



climate change and wetter, milder autumns.

Management and control

On balance chafer grubs are generally regarded as the bigger pest problem for professional turf but that is probably because were traditionally the more difficult to control. Greenkeepers have 'always' been able to rely on the 'old' stalwart insecticide chlorpyrifos that could have been tailor-made to deal with leatherjackets.

By acting in three different ways - contact, fumigant and ingestion action - chlorpyrifos is the ideal all-round insecticide for use against most soil-borne pests as seen from its continued use after many decades worldwide in agriculture and horticulture as well as turf and amenity.

What's more chlorpyrifos resists leaching which allows it to stay in the uppermost layer of the soil to kill shallow-seated leatherjackets feeding on turf grass roots just below the soil surface.

But even the control of leatherjackets, one of the oldest, most recognised and persistently damag-

ing insect pests in the UK, cannot escape increasingly important environmental and biodiversity considerations and implications.

Leatherjacket grubs are clearly important food sources for a variety of birds but the adult crane flies or daddy long-legs are equally important food sources for bats.

When the National Trust says it was a bad year for crane flies they mean adult emergence in September was low with correspondingly reduced food available for bats.

When an agricultural or amenity survey says it will be a bad year for leatherjackets they imply widespread and heavy damage to turf, pasture grass and cereals.

That said SAC and other agricultural monitoring bodies are very mindful of the biodiversity implications of leatherjacket control with chemical pesticides.

SAC has conducted an annual survey each winter since the mid-1970s and says their latest 2009/2010 results show once again the value of such long-term surveillance and the data generated.

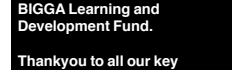
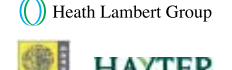
In addition to the risk posed to grassland leatherjackets are an

important food resource for farmland birds.

Greenkeepers should use the behaviour of birds on turf to their advantage. If species like rooks, crows and starlings are showing an unhealthy interest in the turf then it is a sure sign of ample food just beneath the soil, probably in the form of leatherjackets requiring immediate control.

Biopesticides based on nematodes which infect leatherjackets with a lethal bacterium are available. Like all natural enemies and biocontrol products they are density dependent.

This means the number and effect of the entomopathogenic nematodes will rise in response to increases in the leatherjacket (host) population, only to fall away again as leatherjacket numbers decline. They do not act as quickly as dedicated chemical insecticides and require more exacting soil conditions (temperature and moisture) for optimum activity. That said, the rate at which chemical pesticides are disappearing from the marketplace in the face of broad-front EU legislation means that biopesticides almost certainly have their 'best days' yet to come.



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Promoting best practice in sports turf management

“Hard work, learning new skills and great reward – it’s par for the course on the Ohio programme”

Intern, Joe Buckley, will be working at Pebble Beach during the US Open this month. Here he talks through his time in America and what he has learned while there

Having served my apprenticeship at Woodsome Hall Golf Club in Huddersfield, I progressed to the position of First Assistant. Coupled with my development at Woodsome, I completed my NVQ Level 3 at Askham Bryan College. It was then that I looked for a further career move.

I spoke with lecturers from the College, who told me about opportunities in States on the Ohio State Programme and I attended a presentation from Mike O’Keeffe, the Programme Manager.

I was instantly impressed with Mike’s approach and enthusiasm. It was impressed upon us that the programme was challenging, but that the rewards would be significant.

I began to exchange emails with Mike and was required to gather references and fill in various forms. I prepared a personal statement

and met with Mike during Harrogate Week. He told me that I would spend my first nine months at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, NY along with a fellow student – Steve Paul, from The Castle Course, at St. Andrews. The Superintendent was Jeff Corcoran.

Soon after the placement had been confirmed I handed in my notice at Woodsome Hall.

I arrived in Ohio late into a March night. Steve had already arrived and rested up for the orientation the next day, where we completed the necessary paperwork, before being shown round the campus, the football stadium and the Jack Nicklaus Museum.

Two days later we arrived in Rochester. I was met at the airport by the East/West Course Supervisor, Mike Lopresti, Mike took us straight to the course to meet Jeff who told us what we would be carrying out at Oak Hill

and asked us what we would like to achieve during our time there. We were then taken to our home for the next nine months - a two bedroom apartment in a town called Fairport, about 10 minutes from Oak Hill.

The first few weeks involved mostly clean up jobs, bringing the course back to some sort of normality after the winter snows.

The following weeks were admittedly tough; it was something of a shock to the system and set a challenging precedent for the months ahead. The greens were aerified, gradened, toppedressed and then the dryject was used. Tees and fairways on both courses were aerified and greens compounds on the East Course were also aerified.

Aerifying greens compounds was one of the toughest jobs I had ever carried out; by the time we had finished all 18 holes I was aching all over. The process involves three



pedestrian aerifiers and six people; three to operate the aerifiers and three to hold the ropes that kept them from falling in the bunkers! Put simply, we had to run around the inside of the bunkers, steering the aerifiers round the contours while pushing the aerifier up; the ropes were attached to a bar at the front of the aerifiers and the individuals holding them would stand on the flat and pull the ropes tight to help keep them from falling in the bunker.

Throughout the Summer I was involved in boom, hawk and knapsack spraying, topdressing applications, handwatering all playing surfaces including greens, took part

in fertiliser applications, carried out irrigation repairs, as well as a lot of hand mowing when it was too wet to take out the ride ons.

Once we had proven ourselves at our current courses Mike O'Keefe started trying to place us on a second course. Pebble Beach has been my favourite course since I saw the 2000 US Open, where Tiger ran away with it. With the 2010 US Open, and the chance to benefit from real tournament experience, I asked if I could be placed there. No promises were made but Mike was happy to assist.

As there was no tournament at Oak Hill, Jeff sent all turf employees to various courses to assist during tournament weeks. I was placed at Liberty National for The Barclays Open. It was the first tournament that I had worked on and I thoroughly enjoyed it; seeing what is required, the organisation that is needed to have a successful week and meeting people from the industry.

My morning assignment was mowing greens; we were in pairs and, depending on the stimp reading, the greens would either be mowed once or double cut. My afternoon job was

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about the author

Joe Buckley, 23, is currently taking part in the Ohio State Intern Programme, and is hoping to get a placement in New Zealand, before returning to the UK

For further information on the Ohio State Intern programme link to: www.ohioprogram.org

much the same, with us shadowing the PGA agronomist around and mowing the greens that were not stimping at the required pace.

In October, Steve and I made the trip to The Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head, South Carolina, for the annual short course for the interns that year.

The course started off with a tour round Harbor Town Golf Links where we were given a guided tour by Superintendent, Jon Wright. At the end of the tour Jon brought out some clubs, a bucket of balls and let us have a shot on the par 3 17th. Out of 43 turf grass students Steve was the only one to hit the green, probably the first par 3 he'd hit all summer!



It was then that I found out that Mike had secured me an internship at Pebble Beach meaning I would be working The AT&T, US Open and The First Tee Open.

Looking back at the Oak Hill placement, I realise that Jeff invested a significant amount of time with all of the interns, setting out questions and giving mini projects such as putting together a spray programme. If, on the rare occasion, disease was spotted he would let the interns know and make a “burrito bet” - if we could find the disease he would buy us a burrito; if we couldn’t, we had to buy the management team burritos! The disease was usually something trivial, such as brown patch on a fairway, but it kept us thinking and ensured we were vigilant at all times - we were usually the ones paying up, though.

Getting in so early to groom the greens that you need to wear waterproofs because the irrigation system was still running, carrying out drill and fill by hand using power drills to drill the holes and watering cans full of sand to fill the holes, calibrating fertiliser applications to the oz (which involved using a microm-

eter to set the spreader instead of just going off the letters), holding “tarps” down over the 2 pass and rough so the Kentucky Bluegrass did not get damaged from the Embark spray are examples of what we did at Oak Hill. All these things may seem over the top - they did to me when I first started - but, after being on the course, it is these things which set the course apart from others.

After flying home for Christmas I arrived at Pebble Beach just before New Year. I was picked up from the airport and taken to my new home. I would be sharing the house with Tyler McMurtrey and Bubba Wright, both of whom I would work with at Pebble.

The next day I had my drug test at Pebble Beach’s Health and Wellness Center, by Pebble Beach First Assistant, Billy Hausch. Once I had been given the all clear I was taken to meet Pebble Beach Superintendent, Chris Dalhamer, and had a tour around Pebble Beach for the first time - it didn’t disappoint!

Pebble Beach is the jewel in the crown of The Pebble Beach Company.



Owned by a consortium of businessmen led by Peter Ueberroth, Richard Ferris, Arnold Palmer and Clint Eastwood, it consists of four golf courses, three hotels, numerous bars and restaurants, a spa, and currently employs 1600 people.

At \$500 a round, and with each guest required to stay in one of the hotels, playing Pebble doesn’t come cheap, but Pebble still takes 70,000 rounds per year.

Chris told me that I would be

starting off doing “sections”, which includes mowing greens, raking bunkers, fixing ball marks, spot watering; in its simplest form maintaining five greens compounds. My section holes were the putting green, 3, 7, 11 and 16. Mowing the 7th green for the first time was an awesome experience, it has been my screensaver for the past few years and mowing the green as the sun came up and the waves came crashing in is something I will never forget.

Shortly after I arrived, the preparations for the AT&T began; tents and stands went up, woodchip went down to form paths for player and spectators, and throughout all this the storms hit hard. Throughout January we had eight inches of rain; this meant rebanking bunkers on a daily basis, and a lot of hand mowing! At one point the storms were so intense that the waves were hitting the sea wall, crashing up in the air and then being blown by the 50mph winds onto the 17th and 18th. In order to flush the saltwater the heads

been added on the 3rd, 4th and 6th. New tees have been added on the 3rd, 5th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 13th to increase the yardage from 6828yds to 7040yds. Over 20 acres of Kikuyu grass has been removed from in play areas and replaced with rye grass.

This was done by hand by a team of four picking small spots on greens and tee compounds and outside contractors excavating larger rough areas. A programme has also been implemented to turn the rough into predominately rye so we can achieve the thick 3-5 inch rough that the USGA prefer.

In addition, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 15th (one green per year) have been rebuilt to USGA specification with sub air systems and the greenside bunkers have been altered where necessary.

Rebuilding one green per year means that those which are USGA specification dry out a lot faster than the push up greens on the course, but closing down the course isn't a

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were run on the 18th fairway and we were out with hoses on the 17th green, 18th tee and 18th green

Fortunately, though, the weather was pleasant during the week prior to the AT&T, allowing the course to dry out and be in great condition for the time of year. During the AT&T my morning job was to mow greens and rake bunkers on the back nine. After morning assignments there was breakfast for the staff and volunteers back at the shop - it was so good Bill Murray came by to grab a bite. Throughout the day, we did minor jobs and watched some golf, before returning for another meal after this we were out on the evening assignment. These were generally just minor detail works undertaking such tasks as bombing divots and fixing ball marks. Everything went well with the course looking great for the cameras and the weather held off for Dustin Johnson to retain his title with a 16 under par total.

In the years running up to the 2010 US Open all bunkers have been rebuilt to include stalok; drainage and new sand. As well as this, bunker compounds have

viable option. The knock on effect to the hotels, shops and other revenue streams would have been too much for the company to bear.

In the run up to the US Open, I familiarised myself with many different aspects of the golf course. This includes the calibration and application of fertilisers, cultivation techniques such as aerification and topdressing, handwatering, and mini projects like installing all new tee yardage markers.

Seeing what goes into a tournament as big as The US Open has been a real eye opener, if the AT&T ranked as a 7 on tournament prep The US Open is a 15.

Tents and stands started to go up around 12 weeks before the tournament, including the merchandise tent on the Par 3 course that was bulldozed flat, greens included, and will be rebuilt after the US Open. The scale of the detail that is gone into is extremely impressive; for example, the different heights of cut for the rough on different holes so they play easier or harder, cleggometer tests to make sure each section of every green and approach is the



same firmness. The tests showed that the 5th and 15th approaches were softer than the rest, these were graded and topdressed to firm them up and get them up to the levels of the others. Rough is fluffed back up every time someone drives over it with a machine so there are no tyre tracks.

The course has been watched on a night by security guards from May. Tags have been placed on trees around the course and the guards have to clock in at various check



points every hour to make sure they're not sleeping on the job.

Fortunately there's a lot of experience on the staff, none more so than Jack Holt having worked three US Opens at Pebble before, he knows what the deal is and having someone with experience has been invaluable.

Working at Pebble has been a completely different experience to Oak Hill, as you would expect from a public and private course, but one that I have thoroughly enjoyed.

Despite their differences they share the same dedication to training young greenkeepers. Both Jeff and Chris always make time - sometimes sacrificing their own time - to sit down with their interns and answer any questions, and both have created a great learning environment.

Through the Ohio State Programme I have gained invaluable career and life experience and would definitely recommend it to any young greenkeeper back home.

If you are eager to learn and are willing to put in the effort, the rewards can be great. I started at a decent, smart course in Huddersfield, but had the ambition and the drive to do more.

I've learned and experienced more than I ever thought I would and through hard work and dedication I've been given the opportunity to work at one of the greatest sporting tournaments in the world, the prestigious US Open a memory, along with others, that I'll never forget.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dave Fellows and all the staff at Woodsome Hall, Jeff Corcoran, Mike Lopresti, Fred Doheny and everyone else at Oak Hill. Chris Dalhamer, Jack Holt, Billy Hausch and all the staff at Pebble Beach, Mike O'Keefe and Jacobsen for sponsoring the programme. My thanks to all of you.

DEALER OF THE MONTH

A new series aimed at celebrating the great work done by dealerships up and down the country

CHESHIRE TURF MACHINERY

Franchise(s) held

Toro, Kioti, Kawasaki, Grasshopper, Greentek, Gambetti, Amazone and Husqvarna

Location and size

Based at Weybourne Drive, Bredbury, Stockport, Cheshire, SK6 2DN. Annual turnover of £4.5million.

Employees and size of premises

18 employees. Premises are 15,000sq ft

No. of service vans

Three.

Brief history

The business started in Reddish, Stockport, as Cheshire Light Tractors in 1956, and at that time sold two-wheel tractors and motorised cultivators.

The company kept pace with advances in garden machinery as leading franchises were added to the portfolio.

One of these – Flymo – was to become particularly significant. Firstly, it provided a wholesaler activity to the thriving retail business.

Then in 1970 Flymo started to distribute the Toro brand to the UK giving CLT access to the golf market.

The company was acquired by Electrolux (Flymo's parent company) in 1980 and remained part of the group for 16 years before the current directors, led by Steve Halley, took the business back into private ownership in 1996 as Cheshire Turf Machinery, reflecting the focus on the professional grounds care market in the north west.



Key services

Providing customers with tailor-made solutions to their problems by offering good advice, the right machine for the job and value for money.

Specialist services

Between them, the three directors of the company have over 70 years experience of the industry and are all involved in dealing with customers on a face-to-face basis.

Has the dealership changed over time?:

Since establishing CTM almost 14 years ago, we have focused on the professional market. Without the distraction of domestic or wholesale customers we can concentrate on the core business, rather than trying to be 'all things to all men'. In 2001 we created Yorkshire Turf Machinery as a sales division covering the South Yorkshire area.

What would you like to see changed?:

We have worked hard to develop our own service staff by introducing apprentices in recent years, which has worked well for us.

However, it would be great to stimulate even more awareness of career opportunities to young people.

Do you support customers who have in-house service facilities (ie OEM parts supply):

Yes we do. As well as working with regional corporate accounts such as De Vere Hotel and Marriott, we are happy to assist and see this as part of our customer care commitment.

Major customers:

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“ I really wanted to develop my education but had to fund my own training, so I contacted BIGGA to ask for financial support. A refund of my course fees has enabled me to complete my chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting, felling of small trees and my PA6 spraying certificates. I really do appreciate what BIGGA, with the support of the Golden and Silver Key Companies, has done for my career. ”

Murray Mannall, Greenkeeper



“ The support for this fund has enabled BIGGA to enhance the value of being a member, and it has previously given many greenkeepers the opportunity to further develop their careers. As an association we owe our Golden and Silver Key sponsors a huge vote of thanks. ”

John Pemberton, Chief Executive



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