a gradual release for up to eight weeks. It also gives an almost immediate effect of greening the turf while hardening the sward to help withstand stress.

Greenmaster Organic - Scotts is introducing this range to meet the increasing demand for fertilisers which use natural products. It is composed of a mix of organic and natural ingredients guaranteed free from disease, weeds or other contamination.

Visit: www.scotts.com for more information.



GABIONS COME OUT OF THE STONE AGE

It would be fair to say everyone has certainly seen gabions in their lifetime but most do not even know what one is, well, they are the metal caged structures most frequently seen at the side of motorway embankments and Stones has brought the concept from the construction industry to the retail garden and landscape sectors.

Using smaller sizes than the traditional one metre cube, the metal gabion structures suddenly become more useable in a variety of functions - planters, water features, tables and bench supports, steps, border edging and even housing to decking lights.

However the real pièce de résistance is the move away from the traditional stone filling of the gabions. Using a wide variety of in-fills such as bottles, cans, logs, willow, shells, bamboo etc the gabions become the focal point of any garden feature adding a modern twist.

For more information call Stones on Tel: 0845 230 0013 or visit: www.stones3.co.uk