



## SIGGA At The Open

St Andrews was the place and July the month when SIGGA advertised itself in a big way for the first time at an Open Championship. We set up a hospitality tent in the tented village complex at St Andrews and this proved a huge success. Over a thousand names appear in the visitors' book and it was a great pleasure to greet so many club officials, visitors from overseas, agronomists and course architects, friends from the BGGGA and EIGGA (although fewer than we had hoped for), our supporters in the trade and so many of our members.

We feel the object of the exercise—namely, establishing a meeting place for a lot of people involved in the fine turf industry—was achieved.

In addition, groups of greenkeepers from the five sections of SIGGA came to St Andrews by bus and car each day and took over the duties of bunker raking from 1pm until the close of play from Walter Woods' permanent staff. In return, the R&A gave them free admission to the Open and provided them with a luncheon voucher and car park ticket. This was a most generous gesture by the R&A and greatly appreciated by SIGGA.

Our vice-president Walter Woods did a tremendous job for SIGGA in his negotiations with the R&A and his Links Management Committee. Hopefully, we can build on this year's experience and continue to be represented at the Open each year.

I would like to express my thanks to Jimmy Neilson,

president of SIGGA, for the great job he did as the front man who received all the visitors and made them feel most welcome.

I must also say thanks to Dick Duggan of Glencorse, John Crawford of Dunfermline, Elliot Small and all the others who took their turn at the table, making sure that everyone signed the visitors' book. Cecil George, Chris Kennedy, Jimmy Paton of West Kilbride and Alistair Connell organised the bunker raking duties to perfection and ran around all week ensuring that everything possible was done to make 'St Andrews '84' a success.

Finally, well done to all SIGGA members who came to St Andrews. Through their presence and support, we achieved our objective.



## Learning from the past... Continued

was the fact that the Greenkeeper Training Scheme made no provisions whatsoever for the further training of greenkeepers to become head greenkeepers or course managers that condemned it from birth. I don't know of any job in which you can move into a position of management without training.

EIGGA has made a useful start with a management course and, indeed, skills in finance, budgetting, ordering and managing staff are essential. But it is the implementation of policy that is so vital. It is the making of daily judgments regarding the timing, degree and arrangement of mechanical and chemical factors that is so difficult. Golfers and golf clubs have failed totally to recognise these considerable skills. Yet it is this difficulty of implementation, in the context of changing natural conditions and pressures of play, that

has led to such mixed success by different clubs—perhaps even using the same agronomist for advice on setting policy.

We are back to the need for a knowledge of botany, plant ecology and soil science, which enables practical judgment to be soundly based. Once more, we must move on two parallel tracks. Others, more qualified than I, will no doubt draw up a syllabus for college education in the future.

I am more concerned about the present and will come straight out and say that I believe it would not be too difficult to equip the aspiring course manager (or those already in such posts) with enough basic knowledge to make the job both easier and more satisfying. And also to argue successfully with golfers and committees who base their demands on unsound scientific grounds.

During last winter, I spent some time weekly with our own staff discussing these topics and setting some reading in between. I have been encouraged to see that when we now discuss work programmes, their contribution and confidence has improved markedly. This whole subject of basic sciences in relation to greenkeeping is so important I will return to it again.

Many people are now taking more interest in golf-course maintenance. This is the opportunity to ensure that a proper structure for the future is set up, but with due regard for the present. As to status, I think that subject would then seem less important. Skilled men with adequate basic knowledge to back their skills will always receive proper recognition.

## Marshall Concessionaires' Qualifying Tournament

The Marshall Concessionaires' qualifying tournament for SIGGA members was held at Cawder Golf Course, Bishopbriggs, near Glasgow in June. Fifty took part and the six who qualified to go forward to the finals in England later this year are Jim Grainger (Largs GC), Steven Hogg (Cawder GC), Alan Clark (Ballochmyle GC), Alan Purdie (Broomieknowe GC), Ian McLeod (Tain GC) and Ian Galbraith (Hilton Park GC).

SIGGA would like to thank Malcolm Clark, managing director of Autogarden (Glasgow), for providing all the hospitality for players and officials and also for donating six beautiful prizes. Alistair Connell, course manager at Cawder, presented an excellent golf course. We wish all the qualifiers every success.

*Joe McKean.*

Jimmy Kidd has been appointed estates manager of Gleneagles Hotels. Jimmy joined Gleneagles in March 1983. In his new position, he will be responsible directly to the general manager Peter Lederer for all aspects of golf-course maintenance, gardens, landscaping, and all projects related to the 610 acres of Gleneagles Hotel. Jimmy can be contacted on 07646 2231 (ext 4364) or 07646 2879 (home).

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

required by

### HARBORNE GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the above post from persons of proven ability and experience in golf course maintenance.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation available.

*Apply in writing stating age and experience to:*

**THE SECRETARY,  
HARBORNE GOLF CLUB,  
40, TENNAL ROAD,  
BIRMINGHAM B32 2JE**

## WEST HERTS GOLF CLUB

requires

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully experienced in golf course management. Scotec or City & Guilds certificates essential.

Salary and conditions negotiable, house available.

*Apply to:*

**The Secretary,  
West Herts Golf Club,  
Cassiobury Park,  
Watford  
Tel: 0923 36484**

## SOUTHERNDOWN GOLF CLUB

Mid-Glamorgan

invite applications for the post of

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

from persons of proven ability and experience in golf course maintenance of an 18-hole championship downland/links type course. Salary in line with other top class courses. No accommodation available.

*Apply in writing stating age and experience to:*

**The Secretary,  
Southerndown Golf Club,  
Ewenny,  
near Bridgend,  
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