Boost for Building Fund

E&S Sportsground Contractors/Kestral Golf Ltd held a football tournament at Motspur Park recently for greenkeepers, groundsman and trade.

The London English team ended up victorious which was particularly disappointing to the London Scottish team who had to sit and watch Scotland’s unlucky defeat to Brazil in the World Cup later in the day. Richard Veitch, Managing Director of Kestral Golf Ltd, presented George Barr, of BIGGA’s Board of Management, with a cheque for £500 towards the Association’s Building Fund. E&S will also present a cheque for £230 to the IOG’s Education Funds.

Contributing Golf Clubs

Ashto-in-Clitheroe GC
Beaconfield GC
Bedfield GC
Birchwood GC
Bishops Stortford GC
Blackmoor GC
Brancopeth Castle GC
Bristol & Clifton GC
Bromborough GC
Bungy & Waveney Valley GC
Cardigan GC
Chesterfield GC
Childwall GC
Chipping Norton GC
Chorton-Cum-Hardy GC
Churston GC
Chilton GC
Conwy GC
Cooden Beach GC
Combe Hill GC
Coombie Wood GC
Copth Heath GC
Coventry Heafield GC
Cromwell GC
Crompton & Royton GC
Dore & Totley GC
Dunfermline GC
Edenmore GC
Enfield GC
Flamborough Head GC
Glenborvkie GC
Goodwood GC
Hobburnley GC
Haggis Castle GC
Halifax GC
Halshole GC
Ham Manor GC
Hampstead GC
Hansard GC
Haxley Common GC
Heywands Heath GC
Hinley GC
Hindhead GC
Ipswich GC
Kilmarnock (Barassie) GC
Kirby Muoloe GC
Knowle GC
Lincoln GC
Little Aston GC
Loch Longman GC
Longniddry GC
Malone GC
Manchester GC
Meslow GC
Merrist Wood GC
Moor Hall GC
Moorwood GC
Moor GC
Mullion GC
Murrayfield GC
Nairn GC
Normandy Hall GC
North Harps GC
North Oxford GC
North Wilts GC
Northend GC
Paltok GC
Potters Bar GC
Purley Downs GC
Pyle and Kenfig GC
Ranfurly Castle GC
Ravelston GC
Ravensworth GC
Roehampton GC
Royal Birkdale GC
Royal Burgass Golf Society
Royal Cinque Ports GC
Royal Guernsey GC
Royal Liverpool GC
Royal Portrush GC
Royal St Georges GC
Royal West Norfolk GC
Royal Wimbledon GC
Sandys Lodge GC
Scarnoart GC
Sedbergh GC
Sharwood Forest GC
Sidmouth Park GC
Sonning GC
St Andrews
St Bees GC
Stamford GC
Sundridge Park GC
Sunningdale GC
Swinswey Forest GC
Tain GC
Tandridge GC
Tennol Golf GC
Tenterden GC
The Wisley GC
Thorpeness GC
Tidworth Garrison GC
Tullialan GC
Tynemouth Golf Club
Tyrells Wood GC
Uttoxeter GC
Walsley GC
Waltton Heath GC
West Byfleet GC
Whiteley GC
Whittington Heath GC
Worcesthire GC
Workop GC
York GC

Opening of Nicklaus-designed course

Master Greenkeeper Andy Campbell had his hands full on the Monday of Open week with the opening of the new Jack and Steve Nicklaus designed course at Carden Park Hotel, Golf Resort and Spa, near Chester.

Course Manager Andy had to cope with a 3000 strong gallery who had come to watch the inaugural match between the great man Jack Nicklaus himself and former Masters Champion and European number one, Ian Woosnam.

Nicklaus has previously withdrawn from The Open Championship - the first time he had missed it since 1961 - but was desperate to fulfil his commitment to Carden Park.

He flew into the UK on the morning of the opening and, despite obvious discomfort, thrilled the galleries with a commentary and description of the match and the magnificent new course.

Caddying for the big two where Woosnam’s Welsh World Cup of Golf winning partner, David Llewelyn, who carried Nicklaus' bag and Ian Botham who totted the Woosnam bag.

Carden Park now boasts 192 room hotel, 45 holes, a Jack Nicklaus Golf School and a health spa with swimming pool, gymnasium, aerobic studio, tennis course, and mountain bike trails.

Carden Park, built by Kestral Golf Ltd, has also recently taken delivery of £300,000 worth of John Deere equipment.

From the Chairman’s desk...

It is with great regret that due to a lack of support the National Tournament for 1998 has had to be cancelled.

This is certainly no reflection on Scotts, who in partnership with BIGGA staff, were preparing a wonderful event at a superb venue but is purely down to the lack of support from BIGGA members.

However from this major disappointment comes the opportunity for us to bring this event into the 21st century and this we intend to do for 1999.

Details will be announced in the near future.

May I say again how grateful we were for the support so willingly provided by both Scotts and the Latham Grange Resort who were so understanding of the circumstances which prevailed.

I would like to stress that any BIGGA event can only be successful with the support of its members and in this regard, members’ views are always welcome.

Gordon Child.

Stateside link for Merrist Wood College

Merrist Wood College, in conjunction with Grass Roots Trading Company and Amenity Solutions Ltd, has created a library of computer learning packages for use with turf managers as well as students and in this regard, members’ views are always welcome.

The computer link allows readers to source or research information about all aspects of the turf world. Entering a key word will produce a bibliography or abstract list of all published work that makes reference to a chosen subject area. A full copy can then be printed off.

"We do not have a restricted access policy at Merrist Wood. We want to encourage the industry to come in to the college to look at and use our extensive facilities," said Senior Lecturer in Turf Agronomy, David Rhodes.

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"We have been particularly impressed with Merrist Wood’s facilities and their commitment to the future of turf grass training in the UK," said Grass Roots Managing Director, Jamie Bennett.
BIGGA support group

The Midland Region has set up a support group on a trial basis. Because of the many factors involved in forming such a project, it was thought advisable to begin with a trial which would serve as a learning time, allowing us to assess demand and costs before embarking upon further training for support group members for other regions.

"The formation of this project comes from the many concerns we have about the high percentage of greenkeepers who are suffering from stress as a result of pressure at work. This often has a knock-on effect, leading to more serious illness, thus affecting families and also places of work," said BIGGA Past Chairman Paddy McGarron.

"We are also aware that the demands on today's greenkeepers are many and varied and ever-increasing with all-year-round golf. People's expectations at times are too high for the greenkeeper to deal with and because of financial constraints and course limitations and/or poor communications, difficulties build up. It may be that the golf club and the greenkeeper are just not compatible," explained Paddy. It is also a concern that too many greenkeepers are looking to change their jobs, often for the wrong reasons as many may be suffering from stress during the time that their grievances are developing. What we are saying is: Talk to us first.

"Our desire is to see more greenkeepers happy in their work and more golf clubs happy with their greenkeepers. We do not promise success - that depends on you, but we are here to talk to," said Paddy. The service will be totally confidential and the only cost to the caller will be that of the telephone call. Appointments will be necessary if someone wishes to talk in person.

Thanks to A.L.S. Amenity Land Services for their financial support of this worthy cause.

 Telephone: 0116 2739189 or 01480 437307

Big Royal occasion for Chris

Christofor Rawlings, (right) who was a runner-up in last year's Toro Student of the Year Award, visited Buckingham Palace recently to receive a silver medal from the Duke of Edinburgh. Chris (23), of Rodway Hill Golf Complex, Gloucestershire, was voted top Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance City and Guilds NVQ student in the country after putting forward the award by Hartpury College.

"It was a great honour and quite an experience," explained Chris, who was working at Royal Birkdale with Alan Owen, the other runner-up in last year's Toro Student Award.

"Congratulations to Chris on his wonderful achievement. It really does show that our education system, including NVQs, is working well," said BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child.

Hayter Harrier is voted "Product of the Decade"

Hayter's enduring Harrier rear roller lawnmower has been voted "Product of the Decade" by readers of Lawn & Garden Equipment.

The poll, which was commissioned by the magazine to celebrate its tenth anniversary, resulted in a clear win for a product that first entered the market in 1970.

Now in its fourth form, the Harrier was the trail-blazer of rotary mowers that make stripes. With thousands of satisfied and loyal users over the past 28 years, this accolade is a fitting tribute to the machine's place in history. Commenting on the announcement of the award, Hayter's Sales & Marketing Director, Kim Macfie, said:

"This is tremendous news - very exciting. We have always loved our Harrier model and this acknowledgment is a superb vote of confidence for all our staff, our specialist dealers and our customers."

"What is doubly pleasing is that this award comes from the people who really know their products - those that sell them and those that use them. To be recognised for excellence by ones peers, is always very special."

BTME places filling up fast!

Places are filling up fast for the annual trip by the South West and South Wales Region to BTME to the extent that Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, is considering booking a second coach to travel directly up the M1 to Harrogate from somewhere in Hampshire.

If there is space left this coach facility will be available to members from other Regions at a cost of £25 return. Hotel accommodation may also be available at £32.50 per person per night in a twin room sharing.

All enquiries should be directed to Paula Tel: 01363 82777.
Wentworth sign up big deal with Toro

The Wentworth Club has signed an agreement committing itself to Toro as the exclusive provider of both machinery and irrigation products for the next five years.

It is the latest in a series of "big-name" signings by The Toro Company and its UK distributors Lely and Hydroscape with the recent Open venues Carnoustie and St Andrews, as well as The Oval and Murrayfield becoming Toro users.

Wentworth's 54 holes are already irrigated by Toro and the majority of equipment is also Toro but Director and Course Manager Chris Kennedy said that did not stop Wentworth from speaking with other suppliers before committing to Toro this time.

The machinery side of the contract will see £800,000 work of Toro kit supplied to Wentworth in two phases this year and next. Phase one comprises a replacement fleet valued at just over £250,000 for the West Course and a further £355,000 worth of other equipment for delivery this year while phase two, to complete the contract, is scheduled for spring '99.

For machinery, the Scottish National Tournament

West Kilbride Golf Club was the venue for the Scottish National this year by kind permission of the Captain and committee.

Conditions on the day were pretty miserable with rain for the first 40 minutes and we were not very happy with the state of the course. However this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the majority of the 135 entrants who attended and were all present. However this did not stop Wentworth from speaking with other suppliers before committing to Toro this time.

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As for irrigation all three courses already have Toro systems so the new contract is for maintenance, repairs and some possible replacement or updating later of control systems.

"We chose Toro for our first job and we've been pleased to keep with them ever since. We felt more comfortable putting both irrigation and equipment with one manufacturer. It's easier to manage, plus we can get a better deal," explained Chris.

"Toro is the only manufacturer that can provide machinery and irrigation products, and Wentworth chose us for both because it makes sound economic sense," said Toro's European Sales Manager, Bob Buckingham.

Scottish National Tournament

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Royal InverdIvot GC... by Tony Husband

"Brand" new job for Dave

Mommersteeg have appointed Dave Phillips to the position of Brand Manager - Mommersteeg Amenity Products. Dave, who was previously responsible for sales of Mommersteeg amenity grass seed in the south east of England, takes on the new role as the company introduces a new strategy for its amenity business.

It will now concentrate on sales through its distributors and, with the exception of a small number of specialist accounts, will no longer handle direct sales.

New role for Chris Briggs at Avoncrop

Avoncrop Amenity Products have appointed Chris Briggs as Business Development and Marketing Manager.

Chris is well known in the industry having worked at ICI Jeallots Hill Research Station as well as with Fisons Horticulture, Mommersteeg International and latterly Levington Horticulture/Scotts Turf and Amenity.

The appointment has been made to expand Avoncrop's ability to provide professional expertise and quality products in the amenity market.

Best wishes from BIGGA

BIGGA Headquarters staff and all BIGGA members would like to send best wishes and hopes for a full recovery to Chris Cumming, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, at Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC, who was badly injured in a road accident at the beginning of July.

August 1998 Greenkeeper International
David celebrates Silver anniversary

David Rea, Head Greenkeeper at Droitwich GC, recently completed 25 years service at the club and was presented with a watch to mark the occasion.

Prior to joining the club in 1973 David worked for 14 years at the seed trial grounds at Edward Webb & Sons, Wychbold.

In his 25 years David has been directly involved in the many changes to the course and seen the planting of over 2,000 trees.

"I'm proud of the fact that I've served at Droitwich for a quarter of the club's 110 year history and am looking forward to the challenges that the new millennium will bring," said David.

A familiar Ring for new course?

Ireland's newest golf hole development, Ring of Kerry Golf and Country Club, opened during the week of The Open Championship and lays claim to the title of first quality upland course in the country.

Set in the foothills of the MacGillycuddy Reeks, overlooking the island studded Kenmare Bay the course also has the Caha Mountains serving as a backdrop.

Due to a site comprising bogland and rock, the fairways have been constructed entirely with sand, claimed as a first for any inland course in Ireland.

It was designed by Roger Jones, a member of the Professional Golf Architects Association and an Associate member of BIGGA.

Cambridgeshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture

Courses in:
Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management for NVQ Levels 2 and 3 commencing in late September

GTC approved for the Craftsman Certificate

For further details contact: Richard Walpole at Cambridgeshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Milton Centre, Landbeach Road, Milton, Cambridge CB4 6DB

Tel: 01945 581024

Buy a Brick raffle prizewinners

1 Hippo Golf Bag and full set of clubs - Mr K. B. Heaney
2 Weekend break for two at Majestic Hotel - Mr S. Ormondroyd
3 Golfing weekend for two at Aldwark Manor - Mr R. Greaves
4 Luxury day for two at Henley Regatta - Mr S. Cox
5 Weekend for two at a Marriott Country Club - Mr P. Grant

Hi-Tec Golf Shoe winners

Mr G. Dale
Mr K. Kent
Mr Phil Baldock
Mr John Darroch
Mr Mark Hauer
Greenlands Landscapes
BIGGA South East
Mr Steve Harris
Mr Peter Hampton
Ms A. Wade
BIGGA Devon & Cornwall
Mr John Scott
Mr S. Lawrence
Mr Roger Jones
Mr Rodney Feltham
Mr Nathan Marsh
Mr Mark Broughton
Mr Lee Robertson
Mr Simon Gidman

Mr D. Smart
Mr Don Cartledge
Mr Ian J McMillan
Mr David Ward
Mr J. Weston
Mr Bruce Jamieson

31 Case of wine supplied by Hi-Tec Print - Brookmans Park Golf Club
32 Case of Yorkshire Terrier beer supplied - Mr P. Arundel by York Brewery
33 Bottle of wine supplied by Course Care - Mr Carl Crome
Watertight seminar in Scotland

Irrigation Scotland held the latest in a series of seminars at Cowglen GC, Glasgow, to give advice to golf clubs considering installing irrigation systems. The panel of experts included Steve Isaacs, of STRI, the Water Sourcing Design Consultancy, The Lottery Commission and the BTLIA who spoke on their Code of Ethics.

Further information can be obtained from Irrigation Scotland Tel: 0131 333 5495.

Changes at Rain Bird

Rain Bird's Golf Division have appointed Laurent Reinhardt and Brent Thorley as Brand Managers, responsible for the development, testing and marketing of specific new and existing product lines. Both Americans, Laurent will be in charge of all of Rain Bird's satellite irrigation system controllers and weather detection products, while Brent is responsible for the range of golf course sprinklers.

John Deere's Aercore 800 is a walk behind version of the tractor mounted Aercore 1000 and 1500. The self-propelled Aercore 800 is designed for aerating golf greens, fairways and other fine turf areas and features an 18 hp Kohler petrol engine with four selectable forward gears and one reverse. There is an operator presence system with electric raise and lower controls and the aerating unit can be raised manually out of work without damaging the turf. Top speed for transport is 3.5mph and overall weight is around 392kg.

It can work at up to 2123 sq m/hr pulling 266 cores/sq m. A typical selection of second gear at 50x50mm hole spacings provides a work-rate of 1440sq m at up to 398 cores/sw m. For further details contact John Deere, Tel: 01949 860491.

New aerator from John Deere

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Charterhouse extend range

Charterhouse Turf Machinery have continued their programme of UK expansion with the acquisition of Michael Richmond, one of the country's largest mail order suppliers of chainsaws and other forestry tools, clothing and equipment.

"This is an excellent acquisition for us which fits perfectly into our international growth plan. Two years ago we broadened our product range and moved into mail order with a range of environmental tools, clothing and equipment and now, with a single stroke, we have acquired probably the largest and certainly one of the most respected companies in the business," said David Jenkins, Managing Director of the Haslemere-based company.

Michael and Shirley Richmond started their business in Haslemere 28 years ago and seen it grow to become a major force in the forestry market.

"We are delighted with the deal. Charterhouse have the vision, management skills and financial backing to take our business to new heights and we are confident that our future is in very capable hands," said Shirley Richmond.

BIGGA invests in the Future

BIGGA Headquarters staff at Aldwark Manor have officially signed up to the Investors in People Programme. After an initial series of meetings during which BIGGA was assessed for its suitability and desire to succeed, Investors in People Representative, Avril Jenkins of North Yorkshire Tech, visited Aldwark Manor to present the staff with their Certificate of Commitment which formally begins the process of working towards the Award.

Swan designs first modern Croatian Course

Fresh from the success of the country's footballers and Goran Ivanovic's excellent performance at Wimbledon this year Croatia's first modern golf course has been opened.

The Dolina Kardinala Golf and Country Club, just outside Zagreb is 6200 metres long and a par 71. Designed by Howard Swan the course is laid out in open land as well as woodland with mature oaks and beech. The design features sweeping interlinking lakes and ponds throughout which the 8th and 17th greens lie within one large water feature.

"It has been a wonderful experience working in a new golfing country and the enthusiasm of the Croatians for sport is immense," said Howard, who is currently the President of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects.