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Greenkeeper International

The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

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YOU’VE GOT MAIL!

If you’ve got an email account, and want to keep up to date with the latest news and events from the turf care industry, sign up at email and we’ll add you to our ever increasing list of online subscribers.

Simply send an email to: updates@bigga.co.uk quoting your name and Membership number, and we’ll do the rest - it’s that easy!

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July 2001

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by August 13, 2001

Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry
BIGGA survey: An excellent response

As this edition of Greenkeeper International goes to press, Mike Williamson of JW Associates is busy analysing the responses to the market research survey we reported on in March.

"The response to the survey has been excellent," said Mike.

We have received completed questionnaires from 570 BIGGA members, and have conducted about 150 telephone interviews with companies and organisations in the golf industry, as well as representatives of golf clubs and greenkeepers who are not currently BIGGA members. A lot of people have applauded BIGGA for having the survey carried out - and are looking forward to hearing the outcome!

As a first step, Mike Williamson will be reporting key findings from the research to the BIGGA Board at their June meeting. The Board will then decide on the best way of considering, and responding to, the detailed results that will be in the full report.

In the meantime, Mike passes on his thanks to all those who took the time to respond, often very fully, to the questionnaires and interviews. And Mike’s communications to the 3,699 members who did not win the £100 voucher in the questionnaire prize draw.

Scottish National Championship

Results

Scottish Champion, SGGA Challenge Cup, Scrath.
Stuart Raeburn, Tulliallan, 73.
Friendship Trophy, Best Net, Stephen Brown, Newcastle, 68.
Category One, Ransomes Trophy
1. George Thompson, Goswick, 72.
2. James McCormack, Kinimuir. 73/8H
3. Archie Donn, Auchterarder, 73.
Category Two, Pattinson Trophy
1. Craig Pennycuick, Winterfield, 72.
2. Colin Irwin, Murfield, 74.
3. Alan Russell, Toshin Hill, 76 BIH
Category Three STRI Trophy
1. Andy Wilson, Brechin, 73.
2. Albert Arnott, Lochore Meadows, 76.
3. Colin Scott, Glasgow, 80.
Best Head GK, Dick Atiken Trophy, Stuart Taylor, Glasgow, 73.
Best Assistant, MBM Trophy, Kenneth Mitchell, St Andrews, 74.
Best Apprentice, Seuter Trophy, Richard Love, Kilmacolm, 74.
Best Veteran, SIGGA Trophy, Duncan Gray, Pitre, 75.
Team Trophy (Best four net scores)
St Mungo Cup, North - Stephen Brown, James McCormack, Andy Wilson and John Urquhart.
Trade: Pat Allan, Stewarts.
Guest: Scott MacCallum, BIGGA.

Stephen boxes clever at John O’Gaunt

Stephen Thompson, of John O’Gaunt Golf Club who has previously reported on the success of the bird boxes installed on the course has further good news to report.

"So far 11 out of 14 tit boxes have been accepted and we have 84 young blue tits ranging in age from half a day to 14 days. 31 blue tits were ringed and we also had a nest containing three young great tits," said Stephen.

The majority of the boxes were put up in February and March this year to give the birds time to get used to them and possibly to roost in them.

"Out of six open fronted boxes one was used and a complete nest found, presumably used by a wren," said Stephen.

"This was the first year for these boxes and it was very successful," said Stephen who works closely with Peter Wilkinson of Bird Life International, who was able to ring some of the birds.
Greenkeepers came from Denmark, Scotland, Wales and England to volunteer their services for the Volvo PGA Championship held at The Wentworth Club at the end of May. Their work are much appreciated by the European Tour as by relieving caddies of the bunker raking considerable time is saved on a round, speeding up play to the advantage of all concerned.

They are also a great comfort to Course Manager Chris Kennedys who apart from all the worries that he has during a Championship such as this knows that in the event of heavy rain he can call on tremendous support from this team to get the waterages out and keep play moving by keeping the greens playable.

The Championship in the past has been plagued by such weather and was one of the reasons that the Tour asked the Association if Greenkeeper Support could be made available for all four days this year. Thankfully, that was not the case this year and the event was blessed with four days of almost continual sunshine. More volunteers would have been useful over the first two days as there were 52 matches to provide for and it was a great effort by those Greenkeepers who covered two rounds in temperatures around the eighties.

There was a great atmosphere in our little office, nobody being unkind to the Regional Administrator when he gave exhibitions of controlled panic and an even better one, especially on the last day in the hospitality suite overlooking the 18th green generously provided for our use by the Tour, for apart from the Support Team we seemed to 'pick up' lots of Greenkeepers there just for the golf (including Jack and Rita McMillan!) and who managed to talk their way past security.

On a serious side eventual winner Andrew Oldcorn must feel eternally grateful to Rob Boyce, Newmarket, who was the only person to see his balls here." called out "Where are you going? The 18th green smooth as the leading Association in the fine turf industry? Read on...
Gleneagles to host new Turf Care Conference

The first ever Turf Care Conference will be held at The Gleneagles Hotel this November.

The Conference, the brainchild of Tommy Kidd, Director of Turfgrass Management at Gleneagles, is designed to appeal to and address issues facing both the business entrepreneur who wishes to build a golf course as well as those already involved in the industry who can turn the developer's ambition into reality.

"There are a lot of different individuals required to build and maintain a golf course each with their own area of expertise and all with an important role to play in the development process," said Jimmy.

"The Conference is the ideal springboard for representatives from each part of that process to meet and expand their knowledge and understanding of one another's role."

"It is in the field of golf course design, construction, turf care and golf management will provide professional advice on each aspect of the development process, taking them from the initial idea to the first tee shot," he explained.

Among the speakers confirmed are Fred Green, Developer of Queenwood Golf Club, England, Nantucket Golf Club, USA; David McLay Kidd, Designer of Queenwood GC and Bandon Dunes GC in the USA; Project Manager/Management Structures, Melvin Thomas, of Banfield GC; Dr Albert Kausch, Rhode Island University; George Shiel, Consultant Agronomist; Melodee Fraser, Director of Research - Pure Seed Testing Inc; Paul Latshaw, US Open and Masters Course presentation and Jan Beukema, Rain Bird Irrigation Design and Operation.

The main sponsor of the Conference is Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products.

"I am delighted on behalf of Textron to offer our full support for the Conference. It's a phenomenal idea. I am confident that the speakers from the UK and USA will inspire delegates and undoubtedly nurture examples of good practice from day one which will benefit their golf course venture and the industry in the long-term," said Peter Bell, Marketing Director.

Simon and Jim get expanded roles at Advanta

Advanta Seeds has handed Simon Harrison and Jim Fulton expanded roles within the company.

Based in Leeds Simon is now responsible for after sales in the north as well as managing Advanta's advertising and PR spend, attendance at shows including BTME and SALTEX and all promotional activities.

Jim, who lives near Grantham, will look after his customers in the east and also manage sales on a nationwide basis.

New man for Eamonn Wall

Eamonn Wall and Co has appointed Antony Stravnon to its new English office in the Midlands where the company has now concentrated its English based consultants.

The company now has two offices, at Dollar in Scotland and Retford in Nottinghamshire.

Antony, 30, is an experienced woodland design and management consultant having worked for another company in the East Midlands for the last five years. He is a graduate of Reading and Oxford Universities and is a native of Lincolnshire. He is a keen mountaineer and a member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

Rolawn website is a real hit

Rolawn opened its web site just over a year ago and has steadily built up awareness of the site to the extent that in recent months their site has received record numbers of visits, in excess of 16000 page requests in May alone.

Recent developments have included the site - as a means of recruiting stockists for both turf and the recently launched loam products, which are sold in to the topsoil market. Potential stockists register their interest via e-mail.

"We are delighted with the progress and the variety of ways we are able to use the web site. It is such a flexible medium and it is particularly interesting to use it to support the development of a product as basic as topsoil. We see the web as an invaluable aid in helping us to both recruit and provide ongoing support for stockists," said Terry Ryan.

"It's all too easy to dismiss technology but we believe that in the future there will be only two kinds of business. Those that develop technology as their servant and those that are going out of business."
Rothley trespasser turned medal winner

A dog walk which took in land owned by Rothley Park Golf Club resulted in the trespasser being offered a job at the club. Six years later that trespasser, Sue Antcliffe, now Deputy Course Manager at the club has been awarded a Medal of Excellence for her outstanding NQV Level 3 work undertaken through Brookshy College.

The medal is not just for greenkeepers but is open to everyone undertaking NQVs to Level 3 in outdoor work with only a select few out of the 18,000 in the category being awarded medals.

"I finished the course last year and the college entered me for the award. I didn't hear anything for quite a while and thought not more about it until the letter arrived," said Sue, 33.

Her unusual entry in the greenkeeping profession - she had just been made redundant from a garden centre and was looking for work - says much for Course Manager, Stav Woodings ability to spot potential.

"She spotted the time and talking with Sue I thought she could do a good job for me. We gave her two days a week and then added another day and before we knew it she was working full time. Sue then asked if she could attend college and she actually reached the regional finals of the Toro Student of the Year Award, then my Deputy left. And as Sue was doing so well, every good at ever task and very thorough, she became Deputy. From trespasser to Deputy in three years," said Stav.

"Now she is a key member of the team and I don't know how we would manage without her," he added.

Stav was the instigator of the Rothley Park in which every one of the seven man team does every job. "I don't look on myself as a female. I'm must one of the lads and can lift as well as they can," said Sue, who also sails at a national level. "I like the variety of this job, no two days are ever the same. Each day is a challenge and you never stop learning. I also like the environmental side of the job and I write articles on this in the club magazine."

In future Sue would like to continue her education perhaps undertaking more specialist courses covering irrigation. She will be presented with her medal later this summer.

Happy Birthday

Banks Amenity Products is celebrating 40 years in the golf course and landscape industries. Founded in 1961 by Reginald Banks, the company has been owned and managed by Tim Banks since 1981.

"Banks Amenity Products has been providing high quality bulk materials for four decades," said Tim.

Banks Amenity Products was one of the founder members of the BAGCC (British Association of Golf Course Constructors) and the newly formed BRTMA (British Rootzone & Top Dressing Manufacturers Association).

Today the company enjoys the benefits of having an excellent reputation for supplying quality materials to some of the most prestigious golf courses throughout the UK.

Pest and Disease Audit undertaken by the STRI

The number of outbreaks and the severity of pest and diseases on sports turf throughout the UK is currently an unknown factor so the advisory team and research staff at the STRI have vowed to rectify the situation.

Part of a surplus from the STRI's advisory work is being used to fund an internal research programme into the spread and severity of pests and diseases on sports turf throughout the UK and Ireland. The programme is being co-ordinated by Dr Ruth Mann, the STRI Turf Pathologist.

Initially the research will centre on a comprehensive questionnaire which will determine the major pests and diseases across the country and any hot spots of certain problems. Questionnaires have been sent to all clubs in the UK and Ireland.

Once the replies have been collated on a database the Research Staff will be able to determine if there are any correlations between disease occurrence and management practices or weather conditions.

Initial results, showing the spread of pests and diseases will be published on the STRI's website www.stri.org.uk and in the Turfgrass Bulletin early next year.

Runner-up showing for East Section

Congratulations and well done to the BIGGA East Section team who were competing for only their second time in the Dispatch Trophy which is played over the Braid Hills Golf Course in Edinburgh for over 100 years at the Braids. Last year, their first, they were beaten in the 1st round but put up a very good performance against one of the former winners so they did not disgrace themselves. This year they did even better, beating favourites Silverknowes in the semi-finals en route to the final where they were narrowly beaten 6 & 5 in the final by the Roxton Hotel who themselves were playing in only their second time in the competition. So well done to the team.

The team consisted of four section members and they were: Tom Murray, Ratho Park; David Drummond, Muirfield; Stevie Nicol, Winterfield; and Iain Laing, Kingsknowe. Well done lads and we hope you can go one better and lift the trophy next year.

Chris Yeoman

National Championship October 1-2, 2001 Royal Birkdale and Southport and Ainsdale GCs

All greenkeepers should have received the brochure including application form for the National Championshipline with the May copy of Greenkeeper International magazine. If any member has missed the brochure please contact Sarah at BIGGA HOUSE for an additional one. The response to date is such that early booking is essential to guarantee a place in the Championship.

Tel: 01347 833800
Email: sarah@bigga.co.uk

Safety in the sun

If anybody else has suffered the problems of trying to keep a fair skin, or any other skin, protected on a long summer day outdoors, then check out an excellent product which only needs to be applied once and is effective for the whole day.

Despite covering up with hats, it takes the worry out of all that outdoor exposure to dangerous rays. An added bonus is that it isn't sticky and all that lovely bunched sand stuck to your skin with normal sun products won't be a problem! It's a Danish sun filter called P20 and it works! ... although it needs to be applied well before exposure to allow it to bond with your skin.

James Hall, currently on student placement in a very hot Italy.

PGA thanks

I was privileged to be part of the Support Team at Wentworth for the PGA Championship and I would like to congratulate Derek Farrington for his efforts in making the team work for the entire four days of the Championship as opposed to the final two for which it had operated in previous years. He was ably assisted by all and sundry who couldn't do enough for the cause.

I personally had a great day and feel certain that everyone else did so as well. A few more volunteers next year I'm sure would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks also to our standby photographer in the shape of Mrs Farrington.

Peter Bischo, Kent

BIGGA keep up the good work

I want to take time to congratulate all of the staff at BIGGA for excellent service, prompt action to my membership enquiry and for putting together a magazine that is informative. One for which it had retained its English feel over the 12 years I have enjoyed it.

The fact that I'm in Hong Kong and can still find out what is happening in the UK in this industry and keep a little finger on the pulse makes England feel at little closer.

I take my hat off to you all.

Ian Bruton, Slek O Country Club, Hong Kong

July 2001 Greenkeeper International
Congratulations to all of the greenkeepers who successfully achieved the standard required for the BIGGA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Certificate. The second year of the BIGGA CPD scheme commences on 1 July 2001 and ends on 30 June 2002.

The BIGGA CPD Scheme is designed to encourage greenkeepers to:

- Adapt outdated skills.
- Keep in touch with changes in legislation.
- Show employers that greenkeepers are professionals.
- Accumulate credits towards further National Qualifications eg. N/SVQ, HNC, HND etc.
- Copp with change.
- Attract higher salaries.

Certificates are awarded to all those BIGGA greenkeepers who accumulate a minimum of 10 CPD credits annually. BIGGA greenkeeper members who have been awarded 5 successive BIGGA Certificates of CPD will be awarded a BIGGA Diploma of Continuous Professional Development.

The Scheme
1. Greenkeepers must be members of BIGGA.
2. Applications must be on a CPD Registration Form.
3. Applicants must hold a minimum qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 or equivalent.
4. CPD credits are awarded for a wide range of education and training courses: eg. an approved 1 day course attracts 3 credits, a two day course 5 credits. Attend the full week of education and training at Harrogate in January 2002 and you would receive your 10 credit requirement.
5. Each greenkeeper must accumulate at least 10 credits per year.
6. All training must be related to National Standards.

Thanks to the contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, (details in the panel on the right) the Scheme is free to all members.

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Certificate TBC

This month, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, congratulates the first group of successful CPD delegates, and invites entries for the forthcoming CPD year.

**BTME2002 EDUCATION UPDATE**

**YOU'VE GOT m@il!**

If you've got an email account why not send an email to the education department, where you can place yourself into our exclusive education email address book. We can then keep you up to date with education news and events as they happen.

Send an email to education@bigga.co.uk

The 13th BTME, held in January this year, proved to be the best ever with record attendance figures over 7,800. In our series of countdown articles to BTME2002, Meredith Foster gives some vital information for exhibitors both new and old...

BTME is an essential event for all those connected to the turf and, in particular, the golf greenkeeping industry. 200 manufacturers and suppliers of turfcare and golf course/club related products and services were present at the 2001 show unveiling new products, services and techniques. Much more than a trade show, BTME incorporates extensive educational programmes and seminars which have a broad appeal for visitors to the show. The speakers are experts in their particular fields and include international academics and UK greenkeeping professionals with extensive practical knowledge on many of the top golf courses. There are also workshops on a wide variety of subjects from golf course design, plants and soil science to machinery maintenance and computing for greenkeepers.

Don't miss out!

Why exhibit?
The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) is the largest indoor show of its kind in Europe attracting thousands of key decision makers from the turfcare and golf course/club industry every year. Attendance figures increase dramatically year on year with a record 25% increase achieved for the 2001 show.

A comprehensive education programme and series of interesting seminars is always in place to attract visitors in their droves, and with BIGGA membership always on the increase, the show is certainly set to grow year on year.

Exhibitor benefits and details of stand bookings

Once you have booked your stand, the extra benefits you will receive are:

- Free 100 words entry into the BTME catalogue with optional company logo
- Free 100 words entry on the BIGGA website with your contact details and a hyperlink to your website
- Preferential advertising rates in Greenkeeper International and the BTME catalogue
- Free Exhibitors manual and BTME catalogue
- Free stand cleaning
- All full shell scheme stands include the following: Facia Board, Carpet tiles, melamine wall panels.

Why not send me an email, and I'll place you into our exclusive BTME address book. I can then keep you up-to-date with the very latest BTME news and events. Send your email to: meredith@bigga.co.uk

For the very latest BTME2002 news and event information visit: www.bigma.org.uk
BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, Tracey Maddison, welcomes almost 80 new members to the Association and highlights some interesting facts regarding Direct Debit

**Do you do it by Direct Debit?**

BIGGA now operate a Direct Debit scheme, offering members the opportunity to spread their payments over 10 months rather than having to find their membership fee in one lump sum. This facility is available for all members, and extra application forms are always available from the membership department, here at BIGGA HOUSE.

**Did you know...**
- Usage of Direct Debit has grown fourfold over the last ten years.
- Almost 32 million people in the UK now use Direct Debit.
- People pay an average of six bills by Direct Debit.
- To use the Direct Debit Scheme, a customer must usually hold a current account with one of the UK's Banks or Building Societies.

**What is Direct Debit?**
Direct Debit is a simple, safe and speedy way to pay regular bills and subscriptions automatically from your bank account.

**How do I set up a Direct Debit with BIGGA to pay my membership fees?**
You will need to obtain from BIGGA, and then complete, a Direct Debit Instruction and return it to BIGGA together with your membership form. BIGGA currently works with a company called Premium Credit and will send your completed Direct Debit Instruction to them to forward onto your bank authorising them to make payments from your account to BIGGA. Your payments will be spread over a 10 month period and will commence on the 1st of the following month from your membership start date e.g. Membership expiry date 31st May, therefore membership start date is 1st June, Direct Debit will commence 1st July.

**BIGGA welcomes...**

**Scottish Region**
- Ian Flint, North
- William C Hudson, East
- Michael A Mann, North
- Robert McCulloch, Ayrshire
- Stephen Reed, Cleveland
- Andrew Turner, N Wales
- Martin R Smith, North
- David Sterricks, East

**Northern Region**
- Philip T Bowler, N Wales
- Chris Bryan, N Wales
- Phil Edwards, N Wales
- Richard Love, N Wales
- David B Pritchard, N Wales
- Michael A Mann, North
- Douglas W Neilson, N Wales
- Andrew J Hill, BB&O
- David B Pritchard, N Wales
- Peter D Stokes, E Midland

**Midland Region**
- Ian A Brown, E Midland
- Jean E Duffin, E Midland
- Craig K Holland, E Midland
- Martin Thompson, N Wales
- Simon P Lambert, Midland
- Matthew J Young, N Wales

**South East Region**
- Ronald K Ansell, Sussex
- Mark Smith, Sheffield
- Martin Thompson, N Wales
- Stan Todd, N West
- Andrew Turner, N Wales
- Paul S Wood, Northern
- Matthew J Young, N Wales

**South West & S Wales Region**
- Kenneth A Bagwell, Devon
- Tony Bryce, Surrey
- Richard A Constable, Surrey
- Alan Elliott, Surrey
- Kenneth A Herbert, Surrey
- Simon P Lambert, Sussex
- Jon Linner, Sussex
- Mark Loggan, Sussex
- Gary A Rowe, Surrey
- Jamie Stewart, Surrey
- Graham R Rhodes, Surrey
- Luke Thompson, Surrey
- Darren Wales, Surrey

**S West & S Wales Region**
- John Bethlehem, Devon
- David Brown, Devon
- Andrew J Turner, Midland
- Matthew J Young, Devon

**Northern Ireland**
- Gary Johnston, Northern
- Andrew Wray, Northern

**Republic of Ireland**
- Trevor Norris, Northern

**International Members**
- Willy Horder, Denmark

**Golden Key Members**
- Tim Lawrence, AGCO Ltd
- Phil Evans, AGCO Ltd

**Associate Members**
- Dr Mike Conway, N West
- Phil Greenway, Midland
- David N Bates, Midland
- Philip Newcomen, BB&O

**Monthly Instalment Plan**

The Direct Debit mandate form is very easy to complete, as you can see from the example below:

**What do I do if I already pay by Direct Debit?**
Your payments will continue. However, BIGGA will send out a renewal pack with a renewal form approximately one month prior to your expiry date. Your renewal form will be stamped as an “Existing DD Account” and you will need to check all your details are correct and make any changes necessary; complete the reverse part of the form regarding payment, ticking the box indicating that you wish to continue with this method of payment, obtain a Golf Club stamp or some other form of authorisation that you are a working greenkeeper at the Club, sign and return to BIGGA.

**Can I cancel a Direct Debit?**
If you need to cancel the Direct Debit, simply write to your Bank or Building Society, but don’t forget to send BIGGA a copy so they can update their files. However, if you do cancel your membership halfway through your membership year please contact BIGGA to advise them of this.

**STOP PRESS**
BIGGA now have a brand new supply of waterproof suits in stock. Sizes available are Medium, Large, Extra Large and Extra Extra Large and they are in navy and consist of a jacket with matching trousers with a drawstring waistband.

**Contact the Membership Department**
for more details or to make an order.

Tel: 01347 833800 Email: membership@bigga.co.uk

**June'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 June's winner, Alexander Donaghy of Erskine GC.

**June's Monthly Membership Draw Winner**

**Name:** Richard Love
**Club:** Kilmacolm GC
**Position:** Apprentice
**Age:** 21

1. **How long have you been a greenkeeper?**
   - Two and a half years

2. **What education are you currently undertaking?**
   - Finished Level 2 and 3 at COSTA over the winter

3. **Which one task do you most enjoy doing?**
   - Cutting approaches

4. **Which one task do you most dislike doing?**
   - Dverting fairways

5. **What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?**
   - Professional golfer

6. **Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**
   - Ronnie Bunting

7. **What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?**
   - Better working conditions, pay and education

8. **What are your hobbies?**
   - Golf and socialising

9. **What do you get out of BIGGA?**
   - Interesting magazine and golf days

10. **What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?**
    - Working abroad, maybe on a golf course