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BIGGA UPDATE

AT the time of writing, we are well advanced with the planning and organisation of operations for the bunker-raking at the Open Championship. I am already aware of a number of visitors who will be heading for our marquee, most notably our President, Viscount Whitelaw, who will be visiting on Thursday, 14th July at noon. Members of the Board of Management and myself will be present throughout the week from 11th July onwards and we hope that the marquee will be

well-used by greenkeepers and their guests as a meeting place and for a general exchange of news and views. Remember that the marquee is situated away from the tented village - between the first tee and the eighteenth green. I hope to see you there!

DIARY DATES:

A brief resume of forthcoming events:-

26th - 30th September -

National Tournament/
International Conference -

Ayrshire. Contact - Chris Kennedy, 82 Dumbreck Road, Glasgow, Scotland, G41 9DW. - Telephone 041-427-4242.

18th - 20th January, 1989 -
European Turf Management
Exhibition, Harrogate.

A three day series of educational seminars is being organised in conjunction with the ETME. Additionally, delegates will be able to enrol for the foundation module on the Safe Use of Pesticides, the course being run during the Exhibition. This course is particularly relevant

with an operative date of 1st January, 1989 for the implementation of the relevant legislation. The educational and training emphasis within BIGGA is beginning to take effect and full details of the seminar programme together with a booking form will be available shortly. Contacts: For the exhibition, Geo A Wright Exhibition Ltd, PO Box 104, Granby Buildings, 41 Granby Street, Leicester, LE1 9DY. Telephone 0533-557449. For the educational seminar programme, myself at Headquarters Office. Telephone 0274-560556.

4th - 6th April, 1989 - National Conference, Queen's College, Cambridge. The number of delegates will be restricted and places can be secured by forwarding a deposit of £15 per person to Headquarters Office. The Conference brochure when printed will be forwarded automatically to all those registering their interest with this office. Contact myself at Headquarters Office.

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the Golf Course

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Front cover: Queenstown Golf Course, New Zealand as featured in 'Land of the long white cloud' page 20



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UNIFORM

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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.

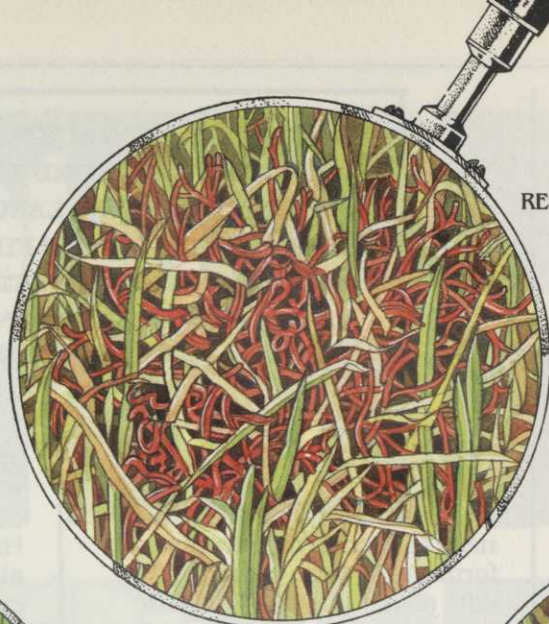
9) Headquarters finalises interview arrangements in conjunction with club and short listed candidates

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



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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

BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



1988 GREENKEEPER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM (NB Not to be completed by 1987 members)

To be returned to:- The Executive Director, BIGGA Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley,
West Yorkshire. BD16 1AU

Full Name: _____ Home address: _____

Telephone: _____

Date of birth: _____ Postcode: _____

Name of employer: _____ Address: _____

Present post: _____ Date of appointment: _____

Professional qualifications: _____

I wish to be affiliated to the _____ (Section (see below))

I HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Subscriptions are NOT to be sent with this form but will be invoiced separately.

Fees payable will be: (1) Full member £25.00
(2) 18 years of age and under £12.50

Sections:

Scottish region	:North, East, West, Central, Ayrshire
Northern England region	:North East, North West, Northern, Cleveland, Sheffield
Midland and North Wales	:East Midland, Midland, East of England, Mid Anglia
	:Berks/Bucks/Oxon
South East	:East Anglia, Greater London, Surrey, Sussex, Kent
South West and South Wales	:South Coast, Devon and Cornwall, South West, South Wales



BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

1988 ASSOCIATE AND TRADE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM (NB Not to be completed by Trade and Associate members who joined during 1987)

To be returned to:- The Executive Director, BIGGA, Sports Turf Research Institute,
Bingley, West Yorkshire. BD16 1AU

Full name: _____ Home address: _____

Telephone: _____

Postcode: _____

Name of company (where appropriate)

Preferred mailing address:

Position: _____ Postcode: _____

Categories	B. 1.	Associate member	£25.00
	B. 2.	Associate member including subscription to 'the Golf Course' for 1 year	£43.00
	C. 1.	Trade member	£30.00
	C. 2.	Trade member including subscription to 'the Golf Course' for 1 year	£48.00

I HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

I wish to join as _____ Member in Category _____
and I enclose my cheque as indicated above in the sum of £ _____ made payable to BIGGA.
A receipt will not be issued unless specifically requested.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

FACE TO FACE

THE formation of the Board of Greenkeeping Research at Bingley in 1929 heralded the start of advisory services aimed at British golf courses.

The over-use of lime and fertilisers in the Twenties had caused devastation on hundreds of courses. As a result there was a ready market for the new service, but as the crisis eased it became obvious that golf clubs, sadly lacking leadership by their unions, would not continue their support.

In 1951 the organisation became the Sports Turf Research Institute, offering advisory services and research facilities to ALL sports played on turf. The major supporter then was the Football Association. Golf received little benefit because, although it dominated the Board of Management, it also failed to contribute to research funds.

Yet problems on golf courses were multiplying rapidly. Levels of play had risen dramatically, but levels of aeration did not keep pace and the power of chemicals, fertilisers and irrigation systems all rose sharply. The national and county unions, as representatives of all British golfers, have still not risen from their slumbers, but the Royal and Ancient Golf Club have made considerable contributions to research into golf course problems and Mr. Jim Arthur, in the course of lightening his load, generously handed over a large slice of his business to the STRI without payment.

challenge

On a recent visit to Bingley I was able to see for myself how the challenge is being met and to talk to the Assistant Director (Advisory Services) Jeff Perris,

and also to David Stansfield who is now advising the Championship Committee of the R & A on the preparation for Open Championships of Royal Lytham, Royal St. Georges and Royal Birkdale.

specialist advisers

Is there now a Golf Unit with advisers specialising purely in golf courses? Very much so, and in fact it consists of no fewer than six experienced men: Jeff Perris, David Stansfield, David Boocock, Stewart Ormondroyd, Jonathan Tucker and the Director, Peter Hayes, all concentrate their efforts in this field, with others helping out when the pressure is on. This body of specialised expertise has grown rapidly and is still growing to meet demand.

We argued briefly as to whether this service is sufficiently publicised. I am not convinced that the STRI does enough to sell itself, but care is needed to ensure that it does not become too linked with commerce. It may be that the Board of Management should consider a more imaginative approach, but, as ever, the best form of advertisement is to do a good job for the customer.

The policy of presenting seminars in different parts of the country has been very successful, with over fifteen hundred delegates from many clubs taking part.

Leaflets detailing services are now being distributed by the STRI and the most recent quarterly edition of that excellent publication, the Sports Turf Bulletin, is devoted entirely to golf courses.

greater interest

There is now much greater interest in advisory visits at most clubs, usually with attendance by several members of the club management. Jeff commented: "We are not afraid to say that we are the experts, come to us with your problems and we hope we know most of the answers - nobody can yet claim to know ALL the answers".

That led me to ask one of the tougher questions. What was their view of unqualified

Eddie Park talks to Jeff Perris and David Stansfield of the STRI

advisers or salesmen posing as advisers? A mixed blessing in general: "It's usually OK - if they stick to spreading knowledge of the product they are selling, but some step outside their product knowledge into areas where they have neither the education, knowledge or experience to give useful or positive advice." Strong words, but amply justified in the opinion of many observers.

Of course all professional groups have the odd charlatan, and anyway, how do we define a qualified agronomist? All new recruits at Bingley in the past ten years have been University graduates with degrees in some branch of the natural sciences, biology, agriculture, ecology etc, but less frequently nowadays in horticulture. The practicalities of turf science can only be learned by going out on the job and suggestions that a National Turfgrass Diploma alone would be sufficient are discounted.

recommended

The recommended approach is NOT to tell greenkeepers what to do, but rather to suggest a broad policy which will have the most chance of success in the particular environment of the course in question. The setting of targets for possible achievement and for staffing and machinery levels produce a framework within which individual greenkeepers can develop their own methods. Speaking for myself, I would add the requirement to check that all working practices actually achieve their required objectives.

A frequent observation is that individual greenkeepers (other than real veterans) may lack the breadth of experience of all types of golfing habitats to know, without experiment,