As I see it...
BY DEAN CLEAVER
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

Since becoming Chairman in January I’ve travelled up and down the length of the country and I’ve often been asked by members why don’t I have a regular piece in the magazine.

Well, in response to that I will now have a regular column in Greenkeeper International and I am looking forward to sharing with you a few of the experiences I have during my year in office and my thoughts on some of the matters which concern us all as greenkeepers.

In the past month I’ve had the pleasure of attending two Hayter Regional Finals. My visit to Royal Aberdeen, where Sam Morrison and his team do a wonderful job, was my fourth visit north of the border since January and as ever the hospitality was second to none. Benton Hall, which unfortunately I was unable to play but which looked superb, was my first visit to the South East Region.

It was also the first chance I had to meet our new Sales and Marketing Manager James McEvoy. I am sure he is going to be a superb addition to the staff and I hope that you will support him in the many new ideas he will bring to the Association.

The June Board Meeting was further proof of the success of the new Constitution with the reduced board working well. It also marked the first meeting for new Board member David Milbourne – another good signing!

It’s hard to believe that we are already in June. Looking at my first six months, a high point has been the success of FEGGA – the Federation of European Golf Greenkeeper Associations – and I was honoured to be elected Chairman. FEGGA’s success will be a major step forward for the industry.

This month I am looking forward to The Open at Royal Lytham and St Annes and I would like to take this opportunity to wish Jimmy MacDonald and his team very exciting time as our new European operation takes shape. I am one of a team of people committed to confirming Jacobsen’s position as a global player in the market place,” said Peter, who joined Jacobsen from his previous position as Sales Director of Karcher.

“Our traditional market sector has become exceedingly competitive and I think it is important to look to new opportunities that exist for our product range across a wide variety of market sectors.”

Greenkeeper wins Duke’s top award

Warren Jones, assistant at Northenden GC in Manchester, has just achieved his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Among the activities 25 year-old Warren did to achieve the prestigious award were abseiling, working at a local hospital, working backstage with a drama group, undertaking an expedition to Snowdonia and attending a three week outward bound course in the Lake District.

He also won a competition to build a raft which was then used to win a race against another group.

Warren received his award from the Duke of Edinburgh at St James’s Palace.
Fatigue is a terrible thing... Particularly on the golf course. Colin Montgomerie blamed it on his final hole slump in the English Open and no doubt the US Open. Had he been fresh he might have had both these titles in his locker and his bank balance would have swelled by another half a million. But he was overgolfed.

Now spare a thought for Kim Macfie. If anyone has a right to feel overgolfed it's Kim, and it happens at the same time every year. Come the Hayter Regional Finals Kim dusts off his Pings, climbs into his spikes and he's off, like Mel Gibson in Braveheart, into battle.

Last month he was there, partnering Harry Diamond against Dean Cleaver and son Hamish - just before his wedding - at Royal Aberdeen. Days later he carried the Editor to a historic Scottish victory at Benton Hall in South East Region over the two "new boys" James McEvoy and David Briggs, of BIGGA and Hayter respectively. A win avenged two weeks later at Wembley. The fact that it was David's first ever full round of golf had no bearing on the result, particularly as it was only poor putting which prevented him from winning the opening hole.

With barely a moment's rest Kim was on to Salisbury & South Wilts for another match this time in the company of John Pember-ton of BIGGA. By now tiredness was kicking in and Kim just couldn't carry his aching body beyond the 9th green and had to seek sanctuary in the bar.

The Macfie tartan was in evidence at the wedding of Hamish Macfie and Dawn in Hertfordshire at the beginning of June. No doubt they're just back from their honeymoon. In Barbados! Lucky pair. Congratula-tions from all at BIGGA Head-quarters.

**Rugby fame of new man**

The second employed Regional Administrator, who will take up his position in the Midlands Region next month, is a man who may be known to rugby union followers up and down the country.

Peter Larter, who comes to the Regional Administrator post having served in the RAF for over 34 years achieving the rank of Squadron Leader, played for England for six years and was a member of the British Lions touring party to South Africa in 1968.

On the golf front, he has played representative golf within the RAF and been a single figure player since 1971. He was also responsible for the construction and development of the RAF Henlow Golf Club.

His rugby administration experience is vast and includes membership of the English Rugby Football Union Full Committee while he is currently Chairman of the Laws Advisory Panel and a member of the National Playing sub-committee, a Midlands Division selector and on the General Committee of Northampton, who have just returned to Courage League Division One after winning every match on their brief visit to Division 2.

"I am looking forward to working for BIGGA and getting to know, and helping whenever possible, the greenkeepers within the Midlands Region," said Peter, who lives near Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire.
Tournament: an example of links golf at its very best.

Golf Club House, Elie, was the venue for a wonderful Scottish National Tournament last month and was an opportunity to play links golf at its absolute best.

The course was in magnificent condition thanks to Head Greenkeeper Brian Lawrie and his team and the weather meant that, with no wind, the main problem for the competitors was coping with the hard, lightning fast greens - which is notable because of the area at the moment, apparently marred for two of the competitors.

The Scottish Region Chairman Sam Morrison presented Walter Woods with a picture of Turnberry, in recognition of all the work Walter had done for Scottish greenkeeping. (Elliott Small was quick to point out that the Turnberry picture was to complete Walter's set.)

On a sour note the day was marred for two of the competitors, James Manuel and Michael Lindsay, who had their clubs stolen from the front of the clubhouse. It is a common problem in the area at the moment, apparently "I would like to pay special thanks to our patrons. Not only do they support us but they even come along and suffer with us. We appreciate all their support all through the year," said Elliott Small, Scottish Regional Administrator.

Sam Morrison paid tribute to the quality of the golf course as well as the magnificent food and the excellent service provided by Chef Brian McCuster and his wife, the Club Mistress Frances.

The prizes were presented by the Club secretary Sandy Sneddon.

Results
- SGGA Challenge Cup (Best Scratch): Gary Tough, Carnoustie, 73.
- Friendship Trophy (Best Nett): Sean Jaffray, Strathmore, 68.
- BIGGA Challenge Bowl (Best Head Greenkeeper): Stuart Taylor, Glasgow, 74-4-71.
- Souter Trophy (Best Apprentice): James Manuel and Michael Lindsay, 71-19-93.
- Friendship Trophy (Best Nett).
- Carnoustie, 73.
- Greens Trophy (Best Veteran): Walter Woods, St Andrews, 78-5-73.
- Ransomes Trophy (Cat 1): Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 89-19-70.
- BIGGA Trophy (Best Veteran): Gordon McKie, St Andrews, 73.
- BIGGA Challenge Bowl (Best Nett): Gary Tough, Carnoustie, 73.
- Friendship Trophy (Best Nett): Sean Jaffray, Strathmore, 68.
- Friendship Trophy (Best Nett): Ian MacLeod, Tain, 75-4-71.
- Gordon Kerr, Glenloch, 81-8-73.
- Mungo Trophy. North Section A new trophy was presented in memory of Norrie Whytock, formerly Scottish Region Sales Manager for Rhone Poulenc, Norrie Whytock Memorial Trophy.
- North Section Team: 1. North Section Team 212, 2. Barry Cameron and Sean Jaffray, 2. Central Section Team, 223, Brian Lawrie, Archie Dunn and Stuart Smith.

Accolade for Hayter mower

After being nominated by readers of a trade magazine, for inclusion in its annual product awards, the Hayter Double 3 mower won "Best of the Pedestrian Category" and went on to be judged "Best Product of 1995". The Double 3 machine impressed the judges with its ability to either mow, with side discharge, collect in 88 litre grassbag and mulch extremely effectively. Coupled with its robustness, finish of cut, ease of use and its attractive price of £529 made the machine a clear winner.

Primarily designed for the domestic market the Double 3 has a very firm following in the contractor/local authority market.

FLYING DIVOTS

IPU has appointed of Sue Haddon, pictured above, to co-ordinate areas of the company's development programme. This new position has been created as a result of the addition to IPU's product range of Hoaf and WeedWand chemical free-weed control equipment, plus the SubAir underground aeration system.

Commenting on the appointment, Managing Director, Robert Beebee said, "In the present trading conditions, our customer base is very important to us. We have to ensure that all the lines of communication run smoothly and this will be part of Sue's role."

The English Golf Union has relocated to its new headquarters at the National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire and can be contacted at: The National Golf Centre, The Broadway, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, LN10 6PU Tel: 01526 354500 Fax: 01526 354020.

Carrol Dutton, Senior Advertising Executive on Greenkeeper International, and one of the longest serving members of the BIGGA staff, is leaving the Association.

Carrol, who has been with BIGGA for five years, is to take up a position with the Yorkshire Post group of newspapers and magazines. "I will miss all the friends I have made within the greenkeeping industry but felt that this new opportunity was one not to be passed over," said Carrol.

Carrol's drive, enthusiasm, and selling ability has been a major factor in the success of Greenkeeper International over the years and she will be sadly missed," said Executive Director, Neil Thomas. "I join everyone at Aldwark Manor in wishing her every success for the future."

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL July 1996 9
Portuguese greenkeeper scoops NVQ award

Cannington College Student Francisco Bello has recently become the first Portuguese Greenkeeper to achieve NVQ Level 2 in Greenkeeping and PA1 and PA2A FEPA Spraying certification after completing a two year block release course at Cannington.

Francisco, a National Portuguese Rugby Player, whose promising career was curtailed due to a car accident had to find a new vocational career. He opted to take a course in Golf Greenkeeping but was unable to find a course at a Portuguese College.

Cannington was the only College to respond positively to his enquiries. The excellent greenkeeping resources developed at Cannington enabled the college to provide practical experience and the theoretical elements required of the NVQ, at the same time support was provided to help Francisco overcome the language barriers.

Francisco has now returned to Portugal and is employed on a short term contract with a golf course irrigation company while seeking permanent employment within the Portuguese Golf industry.

Students take steps in the right direction

A total of 13 First Assistants, Deputies and one Head Greenkeeper are easing their way towards NVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Supervisory Course at a series of classes at Oaklands College at St Albans.

The group, with Duncan McGilvray as tutor/mentor, learn to understand the language of NVQs, build and develop a portfolio of evidence to achieve the Level 3 award and understand the other factors which have an influence on managing a golf course.

To assist, guest speakers including other Course Managers, Secretaries, Architects, Agronomists, the Trade, BIGGA, EGU and the GTC give talks.

Among the other activities have been mock Green Committee meetings, comprising other Course Managers, at which appeals for more staff and more machinery are made.

The course was designed with the help of two university professors and is aimed at greenkeepers who already have the experience to achieve level 3 but require the portfolio of evidence.

Open Championship

Like many other Golf Clubs, Royal Lytham and St Annes has benefited from the attention of North Staffs Irrigation Company

Is your course prepared for summer?

ROYAL LYTHAM IS!

Contact us on: 01785 812706 (2 lines) or Fax: 01785 811747

Better By Design

We are founder members of the BTLIA