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#### UNIFORM

Blazer/badges and separate badges are now available. Please contact your Section Secretary if you wish to place an order. The full range of BIGGA merchandise will be on sale in our marquee at the Open Championship.

#### BIGGA LEAFLET

A leaflet on 18 Ways to Help your Greenkeeper aimed at the golfing public and your club members is available for general circulation. Copies for distribution can be obtained upon request from Headquarters Office, and will be available in the marquee at the Open Championship.

#### CHANGE OF SECRETARY

Please note that Mr Tony Naisbitt has relinquished the Secretary's role in Cleveland, and been replaced by Mr Roger Shaw, 12 Bede Terrace, Ferryhill, Co Durham. Telephone 0740-51065

**BIGGA WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF RUFFORD TOP DRESS SUPPLIES LIMITED, RUFFORD, LANCASHIRE AND ITS COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION AND PARTICULARLY THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE.**

#### EMPLOYMENT AGENCY SCHEME

Members are reminded of the need to send in registration forms as soon as possible. The date of implementation of the Scheme is dependent upon the response of the membership. An explanation of the Scheme is included within this edition of the magazine, together with a Registration Form.

One final comment this month - the Association is for the benefit of its members. The success of the events detailed above is dependent on member participation. If, traditionally, you have tended to be non-active within the Association,

give your backing to these national events by your attendance. Ayrshire, Harrogate and Cambridge are all attractive settings and the events are being organised for three primary purposes, i.e. to further establish the Association; as a contribution to greenkeeper education and training; and as a forum for the exchange of information amongst members as well as for their general enjoyment, with the opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. I look forward to seeing you at least at one of the events!  
**Neil Thomas**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## EMPLOYMENT OF GREENKEEPERS

The Association is in the course of setting up an Employment Agency Scheme which will operate on lines similar to any such agency, i.e. it will seek to match the potential employee with the employer registering a vacancy.

Obviously, this particular scheme will be specialist in the sense that its sole aim will be to match greenkeepers with golf clubs registering vacancies. It will assist greenkeepers in automatically registering their interest with golf clubs where their qualifications, experience and stipulations match the club's requirements and will equally be of assistance to golf clubs in saving them both time and expense in finding a suitable greenkeeper to meet their circumstances.

From the greenkeeper's viewpoint, the scheme will operate as follows:-

1) Completion of Application Form by greenkeeper and submission to BIGGA.

2) Completion of Vacancy Notification by golf club.

3) Matching of likely candidates with vacancy by Headquarters Office.

4) Summary details of likely candidates forwarded to golf club for consideration. At this stage name, address, present and previous employment and reference details will be omitted to protect confidentiality.

5) Golf club indicates candidates it wishes to consider for short listing.

6) Headquarters confirms with candidates that they wish to be considered for the vacancy in question

7) Upon receipt of this confirmation, full details of candidates are forwarded to golf club.

8) Golf club confirms short list.

9) Headquarters finalises interview arrangements in conjunction with club and short listed candidates

10) Club advises Headquarters of result of interviews.

At all times there will be maximum confidentiality. There will be no charge to greenkeeper members for use of the service. There are two packages available to the golf clubs.

First, an all-inclusive fee will be payable for each successful placement.

As an alternative, there will be a 'Greenkeeper Package'. This will provide clubs with access to the Employment Agency Scheme but in addition advice and guidance on greenkeeper matters will be provided by the Association when sought by a club. This will cover such matters as Contracts of Employment, Conditions of Service, Health and Safety at Work Act, as well as salary considerations and general greenkeeping staff matters. The scheme aims to promote a close working relationship between the Association and the clubs concerned with consequential long-term benefits for

# ISEKI

## The hunt is on to find Britain's best golfing greenkeeper

ISEKI'S Sponsorship of the BIGGA (Regional Tournament) has gone a long way to bringing together the very best of golfing greenkeepers. With two superb regional rounds being played in Yorkshire and Scotland and full fields being reported from each round. Three further rounds are scheduled to take place towards the end of June at Long Ashton in Bristol, Tewkesbury and Wentworth. From these five regional rounds the first four players in each category go forward to the National Final, which is being played over 27 holes of medal play at the St Pierre Golf Club in Chepstow in Gwent on August 19th. Judging from the enthusiasm for the tournament at both Moor Allerton and Hilton Park near Glasgow, it seems that not only players, but a number of their friends and supporters will be travelling to the famous St Pierre Club for what promises to be a very exciting day of competitive golf.

The Northern Regional rounds took place at the testing Moor Allerton Course, just to the west of Leeds, at the end of May with a full field of 60 competitors taking part in all three categories. The undoubted highlight of the day was the 72 nett 68 posted by Ian Farrell of the Heswell Golf Club who played magnificently on what was a very windy and long course. Moor Allerton known for its associations with both the Carcare and other PGA tournaments in recent years proved a very testing course for all of the greenkeepers involved, and Ian Farrell's 68 meant he qualified for the final at St Pierre ahead of Edwin Walsh of Whitefield Golf Club, and Roy Ullerthorpe of Scunthorpe.

Further down the order Mick Lealman of Strensall Golf Club took the second category while Gordon Brammah of Hallamshire Golf Club took the third category. Both played remarkably

good golf over a very difficult course.

At the beginning of June the second tournament took place at the Hilton Park Golf Course to the west of Glasgow and again this proved to be both a testing and very competitive day's golf for all concerned. Sixty players from all over Scotland travelled to the regional final at Hilton Park with Chris Kennedy coincidentally the regional administrator playing marvelously to record a 77 nett 69 to win the first category. There was a tie for second place which resulted in C. White of Largs in Ayrshire taking second place on a countback ahead of V. Read of Castle Douglas both recording net 72 on this very sunny but blustery day. In the second category John Geddes of Aberdeen recorded a net 70 playing off a handicap of 12 to be three strokes ahead of his nearest rival. Whilst in category three, Renfrew's J. Gray recorded a net 71 playing off the handicap of 24 to lead home his nearest rival by two strokes and qualify as well.

It has become apparent that the purely social side of the Iseki Tournament is interesting for everyone concerned, with David Goulding an administrator of BIGGA, commenting on the difficulty he had prising the competitors away to dinner when they were all so engrossed on talking about their own golf greenkeeping problems. Overall these first two rounds of the Iseki Tournament have shown a new professionalism in both course appearance and display from Iseki, and the new found extremely professional way in which the tournaments themselves are organised by BIGGA. The next three rounds promise to be just as competitive and on August 19th all the twelve qualifiers from each of the five regional rounds go forward to what promises to be a very exciting day at St. Pierre.

greenkeepers and greenkeeping. Clubs will be advised that the main priority of the new Association is directed towards greenkeeper education and the speed of development and progress in this key area will be dependent on the funding available. In using this service, they will be making a direct contribution towards enhancing greenkeeper education. Income realised by the Association from clubs using the scheme will be directed towards improving the education and training facilities available to

greenkeepers. This in turn will benefit clubs in the longer-term with better qualified greenkeepers being available for employment. Please remember that to make a success of this scheme from both the employer and employee viewpoints, it is essential that all members registering adopt at all times a professional approach, not only in completing the Registration Form but in relation also to interview procedures and, of course, in their subsequent dealings with the club if successful with their

application.

If you are interested in changing jobs in the short, medium or long-term, please complete the Registration Form enclosed with this edition of 'the Golf Course' and return it to Headquarters Office without delay. The success of the scheme is dependent on the response by members in the first instance and the sooner that response is forthcoming the better, in order that an operative date can be set.

**Nell Thomas**  
Executive Director