



■ Greenkeeper International is pleased to learn that the ever-cheerful Andy Cole has rejoined the STRI advisory staff as an agronomist, serving an area South of the Midlands and extending toward the Home Counties.

Andy, recently turfgrass lecturer at Warwickshire College, will be amongst the first of STRI's regionalised personnel, a policy of regionalisation being a recent STRI commitment.



■ Martin Galvin, formerly at East Sussex National and well known as one of David Blackmur's award winning turfgrass students at Plumpton College, has crossed the Irish Sea to take up his first head greenkeeping post at the new Botha GC in Cork. The recently completed course was designed jointly by Peter McEvoy, the Amateur Champion of 1977/78, and Christy O'Connor Jnr, the current British Masters Champion.

Martin Galvin was a popular finalist in the 1989 TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year awards.

■ Jimmy Richardson has been busy combing the grapevine, telling of a gaggle of promotions and movements in the North-East: Russ Black makes a promotional move from Ponteland to Westerhope, becoming their new head greenkeeper, John Rippon, latterly assistant at Whickham also takes promotion to Birtley GC, again as head greenkeeper. Internal promotion comes to Malcolm Latham, who has earned his spurs by moving from assistant to head greenkeeper at Hexham GC. Two other moves are Derek Cruddas, latterly head man at Birtley, who goes to Garesfield GC as head greenkeeper; and Craig Parkinson, assistant at Tyne-side GC, who has moved to Ponteland GC – good luck to them all!

■ David Norton, who as an assistant greenkeeper at Beverly and East Riding won the 1990 TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year award, has pulled off something of a coup in gaining the post of head greenkeeper at The Belfry, site of the 1993 Ryder Cup. David rang me and sounded overjoyed at the thought of working with course manager, Derek Ganning MBE, and in being launched on a major event from the very start. His first exposure to 'the big one' is the staging at The Belfry this month of the English Open. We all wish him well.



■ Kubota (UK) Ltd. has appointed Tony Fajak as engine sales co-ordinator. Based at the company's Thame headquarters in Oxfordshire he will be responsible for handling all engine specification and sales enquiries and will provide administrative and information support to the sales team.

Prior to joining Kubota, Tony worked both in the engine sales sector and in the hire industry.

■ Anthony Davies, course manager at Prestbury GC and winner of the 1990 ICI Greenkeeper of the Year award, has been involved in an unfortunate motor accident which I understand gave him a nasty blow on the head. Also travelling in the car were Anthony's wife and youngster, his wife receiving superficial though painful injuries. Anthony is out of hospital now and is on the mend, albeit slowly. We at Greenkeeper International send him our best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

■ The chairman of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, Joan Dudok Van Heel, has brought it to my attention that the golf course at Nunspeet in Holland, the

subject of my personal criticism in the July issue of Greenkeeper International, was not designed by any member of the BIGCA. In truth, I never for a moment believed that it was.



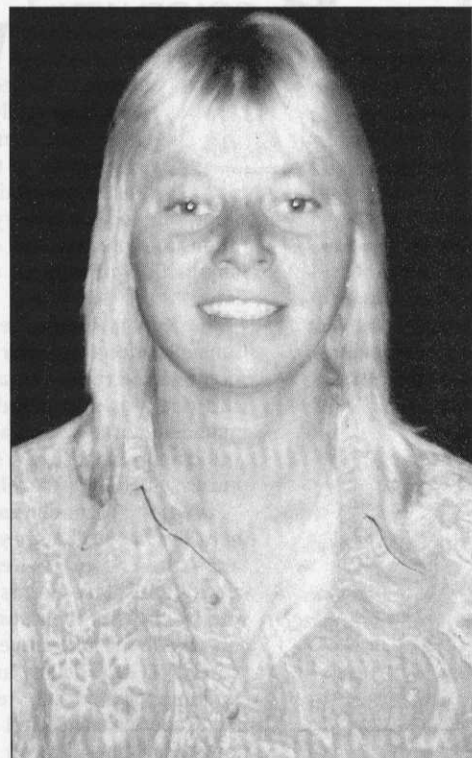
■ Chris Mardon, course manager at Kent's West Malling GC., is now wearing an altogether different bonnet, that of

West Malling's 1992 club captain. Not that he has deserted his greenkeeping duties for a single moment, for Kent's cognocenti tell me that despite horrific water bans 'imposed' upon that county and its golf courses, West Malling is held as an impressive example of good husbandry. Commented one observer, 'West Malling? It's a bloomin' picture!'

■ Ian McMillan, course manager for Hankley Common GC, is pictured below explaining finer points of conserving heathland through stripping and replanting heather turf to experts who attended the recent 'Heathland Conference 1992'. The conference brought together heathland managers and scientists from as far afield as Aberdeen and the Netherlands. Delegates were also informed of other techniques used by Hankley Common GC to conserve this internationally important habitat, including the collection of heather seed for re-seeding through use of a Litamisa.

Hankley Common GC has recently been included within the Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons SSSI, due to the high quality of its lowland heathland – the habitat now described in a new English Nature poster as Surrey's last wilderness. Further information on conservation of heathland and other habitats on golf courses may be found in the English Nature publication 'On Course Conservation', available by post from English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough, PE1, price £7.50.

• Photograph by Nick Baxter/Surrey County Council.



■ Colin Geddes, latterly at Hanbury Manor and now operating as an independent consultant under the CPG Associates banner, rang to broadcast the good news concerning one of our lady members, Tracy Ruane of Wortley.

Tracy, pictured, hit the headlines in Leeds newspapers recently by gaining promotion to head greenkeeper – yes, head greenkeeper – at Oulton Hall Golf Course, an 18 hole facility designed by Dave Thomas, with a further nine scheduled to open in 1993. This must be something of a coup for the likeable lass, who began her greenkeeping career as an apprentice with Leeds City Council some 12 years ago, progressing via the Temple Newsum and Gotts Park courses and gaining C&G Horticulture Stages I-III and C&G Management Stage IV along the way. Without wishing to start an avalanche of replies, I am curious – is Tracy the first female head greenkeeper in the country?