

■ In recessional times it is no mean feat to boast business expansion and profitability, but PAR 4 Irrigation Ltd, owned by Eddie and Linda Simms, can do just that. The past two years have seen an increase in turnover of 185% and continued confidence in the business will see PAR 4 extend their present premises, at Ripon, in March. At present PAR 4 are handling over 140 annual service contracts and it is rare that any new customer fails to take advantage of this offer post-warranty. It is Eddie's opinion that whilst contracts may slow down, his service department can continue to expand.

Contractually, PAR 4 are just completing large projects with SC3000 control at Hillesborough GC and Middlesborough Municipal GC, and, perhaps most important for the Association, PAR 4 are also responsible for the installation at BIGGA HQ at Aldwark Manor of a fully automatic system with SC3000, which will be ready by spring. Details: 0765 602175.



■ Amazone Groundcare has developed a new narrow profile scarifying blade (pictured above) for its Groundkeeper range of flail type grass cutting and collection equipment. The blades are 2mm wide, instead of the standard width of 3mm. The narrower profile has been found to achieve a better cutting action in trials, with increased trash clearance and minimal damage to existing sward. Priced at £1.35 each, the blades are reversible and have the same 'quick attach-no tools' design as the wider scarifying blades and standard Amazone mowing flails. Details: 0579 51155.

■ Agriland, the manufacturer of established foliar feeds Agrimaster and Agricrop, is launching three new liquid fertilisers for the '92 market. The first has a ratio of 20-0-0, the nitrogen being present in a fast-acting form and designed for use on all types of soil and sand based constructions where adequate reserves of phosphate and potash are present, and will give good colour without forcing excessive top growth.

The second product has an NPK ratio of 15-0-10, an ideal N to K ratio for most turf situations where an adequate supply of potash is available in the soil.

Finally, the third is a balanced formulation for use on sand or light sandy soil constructions, where high water infiltration rates can cause leaching. The product contains NPK in the ideal ratio of 10-2.5-7.5, plus calcium 3% and boron 0.1%.

Dr Paul Wilson, Agriland's Associate Research Director, told Greenkeeper International, "The calcium and boron work together to build stronger cell walls in the grass plant and thus enhance resistance to fungal diseases. Many acidic soils may be deficient in calcium and this product supplies the necessary corrective without raising the soil pH". Details: 0202 532291.

■ Gordon Bennington, long time General Manager, Wright Rain Rainbird Division, has left the company after 22 years and has formed his own irrigation company, GB Irrigation Ltd. With such wide experience there is little doubt that Gordon and G.B.Irrigation Ltd. will enjoy a high profile. Details: 0425 473329 (Ringwood) or 0909 473999 (Worksop).

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Believe it or not, the 1st of January 1992 marked five years from the inception of the Association and, perhaps unknown to many members, activated an important segment of the Association's Constitution. Paragraph 17 reads that 'After five years from the inception of the Association, each full member shall be required, when attending a formal national occasion, to dress in tie and jacket of the Association and to follow the guidelines on shoes, slacks and shirt'.

Recently within the Board of Management, concern has been expressed in relation to the substantial number of members who appear at BIGGA events and cannot as such be recognised as members – no tie, no jacket, no sweater, no shirt – not even a lapel badge identifying with BIGGA. Within the context of the constitutional obligations placed on members since 1st January, discussion ensued on how best to ensure that members now meet their obligations.

New greenkeeper members on enrolling receive an Association tie as part of their membership package and this is clearly a step in the right direction. There is increasing evidence of regions and sections awarding prizes in the form of BIGGA merchandise at golf events and this is to be welcomed. One way or another, after five years there seems little excuse for any member not being in possession of a BIGGA tie and wearing it on all appropriate occasions. Not only does it look smart but it projects a professional image and demonstrates the individual member's pride in belonging to the Association. Whilst the Board of Management has high expectations in respect of members wearing the Association tie, there is an appreciation that the jacket can represent a substantial financial commitment for many members. That having been said, a good number of members do now own a jacket and many favourable comments are forthcoming when our members are seen in jackets and ties on formal occasions they have contributed much to enhancing the greenkeeper's image and to his achieving professional recognition. Given the cost, the Board of Management will take a flexible view generally on the wearing of the jacket whilst at all times encouraging members to invest in one. A BIGGA badge added to an existing blazer remains a cheaper and practical option. Regions and sections are being actively encouraged to support the purchase of jackets - utilising region/section funds and implementing an instalment repayment system. If you are interested in possible purchase through this means, contact your section secretary.

It must be said that from now on there will be occasions when the wearing of a jacket and tie will be compulsory, particularly when representing the Association nationally – the annual Kubota Golf Challenge comes to mind as a good example. In any team event, like the recent Ransomes International Tournament, again there would be an 'It is not financial but also to advan Association profession thereby end status of and those within the your profession in the best possible light



ommitment, g your own as a body and ancing the eenkeeping who work orofession' expectation that those honoured with representing their country would be dressed in BIGGA jacket and tie and here particularly one would look to regions/sections to assist those members so honoured who were in genuine need of support. At other major events like the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, the National Conference, National Tournament and Iseki Golf Tournament, the Board will be looking for increasing evidence of conformity with the Constitution whilst accepting that there will not be an overnight transformation. Draconian measures are not called for, but throughout the structure of the Association persuasive voices will be heard - if you doubt the benefits of appearing in official BIGGA uniform then speak to any member who has made the commitment and you will soon be convinced that it is for you. It is not merely a financial commitment, but also a commitment to advancing your own Association as a professional body and thereby enhancing the status of greenkeeping and those who work within the profession.

Whilst on the subject of BIGGA uniform, I will take the opportunity to clear up a few points where there seems to be some confusion! First, whilst there are alternative ties which can be worn, the official BIGGA tie is the navy one with the central motif. Whilst the other ties may be worn at members' discretion, at all 'official' BIGGA functions, the navy tie should normally be worn.

It had been the intention of the Board of Management to introduce an 'official' sweater and shirt, jade being the planned colour. However, it transpired that the supplying company is accustomed to changing colour shades each year which, of course, renders any exercise to introduce an official sweater/shirt valueless. However, there will be occasions/events when regions and sections wish to standardise sweaters and shirts. To this end I would suggest that an order is placed (in whatever colour) a minimum of eight weeks before the event to guarantee supply.

For financial and logistical reasons, even were it deemed desirable, the Association is not able to hold large quantities of stock to enable immediate supply in all cases following the placing of orders. Some items will be in stock but members should be aware when placing orders that there could well be a delay in delivery of between 6-8 weeks. Despatch is immediate upon receipt of stock.

Members are asked for payment when placing an order as we need to know that the order is committed. However, it is important to note that cheques are not banked until the order is available and posted.

The Association now has a reasonably comprehensive selection of merchandise but is always ready to consider new options. If you have any ideas please let headquarters know and we will see what can be done.

Finally during 1992 please consider your own need to be looking the part.



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