Profile

Name: Antony Bindley
Club: Kirby Muxloe
Position: First Assistant
Age: 35

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
   Eight years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
   None

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
   Setting up the course for a big competition

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
   Strimming

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?
   Groundsperson/gardener

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
   Richard Barker; Head Greenkeeper at Kirby Muxloe

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
   Improve relations between the greenkeeper and the members

8. What are your hobbies?
   Golf, cricket and fishing

9. What do you do out of BIGGA?
   Friendship and education

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
    Still enjoying life

New team recruited at Barenbrug

Paul Johnson has been promoted to Managing Director of Barenbrug UK, following in the footsteps of Michel Mulder, who has been handed the task of running Barenbrug's North American division.

Paul was previously in charge of the agricultural side of the Barenbrug UK but his love and golfing ability should make him ideally suited to his new role.

Alan Lomas has joined the Bury St Edmunds based company as Sales And Marketing Manager. His depth of experience is seen as a great asset to the grass seed company's continued growth.

After graduation, Alan's working life began in the Middle East, principally Saudi Arabia. On his return to the UK, Alan joined Fisons Horticulture Division and remained with the company during its transition, in 1994, to Levington Horticulture. He subsequently became Export Manager, responsible for several new product releases.

Despite extensive experience in turf-care, Alan's golf is at beginner's level America where club golfers regularly know who had designed particular courses and they could discuss the various styles of Robert Trent Jones, Pete Dye and Tom Fazio.

David Williams also talked about the fashion of inflating the cost of particular projects in the press which lured the public into thinking that the more spent the better the course.

He urged the media to name the architect in reviews of golf courses, if it was a big name to ask who was the real architect also to ask the cost of construction.

 Curse of big name designers

You wouldn't be too thrilled if your airline pilot announced that it was his debut flight or your surgeon told you that it was the first time he had performed the particular operation that had resulted in you being flat on your back in theatre.

That was the analogy used by golf course architect, David Williams, when he bemoaned the fact that big name golfer/designers had their first work trumpeted by the press and media.

He was delivering a paper at the biennial British Institute of Golf Course Architects Conference sponsored by Barenbrug, Toro and Club Car at The Wentworth Club.

David continued by saying that people wouldn't have too much faith in the new Ford if you knew it was designed by Danzon Hill or Nigel Mansell but that we are happy for a top golfer to design a golf course.

On the other side of the coin David, who has designed a number of 18 hole courses including Merriot Wood and Reigate Hill, said that during the last Open Championship there was much praise on the BBC for the redesigned and reconstructed greens but now once was Martin Hawtree mentioned.

"The media is not interested unless it is a big name," said David.

New team recruited at Barenbrug

Among the other speakers at the one-day conference was Bob Taylor and Mike Caraway of the STRI; architect Peter Harradine; Jimmy Kidd of Gleneagles Golf Developments; Parker Smith, of Sports Opportunity; David Clarke, of Golf World; Trevor Homer, of the Golf Foundation, and David Wright, of the PGA.

The day before the Seminar the West Course hosted the traditional golf tournament and this was won by Colin Todd and Parker Smith. Bob Buckingham, of Toro, presented the prizes.

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