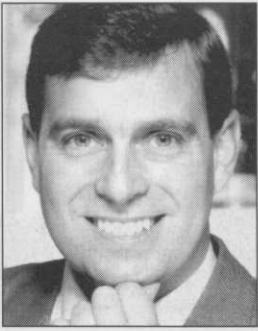


Duke of York to open BTME '93



Prince Andrew: to open BTME

Pride is something one hears a great deal about in greenkeeping circles of late: pride in the profession, pride in the importance of our place in caring for Britain's great golf courses and pride in our achievements in the field of education.

Now our cup runneth over, for pride is bursting from every seam as we learn that Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, a recent convert to the game of golf and its most visible devotee, has honoured us by accepting our

invitation to open the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate next January.

Not only will Prince Andrew open our exhibition, he will also present awards to the recipients of BIGGA's highest honour, The Master Greenkeeper Certificate, and to those companies who honour us by supporting our Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund, making greenkeeper education a reality.

Let us share equally in this honour – proud to be royally recognised!

■ Ian Tomlinson, head greenkeeper at Lausanne Golf Club has written with news regarding Jim Richards, who started his greenkeeping career at Knaresborough GC and has been at Lausanne some five years, four as Ian's first assistant. The surprise for Ian came when Jim announced that he is to leave Lausanne in January for Brownsville, Texas, where he is to become a pilot. As Ian joked, 'having seen Jim on a triplex, God help him!'

'Should you happen to be on a commercial aircraft flown by Captain Richards in the future,' added Ian, 'why not drop into the cockpit and say hello' – Roger, over and out!



■ Continuing with the flying theme, it is with particular pleasure that Greenkeeper International announces the granting of a Private Pilots Licence to Sunningdale's Robert Brewer (pictured left) – is he, we wonder, Britain's first official airborne greenkeeper?

■ Toro, world leaders in professional grass cutting and maintenance equipment have awarded their coveted 'Mr Commercial International' award to UK Toro distributors Lely (UK) Ltd.

Senior Toro International managers throughout the world vote on the distribution network that they feel has given the most distinguished achievements in the field of: Coverage of commercial dealers and direct accounts; Aggressiveness in seeking new turf product outlets; Excellence of demonstrations and field days; Service to commercial dealers and Toro customers.

Graham Dale reported that he is fully committed to improving the already high standards of service support to all Toro dealers and customers alike. A fact which is endorsed with Lely's introduction of a 'Guaranteed on time' parts delivery service to its comprehensive dealer network anywhere in the UK.



Graham Dale, Managing Director, Lely (UK) Ltd receives the 'Mr Commercial International' award from Ted Reilly, Toro Sales, Marketing and Commercial Director, Europe, on behalf of all UK Toro dealers.



■ Warmest greetings are extended to Eric Palmer on his well-earned retirement after 50 years of greenkeeping, a career which began at Sitwell Park GC in 1942 – aged 14! After a two year spell in the RAF from 1946-48, Eric returned to Sitwell Park and remained there until 1966, holding the post of head greenkeeper for some fifteen years. He moved to Abbeydale GC in 1966 and remained until 1982, when he joined Hickleton GC until his retirement – a proud record which deserves recognition.



■ The winner of the SISIS Diamond Jubilee competition was Cliff Parry, head greenkeeper of Woolton GC, near Liverpool. The picture shows him receiving a diamond pendant from the directors of SISIS at their Macclesfield office.

■ Eric Hunter wrote telling of an enquiry received from a Mr Oliver Hackett of Rathcormac, Co. Sligo in the Republic of Ireland. Oliver, green chairman of a Co. Sligo golf club, informed of 'not enjoying good service for our mowing machines – they are away too long and when returned they are not that good anyway'.

Leaflets despatched, Eric waited some three months to be given some good news and some bad. The bad news was the club had decided – on cost- not to progress with an order for a Hunter grinder. The good news? Mr Hackett was so impressed with the Jupiter machine that he bought one and started up a new business – North West Lawnmowers – specifically to serve fellow clubs bugged with the aforementioned problems. It seems the spirit of enterprise is not yet dead! Oliver Hackett can be contacted on 010 353971 43669.

■ De Vere Hotels, owners of The Belfry, home of the 1993 Ryder Cup, has acquired Belton Woods Hotel and Country Club, a 96 bedroom hotel with two eighteen and one nine hole golf courses at Grantham, near Nottingham, for £10.3 million, from administrative receivers KPMG Peat Marwick. Belton Woods is a purpose-built four star hotel with conference facilities for 300 people, set in 485 acres. In addition to the two 18-hole golf courses, there is a further 9-hole course and driving range. Indoor leisure facilities include heated swimming pool, gymnasium, two squash courts, a spa bath, saunas and steam rooms.

■ Following a misprint in our October issue, Verde Sports Ltd have been flooded with enquiries for 'winter trees'. Much as they love the idea, and may consider it as a new line for the future, Verde Sports have asked us to point out that the company are actually in the business of providing winter trees. Anyone interested in the latter can reach Verde Sports on 0257 269069.



■ Simon Checketts has joined Watermation in their Aldershot sales office as a sales engineer in the contracts division. Simon replaces Jonathan Turner, who has donned the pith helmet and travelled to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to open a new sales office for the company.



■ A new golf manager, responsible for the co-ordination of all golfing services at St Andrews, has been appointed by St Andrews Links Trust. John Lindsay (46) previously executive director with the PGA, will take up his post on January 1.

■ It is with sadness that we report the sudden but peaceful death of Mr J K (Jock) Glass, latterly of The Cottage, Thorpe Hall Golf Club, Thorpe Bay, Essex.

Jock, a life member of the Association and a holder of high office within the BGGA, was always keen to expound the aims of the Association. His contribution to greenkeeping over the years was without parallel and he will be sadly missed by his many friends and associates.