

New from Ransomes Jacobsen



Ransomes Jacobsen launched a number of new machines at the show including the Jacobsen GP400 and the Jacobsen LF550/570

Combining the features of its predecessor, the G-Plex III, the Jacobsen GP400 features new ergonomics and engineering to better meet the needs of operators and mechanics.

Its patented swing-out reel and quick release motor mounting system ensures easy maintenance and adjustment and the ergonomically re-styled dash panel has clear and easy-to-use operator controls including a one-touch joystick lift/lower control.

A hydraulic system with fewer components is easier and more cost-effective to maintain and the re-styled fuel tank features a storage area and an easy fill cap. The tank is hinged allowing it to be lifted high from the engine compartment providing easy access.

The modified steering arm angle improves line of sight to the right-hand reel and there's an optional three-wheel drive kit for increased traction on sloping ground.

Replacing the popular Jacobsen LF-3400 and LF-3800, these new light fairway mowers retain many of its predecessor's best features but with additional enhancements that improve functionality and reduce maintenance requirements.

Both feature Jacobsen's Classic XP reels; 127mm reels on the LF550 and 178mm reels on the LF570, with FlashAttach reel mounting for quick and easy reel removal for maintenance.

Programmable mow and transport speeds can be easily set providing the ability to control the frequency of clip for varying conditions and regardless of operator. It's password-protected to prevent over-ride by the operator. With the fastest transport speed in the industry productivity is excellent. The movable armrest includes a one-touch joystick control and the integrated LCD screen displays full text diagnostics for monitoring the mowers' functions.

www.ransomesjacobsen.com



Air Bubble Jet

Billericay Farm Service's (BFS) has launched its new 0.8 White low drift Air Bubble Jet which has been specially developed for greenkeepers and groundsmen.

This white nozzle gives double the flow of the popular red nozzle and, as many greenkeepers use a twin cap with two red nozzles, the white nozzle does the same with just a single jet. This 0.8 nozzle provides a flow rate of 3.2 litres per minute at a pressure of 3 bar, which equates to 320 litres per hectare at 12kph. However, for operators who wish to apply higher volumes, reducing the speed to 6 kph, will enable a spray volume of 640 litres per hectare to be achieved.

Confirmed by independent research, the BFS Air Bubble Jet will reduce spray drift by 75%* and, as the spray is less affected by wind, will ensure improved surface coverage and provide spray operators with more spraying day opportunities. Compared to conventional jets, 18% more of the chemical containing spray reaches its intended target and will provide enhanced control first time round, thereby reducing the requirement for repeat applications.

Such benefits are a major reason why the leading manufacturer of amenity sprayers Gambetti Barre, fits Air Bubble Jets as standard nozzle on their machines.

The Air Bubble Jet has a top 3 star LERAP award that allows category B chemicals to be sprayed within one metre of a water-course, a significant benefit for golf clubs that have lakes, ponds and streams on their course and landscape contractors undertaking weed control adjacent to rivers and reservoirs.

Originally invented by BFS, the Air Bubble Jet has for over 20 years been the industry leader in supplying farmers and growers with environmentally responsible, low drift spray technology and improved targeting of chemical applications.



Matt's Personal Thanks

There are of course people who I feel deserve a special mention as they have made a huge contribution to my life and the running and organisation of the Toro student greenkeeper award, in no particular order they are:

Peter Mansfield and Christine Watson, at Lely UK

Sami Collins, Rachael Duffy, Scott MacCallum, Jim Croxtan, Andrew Mellon, Chris Sealey, Archie Dunn and Gary Cunningham, all BIGGA

Bruce Jameson B Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd; Andrew Stranger, Horsforth Golf Club; Billy McMillan, Tyrell's Wood Golf Club; Amy Ellingham, One Agency/Lely UK;

All of the national finalists, Rob, Miles, Blair, Rhys, Jon, Justin and Ben; Jim McKenzie and Patrick, Callaby Celtic Manor Resort; Martin Perrot, Newport Golf Club; Stuart Hall, John O Gaunt Golf Club; Alan Pierce MG Ham Manor Golf

Club; all of the hard working staff at Ham Manor Golf Club in West Sussex; David Blackmur, Nigel Ellis, Laurie MacMillan, Stuart Franks, all Plumpton College; Hugh Murray, Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies; Mick Beard, Evesham College; Richard Bevan and his family who work at Weston Garden Machinery in Somerset; all of my family and friends who have supported me throughout my life and during the award process.

And last but not least my parents, Jean and Trevor Perks. Hopefully today has re-paid them for the years of grief and monetary hardship that I put them through.

Once again I just like to say thank you to everyone and to let you know how proud and privileged I am to work in an industry that has given me not only a great life but also awarded me for my efforts.

Perks of the job



Matt Perks is a man who plans to succeed and, as Scott MacCallum found out, it paid off at the final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Final

When the name “Matthew Perks” was announced as winner of the 2011 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition, the owner of that name felt a mixture of shock and elation and “pretty much every emotion going”.

One thing it wasn't, however, was a complete bolt from the blue as Matt, Greenkeeper/Mechanic at Ham Manor Golf Club, in West Sussex, had been working towards just that goal for over two years.

He had been well aware of the Toro Competition for some time as his current Course Manager, Alan Pierce MG, was the 2005 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, an achievement which assisted his own rise from an assistant to the position of Course Manager three years ago.

“I spoke to Alan about doing my Level 2 in Sportsturf two years ago and he was very positive, although I had to wait until one of the other guys had finished his Level 3 first, as we couldn't afford to have two staff members off at the same time,” explained Matt, as we spoke the morning after the Toro final.

“I was eager to get going when I did get to Plumpton College and felt that if I gave it everything over the winter months, and did really well, there was a chance I could get nominated by the College for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.”

And with that goal firmly in place that's exactly what he did.

“I was working three and four hours every single day to answer the questions set by the Tutor and was always keen to produce the

best piece of work I possibly could.”

In this life there are certain people for whom it is very difficult not to feel a tinge of sympathy and one of those must be the poor student who was next in line after Matt when it came to handing over course work.

“It is normal to fill one of the big portfolios with work during the course. I produced two. The reason being that I always knew that I wanted to be a Course Manager and that then I'd be responsible for bringing through other students, so my thinking was that if I could produce the best portfolio of work I could while on the course it would be a great reference document or learning tool for them to look through,” said Matt, who also completed the course two months early.

“So I suppose I was already thinking five years into the future. I always have a plan otherwise things just don't happen. You've got to make them happen, haven't you?”

Matt's rare combination of inspiration and perspiration reaped dividends and he became the college's Joint Student of the Year with Abbie Holland, of West Sussex Golf Club, and was duly nominated to represent the College for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

The Regional interview before Past BIGGA Chairman, Billy McMillan; Larry Pearman, of Toro Dealer John Shaw Machinery, and BIGGA's Head of Learning and Development, Sami Collins flew by and Matt anxiously awaited the verdict.

It speaks volumes for how much it meant to the 28 year-old that he postponed a visit to his parents by

a day, just to wait for the post to arrive with what turned out to be a BIGGA franked letter containing very good news.

“I went back through every single piece of college work I'd done to make sure I was prepared to answer anything, whether it be on trees, health and safety or any element of the job. Much of it was already automatic as I was doing it all the time at work, but there were other topics, in areas in which I didn't have regular involvement, and I wanted to refresh my knowledge and understanding of them.”

The overriding feeling for Matt once he got to Aldwark Manor was

“I suppose I was already thinking five years into the future. I always have a plan otherwise things just don't happen. You've got to make them happen, haven't you?”

Matt Perks

one of ensuring that he didn't let himself down.

“If I studied as hard as I could beforehand, did well in the interview and produced the best (finalists' assignment) report that I could, but didn't win I would have still slept well happy that I had done myself justice. The worst thing would have been to have not performed as well as I could and let myself down, especially when you know what winning this Award can do for you,” he explained.

Matt was born and bred in the Somerset village of Sandford, near Weston-Super-Mare, strong

on community and so small that it has one of everything - a pub, school, shop, church, and, as he reveals, with a broad grin, a cider factory!

After an initial foray into computer programming - "Being stuck in a basement room with no windows and fluorescent lights made me physically ill. It wasn't for me at all" - he was accepted for an apprenticeship with GAB Garden Machinery in Sandford, where he worked with Workshop Manager Richard Bevan, who has remained a good friend to Matt ever since. During his time there he passed his Level 3 in Turfcare Engineering at Evesham College.

With a sound mechanical foundation under his belt, and following a spell in Tewkesbury, he was attracted to a position in charge of maintaining the golf machinery at Cannington College, which had recently been bought by Bridge water College and had a half million pound's worth of investment in the fleet.

"It was something which really attracted me. I was an enthusiastic golfer and it was something which really interested me. In fact, I took a £2000 pay cut and gave myself an extra half an hour's drive each day, but I knew that I could make the job work."

Once he'd put all his procedures in place at Cannington, Matt found that he had some available time each week and asked Course Manager, Hugh Murray, if there was anything he could help with on the course.

"I went out with a zero turn mower and cut some semi rough and really enjoyed it and the next thing I was hand cutting greens and raking bunkers. I had a passion for it straight away and once you've been bitten by the greenkeeping bug you'll never go back."

A year and a half later he saw a job for Greenkeeper/Mechanic at Ham Manor Golf Club advertised in Greenkeeper International.

Matt applied, but anticipated a strong field for what is a fine golf course in a very good part of the world. However he impressed at the interview and was offered the job.

"I was offered the job at the interview and thought about it for all of 10 minutes before accepting," he smiled.

When he started his ratio was 60% mechanicing and 40% greenkeeping but since then, and he has again put his procedures in place and got the workshop to how he wanted it, it has turned to 70% greenkeeping and 30% mechanicing.

Matt's experience, of mechanic first and greenkeeper second, is not as common as the reverse but he does see significant benefits.

"Irrigation is straightforward to me because it is just a simple hydraulic system buried in the ground and I am used to dealing with much more complicated hydraulic repairs on mowers.

"I believe I need knowledge of both areas if I'm going to be a Course Manager. If it's a small club then I'll need to do the work myself or train someone else and if it's a bigger club, which employs a mechanic, it is important to know that he is doing the job properly."

One of his greatest experiences has been to be one of the volunteer mechanics at last year's Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor.

"I was one of nine volunteers who joined Equipment Manager Cal Callaby and overall team of 13 working to keep the machines going in horribly wet conditions.

"We were out on the golf course with bunker pumps to keep them going when they became blocked with gravel rather than have them brought back to the Sheds. The experience will stay with me for the rest of my life."

His time working with Cal may also have had more longstanding benefits to Matt as, following Cal's nomination he has recently become a Director of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association.

He is also looking forward to his trip to the United States, a place he hasn't visited before and he has already had the opportunity to chat with last year's Toro winner, Andrew Stanger, about what to expect when in the States.

He is just the sort of character who will gain immensely from the Study course at the University of Massachusetts, while he has friends who have already primed him for his trip to Las Vegas and the Golf Industry Show.

"I must thank everyone at BIGGA, Toro and Lely for all the work and money that goes into making the competition a success while I'd also like to congratulate the other finalists who are fine greenkeepers and wonderful people.

"None of this would have happened if I hadn't taken a £2000 pay cut to go to Cannington, but it has put me in a position where I can do something special with my life, and this is just the start."



Matt has had the opportunity to chat with last year's Toro winner, Andrew Stanger (above left) about what to expect when in the States



Photography by Jonathan Pow / rossparry.co.uk



The 2011, and 23rd, winner of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year is Matthew Perks, Greenkeeper/Mechanic at Ham Manor Golf Club representing Plumpton College.

The two runners-up were Robert Mills, of Sunningdale Golf Club and Merrist Wood College and Miles Todd, Deputy Course Manager of Rhuddlan Golf Club and Deeside College.

The other five finalists were Justin Howard, of Cranham Golf Centre and Myerscough College; Blair Somerville, of Helensburgh Golf Club and GOSTA; Rhys Williams, of Royal Porthcawl Golf Club and Pencoed College; Jon Watson, of Burgham Golf Club and Myerscough College and Benjamin Hunter, of Garon Park Golf Complex and Myerscough College.

The Final, which took place at BIGGA Headquarters at Aldwark Manor, comprised a 45 minute interview before Pete Mansfield, of Lely UK; Bruce Jamieson, a respected golf course consultant; Chris Sealey, a BIGGA Director, and Sami Collins, BIGGA's Head of Learning and Development. The finalists were also presented with an assignment on the morning of the final and had to produce a report based on two of the Alwark Manor golf course holes.

Following the results everyone changed and went for a meal in York before rounding the day off with some high quality tenpin bowling.

Matt has won an eight week trip to the United States beginning in January where he will undertake a six week study course at the University of Massachusetts and trips to both the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show, in Las Vegas, and Toro's Californian base. Matt's Plumpton College Tutor David Blackmur also wins a trip to The Golf Industry Show.

Rob and Miles both win expenses paid trips to Harrogate Week 2012, while all eight receive a year's BIGGA membership.

Greenkeepers in clover

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at how best to face up to the challenge of clover

To be 'in clover' implies a carefree life, the ancient saying coming from the fact that clover rich pastures were always good for fattening cattle.

Clovers were important component species of livestock pastures long before managed turf for sport and leisure, but I doubt whether greenkeepers faced with clovers and closely related leguminous plants as weeds would consider themselves carefree. And this, considering clovers and close relatives in the plant family Fabaceae (pea and bean family), are generally positive for soil fertility.

All things being equal clovers are useful leguminous plants living alongside Rhizobium bacteria in root nodules within a symbiotic relationship. The nitrogen fixing bacteria convert atmospheric nitrogen into nitrate which is utilised by the clover plant and to the benefit of soil fertility. Clover foliage is rich in protein, makes good grazing and palatable fodder for farm animals. The flowers are important sources of nectar for bees and the basis of sought after brands of 'clover honey'.

Turf managers faced with clovers as weeds in fine turf clearly fail to see these otherwise useful leguminous plants in such a positive light. To be 'in clover' presents real problems for greenkeepers. Clovers are among the most persistent and fast spreading weeds of managed turf and some of the most drought resistant. White clover in particular is widespread on fairways, where it is tolerated to an extent, but a definite no-no for greens and tees.

Clovers 'proper' comprise 300+ species worldwide all belonging to the genus Trifolium. Most commonly found in UK professional turf is Trifolium repens (white clover) and Trifolium dubium (yellow suckling clover or lesser trefoil). Trifolium pratense (red clover) normally a dedicated agricultural clover can become a problem in amenity grassland.

In addition, there are other closely related plants such as the trefoils and medicks with virtually the same form, structure and credentials as Trifolium species and therefore considered within a wider grouping of 'clover' weeds in managed turf. They include bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and

black medick (*Medicago lupulina*)

All the 'clovers' share some common features and attributes which make them highly successful broadleaf weeds of turf:

- A prostrate and low growing habit permitting growing points to escape mower blades.
- Creeping stems which root at the nodes in the case of white clover
- Extended periods of flowering and seed formation lasting right through summer and into autumn
- Ubiquitous distribution frequent occurrence in non-turf areas to create a large area-wide seed loads and seed banks.

Clovers have two additional related attributes which provide significant growth and survival advantages over turf grasses and other broadleaf weeds. Inherent ability to access their own source and supply of nitrate from root nodules allows clovers to exploit poorly-managed and under-nourished swards and to grow rapidly at the expense of turf grasses.

Secondly, clovers are very drought resistant and will rapidly colonise water-stressed turf at the expense of virtually all other plants, grasses and broadleaf species alike



MAIN ABOVE: Close up on white clover
ABOVE: Close up on yellow suckling clover
BELOW: Bird's foot trefoil thrives in dried out turf





ABOVE: Big clumps of white clover in drought stressed turf in southern England July 2010
LEFT: Drought stricken turf in July 2010 (southern England) with white clover and bird's foot trefoil (yellow) as far as the eye can see
LEFT BELOW: Yellow suckling clover
RIGHT: Late summer on increasingly drought stressed turf is when clovers come into their own



For these reasons, turf should be irrigated throughout dry periods and receive well-balanced fertiliser regimes over the year as a whole. However, first spring dressing must be rich in nitrogen and relatively low in phosphate and potash (potassium). This will give the grass a 'flying' start over clovers at the beginning of this key high-growth period of the year. Starving turf grass of nitrogen will simply weight the scales even more in the favour of clovers.

Clovers and closely related species possess trifoliate (3-leaflet) leaves. 'Trifolium', the genus name for true clovers and the common name 'trefoil' are both derived from the Latin 'Tres' meaning three and 'Folium' meaning leaf.

Close-up on clovers

White clover (*Trifolium repens*)

A rampant mat-forming weed which colonises large areas of turf through its creeping stems, rooting at the nodes. Alternatively called 'Dutch' clover or more patriotically 'Kentish clover', it is a perennial plant with dark green trifoliate leaves borne on slender and erect

leaf stalks. Each leaflet has a white band or 'halo' near to the base. White clover prefers fertile but non-acid soils and has a long flowering period starting in May and extending right through until October. White flower heads sometimes tinged with pink are borne on long slender pedicels (flower stalks).

Bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)

Also a perennial with creeping stems but which do not root even though they grow just beneath the soil surface. A strong and sturdy taproot anchors the plant and confers a high degree of drought resistance. Leaves, like those of white clover appear to be trifoliate although an additional pair of bract-like leaflets attached close to the stem makes five leaflets in all. Bird's foot trefoil is, like white clover, a fast-spreading and mat-forming weed especially on dry alkaline soils. This weed thrives in turf on well-drained soils especially those derived from sand or limestone.

Bird's foot trefoil flowers from May through to August producing attractive yellow and orange heads, streaked with red and comprising

5-8 pea-like flowers. The plant is sometimes called 'bacon and eggs' due this colour combination in the petals.

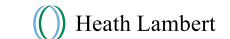
Bird's foot trefoil has a good biodiversity credentials, being the main food source of the common blue (*Polyommatus icarus*) and other British butterflies. *Lotus corniculatus* owes its common name to the inch long seed pods turned up at the ends to resemble a bird's claw or talon.

Yellow suckling clover (*Trifolium dubium*)

Yellow suckling clover (lesser trefoil) is a major nuisance weed especially in fine turf. Even though an annual weed it is more difficult to control than white clover. The creeping stems are slender and fast growing, but do not root like those of perennial white clover. Even so, yellow suckling clover will still colonise substantial patches of ground especially on dry non-acidic soils when turf is thin.

Each leaf comprises three leaflets but unlike white clover the middle leaflet is borne on a noticeably shorter stalk.

The long flowering period from



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TOP: Yellow suckling clover
 SECOND TOP: Close up on bird's foot trefoil
 ABOVE: White clover across the fairway
 LEFT: Red clover is more closely associated with agricultural grassland but does make a colourful addition to high cut amenity grassland.

May to October produces a succession of small and round flower heads yellow at first turning brown later.

Black medick (Medicago lupulina)

Black medick is not a major weed of turf but may show up in quantity on poor quality swards particularly if dry. It looks similar to yellow suckling clover with slender creeping stems, a prostrate habit and well-defined trifoliate leaves. Unlike yellow suckling clover each leaflet has a sharp point at the tip. In contrast to the smooth foliage of yellow suckling clover this plant is hairy and feels sticky to touch. However, defining difference is in the flower and seed heads. They start as small, yellow and rounded (slightly less so) like yellow suckling clover, but later develop into distinctive pods becoming black and coiled when ripe.

Clover control

The mat forming habit of clovers enabled by their creeping stems means scarification is a useful means of suppression. Since growth tends to be patchy manual application using a rake with upturned tines is a useful tool for smaller areas of turf.

The annual life cycles of black medick and yellow suckling clover makes hand weeding of small areas a practical proposition.

Always use a grass box when mowing, not only to collect the small but prolific seed heads from the annual yellow suckling clover and black medick plants, but also pieces of white clover stem with the capacity to root and produce new plants.

Low soil moisture and nitrate levels spell competitive doom for most plants. Low soil moisture levels aggravate the situation because nitrogen is absorbed by roots from the soil as soluble nitrate ions (NO₃⁻). Such conditions pose no problems for the clovers, because in addition to their intrinsic drought-resistance they have access to their own source and supply of nitrate in the root nodules.

High drought resistance and this 'home-made' 'in-house' supply of nitrate means clovers can weather such conditions and 'steal a march' on grasses. Indeed, timely applications of nitrogen fertiliser and summer watering are the next best thing to chemical control of clovers, and the first spring-applied fertiliser dressing should always be nitrogen based and never dedicated phosphate or potash fertiliser.

Keep turf well watered throughout the summer but remember patches of white clover are very slippery when wet.

Clovers were always among the most difficult to control weeds in managed turf but discovery of selective weed killers with a plant growth regulating (hormonal) mode of action helped 'save the day'. Until then clovers were a real nightmare in turf and any attempt to achieve clover free fine turf, especially under dry conditions, was virtually impossible. They are still not easy to control after seventy years of herbicide development and a whole new battery of active ingredients.

The industry still relies heavily on herbicides with a plant growth regulation mode of action and called synthetic auxins because they exert the same effect as indolylacetic acid (the main natural auxin plant hormone).

At high concentrations they are toxic to dicotyledons (broadleaf plants) but not as much to monocotyledons (grasses), and this is why they have been developed and deployed as selective herbicides in turf.

The group covers a whole range of widely known and used herbicides including the 1940's discoveries 2,4-D and MCPA, mecoprop-p and dicamba with their 1950's to 1960's vintage, and clopyralid and fluroxypur discovered and commercialised in the 1980's. Synthetic auxins are complemented with other newer herbicide actives such as diflufenican and florasulam with completely different chemistries and modes of action.

Contemporary commercial herbicides are invariably broad based products combining two or more of the above active ingredients in carefully crafted mixtures to obtain the most efficacious and broad spectrum weed control that includes the clovers.

White clover is the most widely spread and frequent of clovers in turf but also the most easy to control.

It is not unusual for the manufacturer's herbicide label to stipulate higher dosage rates and a tighter weed growth stage restriction for commercial control of bird's foot trefoil, yellow suckling clover and black medick.

That said these herbicides used at recommended rates have one thing in common.

That is selective action against broad-leaf dicotyledonous weeds like clovers without adverse effect on the monocotyledonous grasses in fine turf.

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Treading the boards

Scott MacCallum examines the value and success of BIGGA's Website Bulletin Boards

Where would you think to go if you wanted some information on out of bound markings; or whether smooth or grooved rollers are preferable for fairway mowers, or even help with problems with herons?

Of course, you could visit your local library (if it still exists!) or Google it and take your chances with what that turns up, or, much more sensibly, you could log onto the Members' Area of the BIGGA website – www.bigga.org.uk – and place a posting on the Bulletin Board.

Those three issues were recent topics on the Boards and for each one of them the poster was rewarded with some excellent responses and some superb advice.

The Bulletin Boards were introduced to the website around six years ago and quickly established themselves as a popular feature, offering the chance for members to pass comment; share the odd joke with fellow greenkeepers and, perhaps most importantly, request advice or information from the wealth of human resource within the Association.

"The Boards are not limited to technical information. They are also heavy on the human issues in greenkeeping," explained regular Bulletin Board visitor and Past BIGGA National Chairman, Paul Worster, Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club.

"Anyone under pressure or stress at work can find instant empathy and helpful feedback on dealing with the situation. We may work alone in isolated golf clubs but there is no need to isolate ourselves from the world. The old adage is very true 'A problem shared is a problem halved'," said Paul.

Another regular visitor and contributor is De Vere Mottram Hall Hotel & Golf Club Course Manager, Stuart Stenhouse, who says he visits the Boards three to four times a week.

"I'll have a general read or follow up on an interesting thread if there



have been more replies since my last visit," explained Stuart, who has also posted questions.

"I always find that you get pretty well thought out responses and in general terms they are courteous. I am also surprised at how often I get a reply and it turns out to be something that has never crossed my mind before. It has had a practical impact on how I have done things on my course," he admitted.

He is a huge fan of what the Bulletin Boards can offer.

"They are invaluable because it is a great way to learn and it doesn't cost a penny, other than your membership subscriptions. They are a source of education and I think that fact is sometimes lost on people.

"Some see them as Ideas' Boards; some see them as Solutions' Boards; others see it as somewhere to go and sound off, but fundamentally it is a free source of education."

Paul is even more effusive in his praise of the Boards.

"I was recently asked by the President of a well-known Kent golf club what I felt was the biggest change, or innovation, I'd seen during my career. I think he was

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Stuart Stenhouse

expecting me to say the strimmer or plant growth regulators but I replied, almost without thinking because to me it was so obvious, that it was communications – the speed at which we can contact a colleague or industry professional to gain assistance," he said.

And the great thing about the Bulletin Boards is that they can be viewed from anywhere and comment can come from any part of the world.

One of the most regular contributors is Sean Sullivan, Superintendent at The Briarwood Golf Club, in Montana, who says he logs on at least four times a day.

"I've posted questions several times when I'm looking for techni-