Boiling in the hot seat
Keen golfer Chris Boiling is the new editor of Greenkeeper International. He took up the position just before the hugely successful BTME.

Greenkeeper International is the sixth magazine the 34-year-old newspaper trained journalist has edited. Immediately prior to the BIGGA post, he was editor of the award-winning Sports Boat International, Waterski Illustrated and Jet Skier magazines.

He has also written for Today's Golfer and Golf News.

GOT A HOT NEWS STORY FOR US? CALL CHRIS BOILING AT THE NEWSDESK: 0347 838581

Greenkeeper's charity drive
One-legged Dennis Archer, the course manager at Whitchurch Golf Club, Cardiff, raised more than £1,000 for charity by go-karting. He survived 29 laps during the Renault Disabled Karting Championship and although he didn't win any of the races he did collect a prize as the highest individual fundraiser. Nearly three-quarters of his £1,000 total came from greenkeepers. "This is sufficient to pay for up to three car conversions allowing disabled persons to drive again," said the 57-year-old manager who lost his leg last June due to a blocked artery.

Jack’s all right after hip op
Jack McMillan, head of the McMillan clan of greenkeepers, receives his MBE after 48 years in the business. When we phoned to congratulate him, his wife Rita said he was recovering in hospital from a hip operation. He'd been waiting two years for it. Jack is well known in greenkeeping circles having been chairman of BIGGA in 1988, head greenkeeper at Sunningdale for ten years and having fathered five sons, all of whom are greenkeepers. His one daughter works for BUPA, so now he's got something to talk to her about.

Toro gets load of bull
This is one piece of bull Graham Dale, managing director of Lely (UK) Ltd, doesn't mind receiving. It's the Toro Bull, an award which Toro gives to recognise "the best all-round performance" among its international distributors. Presenting the award is Ted Riley, Toro sales and marketing director for Europe.

ALL EDITORIAL SHOULD NOW BE SENT TO CHRIS BOILING, GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL, ALDWARK MANOR, ALDWARK, ALNE, YORK Y06 2NF
European ecology unit set up

A new European ecology unit has been set up by the European Golf Association, Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and PGA European Tour. The aims of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, which will be based in Brussels from April, are:

- to improve the image of golf through ecological interests;
- to encourage a higher standard of environmental performance from the golf development industry and golf course managers;
- to provide a serious contribution to the European environmental debate; and
- to ensure that the development and management of golf courses in Europe are not impeded by excessive, inappropriate environmental restrictions.

The programme, which is funded for an initial period of three years, has been developed in recognition of the need for the leading golfing bodies in Europe to present a coordinated approach to environmental issues.

The unit will be headed by British ecologist David Stubbs of Environmental Golf Services. He is experienced in matching golf and conservation interests.

Peter in the picture

British greenkeepers working in Europe claimed the top two prizes in the Blazon/Farmura 'Better-Way-To-Spray' photographic competition.

Peter Shaw (left), course manager of the Munchen-Riedhof Golf Club in Germany, took the first prize with the photo on this month’s cover. His prize was an expenses paid trip to attend the GCSAA Convention in Dallas, USA, and £1,000 of free Farmura products for his course. He is pictured with Farmura’s Jonathan Harmer.

Second prize of £500 worth of Farmura products went to Arnold Phipps-Jones, course manager at Limburg Golf and Country Club in Belgium. Third prize - £250 of Farmura products - was won by Peter Dawson, course manager at Wanstead Golf Club. More than 100 greenkeepers entered their views of ‘Summer on the golf course’.

John Deere figures leap for ’93

John Deere’s managing director, Alec McKee, reports a good ’93 and is hoping for more market growth in 1994, “We expect further market growth in 1994,” he added.

The parent company has reported worldwide net sales of more than $1 billion for the first time since the company set up its amenity business in the mid-1970s.

Stirling effort pays off

Stirling Golf Club’s James Easton, pictured right, a part-time student at Elmwood College, Cupar, took the prize for the HNC in golf course management (first year) and the Carnoustie Golf Links Award, which was presented for the first time this year. Ian Grant, chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board, handed over the prizes. Also given awards for greenkeeping were full-time student Paul O’Neill (Scotvec National Certificate in Greenkeeping) and part-time students Joseph Scriven of Callan GC (first year), Gordon Haughie of Southerness GC (second year) and Peter Haggarty of Helensburgh GC (third year). David McOwat of Charlton GC, Fife, received the Distance Learning prize for the Scotvec National Certificate in Greenkeeping Supervision. The St Andrews Links Trust Award went to Scott Patrick of Ladybank GC for the best practical work in greenkeeping, and Rupert Lawrence of Verulam GC, St Albans, took the Gleneagles Challenge Trophy for the best project in greenkeeping.

- Pictured, back row, from left: James Easton, Gordon Haughie, David McOwat and Peter Haggarty. Front: Rupert Lawrence, Scott Patrick and Paul O’Neill.

DON’T WORRY IF YOU missed the big BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate, there are two more BIGGA shows to look forward to this year. Organised by BIGGA regions, the shows look set to ape the success of the main event. The shows are Westurf, organised by the South West and South Wales Region and Southturf, organised by the South East Region.

Westurf will take place at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol, on April 27 (tel: 0803 844056) and South Turf will be staged at Motspur Park, south-west London on June 29 (tel: 0342 850867).

Here’s a man who’s not letting the grass grow under his feet. Ian Backhouse has been appointed amenity product manager for Sharpe’s International with responsibility for the development of the company’s Designer Range of amenity grass mixtures.

A MEETING OF REGIONAL Administrators and Section Secretaries will be held at BIGGA’s Aldwark Manor HQ on February 22 and 23. The seminar is designed as an update as well as providing the opportunity for informal discussions on the development of the Association.

THE TOP 10 GOLF courses in Ireland, according to a poll carried out by the Irish Golf Institute, are:

1 Portmarnock
2 Royal Portrush
3 Ballybunion
4 Royal County Down
5 Waterville
6 Mount Juliet
7 The European Club, Co Wicklow
8 County Louth
9 The K-Club (Co Kildare)
10 Killeen, Killarney
T

here were some prestigious
tobs going in last month's
reenkeeper International:
oyal Birldale, St Pierre, the
ondon Golf Club...

But Jeff Waind, pictured right,
head greenkeeper at Easingwold
olf Club near York, wouldn't
ap his course for any of them.
He loves his job. And he's been
ding it for 25 years.

"We only come this way once,
so it must be good to enjoy the
job you do," said Jeff, when I
called on him in his comfortable
room at the end of one of his
worksheets alongside the 18th
fairway.

The rain poured down, the
fairways were flooded and, like
many places, the course was
closed, so he had time to remi-
nisce about his life at the club.

"If you enjoy your job, you
stick to it. I have been very
happy here and have no inten-
tion of applying for another post
elsewhere.

"If they will have me, I want
to be here for the rest of my
working days. In any case, it
would be too much of an
upheaval.

"My wife Carol works in Eas-
ingwold and so does our daugh-
ter, Tina, so I can't imagine I
could possibly be happier any-
where else," said the contented
Waind, who was born in Thurn-
scoe, near Doncaster, 49 years
ago, but has lived most of his
life at Yearsley and Easingwold.

It is a far cry from early work-
ing days after he left Easing-
wold School.

"I worked at Thornton Lodge
Farm and then had a couple of
years on the dustbins with North
Yorkshire Council."

It was at that time that John
Knowison, who was Easing-
wold's chairman of greens at the
time, asked him to work part-
time with Charlie Tennant and
George Banks.

"I liked it so much that when I
was asked if I would take over
the job full-time in 1968, I
jumped at the chance.

"I was on my own when the
club was only nine holes, but
once they started building the
ewn nine in 1973, they took on
more staff and we now have
four."

Waind has carefully overseen
the growth of those nine holes,
which had been laid out by golf
course architects, Hawtree, and
watching them develop has
been one of his greatest joys.

Are there any changes he
would have made with the
benefit of hindsight?

"No, I have to say that with
the 96 acres of land to be used,
the people who have been asso-
ciated with the club over many
years have made good use of it.

"The course drains very well
because it's on sandy soil and we
have never had any major
problems, or any returning to do
over the years.

"We have a fair number of
rabbits on the course and they
do some damage, but we try to
keep on top of them by one
means or another...

"Naturally, he has seen a lot
of changes over the years, the
development of specialised
machinery being one of the
biggest. "We used to cut all our
greens with a walk-behind 14"
lawnmower, now we have Toro
triples which cost a lot of money,
but do a very good job.

"We also have water sprink-
kers on all greens and tees and
also on one or two fairways.

"I would say this has been one
of the biggest time-savers. It's all
a far cry from the days when we
used to come down in the mid-
dle of the night to move the
housepipe. Now the water is all
metered in any case."

Like most dedicated green-
keepers, he often works longer
hours than the 39 hours prescribed,
but he has no complaints about
that.

"If you have a job to do, you
just get on with it."

Jeff's favourite hole on the
6,285-yards course is the 13th, a
171-yard par 3 across a lake to
an elevated green.

So does he ever fancy actu-
ally playing golf on the course
he has carefully tended over 25
years?

"Not really, I spend a lot of
time at the club, so you could
say my wife is a golf widow of
another kind. I don't think I
could spend all night and all day
here," he laughed. "But I have
been known to hit a few balls
down the practice ground near
the 18th, although I haven't had
time to do that for 18 months."

"Picture courtesy of the Yorkshire
Evening Press"