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Cover Picture:
Royal St David's, with Harlech Castle as an impressive backdrop. Courtesy of Wales Tourist Board
COMPETITION

First of the summer wine

Tired and hot at the end of the day? In need of refreshment? To quench your thirst and help you unwind, Brian D Pierson (Contractors) Ltd, in association with Chateau des Vigiers Golf and Country Club have devised a competition exclusive to BIGGA members, one that will reach the parts that other wines cannot reach!

Chateau des Vigiers is located in the South of France and has a new golf course opening in the near future, designed by top architect Donald Steel and built by Brian D Pierson. The complex boasts not only fine golf but also a superb selection of wines made from grapes grown in its own vineyard.

To sample these delightful wines calls for nothing more than correct answers to the five questions listed below. The first five correct entries, selected at random from the editor’s postbag, will each receive a case of wine bearing the distinctive Chateau des Vigiers label.

**Question 1:** Name the architect who designed the golf course where the 1991 Ryder Cup is to be played?

**Question 2:** Name the two most talked about discussion documents relating to golf, issued by The Royal and Ancient’s Development Panel?

**Question 3:** Name the course manager recently honoured in the Queen’s Honours list and the course for which he is responsible?

**Question 4:** What do the following five abbreviations stand for: R and A; USGA; EGU; FFG; BAGCC

**Question 5:** Where is The Open to be held in 1992?

Your name:

Address:

Entries must be received by June 29th. The draw will be made under strict supervision and winners will be notified by post. All names appearing in the August issue of Greenkeeper International, No correspondence will be entered into and the editor’s decision is final. Due to customs and excise regulations this competition is open only to members of BIGGA residing in Britain.

Entries to: The Editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firle Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL. Mark your envelope COMPETITION.

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**Flying Divots**

In appreciation of what is not always appreciated

As members of a profession dedicated towards excellence, greenkeepers above all others should be aware of the meaning and origins of words exclusive to the game. Frequent misuse of golf terms is found in official histories of the game and in various articles published by accepted experts, such misuse continuing in print and common language to the present day. The belief that such bastardisation becomes acceptable through frequent use is one that finds no favour in these more enlightened times.

Let us start with the playing area – or as we commonly refer to it today – the course. In the earliest phase the game was played on seaside links – common wasteland twist land and sea used also for archery practice, football, bleaching clothes, breeding rabbits etc – to say nothing of courting couples and the like.

When the game spread inland the term ‘links’ was in many instances mistakenly used to describe the land on which the game was played. More frequently, however, the word ‘green’ was favoured. After all, cricket – the national game of England with similar rustic origins – was played on the village green.

So the golf ‘green’ was the accepted terminology for inland courses around the period 1880-1914 when the original golf boom was in full swing.

There are many terms derived from the word ‘green’ – some familiar to our ears – which have persisted to the present day in common usage:

- **GREENKEEPER** – Self explanatory – NOT Greenskeeper.
- **GREEN STAFF** – Always two words, Staff who work on the green
- **GREEN COMMITTEE** – Never Greens Committee please. Course Committee not an acceptable alternative.
- **GREEN CHAIRMAN** – Boss of the Greens Committee. A Greens Chairman, if such person exists, will be in charge of cabbages and sprouts!
- **RUB OF THE GREEN** – Becomes intelligible when the meaning of green is understood.
- **GREEN FEE** – Course fee just would not do!
- **THROUGH THE GREEN** – Applies to the whole area of the course except tee and putting green being played, and all hazards on the course. See rules section 11-35.
- **PUTTING GREEN** – Where the 4.25” diameter hole is found.
- **PRACTICE GREEN** – The practice area, NOT a putting green.
- **PRACTICE PUTTING GREEN** – Yes, you’ve got it!

I have an old catalogue issued when leather boots for shod horses were being advertised, along with ‘all the golf green requisites from golf green fertilisers to tee boxes for golf greens’.

Published in 1927 in the USGA Green Section Record, the following rhyme by Edgar J Guest stands in good stead today. It is entitled ‘The Greenkeeper’:

“He's on the job at break of day and when the stars are out,
There's always trouble on the course for him to fret about.
He starts the gang at break of dawn and follows them around,
He listens to committee men who's wisdom is profound.

They talk of ‘bents’ and ‘fescues’ in a way that makes him squirm,
So that they acquire knowledge in one brief official term.
His talk is one that calls for tact, for lacking that it means
Next year there'll be another man brought in to keep the greens.

The members seldom know his name or have a smile for him
They only stop and wonder why the course is not in trim.
They rave and rant and rant and rage while hunting for a ball
And wonder why the 'keeper hasn't cut the rough this fall.

And when they find a cuppy lie or footprints in the trap,
"The course is in a rotten shape" declares each gloomy chap.
And yet my hat is off to him who when winter intervenes,
I want to pay my tribute to the man who keeps the greens.

He's on the job from dawn to dark, a million pests to fight,
'Tis his to see that every green is watered every night,
The weeds attack his finest work, the drought destroys the grass
The rain beats down the tender shoots but still the players pass.

And still they play the game they love, a happy golfing clan
Who never stop to count the odds against a single man.
And so I wave my hand to him who toils in sturdy jeans,
The best old friend the golfers have, the man who keeps the greens".

And don't shoot the typesetter, he's doing his best!
The Boom Sprayer Calibration Chart (May issue) had a gaff that needs correcting vis: Item 6, Product Application Rate should read Concentrate per full tank. On the next line Part tank should be multiplied by Tank capacity to equal Amount of water required.

Still confused? Talk to Jon Albutt on 0959 75575. And there's more... Jim Arthur informed me that his blinding layer should have read: e.g. 4mm gravel over 150mm -250mm of 40mm clean stone. Oops, sorry!
Who and what are moving on and moving in, in the greenkeeping industry

- Our spy network increases with each passing issue, the latest whisper coming from Andrew Phillips of the London Section, who tells us that Chris Greenwood, latterly at Muswell Hill GC, is now busy in La Belle France at the prestigious Chantilly course. Echoing Andrew and his section colleagues, we join in wishing Chris a smooth and prosperous new career.
- A new golfer has recently come upon the scene, one Phillip Copsey, an eight pound bruiser with a grip that will surely draw course. Echoing Andrew and his section colleagues, we join in wishing Chris a smooth and prosperous new career.

- John Geddes, formerly of Auchmill GC, Aberdeen, is back in
- greenkeeping after an absence of 18 months. Having been 'paid-off' by the council controlled Auchmill course, John turned to landscaping but has now taken up a position as assistant greenkeeper at Kintore GC. Welcome back John and good luck!
- T Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Ltd announce two new key sales appointments. Michael Luker, pictured, has recently joined the Company as Sales Director and will be responsible for the overall development of new business as well as consolidating the existing customer base in southern England. Graham Paul has also joined Parkers as Area Sales and Technical manager for Bucks, Berks, Oxon and Beds. Graham is well known in the industry, having spent twenty years with Rhone-Poulenc, involved in all aspects of the development and marketing of pesticides.
- Stuart Ellis has been appointed to the post of National Sales Manager - Tractors and Power Products - at Kubota (UK) Ltd, headquarters. Prior to joining Kubota Stuart worked both as a demonstrator and in sales at Kubota's dealership, J Gibbs Ltd.
- A somewhat historic gathering took place at St Andrews recently, when a progress meeting was held at The Strathclyrum, the first new 18 hole golf course to be built at this ancient capital of golf in several decades. In our picture are ex BIGGA Chairman and Links Manager; Walter Woods, Secretary of the Links Management Committee; Alec Beveridge, Course Constructor; Brian Pierson and Architect; Donald Steel, together with members of Links Management Trust. The construction is expected to be completed by the end of July.
- Equally historic in its own way is the decision of Macclesfield GC to construct a further nine holes on their craggy hillside course high above the town. The new nine is designed by Hawtree & Son, with construction handled by Fine Turf Construction and the Club itself, under the direction of course manager Larry Murphy. The land is no easy piece of real estate, most having previously been grazing land and with a high predominance of rocky sub-strata. More power to them then for their foresight in providing extra playing facilities for the good citizens of Macclesfield and in doing much of the hard labour themselves.
- Lambethurst GC head greenkeeper, Allen Butrynowicz, is pictured taking delivery of the first sale in Kent of a Huxley 358 Greensmower. The sale was made by the newly appointed Kent/East Sussex agents for Huxleys, Lambethurst Equipment Ltd.
- In a nationwide scheme which raised £72000, over 100 Clubs collected and donated over £200 to the Golf Foundation's Appeal and thus qualified for entry into the third annual Kubota Draw. The fortunate winners of the Kubota G1900S ride-on mower worth £5000 were Worplesdon GC. The Club Captain, Brigadier PJ Blake MBE, is pictured below shaking the hand of Kubota's Vice President, Brian Hurley.
- Chris Bryden, Product Manager of the Grass Machinery Division of Ferrag Ltd, is seen here presenting Les Purdy of Purdy's Garden Machinery with his prize as top Warrior Mower dealer. Ferrag have also appointed six more distributors: Nairn Brown Ltd; K F Firby Ltd; R.F.E.; Jamman Engineering Services; CNS Mowers and Golf & Turf Equipment Ltd., bringing the network for Ferrag Warrior up to 25.

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**Irish Regional Iseki Qualifiers**

With the 1991 ISEKI Golf Greenkeepers Tournament now under way, it should be mentioned that this will be the fourth year of the Tournament, demonstrating Iseki's full commitment to the friendly, knowledgeable greenkeeper. From the beginnings at St. Pierre in 1988, we progressed to Moor Allerton in 1989 and following that Tournament it was decided to involve our friends the Irish. Thus a regional qualifier was established at Forrest Little Golf Club, just north of Dublin. This brought together players from Northern Ireland and the Republic and resulted in a team coming across the Irish Sea to Moor Town for our 1990 final. Such was the success at Forrest Little and the increased awareness greenkeepers there have for our friendly, quality tournament that the venture has moved a further step - two regional qualifying rounds - at Forres Golf Club and Forrest Little Golf Club having been held in May. We at Iseki certainly hope that the Irish golfers enjoyed their qualifying rounds and we look forward to meeting both teams at our Final at Hillside Golf Club, near Southport, on September 12th 1991. This is just another part of the Iseki commitment to furthering friendship with the golf greenkeeper and course manager.

- COLIN GREGORY, Sales Director, ISEKI (UK) Ltd.

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**Trade announcement**

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I recently was discussing the trends of today's greenkeeping with a friend of many years standing and observed that, in my opinion, greenkeeping was at a cross-roads and that the crisis seemed largely unrecognised, especially by those deciding policy. This despite the start made on The Way Forward. But you have been saying that at intervals for the past forty years has his riposte.

This I admit was certainly correct, but on reflection so were the reasons for such pessimism. Greenkeeping seems to suffer from cyclic disasters, all too often repeating the errors of previous decades. So-called new ideas — many not even new but recycled — are pushed by commercial interests, without adequate trials and again against all the rules of basic greenkeeping. Words fail me to describe the predictable disasters they are quietly dropped. The victims may not repeat that mistake but often fall for the next ploy. So few learn from the expensively experienced errors of others.

Such gimmicks range from 'new' fertilisers, magic cures ('apply this up to the white line'), to exotic 'hobbies' in methods of construction or even 'new' machines. I was amazed to see such new aerating machine recently which was a carbon copy of a similar one which failed more than a decade ago. Why? Because it took a week to aerate one green and the work can be done much better now by Vertidrains.

The few with the ear to listen to experienced head greenkeepers let others advise. Too many seminars are chock full of irrelevant ideas and total heresies. Now we even have moves to train golf professionals to be course managers. Hopefully as the recommendations of The Way Forward are implemented we may see some improvement.

In the sixties it was gross over-use of complex NPK fertilisers. Several companies fought me — often unfairly — and where are they now? More to the point, nearly every fertiliser firm advises and supplies nitrogen only or 'no phosphate' fertilisers for greens. Yet we still see soil analyses being pushed as a useful guide as to soil type. What does it matter if the phosphate levels are shown as very low if the grass is the right grass? If there are problems, the odds are it is not due to manurial deficiencies.

In the seventies, with increased numbers of courses installing automatic irrigation (pop-ups), but with no one realising it was fatally easy to overwater by merely turning a dial, the problem was over-watering. The British Turf Irrigation Association was set up and as instigator and founder member I tried to get better education and better equipment. Again, some unrepentant firms refused to listen — one even went so far as to say they had decided to assassinate my character to force me out of business — as I would not support their views. The top man who made that rash statement is no longer with the company!

Today most course managers, greenkeepers and chairmen of green pay at least lip service to the principle that 'overwatering is the cardinal sin of greenkeeping', made by that doyen of American greenkeeping, Al Radco.

In the eighties, the main problems were the use of wrong grasses in a feverish pursuit of colour, at the expense of 'traditional' playing surfaces. Penncross, introduced in the States to replace Bermuda grass in hot arid States, was blazoned as the grass to end all grass. Where is it now? It cannot legally be sold, though its successors can, but they are just as problem ridden. All have severe winter dormancy, all pluck up badly with traffic, all produce thatch second to none and all suffer more from disease (from Fusarium to Odium) than any other. All these faults were clear to see on a recently televised English tournament. Yet they still have defenders — usually those from the other side of the Atlantic — whose experience of Northern European greenkeeping conditions is even less than mine of American!

I hear now that one much publicised venture is to kill off its Penncross fairways and resow with ryegrass — ryegrass, ye Gods! Do they not realise (and there are plenty of notoriously bad courses to prove it) that ryegrass — even the so-called dwarf varieties — never forms a close knit turf and with lush leafy lines control on the ball is impossible. The end result is top spin, players moaning they cannot stop the ball on the green, and then on goes the water. 'Oh, but it stays green in drought', say advocates. Words fail me to describe.

In recent years I suppose the worst heresies are connected with construction. Pure sand greens are extolled as the latest panacea for all ills. The concept, lifted straight from desert conditions where enormously high levels of irrigation are needed to keep the grass alive — even in fact to cool it — has as much relevance to Northern European conditions as caviar to starving Africans. For one thing, we simply are not going to have the water to keep them alive.

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