

**UK**

*Continued from page 1*

tournament week and that half the year it is closed. The argument does not hold in Britain, where there is enormous pressure from television viewers and world travelers to water everywhere and fine-tune greens.

According to Jimmy Kidd, estates and golf courses manager of Gleneagles Hotel, British-style greens, comprised of sand and peat, lack antagonistic antibodies and bacteria needed to sustain close cuts.

"Especially on new courses, it takes about seven years to stabilize growth," Kidd said. "If you try to cut your greens down to tournament levels of one-eighth inch, you put your fescues at risk. And when you've had a tournament, it takes several years to recover."

Added Thomas: "The most controversial issue in this country is the degree of poa annua, whether it should be eliminated, whether it's feasible to eliminate it — and at what price."

The classic view is that poa annua is tolerable — and given the wet climate, scarcely avoidable. But some modern greenkeepers insist on doing away with annual meadowgrass and are investigating a new regimen of pesticides and fungicides.

In the mid-1980s James H. Arthur, advisory agronomist to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, argued for traditional links-style golf. He called for the smallest amounts of water and fertilizer needed. To promote growth, he advocated nitrogen and organic nutrients, not potassium and phosphates.

His widely publicized views split the British greenkeeping industry. Several inland superintendents lost their fairways — and their jobs — following Arthur's advice.

The fact is, no single maintenance program works in countries where local soil and weather conditions vary so markedly. A seaside course may have porous sandy soil, while 10 miles inland another course will be heavy clay or marshy heathland.

Overall, British greenkeeping is emerging from traditional concerns. Compared to the United States, British greenkeeping enjoys — or suffers from: smaller budgets; the application of far less water and fertilizer; cooler weather conditions, with higher humidity; more rounds than courses were designed to handle; courses remaining open year round; and members accustomed to far more modest fees.

*Bradley S. Klein is a freelance golf writer who lives in Bloomfield, Conn.*



A greenskeeper mows at St. Andrews' 17th — the Road Hole.

Tony Roberts photo

Sizes of the greens at The Old Course at St. Andrews are startling, compared to the average course's 5,000-square-yard greens.

St. Andrews' sizes follow:

#1	19,926
#2&16	23,751
#3&15	32,760
#4&14	41,031
#5&13	61,380
#6&12	49,608
#7&11	44,604
#8&10	50,058
#9	22,572
#17	29,250
#18	22,842

Total 397,782 sq. ft.

Average size each green: 36,162 (x11=397,782)

Average size each hole: 22,099 (x18=397,782)

## Maintenance schedule: Of hoofs and horns

Gordon Moir is head greenkeeper at Fraserburgh Golf Club on Scotland's Buchan Peninsula, just north of Aberdeen. His course is exposed on three sides to the North Sea. There is no drainage in his fairways. Only greens can be waters. On average, the course receives

between 22 and 27 inches of rain per year and is exposed to dry winds throughout the summer.

The 27-hole layout was designed by James Braid after World War I. Its 6,220-yard medal course hosts 16,000 rounds annually. The greens staff has four fulltimers and one student trainee. Moir and two assistants are "qualified" — graduates of technical institutes.

The maintenance budget this year is \$135,000 — half for salaries and the rest for equipment and supplies. Moir earns \$20,000 per year.

Maintenance at Fraserburgh calls for triplex cutting of the greens six days a week in season

and one cut per week through winter. In the summer, greens are verticut every week and top dressed every four or five weeks.

The recipe for Moir's special mixture of fertilizer treatment sounds — and smells — like a witch's brew. To every 100 square yards of turf, he applies three pounds of sulphate of ammonia, one pound of hoof and horn (pulverized hoof and horn of cattle), one pound of dried cattle blood, one pound of potash, and a half-pound of iron sulphate. All that's missing is the tongue of newt. The mix is bulked up with sand and applied by hand.

## BIGGA is bigger by far than 1987

The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association has grown to 3,500 members since being formed in 1987.

Its monthly journal, Greenkeeping Management, covers the latest developments in the field. The association's annual conference/exhibition is already a mainstay of the European golf scene.

At this year's British Open, BIGGA had one of the busiest hospitality tents. Its members, including those from a dozen countries outside Britain, helped the greens staff and accompanied each group of golfers to rake bunkers.

Through its conferences, certification program, and its own research, BIGGA has become a force in British golf. It works with the Royal and Ancient, the Sports Turf Research Institute, and, most importantly, traditional greenkeepers.

For further information, contact BIGGA at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, England; 011-44-3473-581.



## GUETTLER & SONS INCORPORATED

specializing in  
Complete Turnkey Golf Course Construction  
and Renovations

Building Across the United States  
Since 1954

Contact Chris Nelson  
P.O. Box 1987, Ft. Pierce, FL 34954  
Tel: (407) 461-8345  
Fax: (407) 461-8039

For free information circle #123

### #1 In A Series

#### Preventing Turf Diseases



### DOLLAR SPOT

Appears as small yellow-green blotches. A cobweb-type growth is often seen, especially in the mornings. Banner® fungicide at 1-2 oz./1000 sq. ft. provides low cost-per-day-of-control, preventing disease for up to 28 days.

© 1990 CIBA-GEIGY Corporation, Turf and Ornamental Products. Always read and follow label directions.



For free information circle #124