



all headed down to the first tee in anticipation of a great day on the well-presented course (though I say so myself!). Months of intense preparation saw the course in fine fettle and there was an air of optimism on the tee as our determined group set about their business. The gloom cast by the heavy cloud cover was negated handsomely by the Christmas cheer being dispensed by the ubiquitous Vic Maynard and the Ernest Doe party bus.

Kev was doing his best David Bailey impression on the 1st tee taking photos of each group before the off. These shall all be adorning our webpage by now so have a look. After a couple of holes the threat of rain lifted and we were all able to take advantage of the now ideal conditions. High scores were the order of the day for most but, ultimately, none could come close to matching that of our website guru, Danny Stunt, whose winning score of 48 points off of a 24 handicap was nothing short of daylight robbery! Worryingly, that's two years running that a 48 point total has taken the prize!

Full results as follows: 1. Danny Stunt, Chislehurst; 2. Paul Rudkin, Sundridge Park; 3. Russ Bain, also Chislehurst - They obviously get a lot of time off to practise!).

After a great game an equally great Christmas dinner followed served by Birchwood's finest. Our AGM followed and I would like to thank Peter Todd for joining us at this point to explain the proposed constitutional changes to our Association. The rest of the AGM was whizzed through by Kev with the status quo being preserved for another year. A fun raffle with some very comical, seasonal prizes ensued raising plenty of laughs (see website photos!).

At the end of the night everyone who attended was given a bottle of wine together with next year's fixture card with details of another five events for you to enjoy. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success, Birchwood management for their hospitality, the waitresses, my guys on the course and all our sponsors for providing so much to keep our Section alive and well.

Lastly, I'd just like to wish you all the best for the coming year and hope to see some of you at Harrogate, if not at Walmer & Kingsdown, on March 19.

Best of British as always guys.
Rob Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.co.uk



ESSEX

What a day! We ended the season as we started at Upminster with rain. The Essex Golf & Country Club hosted the Christmas Progressive Stableford and AGM. The day started with heavy rain, which dampened the course, so much so that at 9.30am half an hour before we were due to face the shotgun start the greens were flooded. But it eased as we left the confines of the clubhouse and rain in the wind was all we had to contend with for the first holes, after that the day turned out quite well with the opportunity to discard the waterproofs and swing the club around a bit better.

The golf was interesting and entertaining due to the format of two scores counting on the first six, three on the second six and all four on the final six - with par for the team being 108.

The AGM was held after the golf and was attended by around 65 members and Guests and our Sponsors. The proceedings were chaired by Don Clark our out-going Chairman who was later returned to the position for another year. Don thanked all of the Committee, our sponsors and Clive Osgood for their support over the past year. He also congratulated all of the

winner of our Section competitions and the Pairs Knockout, plus our teams that represented the Section at National level and the team that played the Surrey and Sussex Sections in the annual three-way battle.

The Treasurer, Tom Smith, announced that we had made a small profit over last year but the end of year audit is early and not a true representation of where we are really at. We still had two Section events to run and our new Seminar - the money for these should really be out of the 2008 accounts. So we do not have as much in the coffers as would appear. He hopes that the 2009 season will attract the same if not more sponsors for our Section, as we would like to run a bigger education seminar in our 2009 season.

Antony Kirwan, our Competition Secretary, stated that we had had a good turn out of members throughout the year but we will try next year to encourage more to both join and play in our matches. Next season we are to play at the following courses. spring: Colne Valley, summer: Burnham-on-Crouch, autumn: Cannons Brook, winter: Stapleford Abbots, Christmas: Orsett. Antony expects the tee off times to be a bit earlier next season due to the late evening finishes and as most of our members have early starts the next day the committee feels that the earlier starts would be better for everyone. We intend to send five members to the National Championship later this year, the format of how we select the players will be decided at our next committee meeting (watch this space).

Clive Osgood outlined the proposed changes to the constitution to be put forward at the National AGM; these he stated were available to read in last month's Greenkeeper International. He thanked the committee for their hard work over the past year.

All members were last year elected for a two year term so after Don Clark was returned as Chairman for a further year and there was no any other business the meeting was closed and dinner was served.

There were after dinner speeches and thanks to the Essex Golf and Country Club for entertaining us for the day, Chairman Don thanked the club, Food & Beverage Manager, Chris Hill, and Chef, Kelly Smith, for a fine meal, and for looking after us so well. Seniors' Captain, Ray Mabbut, replied for the club, he was joined by his Vice Captain, Roger Farson - they both accompanied Course Manager, Martin Forrester, in his team on there own course, having dined with them I know that they enjoyed the day and Ray spoke very well of his adventures in I think to him a new format of play.

After the speeches Ray presented the prizes to the winners. Spring Trophy at Upminster - Richard Linin, Summer Trophy at Warley Park - Antony Kirwan, Autumn Trophy at Three Rivers - Sam Anderson, Winter Trophy at Bentley - Andy Cracknell, and the Matchplay Knockout - Mark Stopps/Mark Keysell. Trade Golfer of the Year went to Mark Keysell (Rigby Taylor) and Golfer of the Year - Antony Kirwan.

There then followed the presentation of the Christmas winners: 1. Bentley - Mark Stopps, Neil Peachey, Dennis Johnson, Alan Levett; 2. Channels - Richard Dunmow, Malcolm Smith, Kyle Smith, Nick Tutton; 3. Orsett 2nd Team - Jeff Taylor, Stuart Rodger, Michael Hockley, Richard Herring.

The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin were both won by Daniel Hughes, Forrester Park.

Thank you again to The Essex for a nice day.

Next season I'm hoping to have a new look website for you, so watch out for that.

Please contact me at essexbigga@talktalk.net
or call me on 01206 852353/07764862337

www.essexbigga.co.uk

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer



Around the Green



SOUTH WEST & WALES REGION - SOUTH WEST

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope that the new "email invite" system worked for everyone last year, and you all got an invite to the Christmas Tournament okay. Please can anyone who didn't get an invite let me know so I can add your name to the lists. Similarly, if you change Providers or Addresses - again, please let me, and Justine at HQ, both know.

Might I suggest a New Year's Resolution for us all - visit another club nearby to you, where the greenkeepers may not be active members, tell them exactly what's on offer here in the South West, and persuade them to come to at least one meeting this year. Tell them that there is a committee of local greenkeepers - who are giving up their time and working hard to improve conditions, status, stature, and prospects within their industry. Tell your friends - it can't be done alone - full support is needed, now more than ever. Join your Association and support the industry.

Thanks and congratulations to Jane Jones, Chris Sealey, and all the Regional Board for the excellent Regional Seminar at Cannington, back in November last year. The STRI "Disturbance Theory" guys were on top form - and I certainly felt a lot less disturbed by the end. The theory has evolved significantly in a year, and I was really glad I attended. It was also very nice to see John Pemberton and Tracey Maddison join us for the day, and it was interesting to hear John explaining how the Association needs to move forward, and how we all need to carefully consider the future direction.

Further Excavator Safety Training days are available in the New Year, as are Chainsaw Training Courses. Do please let me know any other issues or training that you would like covered or arranged.

A Section Seminar is planned for early March featuring major industry issues. Watch this space!

And finally - Back at 'Minch we've had yet another break-in at the New Course - (three in 18 months now). The work's mobile rang at 9.30pm on a Monday night - I should've known better than to answer but rashly picked it up without thinking.

Yep - it's the alarm monitoring company - the New Course greenshed intruder alarm's gone off and as the named keyholder, could I get over there and sort it out. My sons and I jump into the car and drive straight there. When we arrive, we pull down to the sheds - pitch dark in the middle of the golf course, and can immediately see (a - the door's been forced open, (b - the alarm box's been smashed off the wall, and (c - the lights are on inside. As we turn the car, the lights inside the shed promptly go off. Ah...

Had it been at home - we might've attempted to storm the building - however as it's at work - we retire to a safe distance up in the main car-park and dial 999 on the car phone. The police come on immediately saying there's been a rash of break-ins that evening and they're very stretched, but the helicopter's in the air and it'll be sent to the area asap. "Stay on the line in case there's a problem," ordered a terse voice. "Wow" we think, suitably impressed. Within a couple of minutes we can indeed see the helicopter - the only slight snag being it appears to be hovering over the Old Course (four miles away). We check on the phone - postcodes and all. The response is at once patronizing and insistent - "Of course we're in the right s*dding place - and the helicopter can see a single person making off on a pushbike". "We've got some ground forces moving in - is anyone authorised to be in the immediate vicinity of your premises at this time of night?" "No certainly not" we chime - "don't let him get away".

Things got a little blurry after that - we could clearly hear the slow rhythmic

tick-tick-tick of a bicycle being ridden carefully into the night, which was harshly interrupted by the multiple slamming of car doors, the hasty drawing of truncheons, and someone yelling "There he is Lads - GO - GO - GO!!" (By now there's the sound of panting and heavy running footsteps, and the bicycle's suddenly going tick tick tick tick tick). This was followed by the muted sounds of a scuffle, and someone screaming - "place the shopping bag on the ground, and move away from the bicycle!" followed a little less certainly by - "keep the walking stick where I can see it".

At this point a new, forceful, and outraged voice was heard bellowing phrases such as "Young Whippersnappers" - "Dunkirk" - "El-Alamein" - "Why did we bother?" - "Dinner with the Chief Constable" - "MP" - and - "My Solicitor...." Finally we hear a sheepish "Well - ahem - thank you for your assistance with our enquiries sir - do enjoy the remainder of your ride home".

With that the voice comes back on the line - "The New Course you say?" "Yes" we chorus wearily giving the postcode yet again. Within seconds, the helicopter's overhead and no less than seven squad cars come screeching into the car park, and completely ignoring us trying to direct them, disperse all over the golf course in mainly the wrong directions in a spray of mud and loose grass - before someone reverses back into the car-park and asks us where the buildings are. Just when we thought things were settling down, the dog unit arrived complete with baying Alsations and Rambo in control. It was difficult to tell who galloped into the sheds the faster (scattering valuable Forensics and DNA everywhere) - Rambo, or the dogs.

Unsurprisingly, by this time the villains were nowhere to be seen.

Have a very peaceful New Year and enjoy Harrogate Week. If anyone has some proper news - please, let's have it!

Paul Worster paulw@mgcnew.co.uk



DEVON & CORNWALL

Hello everyone, hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful Christmas. With another year underway one of my initial thoughts is that we have a drier more seasonal summer generally as the last three have been somewhat wetter than average!

The 12th was the date of our November meeting at Bowood Park Golf Club at Lanteglos, on the edge of Camelford in Cornwall. The weather was very pleasant, somewhat surprisingly as recent days had been mainly rainy ones! The course was presented in an excellent condition by Rob Cook, Course Manager and his team, with the fairways - I'm sure Rob won't mind me mentioning, surprisingly dry and firm given the recent weather, a credit to him and his team! I myself normally play golf but on this occasion was unable to get there early enough so I caught up with the course walk at the greenkeepers complex.

Barenburg and Cornwall Farmers sponsored the day and the golf was won by Tony 'Jacko' James, Head Greenkeeper, Killiow Park, 39pts; 2. Richard Antenen, Bigbury GC, 35pts; 3. Richard Shapland with 31pts. The winner of Nearest the Pin was Jim Sheehan, Head Greenkeeper, Truro GC, and Shaun Warren won the Longest Drive.

A big thank you to Bowood Park and all the staff, especially the caterers for the wonderful meal!

A special thank to George Sheils, our guest speaker for the day, for his 'How to keep your course open during wet weather' topic on the course walk and 'How Green's staff can help your club survive the credit crunch' speech after our meal.

Thank you to Graeme for a successful 'Communication' course, and thank



you to Launceston GC for the free use of their facilities, the feedback was very positive but a shame more senior greenkeepers didn't take advantage, especially considering the low cost. A reminder the spring workshop will be held at St Mellion Golf Complex on March 4 on the subject of Machinery set up, fault diagnosis, health and safety and a grinding practical and theory session. If there are any subjects you would like covered please contact Graeme or myself.

Jerry Cole 07764 224582 greenwaysjrc@aol.com



SOUTH WALES

Hello everyone. Hope you all had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. A quick update, Henry Stead who has been writing for this column has been very busy recently and has passed the responsibility on to me, so a big thank you to Henry for the work he has done in the past.

Ok, firstly the Christmas competition, which was held, as is the tradition, at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club. The weather held off to enable a reasonable turn out to play on a golf course that was in superb condition. Well done to Paul (PJ) Johnson and his staff for all their hard work.

The results were: 1. Andy Roach, Haverfordwest GC, 33pts; 2. Darryl Bray, Morriston GC, 30pts; 3. James White, 29pts. The silver salver prize for best scores throughout the season was one by Andy (I'll have to get a bigger mantelpiece) Roach. Nearest the Pin was won by Alan Abel (who narrowly beat Andy Roach's shot) and the trade prize, for which Andy thankfully doesn't qualify, was won by Peter Holstrom.

One of the golfers playing that day was Ian Kinley, who has recently been appointed as Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. Ian announced his arrival in Wales by blasting a huge drive down the 18th to win the Longest Drive competition. Croeso i Gymru Ian! Welcome to Wales.

A big thank you to the sponsors for the day, namely Vitax, who have sponsored this event for as long as I can remember. To Joe Crawley, UK Sales Manager for Vitax, for taking the time to think of different prizes every year. This year it was cases of wine that Joe thought would make people forget about the credit crunch, and everything else for that matter!

Thanks again to Paul and his team for the excellent golf course, to P & K's Captain, Mr Jeff Vincent, for attending and presenting the prizes, to Pam and her staff for the excellent Christmas dinner and to Julian Bartlett-Jones for being a more than capable MC.

On the education front, the winter series of lectures starts again in January, details of which will be sent to you shortly. Your support is vital for their continuation so get yourselves down there! If you require a lift - phone a rep!

A get well soon message now to an old colleague of mine, Andy Matthews at Mountain Ash Golf Club. Andrew has been fighting the big 'C' for a few years and just when he thought it was gone it came back with a vengeance, leading to major surgery in 2008. So get well soon Andy, and when you are well enough to return to work, have Phil Huish give you some easy jobs to do i.e. the ones he normally does!

Also get well soon to Gary Humphries at Llanwern Golf Club. Not sure what's wrong with him but the words 'two bricks' was mentioned.

Thanks to all our sponsors for the golf events of 2008. Here's to seeing you all again in 2009.

Ceri Richards celticceri@aol.com 07831168645

The Social Night

An evening of fun and games

Las Vegas-style
showgirls

FREE Casino


FREE Games



Drinks
Promotion

All for £25
(including meal!)

Tuesday 20th January 2009...7pm until 10.30pm
at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

To purchase a ticket, call BIGGA on 01347 833800 

BIGGA's Regional Administrators



Peter Boyd
SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440
Mobile: 07776 242120
Email: pj.boyd@btinternet.com



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
Tel: 01476 550115
Mobile: 07866 366966
Email: petelarter972@aol.com



Clive Osgood
SOUTH EAST
Tel: 01737 819343
Mobile: 07841 948410
Email: cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk



Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST & WALES
Tel: 01454 270850
Mobile: 07841 948110
Email: janejones1@btconnect.com

BUYERS' GUIDE

"THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS BAD WEATHER, JUST THE WRONG CLOTHES"

Whoever uttered those insightful words might well have been a greenkeeper. Cold, wet, windy or muddy conditions need not stop the well kitted-out greenkeeper from getting on with the job. Often, it is during extreme weather conditions when so much greenkeeping work can be carried out without the nuisance of golfers on the course. But having the right clothing and footwear is not just about getting the work done; just as importantly, it is about keeping the greenkeeper dry, warm, comfortable, healthy and safe.

For winter and wet weather work, probably the two most important pieces of greenkeeping kit are a good set of waterproofs and some sturdy waterproof work boots. The old adage that "you get what you pay for" applies here, just as it does in so many things. Purchasing the right standard of gear should be regarded as an investment; it will mean that your greenkeeping team will stay healthier, happier, be more effective in their work and lose less time to illness. For sure, this is one of those times when prevention is better than cure!

A suitable waterproof jacket should be long enough to sit on; this will mean that when bending or sitting, the wearer's lower back and waist will be well covered. The fabric must be tough enough (tough does not have to mean heavy) to withstand contact with gorse or brambles and it should be breathable so that the wearer remains comfortable even under the most energetic working conditions. The fit and construction of the garment must allow for ease of movement and the capacity to accommodate other layers underneath for colder weather. An integral hood is an important extra for extreme wet weather. Over-trousers should demonstrate the same waterproof and breathable characteristics as the jacket and should have an adjustable waist plus zipped leg cuffs to allow for easy putting on and removing over boots. Most over-trousers will slip down a little during work and for safety reasons it is wise to consider wearing braces to prevent trousers dragging on the ground.

Two of the most popular sets of waterproofs with greenkeepers are the Hogg's of Fife top-of-the-range Working Climate Gore-Tex®, favoured for so long by the St. Andrews Links Trust and so many prestigious courses throughout Great Britain and Ireland, or Hogg's Professional Green King waterproofs. Hogg's of Fife is unique in Europe in producing a specialist range of clothing and footwear for greenkeepers. You can visit Hogg's stand (A13) at Harrogate Week or contact the company directly for a copy of its catalogue.

Hogg's of Fife Ltd.
Tel. 01334-653733
www.gkwear.co.uk



AERATION

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



Garfitts
INTERNATIONAL LTD
For better penetration
TINES'R'US
Order on-line:
www.tines.co.uk
email: sales@tines.co.uk
Tel: 0114 2513344

Use Airforce
Advanced Terralift technology
Relief of
compaction and
waterlogging
Aeration
to one
metre depth
TERRAIN AERATION
T: 01449 673783 F: 01449 614564
email: terrainaeration@aol.com
www.terrainaeration.com



AGRONOMY

PJA
Peter Jones Associates Ltd
COURSE CONSULTANTS AND AGRONOMISTS

- Agronomy
- Budget forecasting
- Course improvements
- All Greenkeeping matters
- Staff training and recruitment
- Design and project management

www.pja-golf.co.uk
Tel: 01525 280573 Mob: 07803 729470
Email: pjassociates@clara.co.uk
65 Crow Lane, Hasborne Crawley, Beds. MK43 0XA.

**B Jamieson
Golf Advisors Ltd**
Bruce Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd, is an established company offering expert advice on:

- Golf Course maintenance
- Tournament preparation & presentation
- Machinery selection
- Budgeting
- Staff recruitment
- Soil & turf analysis
- Establishment of new golf courses

Contact: Bruce Jamieson
Forth House, Bracknell Lane, Hartley Wintney, Hants, RG27 8QP
Telephone: 01252 844847
Email: bruce.jamieson@btconnect.com www.bjgolf.co.uk

ALL WEATHER SURFACES

Huxley Golf
PREMIER ALL-WEATHER SURFACES FOR GOLF



Huxley all-weather practice tee at St Andrews Links Golf Practice Centre and Golf Academy.

For top quality practice tees, golf course tees, putting & chipping greens, pathways, cart tracks, patios and lawns, all professionally planned and installed, please call: 01962 733222,
email: sales@huxleygolf.co.uk or visit:
www.huxleygolf.com

PGA
Official Supplier

ARTIFICIAL GRASS

SALE

All types of artificial grass
From £7.00 a sq metre

IDEAL FOR
PATHWAYS • CART PATHS
TEE BEDS • FAIRWAYS ETC
(UK delivery service)

0845 22 11 345
www.grasstrader.co.uk




ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250**
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,
full colour, please call
Kirstin on 01347 833 832
or email
kirstin@bigga.co.uk

ARTIFICIAL GRASS

VERDE SPORTS LIMITED

TEES
Verde Tee Turf Driving Mats
Selection of sizes and qualities available

PATHWAYS
Spoke Resistant Verdeturf & Super Verdegass

PUTTING
Adventure Golf & Practice Putting Greens

ACCESSORIES
Rubber Tees, Net Cages and much more!

Tel: 01254 831666 Fax: 01254 831066
Email: sales@verdeports.com
www.verdesports.com www.artificialgrass.org.uk

CONSTRUCTION

MJ ABBOTT LIMITED

- GOLF COURSE & SPORTSGROUND CONSTRUCTION
- RENOVATION & MAINTENANCE
- IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
- LAND DRAINAGE SCHEMES
- WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Tel. 01722 716361
www.mjabbott.co.uk

DRAINAGE

Traditional drainage and Lytag banding of greens and fairways

North Staffs IRRIGATION

Tel: 01785 812706
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com
www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk

DRAINAGE

PHILIP DIXON Contractors Ltd Est. 1978 Sportsturf Drainage Specialists

Golf Course • Sportsfield
Drainage • Construction • Renovation
Slitting/Banding • Vertidrainning
Groundbreaker • Sand Master
Topdressing • Overseeding
Spraying • Cultivation

Tel: 01772 877289
Fax: 01772 877479 (Preston, Lancs)
www.dixon drainage.co.uk

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250**
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,
full colour, please call
Kirstin on 01347 833 832
or email
kirstin@bigga.co.uk

Delta Golf 2000 Limited

Construction • Remodelling
Water Features

Tel: 01604 468908
Fax: 01604 474853
www.deltagolf2000.co.uk
180 Ruskin Road, Kingsthorpe,
Northampton NN2 7TA

Turfdry

Golf Course Drainage
Survey / Design / Installation / Greens /
Fairways / Bunkers / Complete Courses
Plastic Pipe / Turfdry Drainage System

For fast and friendly Nationwide Service

Contact Melvyn Taylor: 01283 551417
07836 259133 / melvyn@turfdry.com
www.turfdry.com

Harrogate week

EDUCATION
18 - 22 January 2009

EXHIBITION
20 - 22 January 2009

www.harrogateweek.org.uk

ANTI - SLIP

GRIP CLAD
ANTI-SLIP STAIR & FLOOR SURFACES

GRP Anti-Slip Cleats

www.gripclad.co.uk
Email: enquiries@gripclad.co.uk
Tel: 023 8040 4952
Fax: 023 8040 2563

John Greasley Specialists in Golf Course Construction

JOHN GREASLEY LIMITED
"Ashfield House" • 1154 Melton Road
Syston • Leicester • LE7 2HB

Tel: 0116 269 6766
Mobile: 07836 553899
Fax: 0116 269 6866

Duncan Ross LTD
Sportssturf Drainage Specialists

DESIGN : INSTALLATION : MAINTENANCE
Pitch Construction : Piped Drainage Systems
Sand Slitting : Blec Vibro Sand Banding
Koro Surfacing : Vertidrainning : Topdressing : Overseeding

Appley Bridge, Wigan, Lancs WN6 9DT
01257 255321 01257 255327
office@duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk
www.duncanrosslanddrainage.co.uk

ADVERTISE HERE
from as little as **£250**
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,
full colour, please call
Kirstin on 01347 833 832
or email
kirstin@bigga.co.uk

CLOTHING / FOOTWEAR

Hoggs of Fife
FAMOUS SCOTTISH GREENKEEPER WEAR

Europe's Leading Suppliers of
Clothing & Footwear for
Professional Greenkeepers

CONTACT US FOR FREE CATALOGUE
Tel. 01334 653733 Fax. 01334 653553
sales@hoggs.co.uk
Online Store Opening Soon

DRAINAGE

SPEEDCUT CONTRACTORS LTD

SPORTSTURF
Construction
Drainage
Renovation
Sandslitting

Contact: Kevin Smith
OXFORD 01865 331479

Scotland Based

Meiklem Drainage Contractors Ltd
Sportsturf Drainage Specialists

Golf Courses - Sportsfields
Drainage * Construction
* Slitting/Banding

Contact Meiklem Drainage on:
T: 01383 830217
M: 07808 897 300
E: Meiklem@btopenworld.com

GRINDERS

HG HUNTER GRINDERS
CUTTING EDGE PIONEERS

Tel: 01207 270 316
email: admin@huntergrinders.com
www.huntergrinders.com

BUYERS' GUIDE

IRRIGATION

AUTOFLOW SYSTEMS LTD



The independent choice for irrigation:
DESIGN : SUPPLY : INSTALLATION

Tel: 01603 759701
sales@autoflowsystems.co.uk

PAR4 IRRIGATION LTD

Independent Professional Irrigation, Golf Courses, Bowling Greens, Sports, Racecourses, Gardens

- Design/Advice
- New Installations
- Contracting
- Supply & Sales
- Servicing
- Service Contracts
- System Upgrades
- PC Systems

Tel. 01765 602175 or 01765 690598
Fax 01765 603488
Email: sales@par4.co.uk
www.par4.co.uk

TORO Area Dealer

Design
Installation
Service
Irrigation supplies

North Staffs
IRRIGATION



Tel: 01785 812706
E: NSirrigation@aol.com
www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk

TORO **Hunter**

LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS

LINERS



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

Comprehensive advice regarding design and construction of water areas

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

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250** for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**, full colour, please call **Kirstin on 01347 833 832** or email **kirstin@bigga.co.uk**

OAKDALE



T&G IRRIGATION

Phone: 01427 874200
Fax: 01427 875333

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

TIME TO TALK
www.bigga.org.uk

PUMPS

ITT Lowara

Lowara Quality Pumps & Variable Speed Drives.

T: 01297 630230
F: 01297 630270
E: lowaraukenquiries@itt.com
www.lowara.co.uk

Engineered for life

Topturf

Irrigation Specialists in:
Design, Supply, Installation & Service Support.
Offering Toro, Hunter, Rainbird products and Otterbine Aeration Fountains.

0870 8720081
www.tfirrigation.co.uk
Toro & Otterbine Contractor of the year 2006

TORO

To advertise within Greenkeeper International please contact Kirstin on **01347 833 832** or email **kirstin@bigga.co.uk**

Advertising rates:
1/4 page - £570
1/2 page - £790
Full page - £1500

Harrogate week

EDUCATION
18 - 22 January 2009

EXHIBITION
20 - 22 January 2009

www.harrogateweek.org.uk

RUBBER CRUMB

The use of RUBBER CRUMB on grass as top dressing has been granted a PATENT in the UK and Ireland under Number EP0788301B1

TEBBUTT ASSO. ARE THE LICENSEES with CROWN III rubber crumb Turf Reinforcement, the licensed product

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

Harrogate week

EDUCATION
18 - 22 January 2009

EXHIBITION
20 - 22 January 2009

www.harrogateweek.org.uk

TORO Irrigation

NO NEED TO SPLASH OUT

Call Lely: 01480 226858 or email: irrigation.uk@lely.com
www.toro.com

IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS

irritech limited

Independent Irrigation Consultants

Specialising in:-

- Existing system evaluation
- System design & upgrade
- Project management

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

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250** for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**, full colour, please call **Kirstin on 01347 833 832** or email **kirstin@bigga.co.uk**

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

TIME TO TALK
www.bigga.org.uk

SLEEPERS

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

Quality Guaranteed

- New or used
- Hard or softwood
- Crossing timbers

Fineturf Products
TEL: 01702 338686

TREE MOVING

Garstang Golf Club

TREE MOVING SERVICES

Call John on:
07718 782146

TREE CLEARANCE

TURF

Tillers Turf

growers of fine turf

Specialist Growers of Turf for Golf Courses

Rootzone Turf for Greens
Grown on USGA rootzone, top-dressed throughout the year, and mown at 6mm.
Predominantly bent sward

Turf for Tees, Surrounds, Approaches and Fairways
Various mixtures including ryegrass/fescue, 100% fescue, and bent/fescue grown on sandy loam topsoil.

NEW for 2009
Turf for bunker revetting and bunker lining.
Tees supplied and laid, with optional laser grading.

Tel: 01652 678 000
www.tillersturf.co.uk

VERTIDRAINING HIRE

Green Farm Turf

For landscape and leisure

1.6 – 2.6m Vertidrainage

1.0 – 1.5m Earthquaking

Big roll turf supply/installation

Sand spreading and seeding

Call: Mark 07838 36910

or Chris 07825 329283

Email: mark@greenfarmturf.co.uk

Website: www.greenfarmturf.co.uk

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as £250
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,
full colour, please call
Kirstin on **01347 833 832**
or email
kirstin@bigga.co.uk

DGCTREE

TREE & VEGETATION CLEARANCE SPECIALISTS



- ⊙ SURFACE MULCHING
- ⊙ ROOT CLEARANCE
- ⊙ NATIONWIDE COVERAGE



Contact Drew Graham
on 07702 421638
www.drewgraham.co.uk

TOP DRESSINGS

Banks Amenity Products Ltd.

FENDRESS™ TOP DRESSINGS & ROOTZONES.
DRESSINGS FOR FAIRWAYS AND TEES.
SCREENED FENSOL, LOAM & TOPSOIL.
BUNKER SAND & PATHWAY MATERIALS.
01858 464346 / 433003
www.banksamenity.co.uk

Shirley Aldred & Co. Ltd

Suppliers of high quality granular charcoal for over 200 years

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

Tel: 01433 620003
Fax: 01433 620388



VERTIDRAINING HIRE

NATIONWIDE VERTIDRAIN HIRE

SELF OPERATED OR WITH OPERATOR

TRACTOR WITH 1.6m
£500 PER WEEK

TRACTOR WITH 2m
£700 PER WEEK

TEL: 01522 869100

www.countygrass.co.uk

VERTIDRAINING HIRE

WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

Hydrotech Solutions

- Golf Machinery Wash Water Treatment
- Positive Filtration – Non-Biological
- 200+ Systems Installed Worldwide
- Simple, Low Cost Installation
- Low Running Costs

Tel: 01925 758099

Fax: 01925 757519

www.grassgrabber.com

Email: info@hydrotechsolutionsltd.co.uk

TURF

Lindum

taking grass a step further

20 years of golf turf experience
5 golf grades including high bent Greens on USGA rootzone, RTF for stabilisation/drought tolerance, Wildflower Turf, and new Low Maintenance turf
Tel: 01904 448675
www.turf.co.uk

PETER MANNINGTON



Professional Verti-Drain and Earthquaking Contractor

Experienced operator, competitive prices and reliable service

Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211
or Mobile 07850 612061

1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green,
Ebbsfleet, East Sussex TN11 7QA

Waste2Water

BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.

Tel: 01782 373 878

Fax: 01782 373 763

E-mail: info@waste2water.com

Web: www.waste2water.com

LOVIE

QUARRY & CONCRETE PRODUCTS

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

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

Tel: 01771 653777

email: sales@lovie.co.uk

www.lovie.co.uk

COLLIER TURF CARE

“UNIQUE” FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITY

Collier Turf Care, after 40 years of successful growth through the South East of England, using our unique “SPS” (systems, profitability & sustainability) programme, is now offering you a “unique” business opportunity through the successful and “unique” to our industry, business model of Franchising.

During 2009 and onwards we will be building up a franchise network of business partners outside our existing South East of England trading area.

Are you:

A successful sales person, already within the professional sports industry, who wants to own and run their own business?
A successful sales person, from a different industry, who wants to own and run their own business?

Wanting to move into sales and own a business? (full training is available)
Dedicated, hard working, professional with the drive and passion to succeed?

We offer:

Your own exclusive trading area
Both technical & professional sales training
Exclusive NEW “Prestige” product range for 2009
Quality branded products to sell from all leading manufacturers, such as, Scotts, Barenbrug, Barclay, Vitax & Farmura
BASIS registered warehouse stocked with all our main products for quick delivery direct to your customer
Comprehensive head office support team including, accounts, customer service and technical support etc

Franchise packages from £7,500 plus VAT
(plus £12,500 set up costs, £4,000 stock & £10-20,000 working capital).
Bank finance available
For more information, and to arrange a confidential meeting email:
franchise@collier-turf-care.co.uk

RECRUITMENT

SeniorGolfConstruction

Golf Course Construction Personnel Required

As part of our controlled expansion programme Senior Golf Construction is looking for skilled personnel with varied levels of experience.

The positions will be based at our Manchester office and working on projects nationwide.

For further company details and to download an application form please visit our website.

www.sgcgroup.co.uk

Unit 8B Plantation Industrial Estate Whitelands Road Ashton-Under-Lyne OL6 6UZ



Bird Hills Golf Centre

Email info@birdhills.co.uk
Telephone 01628 771030



Greenkeeper

An experienced NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeper is required to assist the Head Greenkeeper on this busy 18 hole parkland course. Relevant spraying certificates would be beneficial.

Accommodation is not available but the course is conveniently located close to Maidenhead, Wokingham, Windsor, Bracknell and Slough.
A competitive salary will be paid to the successful applicant

Please apply by sending a CV
with covering letter to:

David Summerfield
Bird Hills Golf Centre, Drift Road,
Hawthorn Hill, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3ST



Online jobs go to

www.bigga.org.uk

For instant online advertising please contact

Kirstin on 01347 833 832

Part month £300

Full month £500

The website is updated regularly with new vacancies

Get online now!

WEST BYFLEET GOLF CLUB

Require

Assistant Greenkeeper

Minimum 3 years golf course experience
Qualified to NVQ2 or equivalent preferred
Spraying certificates PA1, 2 & 6

Applicants should be self motivated, committed and hardworking

Applications to:

Margaret Lambert (Deputy Secretary)
West Byfleet Golf Club, Sheerwater Road, West Byfleet, Surrey
KT14 6AA
admin@wbgc.co.uk

Wireless internet is available here

£4
per hour

HARROGATE
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Wireless Internet

60 minutes

Pick up your voucher at reception
or any catering point

HARROGATE
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

SHARPEN MOWERS FOR GREENER GRASS



Sharpening mowers with
EXPRESS DUAL & ANGLEMASTER
 produces a surgically sharp cut leading to
 superior turf and a lot of happy golfers.



SHARPER SOLUTIONS

01788 811600 • www.bernhard.co.uk

A Win-Win Offer at Harrogate Week

from the Membership Department

20-22 January 2009

BIGGA
 Stand B19
 (Hall B)

NEW Members

– No joining fee and save £££

Join at Harrogate Week and receive **12 months for the price of 10**. Just come along to the BIGGA Stand, located in Hall B (B19), sign up, and a member of the Membership Team will arrange this reduction for you.

EXISTING Members

– Receive a thank you gift and win a Magazine Gift Subscription.

Introduce a new member at Harrogate Week, bring your colleague along to the BIGGA Stand, located in Hall B (B19). Make sure your name is on your colleague's application form, having recommended them, and receive a thank you gift from BIGGA.

Also, your name will go into a draw and the first six pulled out will receive a Magazine Gift Subscription.

Choose from :

- FHM
- Today's Golfer
- Q
- Car
- Empire
- Men's Health
- Golf Monthly
- Performance Bike
- Cosmopolitan
- Red

2 months
Free
 Membership



Win
 Magazine Gift
 Subscription
Win

Chairman's Column

ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END

As I write my final article, it is with some amazement that the year has passed so quickly - we are now already back at Harrogate Week and into January, for what hopes to be a fantastic exhibition and education forum. I believe it is a must for Greenkeepers and Groundsman alike - indeed any other sports' Managers would also benefit from attending the week, meeting exhibitors and looking at planning for the year ahead.

Our new Chairman, Peter Todd, is taking over at a tough time but I believe he will be an excellent Chairman and help the Association build bridges in all sectors of the market place.

It will be an extremely busy year, speaking from experience, and it is fantastic that he has the support of his Club in such a tough financial climate. My own advice for him is just to be aware of how quickly the year passes - before you know it you are half way through.

At the moment we are now seeing the backlash in the economy, especially on the golf courses as we are in our traditionally quieter months, and financial decisions are having to be taken with regards to staffing levels and costs. It is important that we can improve our versatility over the next few months and hope that we at least get a good start to the year, in terms of weather, to encourage the golfers to return to the high numbers in the spring - something that we haven't really seen in the last few years.

I always seem to be talking about the weather, but hopefully we can have a positive outlook in 2009 and we can have a big year with golfers responding by coming to the courses in their droves.

Great weather allows us to produce a higher quality of turf, again something that hasn't really been open us is in the last few years with the prolonged wet weather. This, in turn, might see new golfers coming to the courses to play. In turn, we have to be more open to all levels of people and standards than we have perhaps relied upon in the past. Pricing issues may be addressed this year also which will again open up the availability of golf to families and a wider audience.

Finally, I would like to thank my family, Maria, Iain, Ruth and Cameron for their support in my role as Chairman over the last year. Also, my employers the Quinn Group, and, in particular, Nigel Gray, for allowing me to attend at lot of events, on behalf of the Association, and allowing me to make a



big commitment to the benefit of BIGGA.

It has been my privilege to enjoy this opportunity and I have learnt much and met with many great new and old people within the industry.

I look forward to seeing you all at Harrogate and best wishes everyone for 2009.

Kenny Mackay
Chairman

Your next issue of GI will be with you by January 8th
Visit our website for a full archive of BIGGA magazine issues at www.bigga.co.uk