

# AROUND THE GREEN

## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

### KENT

You should soon receive details regarding our Spring Tournament at Rochester & Cobham GC, also those concerning a visit on 26 April to the London Golf Club. Joe Paulin, The LGC's course manager has kindly offered to host a visit, which will enable all Kent members to see at first hand one of the major golf construction projects in Europe. As you may know, the two courses at LGC have been designed by Golden Bear Inc., with Jack Nicklaus personally designing one of the courses – the Heritage. The timing of the visit should perfectly coincide with a wide range of activities taking place on the courses, from construction to initial maintenance. It is certain to be an excellent educational experience and opportunity, with perhaps a follow-up planned for next year.

Although informal, we propose to meet in the Horse & Groom public house between 12.00 noon and 1.00 pm. The pub is sited on the left side of the A20, about 3-4 miles beyond Brands Hatch Circuit, heading south towards Maidstone. Not only will this give us a chance to meet, but those who wish may buy a pub lunch or sandwich. For those who choose to go straight to the course, may I suggest you arrive at the maintenance shed complex no later than 1.30 pm. The London Golf Club is located just off the A20 signposted 'Stansted' on the same side of the road as the pub and about 2-3 miles past the Brands Hatch Circuit. For further information call me on 0322 664547.

Those of us who make it through to the regional final of our new Hayter Challenge Tournament will find it strange that BIGGA regional administrator, Norman Exley, will no longer be in attendance. As you may know, Norman passed away in February. His enthusiasm and commitment will be missed not only by our region but also at national level by our Association.

For many years Norman suffered from a heart complaint, so apart from sending our condolences to his family we have seen fit to send a small donation from the Kent section toward heart disease research.

PAUL COPSEY

### SOUTH WEST

Happy Birthday Dear Jo-hn, Happy Birthday to you. Yes, 18 February was John Kane's birthday, so what better way to celebrate than win a section event, especially when you have reached the ripe old age of... no, I promised not to divulge his actual age, (but if you multiply thirty by two, and then add two, you won't be far off!) The section event in question, was the early Spring Meeting at North Wilts GC, Devizes, Wilts.

Sponsored by British Seed Houses, we followed our successful formula of golf in the morning and a lecture in the afternoon. Both parts of the day were an outstanding success, the weather relenting to allow some enjoyable golf over a course well prepared by Jon Boorman and his staff. The result of the golf was: 1st. John Kane (Clevedon) 76-6=70. 2nd. Derek Eves (Painswick) 95-24= 71. 3rd. Nick Wilson (Filton) 81-9=72.

Jonathan Franks of British Seed Houses was in fine form after lunch, giving one of the most interesting & entertaining lectures I have ever attended, just the right blend of facts, slides & figures. Well done Jonathan and thanks. Thanks also to North Wilts for their hospitality, to both the indoor and outdoor staff for their efforts, and also to Messrs Avoncrop, Rigby Taylor & County Mowers of Witney for prizes.

The autumn/winter education programme is now complete. That so many have shown the interest and initiative to take this training, and not hide behind

'Grandfather Clauses' and general ignorance of the statutes, has been particularly rewarding. I certainly hope that this training will continue to be available in the future.

Westurf, as if you didn't know, is now only a couple of weeks away, so for heaven's sake get your feet through the gate, visit each & every stand and repay some of the effort which has been put into it. Helpers, stand by!

Finally, with the growing season just around the corner, I'll wish you all happy greenkeeping for 1993, and remind you that there is no need to face problems alone. There is a strong and active Association behind every greenkeeper, help is readily available, so don't hesitate to get in touch with any problems or news, however major or insignificant. That's what the Association is for.

PAUL WORSTER



### NORTH WEST

The penultimate winter lecture, held at Bury GC on 24 Feb, was graced by a good attendance and enjoyed by all. John Hughes of British Seed Houses gave us a very interesting and informative talk on 'Improved Grass Cultivars', including how new varieties become available. On behalf of the section I thank John for sharing his time and knowledge with us.

An interesting piece of news has just come to me: NW section life member, Harry Walsh, and his wife Martha celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last Christmas Eve. They received a telegram from the Queen and another from the House of Commons via their local MP. Harry and Martha celebrated their anniversary with a holiday in the Scottish Highlands and upon their return found a surprise family reunion had been arranged. It is interesting to note that Harry was national chairman of BGGA in 1972, the Diamond Jubilee of the Association. Harry is 83 years young and still very active, playing golf to a handicap of 22. We all wish Harry and Martha many more happy years to come.

The first golf fixture this year is the NW versus N Wales annual tournament, for which a team of sixteen is required. The match will be played on Monday 26 April at Llanymynech GC, sponsored by GEM Professional. Tee off is 1.30pm, so if you are available, please contact me. The Spring Tournament will be played at Birchwood GC on Monday 10 May, and as this is a qualifier for the Hayter Challenge Tournament regional final (and numbers are restricted) no guests will be allowed – this in order to allow as many members as possible to qualify. A deposit of £10 must accompany your entry form, which must be returned by 3 May at the latest. Tee off will be from 1.30pm and tee times will be allocated on the day. Smart dress is essential – think proud! Applications for the Spring Tournament to: Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, STOCKPORT, SH12 1HX. If you have any queries – or indeed any news, please contact me on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS



### BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Greetings, all good greenkeepers. Here we are once again at the time of year when everything is going crazy and I seem to be repeating myself – 'so what's different about that', I hear you cry. Not much, unfortunately! Well I'm going to remind you of one or two things anyway, just to keep you going through the never-ending grass and all those ever so constructive comments from the members.

Anyone out there who would like to represent

BB&O in golf matches against the Surrey section, the Mid Anglia section and the section secretaries (could be your chance to get your own back!), please contact our match captain, David Goodchild on 0296 415337. These matches will be held over the summer, starting on 1 June at Stoke Poges GC. There is no handicap limit, so all are welcome.

Also for your pleasure, three golf days have been arranged for the summer, so keep 28 May, 1 June and 11 October clear prior to further information arriving by post.

The committee need you to come up with ideas for social events you would like us to stage in the next year, also ideas for next year's lecture programme – call or write to me with your input – please.

On the lecture theme, I would like to thank Stan Robinson of the Woodley Branch St Johns Ambulance for giving us a rivetting lecture on first aid, staged at Sonning GC on 23 February. Our thanks to Sonning GC for their generous hospitality, a very educational night was had by all.

At the moment we have a special offer – a selection of BIGGA ties in light blue or red – at a knock-down price of just £4.00. If you want to look the real 'pro at a section or national event (or even at your golf club) give me a call and place an order NOW!

RAY CLARK



### CLEVELAND

Carl Crocher, who recently worked in Germany, has just completed a spell at Darrington GC before returning to take up a post as greenkeeper at a club north of Hamburg, with views toward Jutland, Denmark.

Now is the time to take a stock check, get quotations and place orders for delivery in advance of events. Divoting fairways in April is vital: five men, five days (except par three's). Greens compaction around flags is serious: with 500 players out between Friday and Monday (average weight 10 stone = 31 tonnes), rollers on greens are not necessary. Hole cutting more often is desirable, together with weekly solid tining in summer and weekly slitting in winter – or Vertidrainage once or twice a year. Drainage is absolutely vital.

The outing to GEM Professional Products in Lancashire was a success and we were well received by senior GEM staff, witnessing fertiliser production at first hand. For a family firm they are to be complimented on being so up-to-date and we offer them congratulations on obtaining BS750.

An HND course in Greenkeeping is now on offer at Askham Bryan College.

BRUCE BURNELL



### NORTH SCOTLAND

The section sends Kenny Anderson all the best for his new job at Sheringham in Norfolk and congratulates Dale Robertson on taking over from Kenny as head greenkeeper at Newmarcher, near Aberdeen. I recently attended the section secretaries/regional administrators meeting at head office. This was very worthwhile with many discussions and ideas being bandied about. The book-keeping workshop was the most discussed, with much learnt in a short space of time.

The 200 Club tickets are slowly coming in, though these should all be sold by now. Please send your money in immediately – the first draw takes place next month.

The section library is up and running with ➡ 46

45 → the following books available: • Turf Management for Golf Courses, James Beard. • Turf Management Handbook, Freeborg. • Golf Course Presentation, John Hacker and George Shiels. • All Year Round Golf, Jim Arthur. • Greenkeepers Training Committee Manual • The COSHH Pesticide Regulation Book. These are available by phoning Gordon Moir on 0334 74021, or me (Iain MacLeod) on 0862 894402. We hope to add more books during the year, so if any member knows of a greenkeeping related book, let us know and maybe we will add it to our lists. Also, anyone wishing to donate a book or books to the section please get in touch.

The Nairn Dunbar course is currently undergoing some changes. The 'Hill' holes over the road are being scrapped to make way for housing and three new holes have been constructed and will come into play in time for the 1994 British Amateur Championships to be played at Nairn. The old 6th, 7th, and 8th were, respectively, a par three followed by two short par fours. These now are replaced by a 509 yard par five, a 400 yard par four and a 131 yard par three, increasing the overall length of the course from 6431 yards to 6713 yards and par from 71 to 72. Grass Technology International are the designers and Souter's of Stirling are the main contractors. One of the most striking features of the extension is a bridge built at the 11th tee by a local man, using the red granite from a local quarry and employing the dry stane dyking method. The new holes come into play after the old eleventh, which now becomes the eighth. This will give the course a traditional links design of nine holes out and nine back. Some of the design features incorporate the style of James Braid, designer of Gleneagles, and those of Dornoch man Donald Ross, the father of American golf course architecture. The greens, tees, aprons and bunker surrounding were turfed, with fairways being seeded in a project costing in excess of £150000. We wish Derek Roy and his staff all the best in this year of change, having to maintain the existing course while settling in the extension, but still hope to see them at section outings if time permits. The section are hoping to organise a trip (in conjunction with Souter's and Nairn Dunbar) to visit the holes during the settling in period this year.

In conjunction with Allan Miller and Pat Allan of Stewart's, two organised tours have been arranged to visit Stewart's turf farm and works. The first takes place on Tuesday, 20 April, when a bus will leave from Inverness and take us to the turf farm, where we will be given a guided tour. Lunch will be provided and we will then visit the 'Stronghold' works at Dalkeith before returning in the evening to Inverness. The same itinerary will apply on Tuesday 27 April, though this time the bus will leave from Aberdeen. As guests of Stewarts, there is no charge for these trips, but members should note that numbers are limited - so it is a case of 'first come, first served'. Members naturally have priority, but if there is space, green chairmen etc. will be most welcome. Time is not on our side so please phone me on 0862

894402, especially to reserve your seat for the bus from Inverness. Please support this initiative by one of our patrons. Finally, welcome to two new members Duncan Adams from Royal Aberdeen and William Duggie from Inverness.  
IAIN MACLEOD



## SURREY

February seemed to have flown by and with no golf event or winter lecture to report, I welcome this opportunity to remind members of our forthcoming Spring Tournament. This year the venue for the 36 hole medal is Coombe Hill GC and the date (please note, this is on a Tuesday) is 20 April. This is a qualifying event for the Hayter Challenge Tournament. Please remember to check your current handicap, carry your BIGGA membership card and, as for all of our events, dress appropriately in the clubhouse and on the course. The closing date for entries - 6 April - will in all likelihood have passed by the time this magazine falls on your doormat, though it must be noted that you will have had ample opportunity to enter, so late entries are likely to be rejected.

Please note that the Veterans Cup will be played for at the Autumn Tournament.

Finally, may I say how fitting it was to see Bert Watson featured in the February issue of Greenkeeper International, especially so soon after his

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being elected president of the Surrey section.  
ROGER TYDEMAN

## NORTH EAST

Grateful thanks are extended to the Ryton Gravel Company for an invitation extended to all section members to visit their quarry on 25 February, followed by a visit to the Caistron Nature Reserve. In thanking them I must also apologise for what was a particularly measly turn-out, for only eight people bothered to turn up! Thanks to Mike Bayley of Ryton Gravel, not only for showing the visitors around but in going to the trouble of providing soup and sandwiches. I hope that my next report will indicate a better attendance to the Abcon Top Dressing site and that it will not be necessary for me to apologise yet again for the indifferent attitudes that appear to be prevalent within our section membership.

May I remind all NE section members, especially those who enjoy playing in golf events, that without the generosity of suppliers such as Ryton Gravel and Abcon we would be unable to provide golf prizes to the standard that has become our norm. My message therefore is simple and crystal clear: AT ALL TIMES SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT YOU.

May I welcome the following new members: David Sharkey (Ryton GC), Owen Parker (Arcot Hall GC), Alan Harrison and Gary Needham (Garesfield GC), Gary Donnison (Gosforth GC), Steven Richardson (Birtley GC), and John Cheesman and Edward Brachtvogel (Slayley Hall G&CC).

In conclusion, may I again thank Terry Charlton (Turf Care) and David Dixon for providing the coach that took section members to Harrogate for the

BTME in January. Unlike the aforementioned Ryton Gravel trip, this was well attended and I am bound to repeat the obvious: - if our members are picked up we have better support. Better still, if anything is free they are out in droves!  
JIMMY RICHARDSON

## NORTH WALES

Our first competition of the season will be held at Curzon Park, Chester on 22 April. Application forms are available from T Adamson and D S Proctor and must be returned with payment (£11.00 for members and £12.00 for guests) before 16 April 1993. Forms arriving after this date will not be accepted. Teeing off will be from 10.00 - 11.40 am.

Llanymynech is the setting for our annual match against the North West section on 26 April, with teeing off from 12.00 noon - 1.15 pm. Those wishing to be considered for the team should contact 'yours truly' on 0248 713490. This year the match will be sponsored by Gem Professional.

Congratulations to D Parry on his appointment to head greenkeeper at Prestatyn Golf Club, following the departure of N Pearse to Hydeberg Golf Club in Germany. I know I speak for the whole committee in wishing Norman every success in his new appointment.

Congratulations also to P Gabriel and J Chung, promoted to senior first assistant at Cardon Park, to J Moody on his promotion to head greenkeeper at Chirk Golf and Country Club, and to A Sharp on his new appointment in Kent.  
D S PROCTOR

## SOUTH COAST

Winter lectures have been reasonably well attended, although the January meeting at Came Down Golf Club was poorly supported, mainly due to the atrocious weather conditions. However, my thanks to Gwil Thomas from Lloyds of Letchworth for his firm's presentation.

In February, Jim Arthur gave a very enjoyable talk,

much appreciated by members present.

These meetings are arranged not only for their content, but also as a forum for local greenkeepers to meet and have a natter. If you've not been in the habit of attending our lectures, you are missing out in more ways than one!

Tournament time is almost upon us, and our Spring Tournament this year is being held at Sherborne GC on Wednesday, 26 May. The format for the competition is a 36 hole medal, though members not wishing to play 36 holes can play just one round. The entry fee will be £14.00 and all applications to play, with handicaps, fee, etc., should be addressed to our tournament organiser: Joe Burdett, 23 Jacobs Ladder, Child Okeford, BLANDFORD FORUM, Dorset. DT11 8EA. (Tel: 0258 861482).

Other section tournaments later in the year are: Summer Tournament, Alresford GC on Thursday, 29 July. Autumn Tournament, High Post GC on Tuesday, 5 October.

Finally, please support Westurf at Long Ashton on Wednesday, 28 April. This promises to be the biggest turf demonstration organised so far and a number of section officials are working hard to make this event successful.

BOB DENNIS

## DEVON & CORNWALL

'THE BEST IN THE WEST AND IT'S FREE'... There are only a few days to go before this year's Westurf Trade Show, to be held once again at Long Ashton, Bristol on Wednesday 28 April. Westurf is RAC signposted from the motorway and when you arrive parking and admission is FREE.

Numerous local & national dealers will be there to answer your questions and you will also be able to see the latest machines being put through their paces on the large demonstration area - which includes a golf green. With all the latest turf care products on show you can't afford to miss Westurf '93.

Our February meeting was held at Perranporth GC on Wednesday 24th, with an early morning frost clearing quickly to allow members to compete on the excellently prepared links for the Avoncrop Trophy. Our thanks to Bill & John Mitchell who presented the course in such fine condition - and it was only February!

John Palfrey of Avoncrop presented the golf prizes to: 1st Clive Browning (Bowood) +4. 2nd Gordon Tamblin (Mullion) +4. 3rd Brian Summers (Carlyon Bay) +3.

The Harrogate Challenge also took place between Brian Summers & Gordon Tamblin, with £50 being donated to section funds by Devon Garden Machinery. The victor was Gordon Tamblin by one hole.

The section presented Jack Moore, head greenkeeper at Teignmouth GC, with a tankard to mark his retirement after over 30 years greenkeeping. We all wish you a happy retirement, Jack.

During the afternoon Mr Peter England of the HSE presented a paper on the new six pack regulations, this being followed by a lively question session. The section presented Peter with a BIGGA tie and thanked him for his paper. The section would also like to thank the captain & committee of Perranporth GC for allowing 75 members the use of their facilities, also to Mr R Pye for looking after the inner man.

Our Guest Day meeting will be once again at Launceston GC on Wednesday 7 July. Tee times will be from 12noon onwards and David Golding, the Association's education officer, will conclude the day

with his after dinner presentation on education. Non-golfers are most welcome to indulge in their usual course walk before joining golfers for the evening meal and David's talk. I look forward to meeting you all at Westurf.

RICHARD WHYMAN



## SOUTH WALES

Those people expecting to see Huw Morgan's name at the end of this column might just wonder what's going on when they see my name in print. To set the record straight, after being elected to the post of section secretary for South Wales, Huw accepted a new job as course manager at the Wilderness Golf Club in Kent. He took up his new position on 15 March and his family will be joining him soon. The section wish him well for the future, whilst personally I'd like to thank him for dropping me in it at the deep end! Our Winter lecture/seminar programme will

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46 → have ended by the time this appears, so I'd like to thank all the speakers, David Smart (Liquid-Turf), David Ward (Porthcawl GC), Doug James (Nomix-Chipman), Michael Williams (Glamorgan-shire GC), Huw Morgan (Southerndown GC), Dennis Archer (Whitchurch SC), Carl Crome, Jon Allbutt, Bert Mayberry, Allan Webb and Rhone Poulenc.

A plea goes out to our membership for greater attendances to these events if they are to continue. The average attendance at evening lectures was nineteen, and with a section total nearing 130 for 1993 surely we can manage more! Thanks must go to those involved at Pencoed College for allowing us the use of the college facilities to stage these events, with special gratitude to Peter Gillard for his major contributions.

For 1993 there have been some major changes to the running of the golf days, not only to the price but the fact that the total cost must be paid in advance, (not, as it used to be, a deposit and the remainder on the day). Note therefore that the payment is the entry fee and this must reach the secretary at least ten days before the event. No Payment – No Meal – No Competition – No Exceptions! Also note that all the competitions begin in the afternoon, this to encourage greater attendance during 1993.

Last but not least I'd like to thank all the folks at Aldwark Manor for making the two day administrators /secretaries meeting which I visited so very interesting. This was my first visit, though hopefully not my last, and it was nice to put faces to the names of those who I had spoken to on the telephone, though never met. Thanks again to all involved in making my stay both rewarding and enjoyable.



PETER LACEY

#### LONDON

The last few months have not brought good news to our section, especially with the loss of a valuable friend and member – Norman Exley. He contributed a great deal over the years and will be missed by us all. Our thoughts are with his family. The London Section has donated £200 to the Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospital.

Spare a thought also for Nigel Greenyer from

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Highgate Golf Club. Last year he had a hip operation which unfortunately proved to be unsuccessful, this causing further treatment to be required. We send our best wishes for a speedy and successful recovery.

Doug Smith has been appointed chairman of the committee, with the committee structure being as follows: Doug Smith – Chairman, Barry Moggridge – Secretary, Craig Handyside – Treasurer, Martin Smith and Tony Dunstan – Education/Golf.

We are looking for two new committee members and anyone interested should contact Doug Smith on 0708-742148. Entries for the Summer Fourball Knockout are required, the cost being £5 per pair and the closing date 23 April. The contact, again, is Doug Smith.  
TONY DUNSTAN

#### WEST SCOTLAND

The section has staged two social events since the start of the year, the first being a games night at Claremont Bowling Club. Some 24 members, traders and guests enjoyed an evening of indoor bowls, snooker, darts, pool and dominoes. The evening was declared a great success, the winners being Sandy Bulloch and Nick McComb from runners-up Danny Lauder and John Scott Snr.

Next came a football match held during February, a match staged between greenkeepers from either the north or south side of the River Clyde. As a player for the south, I can only imagine that our members from the north must have been overawed at playing in the shadow of Ibrox Stadium, for though involved in a ten goal thriller, they lost by nine goals to one! However, they have assured me that their 'away' goal will be crucial in the return match. A special thanks must be recorded to life-member Joe McKean for refereeing the match, it being good to see that with the result poised at one all, he was not 'conned' by Alistair Connell's dive in the box. Alistair is getting so slow these days that he shouted 'penalty' four times on the way down!

I am pleased to inform members that Hamilton GC will be the venue for our spring outing on 22 April. Thanks to Hamilton for courtesy of their course and we look forward to meeting the sponsors of the Hayter Challenge Tournament on the day. Entry forms have been posted and entries must be returned by the closing date.

Congratulations to Scott Ballantyne on his appointment as course manager at Cowglen GC and to Danny Lauder and Andrew McDowell on their moves as head greenkeepers to Strathendrick GC and Torrance House respectively.

Finally, this will be my last report as section secretary, as AJ (Sandy) Bulloch takes over the secretariat in

April. I hope every member continues to give the section his keenest support – such as I have enjoyed over the past four years – and that the section continues to grow from strength to strength.  
GORDON KERR

#### MIDLANDS

I will start by thanking the staff at BIGGA HQ for again putting together a two-day package that allowed section secretaries and regional administrators the opportunity to get together – first to gain insight into the way our successful Association is managed and second to meet with other officials to discuss the running of the Association and the problems encountered in running our particular sections.

During the next month the Warwickshire College of Agriculture (GTC Approved) will be mailing to all head greenkeepers and their golf clubs, seeking to establish if a need exists for the running of short courses. Included will be a comprehensive list stating what might be made available.  
DEAN CLEAVER



#### CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The first social event of the year got off to a great start in February when 40 members and friends enjoyed a night at the ten-pin bowling centre in Falkirk.

Also in February, 30 members attended Souter's Sportsturf in Stirling and enjoyed seeing at first hand the facilities offered by John Souter to the green-keeping profession. Particular interest was shown in the CAD (computer aided design) of golf courses. Following lunch at Stirling GC, members were given a site visit to see the construction work carried out on the course over the past winter.

Our thanks to John Souter and his staff for staging a first class presentation and for delicious food and a little liquid refreshment to wash it down...

By now everyone should have received an entry form for the Spring Tournament at Falkirk Tryst on 28 April (note the change of venue). This will be the qualifying event for the Hayter Challenge Tournament, so if by chance you don't have a form – contact me now if you wish to play.

Section chairman Duncan Peddie and his committee extend a warm welcome to all new members and hope that you will take an active part in supporting the events currently being organised. It's a great way of getting to know fellow members.  
JOHN CRAWFORD



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#### COMING UP

April 21: BIGGA Annual General Meeting, Royal York Hotel, York

April 28: Westurf Trade Exhibition, Long Ashton, Bristol

May 25-30: Amateur Championship, Royal Portrush, Northern Ireland

June 9-10: Landscape Industries '93, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

July 5-8: Royal Show, NAC, Stoneleigh park, Warwickshire

July 15-18: The 122nd Open Championship, Royal St Georges, Sandwich, Kent

July 18-24: International Turfgrass Research Conference, Palm Beach, Florida, USA

August 2-4: BIGGA National Golf Tournament, Dunbar Golf Club, Scotland

August 18-19: The Walker Cup, Interlachen, Minneapolis, USA

September 7-9: IoG Show, Peterborough, Northants

September 24-26: Ryder Cup, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire

October 11-12: Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Aldwark Manor, York

October 12-13: Kubota Challenge, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire

December 6-7: ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Aldwark Manor, York