

BIGGA looks forward to a close relationship with Jacobsen in the future. The Association will not be totally losing the company as far as golf is concerned, as Jacobsen will be the principal sponsors of the National Tournament and this represents the opportunity for old acquaintances to be renewed.

This was an excellently organised event and though it will be no more, members should, in an evolving situation, look optimistically to the future, and to the benefits which can accrue from the level of support Jacobsen are prepared to give to the future education and training of greenkeepers.

## BIGGA National Tournament

**Ayr Belleisle G.C.**  
September 26th-28th

### MONDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER

18 Holes Medal and First Round of 36 Holes

Hargreaves Cup - Donated by Sisis - Edwin Walsh, 71 nett  
Maxwell Hart Cup Over 50's - Harry Diamond, 76 nett  
Coming of Age Trophy - Gordon Payne, 76 nett  
Vitax Putting Trophy - Alistair Connell

### TUESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER

18 Holes Medal  
Hamilton Stutt Cup & Prize - Mike Sheenan, 70 nett  
Supaturf Challenge Cup & Prize - Mick Hannam, 71 nett

36 Holes, Senior Division, 0-11 INC  
Toro Cup & Prize (Best Gross) - Tony Gilles, 153 gross  
Ransomes Cup & Watch (Best Nett) -



*Fine weather, as always, was a great help and again featured as a highlight of the day at the annual Parker Golf Secretaries Tournament at which 80 Golf Clubs were represented and a splendid 18 holes golf was enjoyed by the competitors.*

*The competition was won by Liam O'Grady of Gillingham Golf Club with 41 points. The photograph shows the winners who recieved their trophies from Mrs. M. Parker, the wife of Parkers managing director, Jim Parker.*

Edwin Walsh, 143 nett  
Universal Cup & Prize (2nd Nett) - Tony Witt, 144 nett  
Golf Illustrated Cup & Prize (3rd Nett) - Mike Sheehan, 147 nett

36 Holes, Junior Division, 12-18 INC  
Pattinson Trophy & Prize (1st Nett) - Peter Woodward, 152 nett  
Presidents Cup & Prize (2nd Nett) - Bill Fletcher, 153 nett  
Mays Cup & Prize (3rd Nett) - Derek Ganning, 157 nett

Jubilee Regional Cup - Edwin Walsh, Peter Shaw, 459 nett  
Northern Region - Barry Heaney,  
Chipmans Under 25 & Prize - Richard Owens, 165 nett  
Aitkens Putting Cup - Alistair Connell,

### WEDNESDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER

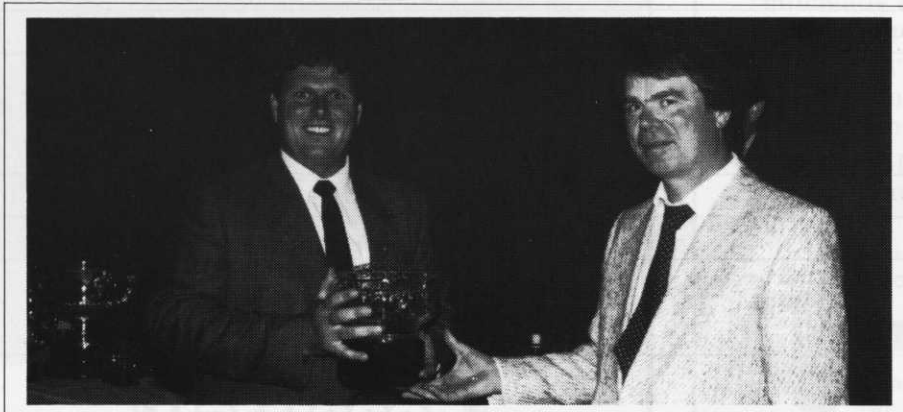
18 Holes Medal  
Fisons Bowl & Prize - Tony Witt, 64 nett  
STRI Cup - Mick Hughes, 66 nett  
Trade Prize - Robert Bruce,

54 Hole Gross  
News of the World Trophy & Prize - Edwin Walsh, 231 nett

54 Hole Nett  
S.A.I. Tray & Prize - Tony Witt, 208 nett  
Rufford Top Dress Rose Bowl International Guest Prize - Barry Britton (Canada), 74 nett

Stewarts of Edinburgh Nearest the Hole - Jimmy Richardson (Monday) Hole in One, Jimmy Richardson (Tuesday) 14 inches, Gordon Moir (Wednesday) 10' 7"

**RHONE-POULENC PUTTING COMPETITION WINNERS** - Mark Esposito, Peter Shaw, Michael Hughes, Derek Wilson, James Devlin, Gavin Rowan, Jim Paton, Richard Owens, Kevin Johnson.



*Frank Garvey of Ruffold presenting Barry Britton, President of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association with the Rufford Top Dress Rose Bowl - the International Guest Prize.*

# BIGGA Official Uniform

Description	Colours available	Price
<b>Lambswool</b> V-neck sweater <i>Sizes:</i> 36"-46" 34" and 48"-54" also available in many of the colours	Navy, Light Blue, Bluebird Blue, Tartan Red, Bordeaux (Burgandy), White, Black, Mid-Grey, Mink Brown, Blond, Dark Green, Sorbet Yellow, Light Pink, Azure Blue, Frost Grey, Pampas Green, Light Peach, Cherry and Catkin (mid-green)	£19.49 48"-54" £2.00 extra
<b>Lambswool</b> Crew-neck sweater <i>Sizes:</i> 36"-46" only	Navy, White, Tartan Red, Sorbet Yellow	£19.49
<b>Lambswool</b> V-neck slipover <i>Sizes:</i> 38"-46" 34"-36" and 48"-54" also available in many of the colours	Navy, Light Blue, Bluebird Blue, Tartan Red, Bordeaux (Burgandy), Black, White, Mid-Grey, Blond, Sorbet Yellow, Light Pink, Frost Grey and Light Peach	£18.75 48"-54" £2.00 extra
<b>Pure new botany wool</b> roll-neck sweater <i>Sizes:</i> small/38"; medium/40"; large/43"; X-large/46" X-small/36"	Navy, Light Blue, Red, Wine, White, black, Grey, Beige, Tartan Green, Loden Green, Yellow  Navy, Light Blue, White only	£19.49
<b>Pure new wool</b> V-neck sweater <i>Sizes:</i> 34"-46" 48" on popular dark colours only	Navy, Light Grey, Burgandy, Bottle Green, Black, Brown, Natural, Red, Pale Blue, Lemon, Royal, White, Pink, Jade, Peach	£16.04
<b>Pure new wool</b> crew-neck sweater <i>Sizes:</i> 34"-46"	Navy only	£16.04
<b>Pure new wool</b> slipover <i>Sizes:</i> 34"-46"	Navy, Light Blue, Red, Black, Light Grey, Burgandy	£14.89
<b>Jersey knit</b> sportshirt (65% polyester/35% modal) with covered collar <i>Sizes:</i> Small, medium, large, X-large	Navy, Light Blue, Royal Blue, White, Red, Black, Wine, Mint Green, Emerald Green, Light Pink, Beige, Mocha Brown, Silver Grey, Lilac and Rose	£12.59
<b>Jersey knit</b> sportshire with ribbed knitted collar of a more casual type shirt <i>Sizes:</i> Small, medium, large, X-large	White, Lemon, Navy, Black, Red, Royal Blue, Grey	£11.50
Official tie	Navy Blue, Grey and Burgandy	£3.75
Official blazer including badge <i>Size:</i> 36"-50" specify short, regular or long	Navy Blue	£69.00 46"-50" £75.00
Official blazer badge		£11.50
Official golfing umbrella		£8.95
BIGGA lightweight jacket <i>Sizes:</i> 38"-48"	Navy/white with official BIGGA lettering	£28.00
BIGGA wetsuit <i>Sizes:</i> X-small; small; medium; large; X-large	Light blue	£28.00

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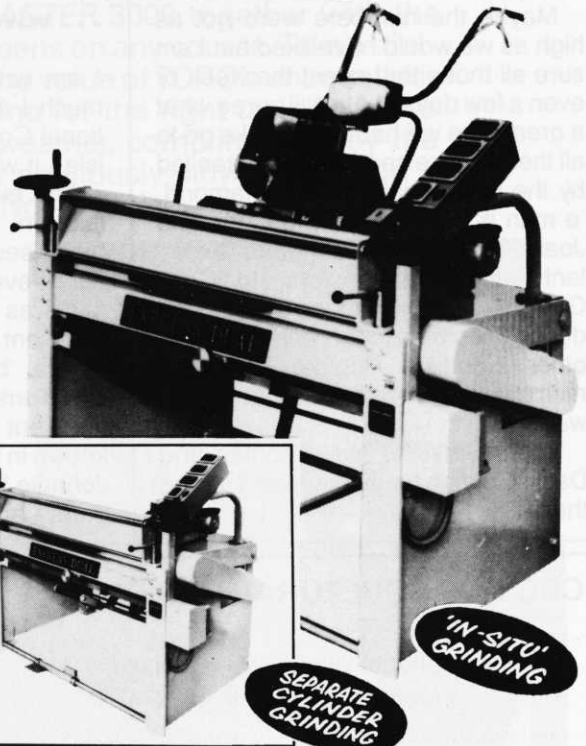
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# FROM THE FAIRWAY

## Tribute to helpers at Ayr . . .

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who worked so hard before, during and even after the event, to make the BIGGA National Tournament and International Conference the success it was.

Maybe the numbers were not as high as we would have liked but I am sure all those that spent the week or even a few days at Ayr will agree what a great time we had. My thanks go to all the Ayrshire section committee led by the indefatigable Harry Diamond, 'a man o' mony pairts', to Chris and Joan Kennedy for their usual excellent administrative work, to Cecil George for all his efforts before and during the conference and to all the other Scottish Region Executive members who were involved in any way.

Thanks also to Neil Thomas and David Golding for their support during the week.

If the spirit and camaraderie shown during the week continues in the future then BIGGA must go from strength to strength.

Elliott R. Small  
President Scottish Region

## . . . wives enjoyed it too

I am writing to put on record how much I enjoyed the BIGGA International Conference, held at Ayr Belleisle - it was **GREAT**.

The events, excursions and visits laid on each day were very well organised and surpassed only by each evening's entertainment and this was second to none. We had excellent singers, country dancers, bands, 'big' band, Culzean Castle, and Turnberry Hotel. We had entertainment from Ronnie Dale, well known in these parts, we had a visit to Johnnie Walker, well known in these parts - and Burns.

Even the weather, after a wet and windy start, settled down into those nice sunny Autumn days and the Ayrshire coast and countryside looked really lovely.

I cannot speak for the men but I can say for certain that the wives had a wonderful time. The catering and all the meals, even a Banquet, given by the hotel were truly marvellous. I don't think I have ever had such a pleasant week and with such good company. I sincerely hope I will be able to attend another BIGGA Conference at some future date.

Margaret M. George,  
Lenzie  
Kirkintilloch

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ON COURSE

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## Lloyds gets Mike on the ball

How Golf Equip started and grew into an international business

**H**ow do you pick up thousands of golf balls at a driving range, and then clean them quickly ready to be used again?

Solving that problem - and others faced by golf driving ranges - has proved that businessman Mike Collins is really on the ball. It has brought him international success - so much so that his golfing products are now a big hit in much of Europe.

In just a decade his company, Golf Equip, has grown into a market leader, with the support and expert advice of Lloyds Bank an invaluable element of Mike's success. Now even the golf professionals are adding their vote of confidence in his products, by choosing them to help polish their game.

Mike's is the classic success story. Two decades in the motor trade saw him rise from mechanic to garage proprietor. He has also run a guest house, during the mid-70s he even worked a franchised bread round.

The inspiration for Golf Equip came while Mike was travelling the country demonstrating a machine for dispensing golf balls. Mike says he was appalled by the quality of equipment usually used on golf ranges, and believed he could make better, tougher products.

He began by designing extra-tough standing and playing mats, and perfected a new rubber tee with extra-long life. From those small beginnings the company grew, and today employs six staff, including Mike's wife and son.

Mike, a perfectionist, spent three years designing and perfecting his ball collecting machine, which is now a key factor in the efficient running of driving ranges all over the



country. He also adapted existing "all terrain vehicles" to act as tractor units for the machine.

Mike believes his equipment is good enough to allow range operators to use mechanical ball collectors all year round. His ball washing equipment gives them the capacity to collect, wash and re-use thousands of balls each day - the most basic requirement for range operators.

Professional golfers and international competition organisers also put their faith in his products. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club asked him to run the practice ground at the Open Championship in 1984, and soon to follow were appearances at the Four Stars Tournament, Dunhill Cup, Dunhill British Masters and Seniors British Open.

His ball collecting equipment is also hired out for the Dunhill Cup and British Masters, the Seniors and the Ladies Weetabix Open.

**G**olf Equip is also building up a solid export business - its machinery and equipment can now be found in Belgium, the Channel Islands, Denmark, Eire,

France, Germany, Holland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal and Spain.

Despite his hectic business life, Mike still manages to fit in the odd round of golf. He is captain of Littlehampton Golf Club, and has chaired its greens committee for the past three years.

He regards local Lloyds Bank manager Tom Adams as an important factor in his business success. He has come to rely on Tom's friendly advice and counselling, as well as the regular business account service operated by Lloyds Bank.

Expansion has also brought the need for letters of credit and foreign exchange services, as well as overseas credit references - all of which Lloyds Bank has provided.

Lloyds Bank is firmly committed to helping small businesses like Mike's. The number of new business accounts gained this year alone has more than justified the many initiatives taken - initiatives like commission-free banking for 12 months with new business accounts (whether in debit or credit), a year's free subscription to Dun and Bradstreet's commercial collection service and a special small business loan without any red tape.

## ON THE COURSE



# Winter waves play havoc on West Kilbride

Jim Paton, head greenkeeper at West Kilbride talks to John Campbell about the problems and the benefits of managing a links course.

**T**he golf course at West Kilbride, Ayrshire overlooks Ardneil Bay and beyond there are entrancing views across the Firth of Clyde to the Isle of Arran. The course is laid out on a narrow strip of land parallel to the shoreline and good use has been made of the ground to create an interesting test of golf. Evidence of the club's popularity is shown with a membership of 1100.

Jim Paton, 34, head greenkeeper, talked avidly about his job at the club and how he first came into greenkeeping. "After leaving school I attended Auchencruive Agri-

cultural College and then two years were spent working in landscape gardening. Being interested in golf I eventually got a job at Helensburgh Golf Club as first assistant greenkeeper. This was valuable experience for me then, my mentor was Eddie Boyce one of the old school of headgreenkeepers under whom I had a first class training. My next step up the ladder was the appointment of head greenkeeper to Machrie Golf Club, Islay. This was a challenging move to a typical seaside links where the course was laid out among the dunes whose towering banks flanked the undulating

linksland fairways."

"In 1980 I came to West Kilbride where I have settled down with my wife Jill and children, Jennifer, six and Jamie three. This is a very busy club with a large membership. The course layout is long and narrow so we tend to have quite a lot of walkways which creates compaction problems. Weekly repair of divot marks on fairways and tees involves valuable time and effort to keep the course tidy."

"A few years ago we had sheep on the course now they are gone it is interesting to see how the indigenous plants and vegetation is

## ON THE COURSE



Jim Paton, head greenkeeper at West Kilbride

slowly beginning to predominate, one can see small clumps of gorse, heather and broom, etc., gradually getting established and in a few years time will add to the character and aesthetic beauty of the surroundings."

"Down at sea level we have problems at high tides when sea water backs up drain pipes and ditches but water levels drop quickly when the tide begins to ebb. Being so close to the sea we are often engaged in battles to repel it. Last winter was quite tough when two severe storms

resulted in washing away the front part of the 15th tee. To reclaim the ground 250 tons of rubble were dumped in front of the tee to close the breach and then it was rebuilt."

"Sea inundation during particularly high tides has been known to flood low lying parts of the course. I've seen the 14th green under water. When the sea recedes it's a hefty task for the staff afterwards sweeping up the flotsam and jetsam, bricks, stones,

wood, etc., and clearing up thick deposits of sand and silt. It means all hands on deck with brooms, shovels and rakes to restore the playing surface as quickly as possible."

"We have carried out quite a lot of drainage work but there are certain parts of the course where running sand is a problem when excavation takes place. In difficult situations like this when drainage is needed we prefer to employ a contractor with a Davis Ditcher to complete the work as quickly as possible."

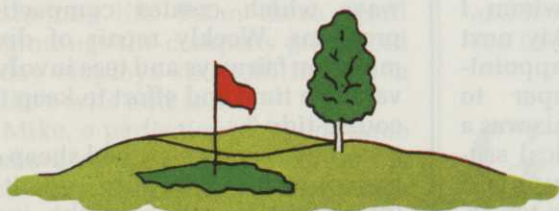
"Having an abundance of seaweed on our doorstep it is prudent and resourceful to collect some of this valuable source of humus for the compost heap. It is stored in the compost area and allowed to decompose for three years then it is moved into the shed nearby and gets processed during the winter with a Pneulec shredding machine and passed through a Royer Power Screen to make it ready for use on the course."

"During the past few years a lot of time has been spent revetting bunker faces and our long range programme is systematically to do them all. Total number of bunkers is 84, about one third have been revetted so far."

"The method of revetting is to strip down the old turf from the face, then rebuild the new wall from the bottom, packing up behind with soil as the height increases. Each row of turf in the wall is laid about 1/4

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## ON THE COURSE

inch back from the line underneath in a series of steps to build the sloping wall. Judging the correct pitch of the face generally requires some experience."

"We do not want to make the bunkers too difficult, there are a few good players in the club but many of the members are retired and we have a keen ladies section so we have to cater for all kinds of players and try to keep the hazards as fair as possible. The course can be extended to championship length when it is needed. Several years ago a few new trees were built to lengthen the yardage for the men so that the standard scratch was the same as the par of 71. That made the course a bit more challenging and there is a choice for all golfers."

"The average size of the greens is 500 sq. yds. Golf boils down to the putting surfaces and most courses are judged by the condition of the greens. So the aim is to keep the course in reasonably good playing condition all year round for the enjoyment of the members." Jim said, "When I first came to the club there was a policy to lift one green every winter, renovate the soil underneath and relay the turf to combat thatch and compaction problems. Now this is no longer done since the advent of the Verti Drain which we employ in tandem with our own regular programme of aeration and this is producing satisfactory results."

"Step banks around some of the raised greens are not easy to maintain with modern machinery. The course was built in 1893 when labour was more abundant and acute slopes and awkward banks were usually cut with hand machinery or even by scythe. We have had some problems with 'die-back' on these slopes and the approaches but

Jim Paton has been appointed a subject assessor in turf modules with scotec, the body set up to take over city and guilds exams in Scotland. This involves visits to the colleges which are offering the modules in his group to ensure that teaching and assessment is in accordance with the standards set out by the Scottish Vocational Educational Council.

Jim also says

"We have Dormie House Accommodation at West Kilbride and extend a welcome to any Greenkeeper or friend who may be attending the 1989 open at Troon to come and play the course here"



The 14th green with dry stone wall along the fringe

gradually overcoming this by hand forking and overseeding."

"An interesting feature of the course are the old dry stone walls. In this exposed coastal situation some of the stone is beginning to crumble due to the effects of weathering. This calls for occasional stone mason work by the greenkeeping staff to keep the walls in good repair and maintain a tidy appearance. We also look after our own boundary fencing along the shore. This work had to be done religiously when we had sheep on the course."

"Being so close to the beach its a popular spot for the many visitors and holiday makers who come to West Kilbride. Naturally they walk along the shore and there is always

the change of unauthorised intrusion. Horse riders and guys with motor bikes run up the sand dunes and contribute to the process of coastal erosion. We often chase them away but when there is nobody about their depredations still continue."

"For fairway mowing we have Ransomes trailed 7 gang units. Machinery wise there is a Toro G.M. 300, and a G. M. 3 which is used to cut tees and approaches. This year a new Toro 316 was purchased to mow the approaches much further out and keep the 7 gangs away from these vulnerable spots. We also bought a new tractor. A Sisis Hydro-main System is used for aeration and it works very well on our course which is relatively flat."

"I am a great believer in giving all

## BIGGA

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held on Tuesday, 28th February, 1989  
at 2.30 pm in  
The Royal York Hotel, York  
immediately adjacent to the Railway Station