Carnoustie to stage Open after 24 years

After a 24-year gap, the Open Championship will return to Carnoustie in 1999. Work already done by John Philp's team includes the reconstruction of four greens and the redesign or introduction of 14 bunkers. He is also trying to encourage the growth of native fine grasses to restore the Championship course to true links character. It has also been announced that the 1995 and '96 Scottish Opens will be played on the 7,400-yard course.

The question being asked now is where will the Open go in 2001? St Andrews will host it in 1995 and 2000. It's going to Royal Lytham & St Annes in '96, Royal Troon in '97 and Royal Birkdale in 1998. When will it next return to Muirfield, Royal St George's or Turnberry?

Trial sites are needed for worm studies

The STRI is looking for trial sites for earthworm control studies, in particular golf courses in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester that experience heavy, fairly uniform earthworm casting.

If you are able to help, contact Dr SW Baker or EC Kirby at the STRI, St Ives Estate, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU or on 0274 565131.

Tony's mission of mercy

Most greenkeepers use their holidays to take a well-earned rest. Not Tony Dyke, the head greenkeeper at Wyke Green Golf Club, Isleworth, Middlesex. He is going to spend his two-weeks holiday, October 13-23, driving to Romania with a truck-load of goods for handicapped children. This will be his sixth trip there since 1991. Last time he was threatened with an iron bar at the border and nearly dragged out of his cab. "Only my leg wrapped round the steering wheel saved me."

The problem was that some drivers had been stuck at the border for several days and got incensed when Tony's convoy, which is now familiar to the border guards and custom officials, was let through straight away. Tony is not expecting there to be any trouble this time (at least that's what he has told his wife). He says he was inspired to help these unfortunate children by an Anneka Rice TV programme. "I do it for the children. If you saw the state of the kids, you'd want to help too," he said.

Tony has been lent a 17-ton lorry by Alan Greenwood and John Hobbs of All Seasons Dressing. It will be one of five vehicles heading to Romania for the Ellesmere Port and Neston Romanian Appeal, which has adopted several orphanages in the country. The trucks will be packed with about 50-60 tonnes of goods, including toys, food and clothes.

BIGGA review extended

BIGGA's Board of Management has decided to extend the consultation period on the initial draft document setting out a review of BIGGA's activities and its future plans.

The Board has also established a review body to extend the consultative process. Commented executive director Neil Thomas: "It is clear that the initial draft document which was circulated to our regional boards and section committees has stimulated much debate. As such, the Board of Management views the establishing of a review body as a logical step to further the review process. Each of the Association's five regions will be represented on the review body which will report to the Board of Management. At final draft stage, it is proposed to circulate the document to BIGGA's course managers/head greenkeepers for consideration by them and their staff. By the time the review process is concluded there will have been the widest possible consultation with BIGGA's 5,500 members."

The extended timescale means recommendations will be presented to the January 1996 annual general meeting.

FLYING DIVOTS

Tony (left) receives a magnum of champagne from Nigel Tyler, central sales rep for Rufford Top Dress Supplies. Peter won the champagne in a free draw on Ruffords' stand at Saltex '94. He says he will crack it open when Walsall GC's Steve Wood beats him at golf!
Maintenance facility is a real luxury

Martin Smith, head greenkeeper at Nottinghamshire's Ramsdale Park Golf Centre, has a maintenance facility that most greenkeepers can only dream about.

Costing £32,000, its facilities include an implement and storage room, top dressing preparation room, chemical store, office, mess room and staff washroom. It is 30.6m long, 16.2m wide and has an eave height of 2.74m. It also looks good with its olive green roof cladding, brown stone wall cladding and high roller shutter doors.

"Most golf clubs or centres do not have adequate greenkeeper facilities and few have mess and washroom areas for their staff. It is for this reason that the Ramsdale Park's building is the envy of the county," says Mr Smith.

"For example, it is unusual to have an indoor top dressing store. Without the facility, we would have to buy top soil and sand when required because storage under an outside cover proves wasteful with the bottom of the pile being too damp, thus causing clogging in modern machinery. So not only do we save money by buying materials in bulk at the right time, we also minimise on wastage and keep machinery maintenance costs to a minimum."

The Leofric Buildings' 'Enterprise system building' was erected in 20 days.
Summer madness hits St Enodoc

Picturesque St Enodoc Golf Club in Cornwall has been hit by a spell of summer madness.

One night 10 flags, six tee markers and six boards screwed to stone tee boxes disappeared and five greens were damaged. The vandals had made the holes about 18in in diameter by gouging them out with their hands. They also gouged other holes in the greens as well.

A security guard was brought in, but this did not stop the vandalism. A mini-Stonehenge was built on the 11th green using 6in wooden tee blocks from various woods. Rakes were put in the holes and flags were planted in bunkers. Stones along a footpath were thrown in bushes.

While the security guard was throwing someone off one part of the course holidaymakers from nearby caravan sites were letting rip on the other side of the links. A second security guard with a dog was employed and, according to head greenkeeper Stuart Dymond, this seems to have worked.

There was no more damage during the summer holidays although the guards' daily reports to the club showed that every night they escorted someone off the course.

Sticker winner

The winner of our recent sticker slogan competition is Mrs JR Whatling, wife of the head greenkeeper at Heworth Golf Club, York. She receives a £15 WH Smith voucher for her effort: "BIGGA greenkeepers - a cut above the rest." One slogan that was rejected by the girls at HQ, due to lack of proof, stated: "Greenkeepers do it with BIGGA ones!"
Former welder heralds start of greenkeeping career with an award

Former steelworks welder Carl Price, pictured, has made an award-winning start to his new career as a greenkeeper.

Carl, who lives in Shotton, has just been presented with the 'Hortiplay' award for excellent achievement at the Welsh College of Horticulture in Northop, Clwyd.

He worked at the new Northop Country Park Golf Club during his training and has now been permanently recruited as an assistant greenkeeper. This marks the successful end of a country-wide trawl for work.

After being made redundant from Shotton steelworks in the early '80s, Carl travelled all over the UK as a contract welder, but found it increasingly difficult to find work as the recession bit.

Eventually he returned home to North Wales and saw the greenkeeping course advertised in his local paper.

Carl was one of 11 students who undertook the NVQ Level 2 course at the Welsh College of Horticulture, supported by the Training and Enterprise Council for North East Wales.

Carl is one of a seven-strong greenkeeping team which looks after the 6,680 yards course at Northop Country Park, which is set within 247 acres of carefully tended parkland.

Noel Hynes, course manager, said: "We are delighted with Carl's success and have found him to be a very productive member of the team."

---

SAVANA TURF GROWERS

THE ULTIMATE SAND-BASED GREENS/TEES

SAVANA TURF GROWERS LTD
SAVANA TURF GROWERS
NEWMARKET, SUFFOLK
NEWMARKET, SUFFOLK
Fax: 0638 560011
(0638) 560111
618000

SAVANA TURF GROWERS

£10 off – NOW ONLY £69.95

The best just got even better! For a limited period, these fantastic Golf Suits, designed to keep you warm and dry when it's wet, are yours for just £69.95 each – a saving of £10! Supplied in navy blue with a stylish jacquard pattern, the suit comprises jacket and trousers made from a soft, supple and waterproof material. They feature a BIGGA logo on the arm and leg and are made by Walrus, manufacturers of quality sports clothing.

LIMITED PERIOD OFFER ★ LIMITED STOCKS AVAILABLE

BUY NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT – YOUR ORDER WILL BE RUSHED TO YOU BY RETURN!

Please send me Golf Suit(s) at £69.95 each including postage
Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
Size required: ________________________________

Clip this coupon and post with your cheque made payable to BIGGA, to:
Golf Suit Offer, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York Y06 2NF
Write the details on a separate sheet if you don't want to cut up your magazine

AD REF 465
Work has begun on what could turn out to be “one of the most beautiful golf courses to be developed this decade”.

The 18-hole, par 72, Bearwood Lakes Golf Club will be constructed upon 200 acres of Bearwood College estate at Sindlesham near Wokingham. Built among some of the most attractive heath and woodland in the South of England, the course features an existing 40-acre lake and is scheduled to open for play in late spring/early summer of 1996, with green-keepers being recruited from next autumn.

The course will consist of two loops of nine holes which will start and finish close to the clubhouse. Each loop is approximately 3,400 yards long and par 36. The course has been designed by Martin Hawtree and the clubhouse is being created by a local company, Izod Design of Wokingham.

Bearwood Lakes is the brainchild of hotelier and leisure and golf operator David Newling Ward, who lives near Henley. David will be chairman of the company which owns the club.

His fellow director and partner, Ray Wilson, is managing director of Southern Golf which has built golf courses in over 20 countries during the past 20 years. The company has also been responsible for constructing many other recent prestigious projects, including The Wisley, The Oxfordshire and The Buckinghamshire. Demand for membership of Bearwood Lakes is expected to be high, with a population of one million people living within 15 minutes driving time of the site, but initially the club owners are only making 100 founder member debentures available at £4,500 each.

“We are inviting golfers to make an initial and returnable deposit of just £1,500, with the balance payable in two additional instalments between now and the opening of the course in 1996,” explained Mr Newling Ward. “There will also be a joining fee and annual membership charge.”

The estate gardens and parkland are listed by English Heritage as Grade II, the second highest grading awarded to parks and gardens. Bearwood originally formed part of Windsor Forest, but in 1816 was sold to John Walter MP, then proprietor of The Times newspaper.

The mansion and park were gifted to the Royal Merchant Seaman’s Foundation in 1919 and became the Royal Merchant Navy School. Now known as Bearwood College, it is a fee-paying boys boarding school with around 250 pupils.

“Because we have 200 acres of wonderful natural countryside available, every hole will not only provide for good golf but will also be scenically attractive,” explained Mr Newling Ward. “In addition to the two main lakes there is also a reservoir.

“There are also wonderful redwood, oak, lime and chestnut trees as well as an over-abundance of commercially planted pine which will need to be reduced for the benefit of the other types of tree. And at the right time of the year our display of rhododendrons will match anything to be seen at Wentworth.”

English Heritage and local conservationists have already supported the development of a golf course on such an exceptionally natural site, and consultant ecologist Dr Anne-Marie Brennan has produced an environmental survey and management plan to benefit the 90 types of bird and nearly 200 species of plant, tree and fungi which inhabit the Bearwood site.

George Shiels is the consultant agronomist.