

droppings on the course may be treated as casual water.” The finishing hole is a memorable par 3 over a deep valley—201 yards, all carry, wind howling and directly under the clubhouse window, where many townspeople gather to watch the mere 200-yard shots roll halfway back to the tee into the abyss. Our reward for our exertions was the chance to sit above the 18th with a cool pint in hand and watch other golfers suffer as we did.

With ample daylight left, we made a stop for a tour at Dunrobin Castle, the former home of the Duke of Sutherland, before heading back to Dornoch. (No trip to Scotland can be considered complete without a castle tour.) After a walk about the town, with several stops at historical points of interest (800-year-old pub, Donald Ross’ house, another 800-year-old pub, and then yet another), it was back to the Burghfield for our final night’s stay.

As luck would have it, the Burghfield was hosting a grand party for the area’s sheep ranchers (I think that’s what they were), allowing us



*The Dunrobin castle, once the Highland home of the Duke of Sutherland.*

the opportunity to meet and chat with the real Highlanders who reside in this harsh environment. Euan’s bar was bustling with activity, and the locals could not have been more receptive of our group. The people we met were much like the landscape they inhabit: weathered, windswept and tough, and similar in description to the countless pubs we experienced, with exteriors cold and stone-faced, but warm and friendly on the inside. And the lasses in particular could be described like a links course—bumpy, prickly, undulating and tough, with any shot contemplated requiring a

*(continued on page 23)*

*... Brora is not only a wonderful links course originally designed by Old Tom Morris and renovated in 1923 by James Braid, but is perhaps the truest mingling of golf and the environment that exists.*



*The other Brora mowing crew.*

# HAROLD FREDERICKSON IS NOW



**Have Dogs • Will Travel • 708.923.6885**

Check out our web page at [www.goosesolution.com](http://www.goosesolution.com) or e-mail us at [goosesolution@comcast.net](mailto:goosesolution@comcast.net)



**1444 BERNARD DRIVE  
ADDISON, IL 60101  
PHONE (630) 268-8871  
FAX (630) 268-1357**

***Proud Distributors Of:***



**ROOTS inc.**

**BASF**

**Nature  
Safe**



**novozymes®  
par ex**



**REGAL  
CHEMICAL COMPANY**



**Trent Bradford  
(630) 742-2327**

**Walter Fuchs  
(630) 258-8765**

**John Lebedevs  
(630) 742-4905**

**Brian Baker  
(630) 546-1454**



vivid imagination . . . though also endowed with an endearing charm and beauty that says, "To play me is to love me." We were entertained by a table of locals who regaled us with the spontaneous singing of traditional folk songs, and encouraged us to do the same for them. (Unable to think of any traditional folk songs to which we knew the lyrics, a rousing rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" had to suffice.) I believe this was the point at which we started to talk like Scotsmen and reply to every question with "Aye, laddie." Early the next morning—foggy in several ways—we packed our bags and embarked on our next destination: the much-anticipated Royal Dornoch Golf Club, after which we would travel down to St. Andrews in the ancient Kingdom of Fife.

Royal Dornoch, according to written records, was the third known golf links in Scotland, established in 1616 (following St. Andrews in 1552 and Leith in 1593). It wasn't until 1877 that the Dornoch Golf Club was founded as the successor to the

Sutherland Golfing Society, and the great Tom Morris came to Dornoch to oversee the laying out of nine proper holes. Three years later saw the addition of nine more holes, and not much has changed since. Although it is gaining in worldwide popularity recently, its remote location and the difficulty in traveling there (rail service from London came only in 1903, and the more-recent construction of a network of bridges spanning the firths has made it more accessible) kept it a well-guarded secret for many years.

Our experience on Dornoch was nothing short of awe—no finer links course can possibly exist. Upon completing our round, the common feeling was the wish to stay, get a good night's sleep and have another shot at giving this fine lady our best game. I would have been satisfied just to walk the course—clubs or no—to take in the majesty of the links and the significance of the surroundings. From the seventh tee, up on a ridge high above the North Sea, a 360-degree view awaits where you can see

*Our experience on Dornoch was nothing short of awe—no finer links course can possibly exist.*

the monument to the first Duke of Sutherland, which commemorates the man who was responsible for the infamous Highland Clearances in the early 19th century. This event involved the forcible removal of 15,000 people—mainly tenant farmers, or crofters—from their land and relocation to coastal areas, as the duke felt that sheep would prove far more profitable than people. Turn a little, and the entire course rolls and meanders around you, reminding you

*(continued on page 25)*



*The panoramic view from the third tee at Royal Dornoch.*





**Charles J. Fiore Company, Inc.**

## The Landscaper's Nursery Center

Chicagoland's Largest Selection  
of Premium Grade Plant Materials

**OVER 800 VARIETIES OF TREES, SHRUBS,  
EVERGREENS, GROUNDCOVERS, AND PERENNIALS  
READY FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE PICK-UP OR DELIVERY**

16606 W. Hwy. 22 Prairie View, IL 60069  
(847) 913-1414 FAX (847) 913-9690

### When the Pressure's on... **WE SHINE!**

When you need a powerful pressure washer that's tough on clean-ups and easy on your budget, check out the AaLadin 1000 series washers. Filled with outstanding standard features, these units really put on the pressure and make things shine! Every AaLadin unit is built to highest quality specifications in the industry. Stop in today for a complete demonstration.



#### HIGH PSI LTD.

25 South Park Street, Roselle, IL 60172  
(630) 893-0777 Fax (630) 893-1045  
**(800) 666-3900**



A Distributor of



IR

**Consistent**

*Quality*

**Consistent**

*Service*

**Consistent**

*Soil Type*

**Executive Blend Bluegrass Sod  
Penncross & L-93 Bentgrass Sod  
StrathAyr Soil-Free  
42" Big Roll available**



**HUBER RANCH  
SOD NURSERY INC.**

P.O. Box 188, Schneider, IN 46376

800-553-0552 • (219)552-0552

**www.hubersod.com**

of those devilish holes that ate your Titleists without remorse—holes with names like Whinny Brae, Foxy, High Hole and simply Home. Another slight turn brings into view the Tarbat Ness lighthouse, the second tallest in the United Kingdom. Finally, turn some more and you see the center of town, dominated by the spire of a 13th-century cathedral. If the trip had ended here, we all would have been satisfied. Ah, but it was only Sunday afternoon as we enjoyed a parting pint in the clubhouse and then boarded the Ark for St. Andrews, the ice boxes replenished and our anticipation high—we had four more days of golf!

Our auspicious arrival in the ancient city of St. Andrews began with a drive right across the first and 18th fairways of the Old Course—perfectly legal, but it still felt surreptitious and somehow wrong to drive a busload of overindulgent slobes on such hallowed ground. The Dunvegan was our next base of operations, and proved more than capable. A quaint “pub with rooms” owned by Jack and Sheena

Willoughby, the Dunvegan lies a block from the Old Course, and is the evening watering hole for its caddies and players alike. Photos of the notables who have called it home—mainly golfers who have stayed there during the Open—cover the walls of its bar-room. I believe we stayed in there long enough to memorize all of them. The merriment that lasted well into the night, with Steve the barman keeping glasses full, led to a less-than-sharp constitution for the coming day, which featured a round of golf on the Old Course with greenkeeper Eddie Adams along for the fun.

To be continued . . .



### References Cited

*The Scottish Golf Book*  
by Malcolm Campbell,  
with photography by Glyn Satterley.  
Lomond Books, 1999.

*A Season in Dornoch*  
by Lorne Rubenstein.  
Simon & Schuster, 2001.

### About the Photos

The author wishes to thank Glyn Satterley, a renowned professional photographer of Scottish golf courses and landscapes, for allowing the use of the stunning golf course images in this article. For information on these and all of Glyn’s golf and sporting photography, visit [www.glynsatterley.com](http://www.glynsatterley.com).



*The sixth green at Royal Dornoch with the 11th hole in the background.*



## PRECISION BLENDED TOP DRESSING

Custom blended to your specifications  
by our modern equipment.

*Buy when you need —  
Eliminate costly storage*

We sell an air-dried, uniform and  
free flowing top dressing.

*ASK THE MAN WHO HAS USED IT.*

## HENRY FRENZER

Area Code 847  
658-5303

620 Webster St.  
Algonquin, IL  
60102



"The Water Quality Company"

Testing • Evaluation • Treatment



Exclusive Distributor of the  
Prime Turf Series 900 Injection Station

For All Your Water Quality Needs Call:

14200 S. Parker Road • Lockport, IL 60441  
(800) 677-8097 • Fax: (708) 301-3351



*New Course Construction  
Renovation and Restoration*

## GOLFCREATIONS

Marengo, IL 815.923.1868



75 Years of Quality Service, Products & People



Rapid and effective weed control for common  
and troublesome weed species in turfgrass;  
including white clover, dandelion, ground ivy  
and spurge.

**Speed-Zone and Power-Zone**

27310 W Case Rd  
Wauconda, IL 60084  
847.526.0007

7851 W 183rd  
Tinley Park, IL 60477  
708.532.4723

4304 S Beaumont Ave  
Kansasville, WI 53139  
262.878.2048

# A Yankee in Yorkshire: Working the 2003 Walker Cup

*Editor's Note: This is Jon Jennings' account of his September 2003 trip to Yorkshire, England, to gain some insight and experience working on the grounds crew during the 2003 Walker Cup matches at Ganton Golf Club. The Walker Cup event, which pits Great Britain and Ireland versus the U.S., comes to Chicago Golf in 2005.*

*Following a nerve-racking drive on the M1 expressway from Rugby to Leeds, I directed the car north on the A61 then east on A64 to the sleepy seaside village of Scarborough. I was almost accustomed to driving on the left side of the road by the time I arrived at the hotel in the late afternoon. Even the roundabouts had become less disturbing to me as the day progressed.*

Earlier in the day, I had approached my hired car, a sporty silver Rover, five-speed diesel, and instinctively went for the right-side door. Thankfully I caught myself before I did, and walked around to the driver's side. Reviewing maps, starting the engine and slipping the car's transmission into neutral (with my left hand), I was absolutely terrified at the thought of driving a vehicle on the left side of the road. Driving a car is almost second nature when you have been doing it for 24 years. Now, every move required thought and there was no margin for error. The most important concept to remember is "look right."

This holds true when stepping off the curb, leaving a stop sign or light, and most important, when entering a roundabout, which as it turns out are at just about every junction.

On major roads, you are required to stay in the left lane unless passing. I found the flow of traffic driving from the congested suburb north of London to be moving around 80 miles an hour. On narrower two-lane roads, the challenge was judging the size of the car and not drifting left off the road to avoid oncoming traffic.

The opening ceremony for the 2003 Walker Cup matches was scheduled for that evening. Two thousand-plus enthusiastic spectators braved a chilly North Yorkshire evening, as the delightfully understated clubhouse provided an ideal stage for presentation of officials, captains and teams. The club's captain, Roger Booth, proudly welcomed all to Ganton. The ceremony was punctuated by a flyover from the British Air Force.

As the gathering broke up, I had yet to make my contact with the head greenkeeper, Phil Baldock. Instinctively, I traveled off the 18th fairway down a gravel path that led to a group of small buildings that looked as though they might be related to green-keeping. A small red pickup truck with its engine running idled outside. All of the doors were locked with the exception of one sliding door leading into the main portion of the building. I peered inside and was met by a man on his way out carrying a cup cutter. I introduced myself and asked if he knew where I could find Phil Baldock. His reply, "That is me."



*Phil Baldock (far right) is the head greenkeeper at Ganton Golf Club, site of the 2003 Walker Cup matches. His normal staff of seven swelled to 11 during the tournament.*

*(continued on page 28)*



I had e-mailed Phil a few months earlier to inquire about the possibility of assisting his staff during the Walker Cup. He replied that he would be more than happy to find something for me to do. The weather in England and throughout Europe in 2003 was exceptionally dry and unseasonably warm. The normally lush heather was brown and the ground, unbelievably firm. Perfect for match-play conditions. Phil indicated that he was preparing to go out on the course and set hole locations for tomorrow's matches. I was to report for work in the shack at half-five in the morning.

Saturday morning, I was still delirious from jet lag when my alarm went off at 4:30 a.m. Not wanting to wake the member of our Club with whom I was sharing a room, I prepared to leave for the day in the dark. As I walked by the front desk, I was greeted by an odd look and a comment of "early start today, mate?" I replied in the affirmative and was on my way. The drive in the dark, on the wrong side of the road, seemed to take forever. Lighting was sparse outside the village and landmarks were scarce. A fog had crept into the lowlands overnight adding to the cloak of darkness. I arrived at the course and walked into the shack to meet the others on the staff.

Phil has been the head greenkeeper at Ganton for a number of years. Prior to that, he had been the head greenkeeper at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland. The position at Ganton became available when the former greenkeeper was killed in a shotgun accident one evening while attempting to control the wild hares that are rampant in this part of the country.

Over the next half-hour, individuals filtered into the crew room. The normal maintenance staff at Ganton consists of seven people. For the tournament, a small contingent of volunteers had swelled the staff to 11. Morning preparation entailed double-cutting greens, mowing tees and aprons as well as raking all of the bunkers. Double-cutting greens was carried out by one person on a triplex mower and two people with walk mowers. The triplex mowed all 19 greens and the walk mowers followed for a second cut. Two individuals

with pedestrian mowers cut all of the tees. The remaining five of us split up to rake bunkers.



*The bunker-raking squad.*

Bunkers in England represent the truest definition of a hazard. Sand combined with sea shells and gravel meet steep, often vertical sod walls that wish to retain any golf balls that enter for what may seem an eternity for players unfortunate enough to arrive there. The playing base is very firm.



*British bunkers are truly punitive.*

Each day of the tournament, I was paired up with a gentleman named Bob. Bob is an exceptionally friendly chap of 70 who moves with the spryness and agility of a man half his age. His previous career was in wildlife control for the government; now, he worked at the golf course part-time to assist his pension. Everyone walked as they left the shack, tools in hand, prepared for their morning tasks. I consider myself in fairly good condition, but Bob put me to shame with the quickness of his raking skills and fast-paced walk to the next bunker. Bob has never ventured to the States and asked many questions regarding the differences in maintenance practices between the two countries. Whilst traversing from hole to hole, one of the best tips Bob offered me was to avoid brushing up against the gorse.



*Jon's partner in grooming bunkers, the energetic septuagenarian Bob.*

Gorse is devilish, dense and spiny, a dull grayish-green shrub that typically grows to about 3 meters in height. It has small leaves that are generally shorter than its conspicuous spines. From early spring, yellow pea-like flowers develop in clusters on the ends of its branches, becoming hairy black seed pods by late summer.

The morning light broke through the fog. In the distance, we sighted what appeared to be a small kangaroo. Bob informed me that it was a hare. Hares wreak havoc on bunker faces, burrowing into the banks during the evening. It is common for the staff to patrol the course at night with trucks, lights and guns in order to reduce the population. There is in fact metal mesh netting surrounding the golf course in an attempt to limit the amount of hares that enter.



*Hares are a big problem as they burrow into bunker faces by night. Population reduction via firearms is one remedy.*

As we neared the end of our morning work, the first group of the day was teeing off. When we had completed the set-up tasks, we convened back at the shack. We discussed the plan of attack for the afternoon matches. The triplex and the two



pedestrian mowers would cut ahead of the groups in order to maintain speed on the green surfaces.



*The 2003 U.S. Walker Cup team takes putting practice.*

Before 2003, only two golf clubs in the world had held the Curtis Cup, the Walker Cup and the Ryder Cup: Royal Birkdale and Muirfield. Ganton, in the heart of Yorkshire, was now the third. The course of 6,894 yards, par 71, is a stunning example of an inland links in a gently contoured heath-land environment. This culmination of an evolutionary design process involving the likes of Harry Colt, Alister MacKenzie, Herbert Fowler and C.K. Cotton provides formidable bunkering and firm undulating greens that become treacherous as the day wears on.

Morning tasks completed and afternoon tasks allocated, the entire greenkeeping staff (all 11 of us) walked to the clubhouse, entering through the back kitchen door, and sat around a couple of tables pushed together in the manager's office. This is where we would eat breakfast every day during the tournament. The busy clubhouse staff was doting upon players, members and other dignitaries. In between, they managed to deliver plates of hot food to us for the morning meal. I could identify most of the items displayed and politely took portions of one item I did not readily recognize. Scrambled eggs, steamed tomatoes, potatoes, cereal, fresh fruit, toast, some brown stuff and of course, tea.

The manager provided a small television for us to view the morning matches while we ate. Conversation ranged from sports to friendly crew banter. One of the staff asked me how I liked the black pudding (the aforementioned brown stuff). I tried a little; it had a unique taste, incompa-

rable to anything I had eaten prior in my life. The group began to chuckle and I was asked if I knew what I was consuming. At that point, common sense kicked in and told me that some things are better left unknown. (Black pudding, also known as blood pudding—this large link sausage is made of pig's blood, suet, bread crumbs and oatmeal. Almost black in color, blood sausage is generally sold pre-cooked. It's traditionally sautéed and served with mashed potatoes.)

Following breakfast, we returned to the shack. People were needed to walk with the afternoon matches and rake bunkers when a player exited the hazard. This was a great opportunity to view the matches inside the ropes each day. I grabbed a rake and rushed to the first tee with players, a Rules official from the Royal & Ancient, a standard-bearer and a sports commentator from the BBC piping information into the ear of golf analyst and voice of the BBC, Peter Allis.

The standard-bearers were young lads from Scarborough College and St. Peter's Independent School, often very witty and a lot of fun to travel the course with. The BBC person in our group was a woman named Frances. Frances had a deep passion for golf and was eager to discuss the matches. She would go back and forth between talking to me, listening to her earpiece and transmitting our match's highlights.

On the course, our entourage moved from tee to green with the players. I assisted Frances in keeping track of where a ball would end up after a precarious bounce and helped the standard-bearers set numbers in the scoring sign. Being able to stand with an unobstructed view on each tee was the best part of the job. The players would crush the ball, taking many of the design features out of play by hitting the ball beyond them. I actually walked 13 holes before having to rake a single bunker. Our match ended on 16 with Brock Mackenzie, U.S.A., defeating David Inglis, Scotland, 3 & 2.

Match play is a very fast-moving event in comparison to stroke play. If a player has an exceptionally poor hole, he will concede early and move to the next tee. Close matches become real pressure-cookers, with

*(continued on page 31)*

**You take  
care of  
the course...**



**...we'll take  
care of the  
mosquitoes.**

**That's what we do. That's all we do.**

Clarke's integrated pest management approach keeps nuisance mosquitoes off your course, and happy golfers coming back.

**Call us today.**

e-mail: [georgebalis@clarkemosquito.com](mailto:georgebalis@clarkemosquito.com)

**1 800 942 2555**

website: [www.clarkemosquito.com](http://www.clarkemosquito.com)

*"Serving communities for over 50 years."*



**Clarke Environmental  
Mosquito Management, Inc.**

159 Garden Avenue • Roselle, IL 60172



# COMMERCIAL TURF & TRACTOR

**BUILT ON EXPERIENCE, SERVICE & CUSTOMER SATISFACTION!**

**QUALITY CONTRACTING, SERVICE, and SALES!**

- Terra Spike® Deep-tine Aeration • Fairway Overseeding or Slit Seeding • Custom Putting Green Seeding
- Fairway Aeration - Deep or Shallow • Complete Turf Renovation • Greens Core Collecting

Wiederhann®  
TERRA SPIKE  
DEEP TINE  
AERATION



Complete  
Seeding  
Services



ROTADIRON®  
SOIL RENOVATOR



National® 8400  
FAIRWAY and  
ATHLETIC FIELD  
VERTI-CUTTING/  
DETHATCHING



Turbo®  
TOPORESSING



WaterWicks®  
GRAVEL VEIN  
INJECTION



MASSEY  
FERGUSON®



Wiederhann®/  
Terra-Comb®  
SHOWN WITH SPIKE  
ROLLER  
& OPTIONAL  
OVERSEEDING UNIT



**1-800-748-7497**

**Bryan Wood, Owner**

*Serving the Industry for over 20 years*

Check out our demo and trade-in equipment for sale → [www.commercialturfandtractor.com](http://www.commercialturfandtractor.com)

[www.bryansblend.com](http://www.bryansblend.com)

*Home of Bryan's Blend Barbecue Sauce!*

**For a healthy waterway,  
make one call.**

We manage aquatic plants, control algae, conduct water quality testing, stock game fish, and install aeration systems and nuisance geese deterrents, all with an environmentally sensitive approach.

Look to us for product equipment and sales as well.



**AQUATIC WEED  
TECHNOLOGY**

For A Professional Consultation,  
Call Rich Rollins at (630) 893-0810  
email: [richrollins@aquaticweed.com](mailto:richrollins@aquaticweed.com) or [www.aquaticweed.com](http://www.aquaticweed.com)  
A division of Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management Co., Inc.



28322 Ballard Road  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Telephone: 847-281-9400  
Fax: 847-281-9780

- \* Irrigation & Pump Station Design
- \* Irrigation Installation
- \* Drainage Systems
- \* Pump Station Installation
- \* Irrigation Pipe & Supplies
- \* Pond Aerators