To Neil Thomas:

Thanks very much indeed to you and members of the Association for their very valuable service provided at Royal Birkdale during The Open Championship.

Certainly the bunker raking between matches has now become an accepted part of The Championship and makes things much easier for the players and their caddies. This is so important to those in a following match, who find that bunkers have been left in a fair and consistent condition.

We look forward to having you all with us again next year.

Michael F Bonallack
Secretary, Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews

Thanks to all those who gave valuable help at The Open, particularly with divoting and bunker maintenance.

All BIGGA greenkeepers were very smartly turned out and a true credit to the Association. I am most grateful and again my sincere thanks.

Tom O'Brien
Head Greenkeeper, Royal Birkdale Golf Club

I was most concerned to read in your interview feature (July, pp. 23-25) with Bruce Jamieson, that turf sterilisation using methyl bromide is suggested as a greenkeepers technique to kill Poa annua in greens. Gassing greens with methyl bromide by greenkeepers is illegal in the United Kingdom and is also a highly hazardous process.

Special equipment is needed for its application and the chemical may only be used by professional operators trained in its use and familiar with the precautionary measures that must be observed. Methyl bromide is subject to the Poisons Act 1972 and Poisonous Rules 1982.

I consider your article to be lacking by the omission of this important information and request you publish this letter in order that greenkeepers may be aware of the hazard presented by gassing with methyl bromide.

H.B. Baldwin
Plant Pathologist, Sports Turf Research Institute

The point is well taken, though it should be noted that the article offered the viewpoint of one respected individual and was not intended to be definitive instruction on methyl bromide gassing. Taken further, my understanding is that such operations have only ever been undertaken (by expert operators) in the British Isles on new green constructions prior to seeding, with results that were mixed. As its application remains untried on any established British green. Since Clubs are, understandably, reluctant to order that greenkeepers may be aware of the hazard presented by gassing with methyl bromide.

Mr Peace implies that Greenkeeper International has failed by keeping quiet. Not so, as he will see in this issue. This magazine, like most monthlies, is prepared and laid for press at least two weeks before publication. The Open finished on the 21st July, one full week after editorial deadline. It speaks wonders for our production team that two colour pages were set aside in order to include my large photo montage of The Open. Plant Pathologists at Royal Birkdale, the being achieved without delay to publication day. The luxury of overnight reporting is something that must be left to the national dailies – Editor.

I hearthy agree with your astute comments (July editorial) but feel one point of contention was overlooked. The so-called consultant was saying that he would like to see more university graduates overseeing young greenkeepers. Not so, say I, for after finishing college and passing exams these younger greenkeepers need the guidance of older and more experienced greenkeepers, men capable and willing of passing on their wide knowledge of local soil conditions and weather patterns.

As an example, the spring of '91 caught out many greenkeepers with little prior knowledge of the effects of cold, dry conditions on the growing cycle. I myself run a small nursery, 9 hole course single-handed and by using my knowledge of such spring conditions, often experienced in this corner of the country, managed to keep my greens in excellent condition whilst others were suffering with bare greens.

On a different subject, I think the industry is losing sight of golfers' real needs and that maybe they don't want to play on huge, fancy complexes. My own experience suggests that the ordinary golfer is happiest on a simple parkland course where he can tee off on grass, play two shots to the green and putt out. On a good putting surface, all at a reasonable green fee.

Roger and Valerie Glazer
Cuddington GC, Surrey

The receipt of so many letters of congratulation for the Open have a problem and could use some guidance. On so-called championship courses, you touch a raw nerve. Having read it cool, (twirling round three times in a 'phone booth) peeled off his shirt before calling for the assistance of another to take one child, then swam semi-clothed to rescue the other. Safely to shore, the children were returned to their much relieved mother.

Who was this hero? No, not Superman swathed in a red and blue cape but denim clad Max Baldwin of the Cleveland section.

Well done Ian, we are proud of you!

ROGER AND VALERIE Grazier

E Granger Melrose, Roxburghshire, Scotland

The exchange of information and knowledge is one that BIGGA positively encourages. Perhaps the greatest stumbling block is a reluctance on the part of many greenkeepers to admit to a colleague that they have a problem and could use some guidance. On so-called championship courses, you touch a raw nerve. Having teed up on some architectural nightmares built only for Supermen, especially those in America, I have no desire to return and lose another cluster of golf balls – and my self-esteem – Editor.

FOOTNOTE: The receipt of so many letters of congratulation for the National Tournament is hugely satisfying and I join with those involved, especially at Royal St David's, ICI and Head Office, in acknowledging the writers concerned. Space limitations prevent the publication of such letters, encouraging and flattering though they are, and so with heartfelt appreciation for your generous comments, we thank you one and all.

E Granger Melrose, Roxburghshire, Scotland