St Andrews Bay Agreement

Yamaha Motor (UK) Ltd have signed an exclusive three year contract to supply the St Andrews Bay Golf Resort and Spa, St Andrews Scotland with over 40 Yamaha Golf Cars.

St Andrews Bay will take delivery of their fleet of Yamaha Ultima 48-volt electric golf cars and petrol service vehicles in June and July this year.

World Congress

The four World Scientific Congress of Golf will take place at St Andrews in the week immediately following The Open Championship at Muirfield. Among the topics which will be discussed are golf course construction, turf grass breeding, pests, biotechnology and golf environment while the week will also include golf at Kingsbarns, as well as an alternative Ryder Cup, a three club tournament and a range of other social activities.

Further information, including a booking form can be obtained on the World Scientific Congress of Golf Trust website: www.golfacts.org

Conroversial bunker issue receives response

Andy Law’s article “Shifting Sands” in May’s Greenkeeper International raises some controversial issues. Firstly, why must bunkers be visible? There are bunkers all over the world with blind bunkers: does this mean that they are architecturally flawed? And what of bunkers on our links courses that are basically holes with sand in the bottom?

Secondly, I cannot agree that bunker sand should “be light in colour”. May I suggest that the current desire for light sand was sparked by the high profile television coverage of American venues such as Augusta National. (Incidentally, this also increased the pressure on greenkeepers for faster and faster greens.)

Up until about 20 years ago, there were very few inland golf courses in this country with light coloured sand. Personally, I would like to see a return to tan coloured sands which are not only less obtrusive, but conceal contamination better that light sands, and at the same time remaining perfectly even and good to walk on.


A need for Ken’s Key Skills Corner

After reading the responses to Ken Richardson’s article on grammar basics, I feel that I must respond in Ken’s defence. I simply fail to understand why Ken has been attacked. Those attackers are obviously unaware of the fact that one in four members need this kind of support simply blinked and ill informed. I work with many young (and often older) Greenkeepers who require basic support in Literacy and Numeracy. Some of these students do not know how many millilitres are in a litre or how many square metres are in a hectare. ‘Those of you who are now thinking that this is because they have learned the imperial system can forget it, as most students have no concept of the imperial system at all. I have extensive contacts within Further Education Colleges and they all report similar problems.

One of the fastest growing areas of provision in E.E. Colleges is for basic skills and must serve to indicate the scale of the problem in all sectors of UK industry. The government has invested heavily to raise standards of I.T., Application of number and Communication skills.

Indeed you may have noted the recent television advertisements encouraging people to seek help in improving these key areas.

For Greenkeepers to accuse Ken of dumbing down is outrageous, how are we expected to encourage people to seek help if they perceive that they are stupid and should have learnt these skills when at school.

Those with high levels of literacy who find such articles condescending should simply ignore them and get on with their own lives and not interfere with those who try to offer some small degree of help to others.

I would like to end by saying, “Well done Ken”, I hope you continue to offer support to those in our industry who are academically less able and in doing so raise the standard of education for all.

Andrew Wight, Lecturer in Greenkeeping Studies, Oaklands College, St Albans

That Old Chestnut

When Duncan McGibraw wrote his original letter last year, he hoped for a response and he’s had some. However he also knows the vast majority of the membership never even read it, as witnessed at a recent seminar at Carden Park.

It’s that old chestnut apathy again. Look at the job section and throw the magazine to one side. Well at least we have a mag and that’s because we have an Association, one that was formed by determined men for the betterment of us all. Look how far we’ve come in such a short time. BIGGA was formed at exactly the right time as the laws were starting to get more stringent and some would say restrictive, but in reality they are being put in place to safe guard us in what is becoming a litigious society.

Look at the amount of maintenance facilities there are now compared to five years ago – a bit different to sheds I would say. Why? Legislation and the BIGGA informing us of it that’s why and that’s just one example.

It’s also good to see BIGGA and GTC together about time!

Education will always be the key to professionalism but nowadays it’s as much to do with legality as it is to do with practicality and when it comes to the law apathy and ignorance are not an option.

Dave Goodridge, Denbigh GC, Clwyd, Wales

John Deere Championship tees off

The photograph shows a team member teeing off at the 2002 Team Championship regional qualifying golf tournament organised by John Deere Midlands dealer Henton & Ghetelli at Cotgrave Place Golf Club in Stragglethorpe, Nottingham, in May, which attracted 23 teams - the biggest entry to date - and started with breakfast at John Deere Limited’s headquarters in Langar.

Camelford in Cornwall; Carden Park in Cheshire; Cipping Norton in Oxfordshire; Felixstowe Ferry in Suffolk; Glen Lodge, Bawburgh in Norwich, Bryans Hayes from Orsett, Chester: Rooksdale Park from Calvaton, Nottingham; Rowdy Hill from Highnam, Gloucester; Sherborne in Dorset; Wheatley in Doncaster; and Windmill Village in Coventry

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