

for two of the most famous and spectacular holes in golf making sure they were in perfect condition before and during the 2009 Masters.

“The attention to detail was incredible and it never ends. Once, early on, I went back and said I’m done and they said, ‘what do you mean you’re done?’

“They took me back and said what about this bit, and what about that bit. I got the idea pretty quickly. By the end I knew every inch of my holes,” he said, revealing that during Masters week itself he worked 115 hours alone.

Andrew’s visaran out the day after the Masters finished and although Greg and Brad both offered him jobs he’d already decided to return home.

It wasn’t long before he was snapped up. His old boss at Calverley, Clive, rang him to say that he’d been contacted by Horsforth Golf Club about taking over for three weeks as the Course Manager had been badly injured in a car accident.

“He said he couldn’t do it but had told them that I’d do it. I must admit that I wasn’t sure that I could, but I was still brimming with confidence from my time in America and went along.

“All the guys were older than me bar one and I hadn’t had much people management experience but I felt that as it was only for three weeks and I was capable of keeping the place tidy and mown.”

That three weeks became three months and then, with the returning Course Manager due to retire earlier this year he was offered the job on a full time basis from June and at the Final he had been doing the job for two and a half months.

The club is right behind Andrew and know that it is unlikely that he’ll be with them for 40 years like the previous head.

“I’ve told them that I’ve still got a lot to prove and many goals in my career but right now Horsforth will get my full attention for as long as I’m there.

“I believe that given the right resources I can present a very well maintained golf course. I’m not bothered about the money or the club’s name on my shirt, it is about pushing myself as far as I can go. I’ve got a long way to go, but I believe I can do it.”

Thirteen years on Andrew is now that young greenkeeper on the front cover of the magazine and there could be no better role model or advert for the greenkeeping profession.



**ABOVE:** Andrew Stanger (central) won the Award and an eight week trip to the United States where he will undertake a six week study course at the University of Massachusetts and visit the GCSAA’s Golf Industry Show, in Orlando, and Toro’s Californian Headquarters.

Runners-up were Sebastian Cavilla (above left) of The Manor House H & GC, and Sean Borrett (above right) of Ellesborough GC, who win all expenses paid trips to Harrogate and the Continue to Learn programme next January.

The other finalists were Robert Mills, of Sunningdale GC; Craig Boath, of Carnoustie Links; Gavin Moore, of Launceston GC; Tom Hayward, of Frome GC and Stephen Thompson, of Bearsted GC.

**RIGHT:** The finalists celebrate a strike when out bowling in York, the evening of the awards day



# The only way *is up*

Scott MacCallum visits a golf club which so nearly went out of existence but which is now well on the road to recovery



One of this country's most profound philosophers, I believe her name to be Yazz, once said, "The Only Way is Up!" It is a positive message, to be sure, and one which Darren Child, Course Manager of Hawkhurst Golf Club in Kent, has been using as a mantra since he took over at the nine hole village course last February.

And it would be hard to argue as, when Darren took over, the course was certainly in the gutter, but not necessarily looking at the stars - to paraphrase another acclaimed philosopher and wit, Oscar Wilde.

The course had just gone into administration. The Head Greenkeeper and his part time assistant had to go as part of the old regime. The Administrator had taken what worthwhile machinery was to be had in the ramshackled building which masqueraded as the maintenance facility.

The club had struggled for a number of years, being propped up by the club's owner, who was spending anything up to £50,000 each year, to bail the club out on salaries, overheads etc. The membership had also dwindled from a relatively robust 400 to just over a 100. It was then that the owner understandably felt

that the situation was not sustainable and that, while he would be happy for the club to continue, he would no longer bank roll it, and so things came to a head.

Looking into a genuine abyss, the Club Professional, Peter Chandler, and one of the club's squash members, James O'Reilly, decided, despite the less than rosy outlook, to try and make a go of the club.

It was to this situation that Darren arrived. A man who had earned his greenkeeping stripes at Walton Heath, under Clive Osgood and latterly, Ian McMillan, and a former junior member of Hawkhurst, Darren



was living with friends on the edge of the golf course when a member got wind of the fact that he was between jobs and offered to pay for him personally to rebuild the bunkers.

"It took a lot of graft as the bunkers hadn't been touched since the previous October and it took me three weeks to get them into some sort of order," explained Darren.

The bunkers had previously been the responsibility of a volunteer who had to catch a bus to get to the club, usually arriving around 10 in the morning and working on them a couple of times a week.

"This arrangement wasn't sustainable or fair on the person tasked with the job," said Darren.

Obviously impressed by the work he had done and knowing that a full time greenkeeper for Hawkhurst had become a necessity, Darren was asked if he would be interested in taking over full time. He said "Yes".

"I do recall my first day. It was raining, and had been for about four months on the spin.



ABOVE: Darren Child, Course Manager of Hawkhurst Golf Club in Kent

"When I was at Walton Heath, we had all the best kit for whatever we needed to do. Now all I had was a bucket, a shovel and a borrowed half moon.

Once all the leaves had been raked out of the bunkers and the water bailed out, I then started doing the edges and digging the sand around to make it more level," he recalled.

"When you don't have someone to talk to when you are working and you are 'on your tod,' it is pretty hard graft," he added, with an understandable degree of understatement.

With the receivers having taken a tractor and trailer and a fairway machine and with only a John Deere 2500 greens machine available, which has to be re-set each time to cut tees and surrounds. For fairways they have a John Deere 2653, which allows them to cut fairways in four and a half hours and an old Saxon to cut rough.

The club currently operates with Darren and a number of volunteers who turn up to provide support when they can.

"Some bring domestic ride-on's which they use in their gardens, while others would do divoting or bunker raking. I'm really grateful for all the help but you never know if anyone is going to arrive that morning until they turn up."

With such uncertainty, planning,

even for the day ahead is nigh on impossible and Darren regularly works 55 hours a week, considerably more than the 40 for which he is paid.

"I usually go in on the Monday morning and think about the main tasks that I want to complete. Obviously there are the essentials and cutting greens and raking bunkers are done daily but much of the rest is often spur of the moment thinking – what needs doing now or can I do it first thing tomorrow depending upon which volunteers come in," said Darren, who is given some respite by Pro, Peter Chandler, who is useful on a greens machine and who normally cuts the greens at the weekend.

"If there is a big competition on, nine times out of ten I'll be playing in it so I go in early and do them."

But before you feel too sorry for Darren, he does have a Guardian Angel in the shape of Mike Mosse, Course Manager at the nearby large and prestigious, Dale Hill Hotel and Golf Club.

Dale Hill is part of the Leaderboard Group which also includes Chart Hills, The Oxfordshire, Sandford Springs and the Leaderboard Golf Centre in Reading.

"I was aware of the problems they were having at Hawkhurst as I knew the previous Head Greenkeeper. He came to see me to tell me that he was leaving and I knew the club was going into receivership," said Mike.

"One of Hawkhurst's members previously worked here as a greenkeeper and he approached me and said that they could do with a bit of help so he, Darren and I met for a chat.



"I was keen as I knew they'd been going through a hard time and that Darren was on his own with virtually no kit and I just thought we might be able to offer some help. I had a chat with our General Manager and he in turn with Owners Paul and Jennifer Gibbons who agreed to us helping out, as long as there would be no direct cost to us," explained Mike.

What happened next is a perfect example of what is great about golf and greenkeeping.

"Local John Deere dealer, Godfrey's, brought their trailer and free of charge transported kit over for

around 30 from the low point at the beginning of the year, the members were more than happy that their course was on the up.

"The course will go forward because we have the help and people genuinely want it to work. I believe the management are looking at getting someone in part time to help me next year. Generally there is a good feeling about the place because they are seeing results – although there is some disgust that the fairways are a bit tighter because I've added definition to them," he smiled.



ABOVE: The Club Professional, Peter Chandler

## **"When you don't have someone to talk to when you are working, and you are 'on your tod,' it is pretty hard graft"** Darren Child

us, it's only a few miles but it really did help, and three of our guys tined and top dressed the greens for them," said Mike, of the good deed which took place last May.

It was the first time that the greens had been given such a good work out in about four years and there was plenty of thatch removed.

"Having Mike and his team come and help was a big, big help and the greens benefited greatly," said a still grateful Darren, who was one of the Walton Heath staff who qualified as an HGV Driver so that he could drive a tanker to transport water on to the course during the last extended drought.

With membership already up by

Having come from a top quality, highly respected club like Walton Heath to one from which survival is a huge achievement, Darren has got used to the difference in expectation.

"It is not easy but when you look at what you are working with there is satisfaction at achieving something with minimal help. You can't just jump on a piece of kit and go, you have to physically check the machine you do have and adjust things so that you can do what you want to do," explained Darren.

"I've still got good ties with Walton Heath and can phone Ian (McMillan) up at any time and he's given me some excellent advice. Walton

Heath Mechanic, Graham Goldup has helped me no end with the problems I've had with machinery and Irrigation Engineer, Mark Bass, who is also a personal friend has helped with many irrigation issues. I'd hate to think where Hawkhurst would be without his help.

"We had a system which had fallen into disrepair but he was able to get it going again. It doesn't run smoothly and it needs money spent on it but I can water all the greens now which is an absolute God send, particularly as we've only had five inches of rain since April."

The help of all these people has been invaluable and done for the genuine desire to help a club down on its luck.

Darren has been able to thank Dale Hill in a small way by providing some plants for a new pond Dale Hill has created but in the main a warm thanks has been all that has been asked or given.

When I arrived at Hawkhurst in a morning early in the school summer holidays the first 20 golfers I saw all appeared to be under the age of 14 and keen as mustard to play. If the club had gone to the wall those children would have missed out on the chance of developing a love of golf.

Now hopefully a proportion of those children will be golfers for the rest of their days and there is a fair chance that some of them will go on to become members of Dale Hill, showing that good deeds now might be rewarded further down the line.

Yazz was correct in saying "The Only Way is Up" but only through hard work and the determination of key people.



A friend and his dog: Darren stands by Mike Mosse, Course Manager at the nearby Dale Hill Hotel and Golf Club.



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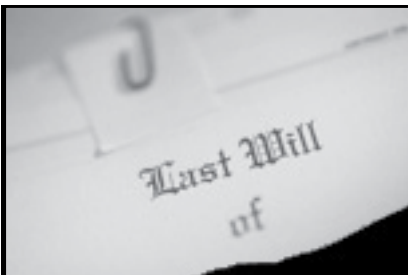
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James de Havilland takes a closer look  
at the intricacies of current machinery

# The anatomy of...

## A Charterhouse core collector



Charterhouse introduced its first pedestrian CC3000 Core Collector in 2002, the featured CC3001HL coming along in 2006. It may look the same, but it is much changed from the original.

Pick-up performance will be influenced by the condition of the cores but clean removal is more likely when working soon after coring has taken place. The Core Collector can work from both broadcast and windrowed cores and is also able to deal with deep scarifier debris.

**Charterhouse has established that the average golf green will, post coring, yield around a tonne of cores depending upon size and moisture. Multiply that by 18 greens, and you could end up with 18 tonnes of cores that need to be picked up. No surprise that this task is increasingly carried out by a core collector, with many clubs hiring in a unit as needed.**

The problem with hiring is that most clubs will want to be coring at pretty much the same time as everyone else which can mean you have to wait for a collector. It was to address this issue by offering a relatively low cost alternative that led to the development of the original CC3000 Core Collector. Picking up across a 1.0m width, the pedestrian machine was designed to keep up with a pedestrian corer of the same width.

The original unit proved a success for Charterhouse, but the design has moved on. First was the hydrostatic drive system. This was directly driven from the 5.5hp petrol engine which made starting tricky; the recoil starter had to pull over not just the engine but the drive as well. This made it difficult to turn the engine over, particularly when cold.

The second issue related to the pick-up system. In outline this used the same collection head design as the existing CC3001HL model but with a pair of impellers picking up and discharging the cores into the hopper. Turning at a relatively high speed, the impellers work just fine but they also had a tendency to smash the cores. This could in turn lead to debris building up in the elevator which, if left, could lead to blockages.

The CC3001HL overcomes the first issue by doing away with the hydrostatic drive and replacing it with a simple belt drive. When the collector is at a standstill, the drive brakes the wheels and disengages the transmission clutch. The power unit is thus disconnected, making it far easier to start. The 7.5hp Briggs also has a bit more power, this proving useful when handling a full hopper up an incline.

To get around the problem of cores getting broken up within the elevator, the two impellers were replaced by a conveyor. This has a more gentle pick-up action, helping reduce debris build up and the need for cleaning. Another new feature is the ability to reverse the conveyor. If the elevator does get blocked, reversing the conveyor should clear it.

**Outline specification:**  
Charterhouse CC3001HL  
Core Collector.  
Working width: 1.0m  
Tipping height: 1.30m  
Hopper capacity: 250kg / 0.25m<sup>3</sup>  
Tyre pressure: 1.2 – 1.4bar  
Engine: Briggs and Stratton  
Vanguard 7.5hp  
Transmission: 4-speed,  
neutral and reverse.  
Conveyor drive: Hydraulic  
Retail price: £6,595 ex-VAT

Supplier: Charterhouse Turf  
Machinery Ltd, Surrey.  
Tel: 01428 661222.  
www.  
charterhouseturfmachinery.  
co.uk

These developments from the original design have helped boost sales of the Core Collector, Charterhouse having sold more of the British made units this year than any other year. The way in which cores are picked up, however, is not changed, the slim stainless steel bottom blade design of the original machines being carried over.

In work, the operator drives the three-wheel unit from the rear, the 'dead man' handle being pushed down to engage drive. Four forward speeds are offered, with the first two typically providing the right balance between a comfortable working

When it comes to emptying the hopper, the operator can discharge into a turf truck or trailer, the hopper lifting to clear a side of up to 1.30m. The actual tipping action is designed so the hopper lifts and moves back, avoiding the problem of material spilling back as the load is dumped.

The tricycle undercarriage affords the unit with good agility, making the Core Collector an ideal partner to pedestrian as well as tractor mounted corers. Running on smooth tyres inflated to 1.2 to 1.4 bar, a full collector will weigh in at around 530kg.

## SUMMARY

Collecting cores manually can be time consuming, the job becoming a greater chore if the cores start to break up. Mechanical collection is therefore something that golf and sports turf professional tend to favour. The snag is some collectors are pretty costly to buy and hiring can be tricky if you are not at the front of the queue when you actually need one. With a retail price of £6,595, the Charterhouse CC3001HL Core Collector certainly appears to be well worth a look. Simple, easy to operate and, above all, capable of dealing with large volumes of cores it does exactly what it says in its name.

*With grateful thanks to: Gareth Roberts, Course Manager, Hankley Common Golf Club and Nick Darking and Tim Franklyn, Charterhouse Turf Machinery.*

**“Simple, easy to operate and, above all, capable of dealing with large volumes of cores”**

pace and the ability to cleanly pick-up the cores.

The swage boards at the front of the unit windrow the cores ahead of the collection head, the slim profile of bottom blade allowing it to slide beneath them.

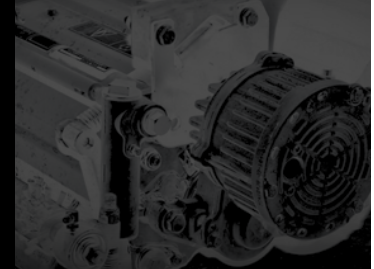
The whole system is very simple, with the machine produce good results not just with cores but also debris brought up during deep scarifying. Once passed over the bottom blade, the cores are picked up by the conveyor and discharged into the 1m<sup>3</sup> hopper. Dust and debris is contained by a hinged steel cover over the hopper.





# Step-by-step Analysis...

## Charterhouse C3001HL Core Collector



The original Charterhouse Core Collector CC3000 was powered by a 5.5hp petrol engine that featured hydrostatic drive. Introduced in 2006, the current CC3001HL model has a 7.5 hp Briggs and Stratton Vanguard power unit. See text.



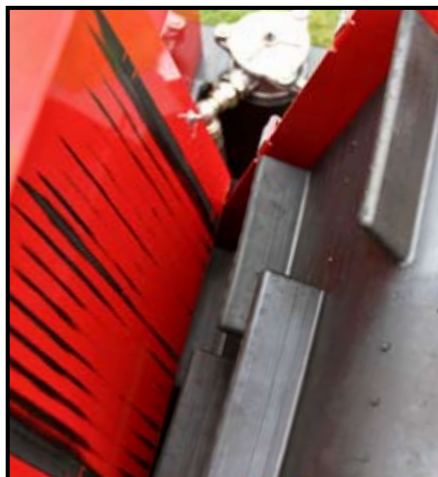
Three hydraulic levers look after the collecting head raise lower, conveyor drive and hopper tip. There is no need to set the collecting head height as it runs on a stainless bottom blade that is designed to 'slide' under the cores. Note sealed tube to house operator handbook.



The main chassis rail on the left houses the 22 litre capacity hydraulic tank with its integral filter and sight glass level. The right chassis rail covers the pair of V-belts that take power to the rear axle drive chain; this drives the axle via a differential to prevent tyre scuff when turning.



To engage drive, the operator pushes the control handle down; releasing pressure automatically brakes and holds the machine with no need to apply a park lock. Four forward ratios allow slow working to a brisk transport speed. In most conditions, the collector will keep pace with a pedestrian corer.



The paddles of the conveyor run up against the collection elevator to help prevent cores dropping back onto the surface. The predecessor CC3000 model has twin impellers. Although effective, the earlier design could break up cores, making it necessary to clean inside the elevator more frequently.



Simple driveline is designed to cut maintenance demands, the short drive chain requiring periodic lubrication. Note single hydraulic ram. This is used to raise and lower both the collection head and rear windrow swage boards.



The elevator top cover is secured by six Dzus fasteners and hinges forward to allow easy access to the conveyor for cleaning. The conveyor has external adjusters for tension with greaseable bearings. Keeping the unit clean and lubed is about all the maintenance required.



The 65kg / 1m<sup>3</sup> capacity hopper is designed to move forward as it tips for emptying, allowing it to fill a turf vehicle or low sided trailer. Lift height is put at 1.30m. Note tricycle design which is designed to allow good manoeuvrability.



The swage board arms locate via a quick release system to allow them to be easily removed. When not in use, they can be stored in the hopper. This is useful when trying to cram a lot of equipment into a confined storage area. Note chain between the boards. This is used to set their working angle.

