

First of the summer wine

Tired and hot at the end of the day? In need of refreshment? To quench your thirst and help you to unwind, Brian D Pierson (Contractors) Ltd., in association with Chateau des Vigiers Golf and Country Club have devised a competition exclusive to BIGGA members, one that will reach the parts that other wines cannot reach!



Chateau des Vigiers is located in the South of France and has a new golf course opening in the near future, designed by top architect Donald Steel and built by Brian D Pierson. The complex boasts not only fine golf but also a superb selection of wines made from grapes grown in its own vineyard.

To sample these delightful wines calls for nothing more than correct answers to the five questions listed below. The first five correct entries, selected at random from the editor's postbag, will each receive a case of wine bearing the distinctive Chateau des Vigiers label.

Question 1: Name the architect who designed the golf course where the 1991 Ryder Cup is to be played?

Question 2: Name the two most talked about discussion documents relating to golf, issued by The Royal and Ancient's Development Panel?

Question 3: Name the course manager recently honoured in the Queens Honours list and the course for which he is responsible?

Question 4: What do the following five abbreviations stand for: R and A; USGA; EGU; FFG; BAGCC.

Question 5: Where is The Open to be held in 1992?

Your name.....

Address.....

Entries must be received by June 29th. The draw will be made under strict supervision and winners will be notified by post, with their names appearing in the August issue of Greenkeeper International. No correspondence will be entered into and the editor's decision is final. Due to customs and excise regulations this competition is open only to members of BIGGA residing in Britain.

Entries to: The Editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firls Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL. Mark your envelope COMPETITION.

Flying Divots

An appreciation of what is not always appreciated

As members of a profession dedicated towards excellence, greenkeepers above all others should be aware of the meaning and origins of words exclusive to the game. Frequent misuse of golf terms is found in official histories of the game and in various articles published by accepted experts, such misuse continuing in print and common language to the present day. The belief that such bastardisation becomes acceptable through frequent use is one that finds no favour in these more enlightened times.

Let us start with the playing area – or as we commonly refer to it today – the course. In the earliest phase the game was played on seaside links – common wasteland twist land and sea used also for archery practice, football, bleaching clothes, breeding rabbits etc – to say nothing of courting couples and the like.

When the game spread inland the term 'links' was in many instances mistakenly used to describe the land on which the game was played. More frequently, however, the word 'green' was favoured. After all, cricket – the national game of England with similar rustic origins – was played on the village green.

So the golf 'green' was the accepted terminology for inland courses around the period 1880-1914 when the original golf boom was in full swing.

There are many terms derived from the word 'green' – some familiar to our ears – which have persisted to the present day in common usage:

- GREENKEEPER – Self explanatory – NOT Greenskeeper.
- GREEN STAFF – Always two words, Staff who work on the green
- GREEN COMMITTEE – Never Greens Committee please. Course Committee not an acceptable alternative.
- GREEN CHAIRMAN – Boss of the Green Committee. A Greens Chairman, if such person exists, will be in charge of cabbages and sprouts!
- RUB OF THE GREEN – Becomes intelligible when the meaning of green is understood.
- GREEN FEE – Course fee just would not do!
- THROUGH THE GREEN – Applies to the whole area of the course except tee and putting green being played, and all hazards on the course. See rules: section 11-35.
- PUTTING GREEN – Where the 4.25" diameter hole is found.
- PRACTICE GREEN – The practice area, NOT a putting green.
- PRACTICE PUTTING GREEN – Yes, you've got it!

I have an old catalogue issued when leather boots for shod horses were being advertised, along with 'all the golf green requisites from golf green fertilisers to tee boxes for golf greens'.

Published in 1927 in the USGA Green Section Record, the following rhyme by Edgar J Guest stands in good stead today. It is entitled 'The

Greenkeeper':
 "He's on the job at break of day and when the stars are out,
 There's always trouble on the course for him to fret about.
 He starts the gang at break of dawn and follows them around,
 He listens to committee men who's wisdom is profound.

They talk of 'bents' and 'fescues' in a way that makes him squirm,
 For they acquire knowledge in one brief official term.
 His talk is one that calls for tact, for lacking that it means
 Next year there'll be another man brought in to keep the greens.

The members seldom know his name or have a smile for him
 They only stop and wonder why the course is not in trim.
 They rave and rant and rant and rage while hunting for a ball
 And wonder why the 'keeper hasn't cut the rough this fall.

And when they find a cuppy lie or foot-prints in the trap,
 "The course is in a rotten shape" declares each gloomy chap.

And yet my hat is off to him when winter intervenes,
 I want to pay my tribute to the man who keeps the greens.

He's on the job from dawn to dark, a million pests to fight,
 'Tis his to see that every green is watered every night,

The weeds attack his finest work,
 the drought destroys the grass

The rain beats down the tender shoots but still the players pass.

And still they play the game they love, a happy golfing clan
 Who never stop to count the odds against a single man.
 And so I wave my hand to him who toils in sturdy jeans,
 The best old friend the golfers have, the man who keeps the greens".

Don't shoot the typesetter, he's doing his best!
 The Boom Sprayer Calibration Chart (May issue) had a gaff that needs correcting vis: Item 6, Product Application Rate should read Concentrate per hectare divided by tank per hectare equals Concentrate per full tank. On the next line Part tank should be multiplied by Tank capacity to equal Amount of water required. Still confused? Talk to Jon Albutt on 0959 75575. And there's more... Jim Arthur informed me that his blinding layer should have read: e.g. 4mm gravel over 150mm -250mm of 40mm clean stone. Oops, sorry!

Parlez-vous Golf? The terminology explained