

once in early summer and once in early autumn. In addition to the hollow tining, dryject machines were also used. The greens were also vent tined and hydrojected through out the summer to help improve gaseous exchange.

Summer Projects

Throughout the summer along with the regular course maintenance, a number of projects were taking place.

This included a substantial drainage project of fairways and approaches and the re-build of the 8th bunker.

The drainage project lasted for eight weeks, with the interns starting at 5.30 in the morning to lift the sod, number it and then move it away before the contractors started to install the drainage. Once the contractors had finished for that day, we then had to put all the sod back in the right place, water and then roll it. With only one hole being closed per day, it often meant that we were working until dark to get the hole ready for opening the next day.

The re-build of the 8th bunker involved working with one of Tom Fazio's designers to re-shape the face and shorten the total length making parts of the green more visible from the fairway allowing for more pin positions. Also the alterations were designed to improve the playability and make maintenance easier.

The total re-shape, including the replacement of the drainage system, liner, sand trapper and sand took just five days to complete.

Overseed

The overseed involves re-seeding the entire course with various different cool season grasses, with the exception of the greens which remain creeping bentgrass all-year round.

The process begins with raising the heights of cut to encourage vertical growth and discourage lateral growth. This is done to help provide a thinner sward to allow the seed to fall through the canopy and make contact with the soil.

During the last week of September the overseeding begins with all the areas being scalped down, and the fairways, tees and approaches being verticut. This process is done to create as many gaps in the canopy as possible and to reduce competition from the Bermuda.

The Species and rates are as follows:

- Tees – Fine Fescue@ 800lbs per acre (896kg per hectare)
- Approaches and collars – Fine Fescue@ 600lbs per acre (672kg per hectare)
- Fairways – Ryegrass@ 350lbs per acre (393kg per hectare)
- Rough – Fine Fescue@ 400lbs per acre (448kg per hectare)
- Shaded areas – Tall Fescue – as needed

Irrigation of the Overseed

The irrigation operating system at Quail Hollow is Toro VP Sitepro and the pump station is Flowtronex PSI with an operating pressure of 130 PSI. The total gallons per minute are 2250 (8516.25 litres).

During the overseed period it is important to keep the seed wet at all times, and as rainfall in Charlotte was very rare in 2007 the irrigation system was working overtime to keep the whole course wet.

Trying to water the entire course at least three times throughout the day, while avoiding play was challenging to say the least. To avoid putting too much pressure on the pump and to keep the correct operating pressure at each head, only 16 heads per 9 holes could be run at a time making the task even harder.

Winter Work

During the winter time, the work really slows down because of the weather. Typically we would have frosts in the morning but that would lift by mid morning. There is very little rainfall so the average winter day is cold and sunny with blue skies, much better than a cold wet winter in England!

During this winter, a lot of tree work was taking place due to the effect that the drought had on the pine trees. This included de-limbing any dead branches and removing dead or dying trees to help improve the health of the remaining trees and to reduce the risk of limbs falling on staff and golfers. This was done using a mechanical lift allowing us to get to the top of the trees, often over 60 ft high.

I would like to thank David Withers and his team at Ransomes Jacobsen in Ipswich for their scholarship and for all the kind support and help in getting me over to the States. Also I would like to thank Mike O'Keeffe at the Ohio State University, Jeff Kent and all the staff at Quail Hollow Club for making this such a beneficial and memorable experience for me.

About the Author

Tom Granite is Assistant Greenkeeper at Slinfold Park Golf & Country Club. He has a Foundation Degree in Sports Turf & Golf Course Management, and a BSc (Hons) Degree in Sports Turf Science & Management.



Tom Granite (left) and fellow Ohio State intern, Patrick Casey, de-limbing trees



Construction of the 8th bunker



Turf so good they'll all want to play.

Treatment with Primo MAXX® will create course conditions that are sure to impress the players and turf professionals who really know the difference between good turf ... and superior turf. Primo MAXX increases root and lateral growth creating a high quality surface of increased density which looks good, plays superbly and is more able to withstand stress.

Primo MAXX is a new liquid formulation that is easy to use and comes with a simple to follow season-long programme tailored for specific areas around the course and is compatible and easily mixable with other products.

To learn more about Primo MAXX please go to www.primomaxx.co.uk



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Website: www.greencast.co.uk & www.greencast.ie Technical Enquiries: 0800 169 6058 Email: customer.services@syngenta.com

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Primo MAXX programmes work to cut turf stress

Syngenta Technical Manager, Simon Barnaby, reports

Greater demands for consistent high quality playing surfaces throughout the summer put extra stress on both turf and turf managers. New techniques in Primo MAXX pre-stress conditioning have been shown to minimise the effects of heat and drought stress and keep turf in top condition.

UK cool season grass species struggle to cope when temperatures rise and soil water reserves fall. With a warming climate becoming a reality, turf managers are going to have to cope with increasingly stressful conditions. Staying cool and green when all around are burning up will make a real difference.

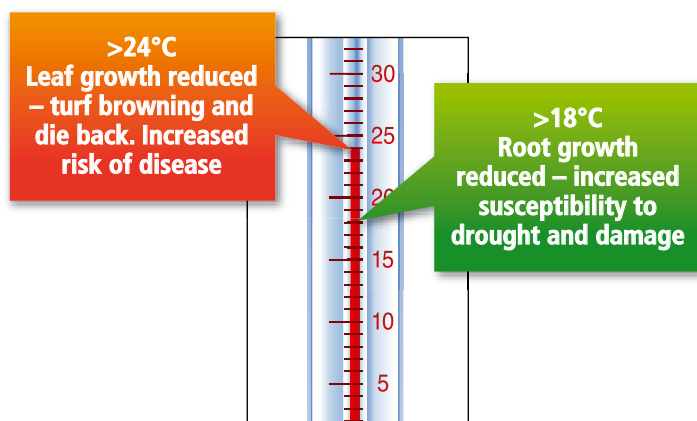
Staying green

Research trials and turf managers' experience on UK golf courses and sport pitches has consistently demonstrated the ability of a Primo MAXX programme to help turf withstand the effects of stress more effectively, and to recover faster.

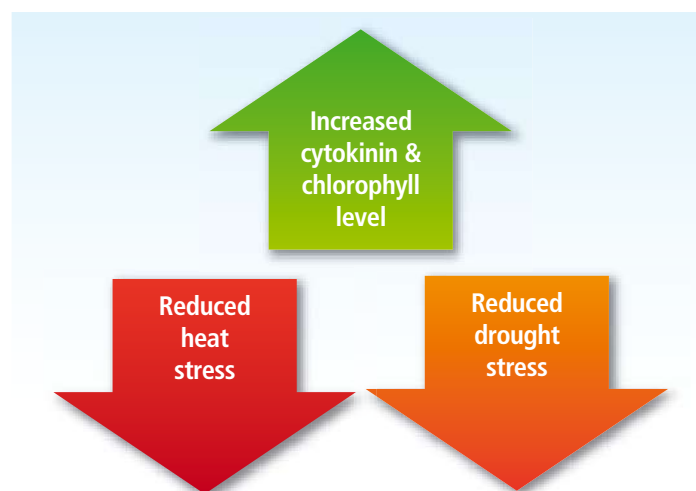
On a sunny day, the temperature within the turf grass canopy is often 7–10°C warmer than ambient air temperature, adding to turf stress. Studies have shown that temperatures above 18°C inhibit root growth and above 24°C reduce photosynthetic rates and decrease the chlorophyll content of cool season turf grasses, such as bents, fescues, ryegrasses and *Poa annua*. The net result is loss of colour, turf density and turf quality.

Under drought conditions Primo MAXX has been shown to increase leaf chlorophyll content by 60%.

*Source – Rutgers University



The presence of cytokinins in the plant has been shown to improve turf quality by delaying the degradation of chlorophyll caused by high temperatures and to alleviate leaf browning. Research has shown that Primo MAXX applications increase the level of bioactive cytokinins within the plant – improving tolerance to heat and drought induced stress.



Make better use of moisture

Research at Rutgers University has shown that only 3% of water taken up by turf grass is used in photosynthesis, with over 90% transpired by the plant. Primo MAXX has been shown to improve the turf plant's water management efficiency by reducing respiration rates and stomatal evapo-transpiration.

In trials under drought conditions Primo MAXX enhanced the photochemical efficiency of turf by over 75%, compared to untreated turf. The relative water content of the grass leaves remained a healthy 20% higher than untreated 28 days after treatment.

Healthier plants, with deeper rooting, are also better able to seek out available soil moisture and nutrients, and stay green and healthy for longer, as well as recovering faster from drought effects or traffic and wear stress from heavy play.

Turf managers' experience reports that a Primo MAXX programme can reduce irrigation requirements by 30%, whilst keeping turf greener and healthier for longer.

Pre-stress conditioning programme

- Start Primo MAXX programmes early in the season when grass growth has commenced.
- Tailor application timing to gain maximum benefit before key stress periods.
- Maintain use when stress periods end, to aid turf recovery
- For more information and examples of suitable Primo MAXX programmes visit www.greencast.co.uk



New Products



NEW WEBSITE

Kawasaki's recently created European Engines & Power Products Division has powered up a new website dedicated to its products and key distributors across the continent.

The first stage of the three-phase development went live recently to provide a definitive information resource for the Japanese manufacturer's stationary engine business targeting OEMs and power products ranges for the professional grounds-care markets.

It's part of the global engine manufacturer's strategy to step up its profile and business activities in both engine and power product markets across Europe.

i www.kawasaki-engines.eu

CLEANSTRIKE SHOWS IMPECCABLE GREEN CREDENTIALS

Not content with bringing to market what is claimed to be the 'first new golf consumable since the golf ball and golf tee', CleanStrike of Ireland have gone to great lengths to make it environmentally friendly as well.

CleanStrike believe the twin products of the golf club-cleaning wipe and sports shoe cleaning wipe offer the very best of disposable, value-for-money solutions to what is a drudgery but also a necessary task. The problem with the throw-away benefits of the demand society, however, is that disposable products are so often an environmental nightmare.

i +353 1 602 4710
info@cleanstrike.ie



MINI EXCAVATOR RANGE EXPANDS

Three new mini excavators designed to further enhance JCB's range of compact models for small contractors, plant hirers, landscapers and utility companies are set to be launched. The three machines include two versions of the new 8055 and the 8020.

Based on JCB's 8045 platform, the 8055 will be available as either reduced tailswing or zero tailswing and will compete in the 5-6 tonne sector. The machines will replace the existing 8052 in the JCB range and will go into full production during 2008.

A third new machine is the 8020, which will compete in the 1.9-2.3 tonne operating weight class. Based on JCB's 801 series of easier to service, easier to operate and more comfortable machines, the 8020 is positioned between the existing 8018 and 8025 models and is now in full production.

i 01889 590312
www.jcb.com



NEW PUTTER

Yes! has launched the Donna hybrid putter.

This hybrid putter is composed of two different materials. The face is made of aviation grade aluminum and the body is made of 304 stainless steel. The combination of a light face and heavy

back generates a high MOI. The design of the putter is a combination of a mallet and cavity-back blade design. The heel-toe balance makes it a very forgiving putter. The full offset shaft features a double bend and the cavity of the putter head has a single alignment line.

i 0113 255 4114
www.yesgolf.co.uk



PLENTY OF FEATURES IN A COMPACT PACKAGE

SkyCaddie has launched a new entry-level model to replace its hugely popular SG2.

With recent news that the PGA has sanctioned the use of GPS rangefinders in all its professional events this year, the new SG2.5 has been specifically designed to meet the inevitable surge in demand for SkyCaddies.

The 4.5in x 2.2in device is packed with features, including the patented IntelliGreen technology, which enables golfers to measure the full depth and exact shape of the green from any angle of approach - even from adjacent fairways!

Golfers get three precise measurements to the green - to the front, to the back or directly to the flag, which can be positioned anywhere on the green using the SG2.5's four-way thumbpad.

i 0870 112 0513
www.skycaddiegps.co.uk



GREEN AND WHITE FOR GREENER MOWING

With recycling a top priority for today's environmentally conscious gardener, Etesia has launched a new mulching facility as standard for their Bahia ride-on mower.

Now, Bahia can recycle as it cuts, chopping the clippings into extremely fine particles before returning them to the turf to decompose naturally. This mulch acts as a conditioner, feeding nutrients to the growing plants, plus its high water content provides essential moisture for the lawn during hot, dry spells. It's quick, clean, environmentally friendly and with no clippings to dispose of, mowing time is reduced - leaving users more leisure-time to do other things. Quicker mowing means less fuel and reduced emissions.

i 01926 403319
www.etesia.com



Salsco's Slicer/Seeder and Greens Roller

SLICER/SEEDER MAKES UK DEBUT

Salsco's Slicer/Seeder and Greens Roller will be imported to the UK by Equipment Supply Services, the Glamorgan-based machinery sourcing company that works in grounds care, landscaping, forestry, re-cycling and agriculture/horticulture.

Salsco's Slicer/Seeder is a truly 'all terrain' seeder, being able to work on slopes of up to 40 degrees and able to seed on the turn, which - combined with a 25 inch turning circle and great manoeuvrability - means it can work around trees, sprinkler heads, bunkers, flower beds and other obstructions.

i www.equipmentsupply.co.uk



NEW ANTI-SLIP INNOVATION

Gripclad provide long-lasting anti-slip solutions by using extremely tough GRP cleats. Resistant to corrosion, metal spikes, frost, impact, wear and tear. Ideal for wooden sleepers, walkways, footbridges, steps, even grass machinery.

i 023 8040 4952
www.gripclad.co.uk



BEDS AND BORDERS TOPSOIL

Rolawn has launched a topsoil specifically developed for beds and borders.

Beds and Borders Topsoil is a fertile, organic rich, light and friable topsoil, analysed to BS3882:2007, that contains a controlled release fertiliser and a water retentive polymer.

The controlled release fertiliser provides balanced fertility to promote healthy establishment of shrubs and plants. The water retentive polymer forms a water attractive film on the surface of the organic fibres in the soil that holds water and enables the fibres in the soil to absorb water and to release it gradually as the plant requires it, resulting in reduced water consumption, improved growth rate and enhanced root development.

i www.rolawn.co.uk



NEW LINE UP

For the 2008 season, Massey Ferguson's ride-on mower and garden tractor range encompasses:

- Seven tractor-mowers equipped with direct-collect mid decks in cutting widths ranging from 0.76m to 1.22m (30in - 48in), all with rear-mounted grass catchers as standard.
- Three rough-cut tractor mowers with side-discharge decks available in cut widths of 0.96m, 1.06m and 1.27m (38in, 42in and 50in), all fitted with mulch kits as standard.
- A 25hp garden tractor with 1.37m (54in) side-discharge cutting deck and optional mulch kit.
- A zero-turn rider mower powered by a 22hp V-twin engine and equipped with a 1.27m (50in) cutting deck.

i www.masseyferguson.com

THE GOLF BOOK

Sporting a fresh and modern design, The Golf Book is a celebration of all that is great about golf, from the ancient origins of the game to the most prestigious championships held today. The book profiles all of the greatest players, from the Grand Bear Jack Nicklaus to the Shark Greg Norman, as well as capturing the landmark moments in golf history.

i 020 70103000.





Last year's winning picture of The Duke's Course, Woburn taken by Michael Cunningham

SNAP HAPPY!

BIGGA's Golf Photography Competition is back

CALLING ALL BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Are you proud of your course? Do you catch yourself admiring it in a certain light?

The BIGGA Golf Photography Competition, back for its third year, creates an opportunity for greenkeepers to display their artistic flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.

The winner will receive a full course profile in Greenkeeper International, a trophy and a special prize, while the 12 best pictures will be selected for the 2009 BIGGA Calendar.

Photographs will be accepted in three forms. Prints (nine inch by seven inch), transparencies, or digitally (pictures MUST be at least 300 dpi and capable of being blown up to nine inches by seven inches in size).

Anyone wishing to enter should send their pictures to: [Scott MacCallum](#) or [Melissa Jones](#), BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York, YO61 1UF by July 31, 2008.

Alternatively you can email them to scott@bigga.co.uk or melissa@bigga.co.uk

Entries will be judged by Alan Birch, whose inspiration the competition has been; Professional Golf Course Photographer, Eric Hepworth, Golf Photographer, Matthew Harris and Scott MacCallum, Editor of Greenkeeper International.

Only BIGGA members are eligible to enter.

So come on...strike a pose!



Second prize went to Marek Zubert last year for this picture of Mount Juliet, County Kilkenny



Chris Sherrington took third place last year with his shot of Sunningdale Old

Seaweed Compact



A dried seaweed extract in soluble powder form to help improve shoot density, root growth and general plant health



- ❖ Enhances root growth, root mass and turf establishment
- ❖ Increases shoot density for better recovery and ground cover
- ❖ Aids young seed establishment by boosting early growth
- ❖ Boosts beneficial soil microbes so improving root health
- ❖ A 2kg tub covers up to 1 hectare
- ❖ Highly soluble formulation for efficient application and ease of use



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Letters

THE DISTURBANCE THEORY

On February 20, The East Section was host venue for a seminar organised by Rigby Taylor Ltd and The STRI. The venue was Ratho Park Golf Club and the topics covered were: The Thrill of Real Golf, The Disturbance Theory, Use of Growth Regulators and, preparations leading up to the 2007 Open Championship at Carnoustie.

The Guest Speakers were: Richard Windows, Henry Bechelet and Megan Hood, who all did a marvellous job in sharing their views and experience of effective Course Management with all in attendance. There was some cutting edge technical jargon used by the team such as “Chemification” and “Squiffing” so thanks for that I’m sure these terms will eventually become very popular when they reach north of the border.

There were 42 delegates in attendance, inclusive of our own Regional Administrator, and the feedback from most people has been very positive.

So firstly, thank you, most importantly to Rigby Taylor Ltd for sponsoring the event, special thanks to David Carson and his team for organising the event and ensuring its smooth running on the day. And secondly, thank you to everyone involved at Ratho Park Golf Club for agreeing to host this event and making sure we were made to feel welcome. Special thanks to Tom Murray for the time and support given to the event.

And finally thanks to everyone for attending the seminar - It was encouraging to see many East Section members on the day, hopefully we will meet again at the Spring Outing!

Stuart Ferguson
Scottish East Chairman

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everybody who took the time and effort to complete the questionnaire on Sustainable Golf Course Management. After a first look the results look very interesting. They are currently being analysed and will be disseminated back to the industry as soon as possible. If someone still has a questionnaire they’d like to send back then please do so.

The winner of the £50 M&S vouchers is Mike Garrett from Canterbury Golf Club.

Katie Walls
Lecturer in Sportsturf and NC Course Tutor
Myerscough College

HAMISH STEPHEN

It is with a heavy heart I write this letter about the tragic death of our good friend Hamish Stephen. Hamish was at Cruden Bay Golf Club where he worked for 18 years.

He worked his way up from assistant to deputy then to Headgreenkeeper/ Course Manager. Hamish passed away at the tender age of 44 years and he will be sadly missed by all his greenkeeping friends and also all the many friends he had in the trade. Hamish was a very well respected

greenkeeper and this was evident by all the people who attended his funeral at Aberdeen Crematorium.

His death has left all his friends in the North Section devastated by the speed of his illness and our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Elaine and the family.

Dale Robertson (North Section Secretary)

When I first heard of the death of Hamish Stephen I was stunned. I have known Hamish for almost 20 years during college training and through the green keeping fraternity. When I moved into the area to work at Royal Aberdeen Hamish was one of the first people to phone and welcome me to the north east and so our friendship continued.

I will always remember the football banter with Hamish as he was an ardent Rangers Fan and me being Celtic daft meant there was healthy debate about who was the best in Glasgow. The texts and phone calls from Hamish always came when the gheres were winning and he loved rubbing it in when they beat Celtic.

Hamish will be a sad loss to greenkeeping as he had a vast knowledge of the job and was very enthusiastic about what he was doing at Cruden Bay.

I will certainly miss the big fella as I’m sure will a lot of other people and my sympathy goes out to his wife Elaine and his young family.

Robert N Patterson
Course Manager
Royal Aberdeen GC

DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW GREENKEEPERS,

You will know by now that the proposal to purchase land to construct a golf course and clubhouse, which will serve as BIGGA Headquarters, was passed by a majority at the Harrogate AGM in January.

I hate begging letters but this is exactly what this is. For the project to materialise cash is required. Any small amount will be more than welcome, although a large donation would bring the purchase of land and our Dream Golf Course within our comprehension.

If the Section Secretaries could see their way to put the hat around at their meetings and golf competitions and send the cash to our HQ the fund will grow from hundreds to thousands “and then the sky is the limit”. I have directed this letter to Greenkeepers and Friends. We know out there in the wider field of our Profession we have many friends who are interlinked with us. In the past you have supported and backed us to the hilt on many occasions. We would again ask for your help that we go forward together to the benefit of all.

Cecil George
Life Member
Lenzie

**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR LETTERS TO SCOTT MACCALLUM,
SCOTT@BIGGA.CO.UK OR MELISSA JONES, MELISSA@BIGGA.CO.UK OR
POST TO: BIGGA HOUSE, ALDWARK MANOR, ALNE, YORK, YO61 1UF**



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.

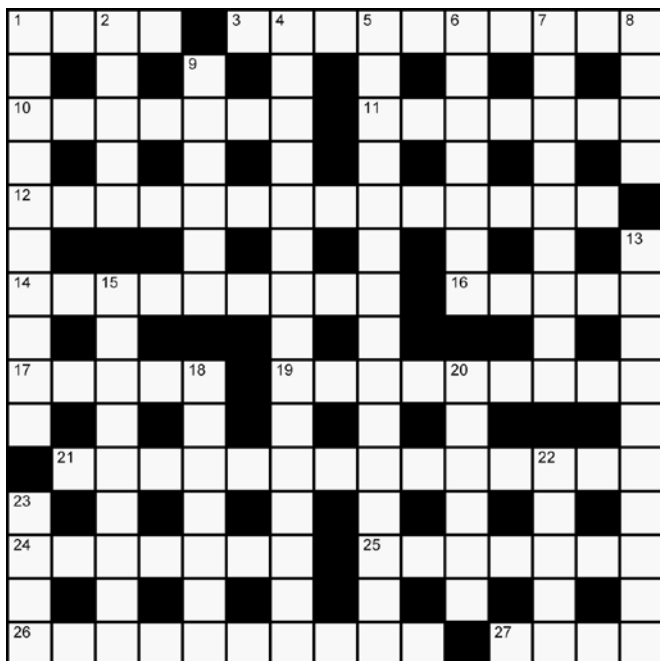
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Make way for pedestrians? (4)
- 3 Time's starting point? (3,4,3)
- 10 Belgian city on the river Scheldt (7)
- 11 Not equipped with weapons (7)
- 12 Futile pursuit of something unattainable (4-5,5)
- 14 In the early days of rail transport, a term for a locomotive (4,5)
- 16 Reject something with contempt (5)
- 17 Blows hard and noisily (5)
- 19 Person or situation which is potentially explosive (6-3)
- 21 Gambling game of Spanish origin (5-4,5)
- 24 Document which confers e.g. university degree (7)
- 25 Slender tower with balconies (7)
- 26 Mostly poisonous plant of the Solanum genus (10)
- 27 Dull noise of impact (4)

DOWN

- 2 Essential (5)
- 4 Ethical affirmation of the medical profession (11,4)
- 5 ITV's home camcorder compilation programme (5,4,6)
- 6 Indigenous Americans resettled in Oklahoma (7)
- 7 Something that disappoints after high expectations (4,5)
- 8 Put things in order (4)
- 9 Distance from start to finish (6)
- 13 Out of the blue (10)
- 15 Of clothing, made in standard size (3-3-3)
- 18 Make certain, ensure (3,2,2)
- 20 Expensive white fur obtained from type of weasel (6)
- 19 Country to which the word "Hellenic" is applied (6)
- 21 In architecture, a vertical supporting structure (4)
- 22 Foot division (4)
- 23 Supreme god of Norse mythology (4)

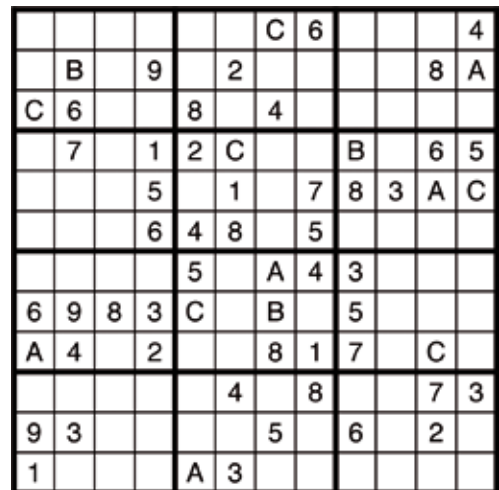


QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Barwick Green is the name of the title music to which show?
2. Why is the Golden Gate bridge painted plum colour?
3. Which island near Hong Kong is famous for gambling and motor racing?
4. What is the more common name for the type of bear called the Ursus Maritimus?
5. In what year did Pinky and Perky first appear on television?
6. In what year was the film Chitty Chitty Bang Bang released?
7. Who directed the 1976 film Taxi Driver?
8. What is the name of the character played by Robert de Niro in the 1976 film Taxi Driver?
9. What does MRSA stand for?

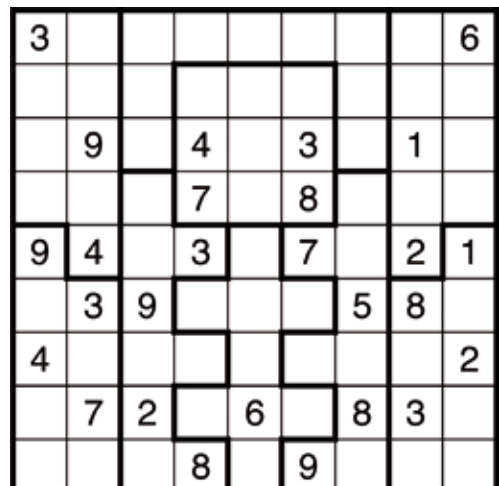
MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x4 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

It's all change this month at BIGGA House with the arrival of the builders whose task it is to convert the array of downstairs offices into one large open office. We are all dreading the nuisance factor but the overwhelming feeling is one of support for the project and the main disruption should only last for three to four days. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of April following which the GTC can move into part of the upper floor, bringing the two organisations much closer together but also bringing BIGGA some rental income to help offset overheads.

I seem to have done an excessive amount of travelling of late but it just happens to be that time of year when the industry takes advantage of a quieter time to host conferences. My latest visit, and last for some while, was to the Canadian Conference and Exhibition in Calgary. Coupled with this was an International Summit that attracted delegates from a variety of countries.

It was especially pleasing to meet Allan Devlin, from the Australian Association, who, as an ex-patriot of many years, found himself immediately at home in the company of the delegates from the UK and Canada. Ken Siems, Steve Isaac and our Chairman had all been invited over to give presentations that were very well received and that fitted well into the busy and informative schedule of education seminars that my counterpart, Ken Cousineau, and his staff had arranged. Our hosts could not have been more welcoming.

My personal thanks go to Ken Cousineau, Terry McNeilly, the CGSA Board and the great number of Canadian friends, too numerous to list, who made the trip a success not only for me but for the Association. The golf industry in the UK is going through testing times but these conditions are not confined to our shores. The same pressures are in evidence in Canada, Sweden and America and I wish Past President of the CGSA, Ian Martinusen and Dana, his wife, every success for the future. Ian was recently a victim of change at his golf club, in the same way that many have suffered in the UK, he has thankfully found employment as a technical representative.

While it is important that we develop strong relationships within the UK to try to protect and develop the better interests of our members it is also vital that we do not neglect the international aspect of the greenkeeping fraternity. There is much to learn from others as well as share our own experiences and there is no doubt about the fact that BIGGA is held in very high regard around the world. The international travel sounds wonderful and I do find it rewarding, both personally and for the Association, but it is also tiring, very demanding on home life, and the work back the office never disappears! I do what is necessary to promote the Association but the cynics among us will say that I would say that.

Finally I would like to wish Steve Mona every success in his new position as CEO of the World Golf Foundation based in Florida. Steve took over as CEO of the GCSAA 14 years ago and has been a great ally for BIGGA. I look forward to building on this relationship with Steve in his new role.

John Pemberton



SCOTTISH REGION – AYRSHIRE

Hello everyone, just a few items on the agenda for your perusal as we actually held a committee meeting at the end of February (crazy I know!).

Although not present at the Scottish National Conference myself last month, I have it on good authority that it once again was a resounding success and a well worthwhile event to have been in attendance at.

The Golf Club Secretaries versus Greenkeepers match will be contested at West Linton GC on Monday, April 14, so here's hoping they get a good day for it and the greenkeeper's prevail.

Troon Portland plays host to our Spring Outing on April 15. Tee times will be from 9:30am - be sure to get your form back to Derek quickly as I'm sure such a fine venue will attract an excellent turn out.

Derek Wilson's Irvine Bogside course will be the venue for this year's Scottish National Tournament on Monday, June 23. I'm sure the Ayrshire lads will be out in force to lay waste to the field and plunder the big prizes that day. I for one will be looking forward to playing one of the most challenging courses in the area.

The National Championship is to be played at East Sussex GC on October 13 and 14.

After a brief conversation with some of the West Section lads at Harrogate it was tentatively agreed to hold a rematch of the dramatic and thrilling football match we enjoyed a few year's ago in Glasgow.

Director of Football, Marshall Sloss, has taken on the responsibility of organising a fearless squad to give the West a torrid time of it. Anyone interested in playing should contact either Marshall or myself. It was only lack of fitness, subs and talent that let us down last time!

Our annual match against the County Down Greenkeeper's has been scheduled for Friday, September 19 at Duncan Gray's The Pines GC in Dumfries. Having lost the first two year's to the Irish lads I feel we jolly well need to roll our sleeves up next time and keep the Shield on Ayrshire soil. Give us a ring if you're up for it.

Ability to hold one's drink would be an asset to this event!

That's it for now. I'm off to watch the Boro destroy Cardiff as we march on to cup glory, just a pity we couldn't of got Man U or Chelsea in final!

Denis Tweddell
07939 104701 denis.t@hotmail.co.uk



CENTRAL

Congratulations go to Albert Arnott, currently the Head Greenkeeper at