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February 2001

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Another one for the memory banks

As a week, it would be hard to beat Harrogate 2001. Virtually every aspect of it has been deemed a success ... and not just by those people involved in the organisation but by delegates and exhibitors, many of whom have contacted BIGGA HOUSE to say how successful, not to mention enjoyable, it had been for them.

Sure, there were problems. I wouldn’t have liked to have been stuck in one of the long, cold queues of people trying to get into the hall but that in itself is a measure of how successful the show had been. We’ve had queues in the past but not to the extent that they were significant hardship for the participants as they were this year. Having identified it as an issue it is something we will have addressed well in advance of next year.

There were many highlights for me during the week of the National Education Conference and the Show. There was the member, all the way from Germany, who, on the Sunday night, put on his jacket for the first time since the last year’s Harrogate and found £200 in the top pocket. He’d forgotten all about it. It must be nice to have that sort of disposable income.

Another high point was the surprise appearance of BIGGA’s Administration Manager, Johnny “Rotten” Pemberton, on stage with The Searchers, a truly unforgettable experience. He had prepared for it. I’d always thought John might possess the talent and the potential to be a great singer ... I’m afraid I was wrong.

It was also pleasing to see so many international visitors to the Show. Harrogate has always attracted a number of overseas members and friends but this year there seemed to be many more than usual, reinforcing the view that BTME week is an opportunity for the entire industry to come together and compare notes on problems and solutions.

Once again Textron must be given a vote of thanks for their support of the Learning Experience programme.

This year 7,172 people chose to make a date with BTME during the two and a half days of the Show is quite astonishing. That represents a huge increase on previous attendance figures and marks the Show down, among existing and would-be exhibitors, as a vibrant and exciting event which must not be missed. It also goes a long way to justifying the decision to extend the show by half a day next year.

It was not a decision taken lightly, as Neil Thomas explains elsewhere in this magazine, but the flexibility the additional few hours will add will give everyone a chance to get round the entire show, while the exhibitors themselves will no doubt appreciate a more even flow of visitors over the three days.

News on the format of next year’s Harrogate will be posted as and when it becomes available but you can be assured that BTME 2002 will build on the success of this year’s event and once again be the highlight of the greenkeeping calendar.

Bart Cross describes his recent visit to Lusaka Golf Club.

While on holiday in Zambia I had reason to drive to the capital city, Lusaka, and on route drove past Lusaka Golf Course. From the road I could see some of the course, and I decided on my return journey I would call in to take a better look. When I arrived at the golf club, I made myself known by showing my BIGGA membership card which is always in my wallet, and was introduced to the Secretary/Manager, Mr Mulenga.

I was made very welcome, and invited to walk the course with him. I was very impressed with the condition of the course, and even more impressed when Mr Mulenga gave me a list of the machinery to maintain the course, which consisted of; one 20inch certes to cut greens; one 18 inch certes to cut tees; two MIF tractors (fair condition); one three gang front drag sets and one Tractor rotary mower. The greens are Bermuda grass and are cut at approx six millimetres, three to four times weekly, the fairways are a mixture of very coarse grasses and cut weekly.

On our walk round the course I was introduced to the Professional/Head Greenkeeper Mr Zulu. He explained the difficulty of getting fertiliser, and machinery, plus the high cost of both even if they are available. Bunkers on the course are mainly green side only but you can run into other problems just off the fairways like, snakes, termites, army ants, and great numbers of beautiful trees lining the fairways. The course is 18 holes par 73, covering 240 acres, with fairways, tees, and greens with irrigation fed by three bore holes. Lusaka Golf Course was officially opened in 1955. The first major alteration was made during the war years, with the scraping of some holes, and constructing new ones within the frame work of the remainder. In 1956 the course was re-designed to eliminate playing into the sun on the closing holes. The first grass green was planted in 1958, and by 1962 all 18 greens were grass. The irrigation during the months between October and January is used constantly due to high temperatures 30-40 C. The course is the venue for the Zambian Open, and Masters Champion Vijay Singh won his first tournament there in 1992.

Ian Woolnham since then won a Range Rover for a hole-in-one. The course is in a beautiful setting, and a credit to Mr Mulenga and Mr Zulu considering the lack of machinery to maintain the course. A staff of 25 work on the course (male and female) hard weeding greens, and keeping down the rough with slashers (3ft x 2inch steel blades sharpened both edges).

Thinning out the course grasses on the fairways is also done by hand, a task that could be solved with a good scythe. The greens come under attack from all sorts of burrowing and flying insects, and every green has to be checked daily and sprayed if necessary. I was, as mentioned earlier made very welcome, and loaned a set of clubs, a caddie who knew the course inside out, and courtesy of the course. The golf club have now joined BIGGA.

International membership growing!

Bart Cross describes his recent visit to Lusaka Golf Club.

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Top level changes at Textron

Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products International has made major changes to its sales and marketing teams.

Garry O’Neill joins the company as Sales Director for Europe and Africa. Previously with Toyota (GB) he held a number of positions, lastly in a strategic role responsible for product, pricing, marketing and distribution for light commercial vehicles.

Former Sales Director Peter Bell becomes Marketing Director. International with overall responsibility for all promotional activity, together with distribution development, product management and sales planning.

Neil Woodinn is appointed to the new position of Customer Services Director, International with full responsibility for after sales support including service, parts and training.

All the above positions report directly to Managing Director, Harold Pinto.

Other appointments resulting from the senior management changes include: Ian Lovesy, who joins the company as National Accounts Manager from Bosch Power Tools.

He replaces Richard Bishop, who after 32 years with the company, leaves with the best wishes of everyone in the Sales and Marketing team, to further his career within the turf care industry.
Training priorities recommended by GTC Technical Committee

The GTC Technical Committee has set out its recommendations for Greenkeeper training priorities in a three year Business Plan.

The work of the new Technical Committee within the GTC structure chaired by Dr Mike Canaway will enable the Management Committee to consolidate on the Leading Industry Body for Greenkeeping by achieving set objectives and ensuring funding is approved to meet these objectives in the development and implementation of Greenkeeper Education, Training and Qualifications," explained David Golding, the GTC’s Education Director.

The Technical Committee consists of the following members:-

Chairman - Dr Mike Canaway
Consultants - John Davis, Tony Mears, Chairman - Dr Mike Canaway
Course Manager: Kerrum Davy, Course Manager: Iain Ritchie, Course Manager: Tavish Megs, Education Director GTC, in attendance and Sue Goldgerg - N/SWQ
Co-ordinator, in attendance

Bob McLaren, the Chairman of the Management Committee, has fully supported the work of the Technical Committee and has recommended endorsement of the Business Plan to the Management Committee. The representative bodies are currently considering the Business Plan including the financial implications to implement the Business Plan.

IOG meeting to welcome one and all

The Bristol Branch of the IOG is to hold a special meeting at St. Mary’s School, Cable, Wiltshire at which Steven Bernhard, of Bernhard & Co, will be giving an illustrated talk, "Why Lap?" Anyone who uses a cylinder mower should find this an extremely interesting talk.

The Branch will give a warm welcome to any member of BIGGA who would like to attend the meeting.

This is the first meeting the IOG have held in this area, and they would appreciate if those intending to come along would first phone Ted Cavell on 01278 788689, so that they may arrange a room of a size to fit the number attending. (Evening calls to Ted would be appreciated).

Grand Tour Scholarship 2001

The Grand Tour Scholarship invites golf course design and golf course management students to apply for the second time to apply for a journey to leading golf courses throughout the United States in August 2001. The scholarship offers a unique learning experience to future leaders in our industry. TORY sponsors this year's scholarship that has been organized by Bettina Schrickel, golf course architect (EIGCA) and President of Lioness Golf LLC.

The scholarship offers four students the opportunity to visit a variety of famous historic and modern golf courses, including the opportunity to visit a variety of famous historic and modern golf courses, respectively. The two study tours include golf courses such as Augusta National, Harbour Town Golf Links, the Coors' Club in Brookline, Cypress Point and Pebble Beach to name just a few. Both study tours will take place in August.

The Western Route will lead to 20 golf courses in three weeks; the Eastern Route includes 23 courses and takes four weeks. Experience has proven the benefit of two students traveling together per route in order to exchange knowledge and impressions. Students will have the opportunity to work each course, study the layout and talk to the golf course superintendent.

Edgbaston GC

A verdict of death by misadventure has been returned on Alan Cutler, Deputy Head Greenkeeper and a much valued staff member of Edgbaston Golf Club, who was crushed by a mower after it toppled onto him as he cut round a bunker's edge.

The Birmingham inquest was told that Alan, who had been at the club for 34 years, had been cutting round a bunker on the 15th hole in March last year when the incident occurred. When Alan didn’t return to work, maintenance facility Course Manager, Mike Hughes, went to look for him and found him trapped underneath the machine. It took three minutes to extricate him and he was declared dead at hospital having suffered respiratory failure due to a crushed chest.

The jury, after having been guided by the Coroner, advised that it was the club’s normal practice to move to within at least a foot of a bunker’s edge and then hand mow the remainder but that on the occasion in question it was apparent that Alan had been mowing to within one to three inches of the edge.

The Coroner, Health Inspector, Pauline Beever, advised that she was not proposing to prosecute as the club had demonstrated that it was a responsible employer and had implemented all recommendations since the accident.

The club had a Health and Safety Policy in place but has tightened its procedures further to maintain the strength of what the HSE had said following the accident.

It has also bought a new machine with a sideway mechanism which means operators stay further away from the edge of banks while roll bars have been fitted to every piece of machinery which could accommodate them.

“I think one of the main lessons is that other clubs could learn from our very sad experience is to keep in regular contact with the local Health and Safety Executive and see any input as a positive contribution to the strength of the HSE”, said Edgbaston Secretary, Peter Heath.

“We have always had a good relationship with the HSE but having had such an accident on our golf course we have made its much more aware of the need for good practice,” he explained.

A civil compensation claim is currently being pursued by 56-year-old Alan’s family through the Club’s Employers Liability policy.

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Edgbaston GC

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Website clarification

Anyone finding difficulty accessing Dr Kate Entwisle’s website which was listed in last month’s magazine may have been confused by a dash which appeared at the end of the line but in the middle of the address. The website can be accessed at: www.theurfdiseasecentre.co.uk
Volunteers required!

Volunteers required for the following events:


The Association will again be providing a support team for this prestigious event, this year, for the first time, it will operate on each of the four competition days. Each team member will be allocated a match and will walk the course with the game, raking any bunkers found by the players. In addition, should adverse weather conditions prevail, you may be required to assist the Wentworth greenskeeping staff in keeping the course playable.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course and there is no provision for overnight accommodation. You may apply to help on any or all days and usually all those who apply are given the chance to participate on at least one day.

When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided together with daily meal vouchers.

Helping at this event will not prejudice your chances of a place on The Open Championship Support Team.

The Open Championship, Royal Lytham & St Annes, July 19-22, 2001

The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open Championship will be involved in early morning course preparations; bunkering and raking, while matches are in play, and evening course repair. You must be available from Wednesday evening, July 18, through to the close of play on Sunday, July 22. While all transport, accommodation and meals will be provided within these dates for the team member’s responsibility for travel from home to the venue and return. When applying please give your polo shirt size.

Full BIGGA members only may apply in writing, for either or both of these events to: John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark Alne, York, YO61 1UE.

Should you require any further information John can be contacted on 01347 885800 or via email john@bigga.co.uk.

The Wentworth support team will be co-ordinated by the BIGGA South East House, co-ordinated by Derek Pemberton, Regional Administrator, is available to provide any information. Derek can be contacted on 01903 260956 or mobile 07850 162401.

The closing date for applications is Friday March 2, 2001, and in the event of there being more applications than places available a draw of names will take place.

A Trans-Atlantic promotion for Deere’s Alex

John Deere’s UK Managing Director, Alex McKee, has been promoted to the position of Vice President, Worldwide Marketing in the company’s agricultural division, based in the USA at Lenexa, near Kansas City.

This is in addition to John Deere Limited by Clay Sherrill, who is currently Sales Branch Manager of the Minneapolis branch in the USA.

“I have had 28 very happy years working for John Deere Limited, the last eight as Managing Director,” said Alex McKee.

A major part of my new responsibility will be to ensure that we have the right products to meet our ever changing customer needs, and to provide increased customer and market development support on a global scale.”

Clay Sherrill is a graduate of Wofford College and gained a MBA from Georgia State University before joining Deere & Company in 1977.

He field a variety of marketing roles in different North American sales branches before becoming Minneapolis sales branch manager in 1998.

“I am looking forward to learning about the business in the UK and Ireland, and to settling my family here in the next few months,” said Clay Sherrill, who is married with two children.

“Europe is more advanced in some ways than the USA, particularly with regard to more intensive use of machinery and the highly competitive nature of the marketplace - it promises to be an exciting challenge.

Correction for disease-free turf article

In the article on Disease-free turf which appeared on pages 23 and 24 of last month’s magazine we inadvertently mixed up the photographs so that the Take-all Patch pictures appeared above the description for Fusarium Patch and the Fusarium Patch pictures appeared above the Take-all Patch description. We apologise for any confusion caused by this error and hopefully make up for the error by printing a corrected version for both diseases this month.

Anyone seeking further clarification information should require BIGGA’s Turf Major Pest Diseases Field Guide which gives detailed information on turf diseases. A copy can be obtained for BIGGA HOUSE.

Fusarium Patch

Symptoms
Orange brown patches, 2.5 to 5cm across, increasing in size under suitable conditions. Can coalesce to affect large areas. Disease often very active following periods of snow cover, with blue spots which become brown ring surrounding a pale straw-coloured/slightly pink centre.

Occurrence
Any time of the year when conditions are suitable, but especially spring and autumn and after snow.

Grass species involved
Annual Meadow-grass (Poa annua) is the main species attacked but the fungus also attacks Bent Grass (Agrisie Spp) and occasionally other grasses. Host preference is diminished when disease attacks under snow cover.

Other influencing factors
Shade, humidity, alkaline surface, insufficient drainage, excess nitrogen.

Control measures
Identification of influencing factors and application of appropriate remedial measures.

Take-all Patch

Symptoms
Rings or part rings of orange/brown grass from 0.1 to 1 metre in diameter. The base of drying grass is usually about 0.1 metre across and is predominantly the result of a fungal disease which enters the roots which become brown ringed and discoloured, thereby allowing the affected plants to be easily plucked from the turf. At certain times, a black, reproductive structure, known as a perithecia, may be seen low down on the stem. This is usually found immediately below the leaf junctions. The perithecia contains many basidiospores and each containing 8-16 ascospores which serve to spread infection. Infected patches become distinct from the green grass species and contain only non-susceptible grasses.

Occurrence
Most common in late summer and autumn.

Other influencing factors
Waterlogging and surface altitude increase the likelihood of this disease occurring.

Grass species involved
Bent grasses (Agrisiea).

Control measures
Avoid over application of lime during the summer. Timing is best done in the autumn. Where a suitable interval should be followed by a dressing of fertiliser to re-acidify the surface. Attention to drainage of wet areas is recommended.

Trials and tribulations

Alan Dommett of Devon Garden Machinery has a lot to answer for, he is the one responsible for Stuart Dymond’s occasional absences from his beloved golf course at St Erődoc on Sunday mornings. His generosity led to greater things as he pursued his other passion that of F1 racing.

It was through Alan’s sponsorship that Stuart was able to compete on his much prized Triumph Tiger Cub and which saw him win the 1998 Launceston Motor Cycle Club Championship followed by a runners up in 1999. It was this generous sponsorship by Devon Garden Machinery that further encouraged Stuart to have his own Triumph Tiger Cub restored. This was completed in 2000 and enabled Stuart in continuing to foresgo the beauties of the fabulous North Cornish coastal scenery that are St Erődoc and aim for his third crack at the Launceston Championship.

So partly on Alan Dornett’s Tiger and finishing on his own little gem he has now gained a second Championship for 2000.

IOG Conference

The IOG 2001 Conference is on the theme “Caring for the Environment with Water Management, Watering Technology” and will investigate a different topic Rootzone Stimulants: Water Management and Recyling.

Among the excellent group of speakers are Dr Alan Gange of Royal Holloway College who will talk on “Microbial management of turf: myth or reality?”; Prof Cliff Johnston - Environmental Consultant on “Seaweed - an environmentally friendly turfgrass stimulus?”; Martin Ward, of Symbio on “Rootzone nutrition - the biological route explored” and Kim Von Esser, Course Manager of Losby Golf Course in Norway, on “But does it really work? - practical experiences of the biological route from a grounds management professional”. Among those speaking on Water Management are Carol Holt of the Environment Agency; Alan Vicker of Cranfield University and Victor Jamieson of Rain Bird Europe.

The Conference runs from Friday March 30 through to Monday April 2 at The Thistle Hotel, Haydock. Further information can be obtained from the IOG Tel: 01908 312511.

A major part of my new responsibility will be to ensure that we have the right products to meet our ever changing customer needs, and to provide increased customer and market development support on a global scale.”

Clay Sherrill is a graduate of Wofford College and gained a MBA from Georgia State University before joining Deere & Company in 1977.

He field a variety of marketing roles in different North American sales branches before becoming Minneapolis sales branch manager in 1998.

“I am looking forward to learning about the business in the UK and Ireland, and to settling my family here in the next few months,” said Clay Sherrill, who is married with two children.

“Europe is more advanced in some ways than the USA, particularly with regard to more intensive use of machinery and the highly competitive nature of the marketplace - it promises to be an exciting challenge.

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For **GOLF**, the brand is **JACOBSEN**, the colour **ORANGE** and the number to call is **FREEPHONE 0500 026208**.

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New Golf Course Consultancy formed

John Nicholson has joined with architect, Ken Moodie and golfer Ken Brown to form a new Golf Course Consultancy.

The services offered by the new company range from feasibility studies, layout proposals, advice on construction programmes, production of contract documents, woodland design and establishment, grant applications as well as advice on all aspects of existing courses.

"The growth of John Nicholson Associates has meant that golf course architecture was increasingly becoming an issue that had to be dealt with and the natural progression was to expand into the area."

"It soon became apparent that the philosophies held by Ken Moodie, Ken Brown and myself were so similar that the obvious solution was to work together," said John.

Career move to Renault for Ian

Renault has appointed Ian Thomson as its new Groundcare Product Manager, with responsibility for tractor sales to the non-agricultural sector.

He joins Renault from Scottish Grass Machinery where he set-up, and was manager of, its SGM Industrial division, for which he took on the non-agricultural franchise for Renault in Scotland which proved a tremendous success among both the groundcare and local authority sectors.

There is massive potential in the non-agricultural sector and it is the product that has drawn me to Renault," says Ian.

"Renault is the only wholly European tractor manufacturer left. It has the product range to suit the market and various sectors within it."

BTLIA announce award winners

The British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association Personality of the Year, announced at BTME, is Glyn Prime, Director, Prime Irrigation Ltd.

Glyn, who joined the family business in 1964, then involved in agricultural and horticultural markets, later became head of system design, adapting his skills to the sports turf market when his company broadened the scope of operations, in 1986.

"I was very surprised - shocked perhaps - to receive the award which made to me as an individual, also reflects great credit on my company. We have been members of the BTLIA for 14 years and I know first hand, just how much work the organising committee accomplished for the good of all those involved in designing, installing and using fine turf irrigation," said Glyn.

A tree-mendous move for David

David Cassie recently joined the tree and woodland management firm of Eamonn Wall & Co., based at their Dollar office, where he has taken over from Steve Collins, recently departed on a five year stint to Honduras.

The firm specialises in the planting and management of trees in the golfing landscape and David, a native of Newcastle with a degree from Aberdeen University, will be working on golf courses throughout Scotland and England.

Carl gets new role at Sisis

Carl Tooley has been appointed Sales Office Coordinator at Sisis Equipment Ltd, the Cheshire based turf maintenance machinery manufacturers.

Carl has 22 years experience with SISIS, having worked as an assembler, in Spares Despatch and then for 14 years as Stores Supervisor.

Carl was Cheshire Youth Darts Champion and his other hobbies include computers, growing fruit trees, biking and supporting Manchester City FC.
Story left me in floods of tears!

After reading Elliot Small’s final “As I see it” he said he would like us to write in with something humorous about flooding it brought to mind something which happened at Lenzie Golf Club some years ago.

In the distant past the area around Lenzie was known as the Loch lands. Most of the smaller stretches of water were drained into man-made ditches, hence to burns and rivers. Now the one remaining loch is the Gadloch and 200 years ago this was reduced to a mere three feet.

Lenzie was known as the Loch lands. The course was laid out by . . . in 1887. Forty years later the Club purchased the Gadloch. As far back as I can remember parts of the course have been under water in exceptionally wet weather.

As the years wore on and nothing was done about repairing it the Gadloch is spreading out back to its old locations. One night, after my day’s toll on the course and during a very wet period, I was having my usual refreshment in the bar when one of our members rushed in and breathlessly told us that they were pumping out the loch. As you can imagine, everyone stopped talking and awaited the next utterance from the very welcome messenger. “Yes,” he said, “the Fire Brigade are up at the head of the Loch pumping out the water and they are pumping out the Loch.”

I think I was first to jump in with “Pumping out the Loch?”, “the Loch has risen six feet in the past week, no one could pump that amount of water out”. There was mumbling all around that a start had to be made somewhere. I felt I had to stop all this wishful thinking and stupidity. I asked what size of hoses they were using and, more importantly, where they were pumping the water to. The answer was “I don’t know, I just know that the Fire Brigade are starting to empty the Loch.”

I could not listen to any more of this rubbish so I jumped in my car and arrived to see the Fire Brigade clearing up their hose pipes. They had been requested by the Police to clear the drainage system which was blocked and causing the road to flood. I told them that one of our members had just come into the Clubhouse and said they were pumping out the Loch. We looked down the Loch, and looked at his equipment and we both just laughed.

Cecil George, Lenzie

Help needed with sandy dilemma

We have two golfing hotels in the Midlands the Abbey Hotel Golf & Country Club near Redditch has an 18 hole golf course and we have just developed a new 9 hole course at Lea Marston Hotel & Leisure Complex. The latter was built between February and July last year by Contour Golf under the leadership of Ingrid Eichler. Contour have done a fabulous job and the golf course has grown in extremely well and is virtually fit for play already. We actually won’t be opening the course to the membership until April 1 this year.

The course at the Abbey is 15 years old now and was constructed to a fairly high standard such that tees and greens drain beautifully. However the clay content of the sub soil and top soil means that water retention is a serious problem. Indeed, as many other golfers do the course has been shut for approximately half of October and November. Over the last 18 months we have invested around £1,000,000 on fairway drainage – so we are trying but the recent rains has not been able to get away effectively from the surface. Last year we bought a vertidrain machine which is proving to be of some use. However we now really do need to transfer some large quantities of sand into the fairways.

I would be very pleased to hear from other BIGGA members whether they have come up with a cost effective solution for spreading large quantities of sand effectively into an area with preferably a low ground pressure being applied. This I would imagine is a fairly universal problem and I do feel that a survey would be most beneficial not only to us but to other members, ie including best sand, type and cost machinery used and/ or third party contractors.

M I Blake, Managing Director, Lea Marston. Haunch Lane, Lea Marston, Sutton Coldfield, Warks. B76 0BY

New-look Membership packs are a great success

I have just received my BIGGA Membership Pack. Congratulations indeed, you have outdone yourselves. What a fantastic surprise to receive in the post. In this part of the world we never get anything as comprehensive as this, so it was very exciting. It was opened at once!

Also in Africa we are not used to receiving something dated 5th January by the 11th January. In Harare letters posted today may arrive 8 kms down the road 3 months later!

Best wishes for 2001

Doug McClymont

Tribute to Fred Hawtree

Fred Hawtree’s passing reported in your December issue, was to me very sad reading, primarily because being unaware of his death, I was not able to pay my respects earlier to one of the industry’s true gentlemen.

When I took over the publishing of Golf Greenkeeping for BIGGA in 1982, Fred was one of the first to offer to support offering produce for me series of articles on golf course architecture. They were always amusing, written with style, had a sound message for greenkeepers, but never preached in a manner that was ever boring. Indeed, as many other golfers do, the course has been shut for approximately half of October and November. Over the last 18 months we have invested around £1,000,000 on fairway drainage – so we are trying, but the recent rain has not been able to get away effectively from the surface. Last year we bought a vertidrain machine which is proving to be of some use. However we now really do need to transfer some large quantities of sand into the fairways.

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M I Blake, Managing Director, Lea Marston, Haunch Lane, Lea Marston, Sutton Coldfield, Warks. B76 0BY

Editor’s note: Anyone with information to help should write to the Letter’s Column or direct to Mr Blake at the above address

Thanks for BIGGA education packages

While reading Greenkeeper International this month, I came across a letter from Antony Kyle giving praise to BIGGA for their training courses. I also had the good fortune to go on a course with my Head Greenkeeper, at which Brin Bendon was lecturing, and I too, thought it brilliant.

When I arrived back at work, my Club Secretary asked me how I got on. Well I didn’t shut up telling him about it! I have only been in greenkeeping for a year now and I really took it all in because I want to try to better myself for the future.

Terry Crawford, Clentbrey GC, Conil, Newtownards, Northern Ireland. BT23 3PN. Email: terry@crayford totaledserve.co.uk

Address your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York Y061 1U4, or email them to reception@bigga.co.uk
This month, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA’s Membership Services Officer, welcomes over 60 new members to the Association, and highlights a brand new membership benefit...

**Get Connected!**

Insurance has become part of our everyday life; we require insurance for houses including contents and buildings, travel insurance, cars, motorcycles, there is even insurance for our pets! BIGGA have teamed up with Heath Lambert Insurance Services Ltd to provide BIGGA Members with an exclusive insurance quotation service called ‘Key Connect’. When you next receive your renewal quotation through the post or you need a quotation for a new insurance why not give Key Connect a call on:

**KEY CONNECT**

0845 07 65 672

They will provide you with a competitive quotation service. Whatever your insurance needs give Key Connect a call today.

**BIGGA welcomes...**

Scottish Region
David A. Cook, East
Barry Mytton, North
Stuart Kelly, East
Gema Kerr, East
David W. Mac, North
Michael Thomas Scott, East
John Wood, East

Northern Region
Mark Foster, North West
Anthony Mills, North West
David Smith, North West
John Stapley, North West

Midland Region
Andrew Barlow, Midland
Martin Bond, Midland
John Frank Carlin, Midland
Alan Cousins, East Midland
Joseph Forster, E of England
David/Philip Hard, E England
Stuart Mellors, East Midland
William James Pitch, BIGGA
Matthew Rishe, E of England
Graham Stroun, East Midland

South East Region
Christopher Archdale, Surrey
Lee Allan Chenery, E Anglia
Andrew G. Cloud, Sussex
Ricky Goodman, London

December Renewals

If your Membership renewal date was 31 December 2000, it still isn’t too late to renew. Contact Tracey or Susannah in the Membership Services Department for more information, or if you have any queries at all regarding Membership services or benefits.

You can contact us in a variety of ways:

Tel. 01347 833800
Fax. 01347 833801
Email: tracey@bigga.co.uk
susannah@bigga.co.uk
Web: www.bigga.org.uk

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December's Monthly Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch. Our congratulations go to January’s winner, Mark Broughton of Aldeburgh GC.

**Get online, it's...**

Since BIGGA relaunched its website in June last year, we have been constantly updating and adding new and improved content for members and visitors alike. As part of our continual programme of improvement we are now proud to announce the launch of our brand new 'Time to Talk' Bulletin Board. This service will enable all Greenkeepers members of BIGGA to discuss any topic of interest relevant to their profession, online.

How do I chat online?
'Time to Talk' is located in the BIGGA website Members' Area, and can be accessed by logging into the Greenkeeper Members Area. Simply enter your surname and date of birth, and once in the Members' Area, click on the Bulletin Board icon. A second window will automatically open, from where you can either register (if you are new to the Bulletin Board), or Login, if you have previously registered.

Once you have completed the registration process, you can login, and go to the Home Page of the Bulletin Board. From here you can organise your home page to meet your own requirements and select and view any of the discussions ongoing. You can create a new topic, or reply to an existing one. How about;

- Getting help and advice from fellow members?
- Renewing friendships with colleagues?
- Sharing ideas and challenges online?

Visit us online at www.bigga.org.uk

The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
The UK’s professional body representing the 70,000 golf course professionals worldwide

The BIGGA website is an exciting interactive bulletin board for golf course professionals, offering a range of useful features and links, including

- The BIGGA greenkeepers directory
- The BIGGA employment database
- The BIGGA greenkeeping training register
- The BIGGA sports news
- The BIGGA debate forum
- The BIGGA discussion boards
- The BIGGA newsletter

The site is designed to help golf course professionals stay in touch with each other, share ideas and advice, and keep up to date with the latest news and developments in the industry.

For more information, visit www.bigga.org.uk

**Website:** www.bigga.org.uk

**Email:** tracey@bigga.co.uk

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