

WRAP IS LOOKING FOR INDUSTRY TRAILBLAZERS!

WRAP - Waste & Resources Action Programme - is looking for BIGGA members who are using quality BSI PAS 100 compost to be the subject of case studies highlighting best practice in our industry.

The case studies will be used to illustrate how greenkeepers and grounds managers are using quality compost and explain the practical, financial and environmental benefits on offer.

BSI PAS100 compost contains a range of nutrients and minerals, including nitrogen and potassium, and is ideal for use as a topdressing, growing media constituent, soil improver or as a turf establisher and helps to boost root development and keep sports turf green and healthy.

This is a great opportunity for those keen to demonstrate their innovation and commitment to the environment, so if you have a project that's using quality compost worth shouting about, contact WRAP at BIGGA@wrap.org.uk

Carbendazim 'Will Continue Beyond December'

Carbendazim, the important and widely-used worm-cast suppressant product, will still be available to greenkeepers after December 2010, Barclay Crop Protection has pointed out, clarifying comments made by Jon Allbutt in last month's GI.

"Carbendazim, which we sell under the trademark Ringer, is currently under review as a Plant Protection Product," says Eric Gussin, UK area manager for Barclay.

"The outcome of this review is due at the end of the year.

"But because of the way the legislation is structured, products are given an expiry date which reflects the review date. That is why carbendazim appears to have an expiry date of December 31, 2010," he explains.

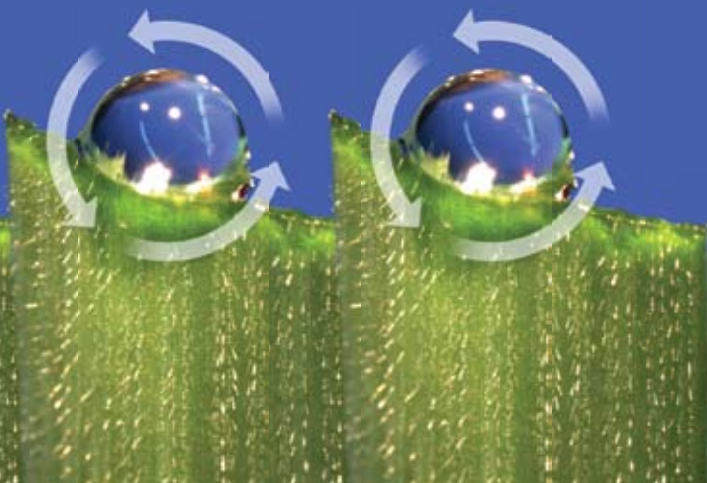
"To complicate matters, carbendazim is also being reclassified as a biocide, rather than a pesticide, so that eventually it will be subject to a different directive."

Mr Gussin says that if the transfer to the biocides directive is not completed by the date of the Annex 1 expiry, CRD (formerly PSD) will issue suitable approvals to ensure it can continue to be used for worm control.

"Therefore we expect to be able to continue to sell Ringer until the current expiry date of 2012," he adds.

"This clarification is very useful for greenkeepers and it is good to know that the approval holder is committed to supporting carbendazim for the future," said Jon Allbutt

stays cut...
after cut... after cut...



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Sandy Gammack



It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you of the death of our friend and Golf Club mechanic, Sandy Gammack.

Sandy was a larger than life character who after retiring at 65 started with us as a part time mechanic and then stayed for 10 years until his untimely death. Sandy was a popular member of our staff and a great person to have about the place always smiling and shouting at the staff about not greasing the machines, if you greased a machine all day it would still not have been enough for him but he

was the old school so that was just his way. He had fantastic hands on him and I am sure there was not an engine made that he could not strip down and put back together again also when he started welding anything, it was like an art to him.

He was also a big supporter of BIGGA and loved all the North Section outings and open days and also going down on the train to Saltex and Harrogate every year and meeting up with all the many trade friends and fellow greenkeepers

he had met over the years and because of his happy go lucky nature that was quite a lot. Sandy was a very well respected mechanic and a friend to many and this was evident by all the people who attended his funeral at Aberdeen Crematorium. We at Newmachar Golf Club will miss him terribly and our thoughts are with his wife, Norma, and the family at this very sad time.

*Dale Robertson
Course Manager
Newmachar Golf Club*

Rigby Taylor's New 'E-Commerce is Now On-Line

A completely new e-commerce, expanded product information and interactive website has been launched by Rigby Taylor to meet the demands of an ever increasing, internet-savvy market place.

The new website features for the first time a user friendly, on-line shop that allows visitors to browse the complete range of the company's turf management products and make purchases; one

of the key site benefits is that it caters for both the full time professional and part-time turf manager with a hassle free, 'one-stop-shop' buying experience. In addition to on-line ordering, the site features full information on each product; including application rates, timing of use, pack sizes and a calculator that allows buyers to work out exactly the quantity they require.

In addition to the on-line shop and product descriptions, the site includes a unique interactive, on-line advice service that allows visitors to receive answers to technical questions.

The wealth of technical information on RT products can be viewed on-line or downloaded.

For further information log onto www.rigbytaylor.com



**“With high expectations,
it’s vitally important that we
have the right machinery to
get the work done.”**



Jim Mackenzie
Director of Golf,
Celtic Manor Resort

M8540 | Tractor

As Director of Golf, Jim is responsible for the course development of the 2010 Welsh Open/Ryder Cup Championships. With a requirement for heavy duty drainage and dressing work, Jim consulted his local Kubota dealer. “Chris Hopkins at Ted Hopkins Ltd reviewed our requirements and recommended the Kubota M8540.”

With 30 dedicated full time ground staff, Jim’s team are hard at work getting the course completed on time. The M8540 has already completed

all major drainage works and has been used to top dress over 9000 hectares. The tractor is currently being used to prepare the ground for the building of the hospitality village.

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Chairman's Word

National Chairman, Paul Worster,
gives his thoughts for the month

To: All UK Greenkeepers and BIGGA trade partners.

From: Paul Worster, BIGGA Chairman.

Subject – Your achievements, my acknowledgements, and The Boards invitations

**Dear Colleagues,
I am writing this month to express my admiration for the excellent work and the positive example set by so many greenkeepers who are based in the UK, and to acknowledge the essential role that the Association's trade partners play in making this possible.**

I have recently been fortunate to see the very best in UK Greenkeeping. I visited Wentworth, recently to participate in an event that rounded off the 2009 STRI Golf Environmental Awards and helped launch the 2010 Awards.

This was an event attended by the greenkeepers who featured in the 2009 awards. They were rewarded with a tour of the West Course, followed by a reception with Justin Rose. He is the figurehead for the STRI Awards. Despite being based in Florida, Justin follows British golf very closely and maintains a keen interest in the work of our greenkeepers.

As for the West Course – the work there, like everything that UK greenkeepers do, will be debated often over the years ahead, but I am very pleased to pay tribute now to the Chris Kennedy and the Wentworth team for the standard of their achievements.

The quality of the original workmanship and now the on-going maintenance, are both absolutely outstanding.

I also went to Celtic Manor recently, courtesy of a South Wales BIGGA/IOG initiative. If there are twin champions of South Wales greenkeeping, they exist in Jim McKenzie, Director of Golf Courses and Estates Manager of Celtic Manor, and Steve Chappell, South West BIGGA Regional Chairman.

These gentlemen between them, ably assisted by David Hart, South Wales Chairman of the IOG, utilised their passion for the profession, combined with their not incon-

siderable organisational skills, to navigate over 80 people around this magnificent complex which will host not only the 2010 Ryder Cup.

Rather like Wentworth – the 2010 course is an engineering marvel of modern golf course construction. Exactly like Wentworth – this marvel would not be sustainable but for the UK based Greenkeeper.

Make no mistake it is the UK Greenkeeper who stands at the heart of both these magnificent venues.

Without the UK Greenkeeper these tournaments would not be possible, added to that BIGGA provide Greenkeeping Support teams at each event.

It struck me, walking around at Wentworth, that this was something UK Greenkeepers have achieved. The expertise, the workmanship, the quality of the finished product are at the same time - outstanding - but also taken for granted.

It is taken for granted that whatever the demands, whatever the requirements, despite difficult conditions and constraints – the UK based Greenkeeper will deliver the goods every time.

For me, this is a vindication of the efforts of all those greenkeepers who involve themselves: - in training, whether it be devising, running or sponsoring training; - in leading and motivating the team; - in hard work and sacrifice, and even - in showing the sheer bloody-mindedness that is sometimes needed to inspire people to give of their best.

It is this spirit of hard work, sacrifice and perhaps bloody-mindedness that we and our trade partners will need to have in abundance in the years ahead as the UK government starts to pay off its debts by making cuts and raising taxes.

It is at times like this when the networking, the sharing, the inspiration and the education that BIGGA services and events bring to the profession, will be needed most.

In the coming years BIGGA events (particularly Harrogate Week) will also continue to be the place where we can stand together, brag a little about our work and seek 'best practice' from each other. Speaking of BIGGA events, the next Harrogate Week is only six months away.

May I invite you to put the dates 16 - 20 January 2011 in your diary now?

May I invite you to set aside the funds or start saving for Harrogate Week now before the cash is spent on something else? May I invite you to contact your local BIGGA Section to see what transport can be provided?

Even at times of recession and cutbacks Harrogate Week is acknowledged as the flagship event in the British Sports Turf Industry calendar. In 2011 there will be new features and attractions and BIGGA staff and volunteers are working hard behind the scenes already to make the 2011 Show a success.

Harrogate Week exists because the Association has the financial support of many companies in the golf sector. A number of them (Golden and Silver Key Sponsors) have together donated a significant amount of money to greenkeeper education over recent times.

These companies need to know that we appreciate their support. May I please invite you to say a kind word to our trade partners the next time you see one of them, and consider using their services? They are going through the recession and the cut backs with us and would appreciate our support.

Finally, it would be great if you could join me at the BIGGA stand at Harrogate Week 2011 to honour the efforts of UK based Greenkeepers and to acknowledge the kind contribution of our trade partners.

I look forward to seeing you there.

**Yours sincerely
Paul Worster**



Greenkeepers Training Committee



**David Golding, Education Director,
with a monthly update from the GTC**

The GTC has an ongoing remit to maintain the popular apprenticeship scheme, ensure all formal qualifications; both work and college-based, have the right content and are delivered by Centres in accordance with the standards.

Over the years I believe the GTC has gained credibility from both Centre staff and also those working for the awarding bodies City & Guilds – NPTC and the Scottish Qualifications Authority and this has allowed us to have a career path based on Government-approved qualifications while encouraging colleges, private training providers and BIGGA, to continue to promote short courses.

All, of course, now referred to as CPD.

While we all have to keep ourselves up to speed to ensure we carry out our work effectively and efficiently it will become increasingly important that we record all the new skills and knowledge we acquire.

BIGGA has for some time, encouraged its members to join the Association's CPD scheme and I believe, soon, all sectors will have employer supported approved schemes.

One example of how CPD will become a legal requirement is that the GTC and BIGGA, as members of the Amenity Forum, we know that work is underway to develop a National Action Plan for the UK in relation to the EU Thematic Strategy for Pesticides.

Top priority is to have a CPD scheme for the Pesticide Application Certificates of Competence (CoC).

Any CPD scheme is voluntary and there is evidence that only the minority of people join a scheme, often the ambitious individuals who take up every opportunity to better their personal skills and knowledge.

It would seem that the most successful schemes has are easy to register on, easy to update per-

sonal records but above all have industry credibility with quality assurance again a priority.

It could be that the work with the Amenity Forum becomes the catalyst for the sector to agree principles which can be tailored for particular specialist industries.

As we look to see CPD become more of an industry requirement rather than a voluntary scheme I do hope more greenkeepers and Course Managers take the opportunity to register with the BIGGA CPD scheme.

Recently I have been touring the country hosting the second series of GTC-R&A workshops promoting the Sustainable Golf Course programme and the passion, enthusiasm and above all professionalism of Course Managers and their staff never ceases to amaze me.

What is worrying for me personally is that I remember some of today's Course Managers starting their careers as apprentices!

It is so rewarding when you see how individuals at the top of their profession have climbed the career ladder and are now passing on their skills and knowledge to their staff.

I sincerely trust the introduction of vocational qualifications in the early '90s has helped increase the skills and knowledge of so many practical greenkeepers many of whom have now have the certificate(s) for the job they love.

This has been helped by those Centres who have staff on the road and rely on the commitment of the Course Manager and Deputies to drive the work-based training programme but I just want to focus on the Course Managers development not only as an onsite trainer or assessor but the next rung up the ladder.

The GTC is involved in reviewing the Management National Occupational Standards (NOS) and the current skill sets are available on the GTC's website.

We welcome comments on the current skill sets and as part of the consultation please contribute by

In Brief

This month David looks at how the greenkeeping sector has to ensure it continues to maintain the career ladder. Plus the increasing importance of maintaining your professional development records...

feeding in any comments you may have to us at the GTC.

In terms of the Management NOS, we currently have an N/ SVQ Level 4 qualification which will be reviewed and with the HND in Scotland and the popular Foundation Degree developed from the NOS.

There is also a major development which we need to consider and that is that some top Course Managers have either applied to become General Managers at golf clubs or have been approached by their employers to consider taking on the additional responsibility.

This is certainly where we need to consider extending the current career ladder and I appeal to these new General Managers to assist the GTC list the additional skills they have required to make them competent General Managers.

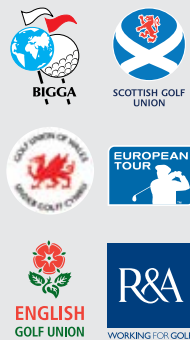
It will be those skills which can be developed into Units which could then be grouped into maybe a Level 5 or even Level 6 vocational qualification. The Units delivered as short courses eventually leading onto full qualifications.

At this point I would like to give full credit to those Course Managers who have trail blazed for the greenkeeping sector but I do know their qualifications in greenkeeping have been the very foundation for how they have progressed their careers.

We will liaise with the other bodies within golf, as it is pointless to duplicate efforts when qualifications are already developed and fit for purpose, but the GTC is committed to ensure employers can appoint suitable staff to meet their job specifications and greenkeepers can aspire to great heights....bring on the extension ladder!

Visit the GTC website: www.the-gtc.co.uk, and consider contributing to the Management NOS review by contacting David direct on 01347 838640 or email your views to david@the-gtc.co.uk

The GTC is funded by:



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Learning & Development

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, is set to be a busy, busy bee in the sunshine!

In days gone by Summer was traditionally the quietest time of the year when we, here at BIGGA HOUSE, could get on with all those jobs that we had been putting off all Winter. Now, no matter what the season, we are busy, busy, busy!

For the Learning and Development Department, Summer now heralds the planning and organisation season with projects including The Open, Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and the Harrogate Week education programme.

Running alongside the day-to-day administration that takes place, it is the crucial period to ensure that the events taking place over the next seven months are well organised so that they will (hopefully!) run in a smooth and efficient manner.

The BIGGA Open Support Team 2010

Part of Rachael Duffy's role is to handle the organisation of the BIGGA Open Support Team, under the management of Scott MacCallum.

The planning for such an event begins, unbelievably, almost straight after the last one has finished, if not before. Accommodation is booked at least 18 months ahead of the event.

With a team of approximately 65 people to house, feed and transport to and from the venue, it is imperative that the accommodation is as close as possible, functional and flexible.

Applications are received in January/February and team selection is done in March.

From here on in Rachael is liaising with team members to ensure that they have a uniform that fits them; that any dietary requirements are met; meals are scheduled; transportation is organised; drivers are selected; the marquee has furniture, catering and a TV; staff rotas and finally, support team ticket allocation.

Alongside the rest of the BIGGA team, Rachael is on site from 6am, returning to the accommodation at approximately 8pm and remaining on duty until around 11pm to ensure that everyone has had a meal and that they know their schedule for the next day.

All this and the smile remains in place!

Good luck goes to all on the Support Team as well as the St Andrews team for the 150th Open Championship.



Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

Regional interviews take place this month for the 37 students who have been nominated by their college tutors for the 2010 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

Eight finalists will be selected to attend the National Final, held at BIGGA House, on 13 and 14 September.



The funding provided by Golden and Silver Key Sponsors is used to produce training and career aids, DVDs, CD Roms, field guides and provide refunds for training fees and subsidised learning and development courses. The funding also helps support seminars, workshops, courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

Many young greenkeepers owe their career progression to the assistance they've had from the Learning and Development Fund. An equal number of established greenkeepers have also been able to access the fund to continue their professional development thanks to the donations of the Golden and Silver Key Sponsors.



Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2011

The jigsaw puzzle has begun! Fitting 139½ hours of education, into 40 hours, over a five-day period is a challenge to say the least, but it will all be shoehorned in and the programme will start to take shape before my very eyes. Watch this space for more information on the subjects and speakers. The final programme will be with you in October.

CPD

The 2009/2010 CPD year ended on 30 June and barring a few stragglers we will be awarding 95 Certificate's and 3 Diploma's of Continuing Professional Development. As the CPD scheme is 10 years old this year we will, for the first time, be awarding a second Diploma of Continuing Professional Development to 7 Members (number correct at the time of writing this article).

Certificates will be sent out in the post later this month, with the Diploma's being presented at Harrogate Week 2011.



Higher Education Scholarships Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to Gary Cunningham – NVQ Level 4 Sportsturf



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Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



Golden Key Individual Members: WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG, Lee Strutt MG; **Silver Key Individual Members:** Ade Archer; Iain Barr; Hamish Campbell; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Robert Maibusch MG; Richard McGlynn; Stephen Pope; Jason Sarna; Steven Tierney; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid



Pro Plus 900 wheeled boom at St Andrews

Gambetti Brings GPS to St Andrews

The Old Course and the Jubilee Course at St Andrews recently took delivery of two new Gambetti Pro Plus 900 sprayers, customised for their specific needs. The Links Trust was focused on purchasing a large capacity sprayer that could apply high volumes of product without compromise to forward speed and provide increased accuracy of application without being too complicated for the operator, delivered by a robust sprayer with hydraulically folding boom capable of spraying at six or eight metres.

After trialling various different types of jet the quad jets have been fitted with nozzles chosen for specific jobs. One of the most interesting requirements was to apply up to 800 litres per ha. The nozzle tips chosen for this are the Spray Systems Air Inclusion jets, capable of delivering very high water volumes, while still maintaining a relatively fine spray pattern and a high

resistant to wind drift. For more run of the mill application rates the club chose the Billericay air bubble jet; these too are very resistant to wind drift.

Maintaining a consistent boom height is all important for accurate application and on an undulating links course this can be tricky. Gambetti choose to use its newly developed contour-following wheeled boom.

Adapted from its agricultural cousins, Gambetti has fitted its SKIPPER GPS mapping and guidance system which replaces the need for adding dye or using foam markers to see which areas have already been applied and give the operator a straight line to follow while spraying. The Skipper is best mounted directly in front of the steering wheel. The operator simply presses a button to mark an "A" point and then a "B" point as he makes his first run. The Skipper displays on the screen the next parallel run he needs to make. The

computer rate controller can be linked into the Skipper so that as soon as application is started, the screen colours the treated area, giving the operator an accurate update of his progress. It can also tell him the area covered, percentage over or under applied and percentage missed.

Gordon Moir, Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews said, "We have always struggled to find a sprayer that is suitable for the many different conditions we encounter at St Andrews Links, ranging from large flat fairways to some that are severely undulating, as well as applying products with such a range of water volumes. Gambetti has worked very closely with us to customise these two sprayers for our specific requirements and they fit the bill perfectly, while the GPS system allows us to track where the operator has sprayed. Being able to record this information is simply the icing on the cake."

Campey On The Look-Out For More Promotion Across The Globe

Campey Turf Care has signed up new dealers in several countries and are looking to encourage more companies to join them in promoting sales of Imants and KORO by Imants products around the world.

In February this year the association between Campey Turf Care Systems and Imants in the UK was consolidated further with Campey's being appointed official distributors

for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Since then interest in the Imants range of products has far exceeded expectations, particularly in light of the global recession.

New introductions such as the Imants Shockwave and Rotoknife have had a significant impact, bringing renewed enthusiasm and interest to an existing range of

equipment including Sandcat and Rotoblast. Likewise the KORO Recycling Dresser, Topdrain and Cultiroll will be promoted in new countries alongside the hugely popular KORO Topmaker which already enjoys a highly respected position in the world market of pitch renovation.

"We acknowledge the recession in principle but have approached this venture as

we would at any time; with full commitment and complete confidence in the quality of our products and services. All the early signs have been exciting and we will be building on the assurance from our existing customers and the extensive new enquiries for potential sales, to move this forward," said David Harrison, Export Sales Manager for Campey Turf Care.



Stuart Minter and Peter Leech

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT JOHN DEERE

Peter Leech has recently been appointed Regional Training Manager for John Deere's agriculture and turf division in Europe, CIS, North Africa, Near & Middle East. He has been replaced as Customer Support Manager for the UK and Ireland by Stuart Minter.

In his new role, working from Langar, Peter will be responsible for the region's training delivery operations, including the sales branch training centres, covering the key areas of parts, sales, service and dealer development training. During his 38 years with John Deere, he has been responsible for the development of the company's award-winning apprentice technician training programmes (Ag, Parts and Turf Tech), and the industry wide LTA technician accreditation scheme. He has also been Chairman of the AEA training and education committee, and is just beginning a two-year term as President of IAgRE.

Stuart joined John Deere Limited in 1979 as a Service Trainee and Technical Instructor at the UK training centre. He was subsequently Area Service Manager and then Territory Manager for southern England before becoming division service manager for the UK and Ireland in 1986. Stuart was responsible for developing John Deere's national dealer service standards, and more recently has been closely involved with the industry wide 'Look Behind You' campaign to promote safe tractor and trailer braking. He has also been Chairman of the AEA service managers committee.



Ransomes Rescue the Rough

When Derek Thomson, Course Manager at The Wynyard Golf Club on the outskirts of Stockton-on-Tees, wanted to improve the condition of the rough on the 7,000 yard, par 72 Wellington course, he turned to the Jacobsen HR-9016 wide area mower supplied by local Ransomes Jacobsen dealer, Rickerby Ltd of Hexham. Ransomes Jacobsen is a Textron Inc. company.

The previous maintenance regime used a tractor with trailed rotary decks and took two of his greenkeeping team four days to cut the course and the driving range; now it takes just 11 hours.

"It was back in the summer of 2007 that we realised we needed to change how we maintained the longer grass on the course," he said. "The following September we had demonstrations from several manufacturers, who brought along their wide area mowers and we evaluated each of them. The 9016 proved to be the best and we took delivery in June 2008.

"The previous method using the combined tractor and trailed unit was slow and not very manoeuvrable. With the 9016 we have a very nimble machine that has reduced the eight man-days to less than two man-days, although we still require two of the team as we have a small out-front machine to tidy up along the fence line of the surrounding houses that line some of the fairways.

"We normally cut to a height of 50mm and this produces a well groomed finish, because presentation is very important here. The floating front deck helps reduce scalping and we can keep on top of the heavy summer growth, so it never gets out of hand."

The Grass Group Unveil New Look Website

The revitalised site contains several fresh new features including a clear and easy-to-navigate product area, up to date blog/ news page and a straight forward, no hassle, email enquiry form that allows the user to request information and outline their specific requirements directly to the sales team.

Tim Merrell, MD at The Grass Group comments, "The new website will be an essential tool for groundcare professionals

wanting to browse, compare machinery specification, enquire about spare parts and seek technical support".

www.thegrassgroup.com



NEW FROM RAIN BIRD

Rain Bird has launched GSP Services which provides technical support to Rain Bird central control users subscribing to a Global Service Plan.

A hotline provides direct access to Rain Bird irrigation experts and central control specialists.

Via remote access Rain Bird engineers can carry out maintenance, troubleshoot and backup data on your control

system. Incurring no travelling expenses, it offers a time and cost-saving alternative to an onsite visit.

In addition to technical support and remote maintenance, Rain Bird GSP subscribers benefit from computer renewal, software upgrades, etc.

To learn more about GSP visit

www.rainbird.eu



Golf is coming home

Scott MacCallum catches up with two Gordons who are working hard to ensure that this month's Open is played on the perfect stage