Brian's ordeal at hands of armed robbers

Police took 'too long' to get to scene of gun-raid

A second series of training courses planned by TGA

GTC article gets Chairman of Green thinking right 'On Course'

David retires from industry after 45 years

**Setting ourselves challenges**

I find it hard to believe but I've just experienced my seventh Harrogate. It seems like only a few months ago that I was meeting so many of you for the very first time, but now it is friends of quite long standing whom I bump into each January. This year, of course, the week took on a new form with a three day show, beginning on Tuesday morning, and the inaugural Golf Club Show joining BTME in the Harrogate International Conference Centre. Both innovations could be deemed unqualified successes with record numbers attending the Show - and the feedback from the Golf Club Show exhibitors extremely positive. It must be hoped that after such a promising launch this Show will go on from strength to strength and reinforce the belief that Harrogate is the "one-stop shop" for greenkeepers and golf club officials alike.

I, like so many of you I met during the week, am already looking forward to BTME 2003 - my eighth Harrogate is the "one-stop shop" for greenkeepers and golf club officials alike.

This month I must pass on my congratulations to you on providing the magazine with the strongest Letters' page since I have been Editor. In fact, commenting on a range of subjects. Credit for much of this must go to Duncan McGivern, Course Manager at Potton Hall GC, whose article, "Should we lead or should we be led" was the catalyst for a flood of correspondence stretching over two full pages and is packed with well expressed arguments on a range of subjects.

Following a successful launch last year the Turf grass Growers Association (TGA) will be holding a second series of half-day training courses at venues in the West Midlands, Yorkshire, Berkshire and Surrey between March and June.

Targeted primarily at professionals who supply, specify or install quality sports, amenity or ornamental turf surfaces, the courses are first organized by independent turf consultant and agronomist, Robert Laycock, the appointed advisor to the TGA.

Course content has been carefully chosen to help attendees understand and achieve optimum selection, installation and after-care of cultivated turf. Specific attention will be paid to the importance of turf quality and the various methods of quality assessment, including the TGA standards for cultivated turf, independently drawn up in 1996. Robert will also look at the selection of turf for different lawn situations together with lawn design, establishment and long-term care, including the most suitable equipment for the job.

The first TGA training course of the 2002 season takes place at Birmingham City Football Club on March 18. Further courses will be held on April 23 at a venue near Bradford, Yorkshire; on May 22 at a venue near Reading, Berkshire; and on June 18 at a venue near Reigate, Surrey.

To register for or receive further details on the TGA conference or the TGA's 2002 training courses, contact TGA headquarters, telephone 01728 729672 or e-mail: david.clarke@turfgrass.co.uk

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GTC article gets Chairman of Green thinking right 'On Course'

An article in the new issue of the GTC newsletter "On Course" has set at least one Chairman of Green thinking. Management consultant Frank Newberry had argued that better management skills were allowing Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers and their Deputies to cope with the ever-increasing demands put upon them and Brian Jackson, Chairman of Green at Bishop Auckland GC, read the piece and immediately contacted David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, to say how much he enjoyed the article.

"My time in industry has taught me that training is very worthwhile. Anything which motivates people and inspires self-confidence has to be good," said Brian.

"Frank's article rang bells with me and reinforced in my mind that training is the way forward for the industry."