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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact BIGGA on 01347 838581

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August 1998 Greenkeeper International 3
Sitting composing this a mere 50 hours after Mark O'Meara had clinched his second Major of the year the events of Royal Birkdale are still fresh in the mind... If fresh is a word which can be applied to me, the rest of the BIGGA Headquarters staff and the 55 members of the Greenkeeping Support Team. It is a hectic week full of hard work, early starts, late finishes and innumerable candles being attacked from both ends.

For me the week will be remembered for a well deserving winner who displayed the best course management skills and three shots which will go down as among the best ever played in their particular circumstances.

First, Tiger Wood's 35 foot putt at the last to give him a chance of a place in a play-off. He has a history of making crucial clutch putts and although his putting through the week had been a bit off the odds on him holing out when he needed to were to those who knew his reputation, even at worst. Then there was Brian Watts' bunker shot which will surely earn its place, up there with Sandy Lyle's to the 18th at Augusta and Bob Tway's to win the '87 US PGA as one of the greatest ever played. With the pressure he was under, to get it to six feet would have been an achievement but with one foot in and the other out of the bunker the result was extraordinary and would have made him a worthy Champion.

However, despite those heroics the '98 Open will probably be best remembered for a 17 year-old professional-in-waiting who showed that even under the spotlight golf can, indeed should, be fun.

Justin Rose's chip from thick rough short of the green proved that there is such a thing as fate and would have made him a worthy Champion.

Such achievements are only possible when people become inspired and there is no doubt that the work of Chris Whittle and his team, who is worth listening to.

In praise of fescue

Following the most talked about take-over of the last 12 months, Peter Wilson, now President of Textron Turf and Specialty Products, gives an extended interview to Greenkeeper International Editor, Scott MacCallum.

The Future is Orange... and Green

The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team was in fine form at the 127th Open Championship but, brought to a peak by Chris Whittle and his team, it was the course which stole the show.

Upwardly Mobile

BIGGA's Golf Day sponsored by BT Mobile, was a great success with some great fun, great golf, great weather and great food. In other words it was just great!

Prime Stake

Top Golf course photographer Brian Morgan, has some strong views about the use of hazard stakes on the golf course. They are worth listening to.

The Price of Roads

South East Regional Administrator, Derek Farrington looks at some courses in his Region for whom the advent of new roads have had major consequences.

Frankly My Dear We All Give a Damn...

In two months Atlanta welcomes the two teams for the second Hayter International Cup and three magnificent courses have been chosen to host the match.

Nightmares from Nematodes

Dr Catherine York, of the STRI, has noted an increase in the amount of Ditylenchus. and asks if any BIGGA members have noticed any signs of it.