

# GOLF

## GREENKEEPING

and Course Maintenance

The Official Magazine of the  
British Golf Greenkeepers'  
Association

Founded 1912

The Association is affiliated to the  
English and Welsh Golf Unions

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## Greenside Comment...



*John Lelean*

## the INDEPENDENT

Last month the managing board of the BIGGA considered proposals for their official magazine. The magazine publishing industry were circulated with a specification, but only two companies were prepared to submit proposals, ourselves and Fore Golf Publications Ltd.

The production of a specialist magazine with a narrow base is a hazardous financial undertaking requiring tight control and low overheads. The managing BIGGA Board in addition to specifying a minimum editorial paging also required the publisher to supply the publication without change and totally fund the packing and postage to members.

This additional cost on top of editorial and printing charges, combined with other restrictions did not make economic sense, particularly as the work of the greenkeeper is governed by the seasons and this in turn by the support of the turf grass manufacturing industry.

Our competitor was prepared to meet the requirements and fund the free distribution of his publication, amounting to around £750 a month and as a straight forward business decision this was the proposal the management committee accepted.

Golf Greenkeeping is an established journal, with a recognised standing in the industry. It circulates where golf is played throughout the world and currently has subscribers in twenty-five countries, including mainland China. Such support from our readers and advertisers cannot be lightly dismissed. We have been told there is room for more than one publication in the golf course industry, particularly a magazine completely independent, free to comment on matters of interest to greenkeepers, course management and the controlling bodies in golf.

Golf Greenkeeping, although no longer representing the Greenkeeper's Association will continue publication, though over the next few months significant changes will take place concerning content and presentation. Greater emphasis will be placed on golf course design, construction and planned maintenance whilst still retaining up-to-date product news and features on the personalities in golf.

When necessary, there will be no 'shying away' from controversial issues. As the only independent publication we will speak openly and frankly, without fear or favour, but at all times attempt to produce a balanced editorial, opening our columns to anyone who has a view to express.

For the past five years we have campaigned for three main issues on behalf of our readers.

An improved education and training scheme for greenkeepers, financed by the employers, a united association for British Greenkeepers to improve the image and status and a realistic salary scale reflecting the importance of the greenkeeping profession in the overall multi-million pound golf business. There is still a very long way to go before these three objectives are achieved, but attitudes are changing and progress has been made towards these aims.

Golf Greenkeeping will continue its support of all these worthwhile causes.

## Next Month

**Oulton Hall**  
Leeds City Council's ambitious plan  
to build a 27 hole Championship  
Golf Course

**Collingtree Park**  
The £50m golf and leisure complex  
for the Heart of England

**Communication Systems**  
Keeping in touch with staff out  
on the course

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