



News & Views

Come To The Open And Visit SIGGA's Own Tent

The SIGGA executive has decided to set up a hospitality tent throughout the Open at St Andrews next month (July 19-22) for the benefit of greenkeepers, trade sponsors and all their friends. We have felt for some time now that fewer and fewer greenkeepers are attending Open Championships, mainly because there has not been a central location where they can be sure of meeting other greenkeepers.

SIGGA is now providing a meeting place.

It will be located in, or as near as possible to, the tented village and staffed by the company that provides all the catering, etc, at the Open. Hopefully, drinks and snacks, at keen prices, will be available. Admission to the tent will be by a greenkeeper's membership card and we are extending a warm welcome to our EIGGA and BGGGA friends. SIGGA trade sponsors will receive a quota of admission tickets for distribution among customers and their freinds.

This project has been made possible only through the cooperation and help given by the R&A and we express our great thanks to them for all they have done. SIGGA and some of our sponsors are jointly meeting the cost of the complete exercise and we intend to have a tent available at every Open from this year on.

Perhaps next year the other greenkeeping associations might feel like chipping in.

We are hoping that many greenkeepers will come to St Andrews and that they will visit the SIGGA tent. Unfortunately, we cannot offer free admission into the Open to every greenkeeper. (We receive 12 guest tickets from the R&A.) I am sure you will be prepared to pay knowing that, once inside, you will have a focal point where you will meet lots of friends and colleagues. We expect to have close circuit television available in the tent, so none of the action need be missed!

Do your best to get to St Andrews and come in and see us.

Joe McKean, General Secretary.

Golf Course '84 Was A Master Stroke!

The finest array of masters of their profession, as well as association and trade representatives, ever assembled in Britain were gathered at *Golf Course '84*.

The ancient and hallowed confines of Trinity Hall College, Cambridge proved a fitting venue. Immediately following registration, the spirit of the occasion entered everyone as the somewhat spartan study/bedroom accommodation usually enjoyed by students and tutors alike greeted delegates. This was to be home for the four days of *Golf Course '84*.

The setting was a stroke of genius by *Greenkeeper*—the grandeur and history of the college ensured that the speakers were rightly held in reverence by the audience.

However, the colour slides used by many speakers appeared less respectful with carousel after carousel

Continued overleaf...

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the exact location on a particular hole and the equipment and materials needed.

Budgeting And Management Approvals

With a plan, you can better prepare your budget and present it with more information at hand. Also the budget-approving authority would not be surprised by your proposals.

New Approaches To Old Problems

Some situations or problems remain the same, while others will multiply or compound themselves with time, such as a severe drainage problem. Of course, the longer you put off correcting a problem, the longer you and the golfers will have to live with it but, with an improvement plan, you can start with the existing problems and then only have to solve new ones as they arise. With inflation, a project will rapidly escalate in cost and on a golf course that could mean a lot of money wasted because of delay alone. When you are totally aware of the needs of the course, you can begin to explore new options for their solution. You can get to the root of the problem and solve the underlying cause, not just deal with the symptoms as is so often the case. After a problem

area has been hopefully remedied, the situation will require regular monitoring to ensure the solution has, in fact, solved the problem. If this is not the case, a revaluation is necessary.

Future Plans

From the onset, you should recognise that new problems will develop on the course and that there will be causes for altering priorities. But with your plan and other records, you can examine these new problems and determine the best solution without any great difficulty. No-one can predict precisely what the future will hold, but with a comprehensive long-range plan, you will at least be aware of the major factors you have to contend with. If something more arises, you will be in a better position to adapt your plan and continue with improvements because of the planning to which you have committed yourself.

Plan Drawings

A general plan of the course layout should be kept. The dimensions of the maintained areas—such as the greens, tees, fairways and rough, as well as the total area, should be recorded.

This information will be useful when ordering materials. Other items that should be kept on or with site plans are details of the drainage system, irrigation system and pump-house, a tree and shrub landscape plan, maintenance facility and service roads information and aerial photographs and surveys. It is advisable to have larger scale drawings of individual putting greens showing drainage and irrigation systems. Any new installations or uncovered existing ones should be recorded as necessary. The formulation of planned work programmes in obtaining objectives can be an important part of the head greenkeeper's managerial equipment. With an approved long-range plan, you are in the driver's seat. Its existence will enable you to proceed on a course of action without constant changes in policy brought about by new committee members. You can refer to an operational plan, which you were instrumental in compiling and that is being implemented to improve the course.

Therefore, your professional approach will gain you respect with your employer, not to mention benefits for yourself in the management of your course.

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failing to operate. I wondered if Trinity Hall resented the intrusion, but, by the second day, the gremlins had accepted *Golf Course '84* and the portraits gracing the dining hall gazed down upon all assembled at meal times with a seeming nod of approval.

Language represented a minor barrier at Cambridge as Americans, Canadians, Swedes, Dutch, English, Irish, Scots and Welsh all found much in common.

It was felt that the genial Scots were the hardest to understand—a problem encountered by our American friends when we visited them in force at Anaheim in 1981!

As the irrigation classes progressed through Thursday afternoon, the audience increasingly grew thirstier and looked forward to the 'get acquainted' cocktail party in the evening. Traditionally, this is when new friends are greeted, relationships are cemented and the harmony of the conference set.

Having sat well into the early hours with Jas Prusa and Bruce Williams of the GCSAA and Rolf—agronomist to the Swedish Golf Union—I know that I am in need of some education in the art of The Scotch Swallow—a condition that has been known to down even the hardiest the morning after...

Full details of *Golf Course '84* have already appeared in *Greenkeeper*. Suffice it to say that four glorious days at Cambridge ended, as the punts rolled along waterways past the college windows, with EIGGA president Jack McMillan expressing the need for an improved

educational link between the countries represented at conferences, such as the very successful, enterprising and immensely enjoyable *Golf Course '84*.

*Jimmy Kidd, Golf Course Manager,
Gleneagles Hotel Golf Courses.*

• Associations and organisations represented at *Golf Course '84* were the British Association Of Golf Course Architects, British Turf Irrigation Association, British Association Of Golf Course Constructors, Scottish And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association, PGA European Tour, Golf Course Superintendents' Association Of America and the English And International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.



Jimmy Kidd gets to grips with his slide-show presentation.