

Flying Divots

STRI get £50,000 to worm out the woes

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club have announced a further research grant of £50,000 to the STRI, thus remaining the biggest contributor to STRI projects. Currently these include formulation of an EC standard (CEN) for golf green construction and effective earthworm control under current EC legislation. This latter topic involves a detailed study into the biology and lifecycle of the earthworm and will hopefully result in an effective cure to the damaging and unsightly worm cast smear effects on golf courses, without resorting to harmful pesticides.

The STRI was originally established in 1929 under an initiative of the green committee of the R&A, over the past five years receiving a research grant from them amounting to £50,000 per annum.

The Institute continues to act as agronomy advisors to the Championship Committee of the R&A, advising on an annual basis those clubs which host The Open Championship and, more frequently, at the venue for the current year. In addition it advises clubs at all the qualifying courses hosting The Open, the Walker Cup and Amateur Championship.

It all began in a shed in Phoenix Arizona... and if fortunes might be made from advertising inside golf cups, proof that an innovative manufacturer can scoop the pot was revealed when Karsten Solheim, inventor and manufacturer of Ping golf clubs, was listed in the Forbes Four Hundred, an annual listing of America's 400 richest people – and they said his 'funny' putter wouldn't catch on! Karsten is said to be worth \$450 million.

Education and Development Fund gathers momentum

1993 has brought an influx of new members to the Education and Development Fund. On the company side, both Rigby Taylor and Hayters PLC have joined the Golden Key Circle whilst the list of individual members of both the Golden and Silver Key Circles grows steadily. Executive Director, Neil Thomas commented: "The fund is now a year old and it is pleasing that so many of our members in renewing their memberships for 1993 have chosen the Golden or Silver Key options. They are signifying their wish to support the education and training programmes which have done so much to further the cause of the greenkeeping profession in recent years and will be vital in advancing the status of greenkeepers in the future."

These are the members who to date have made the commitment for 1993:

Golden Key Circle: Kenneth Neale, Jim Fry (Associate), Ernie Bernberg (Associate), F A McKee (Company), Roy Kates.

Silver Key Circle: Ian Holoran, Norman Exley, Alan Holmes, Ian MacMillan, Stephen Redman, Robert Mowles, Paddy McCarron, Iain McLeod, Gordon Child, David Krause (Company), Andrew Smith, James Neilson, Elliott Small, D Greenwood (Company), Stephen Thomas, Peter Gee, Paul Drodge, David Wood, Robert Maibusch, Christopher Sharp, John Crawford, Ailsa Wade (Associate), Dennis Archer, Peter Lacey.

National Education Conference

26–28 March 1993
University of Keele, Staffordshire

For the fifth consecutive year, BIGGA's National Education conference in the spring will feature a programme of international speakers.

The speakers and their topics are:

Professor Noel Jackson, The University of Rhode Island, USA: **Cool Season Turf Diseases in the USA and the UK**

Ian Tomlinson, Course Manager, Lausanne Golf Club: **The Problems Associated with Maintaining a Golf Course at 2,800ft Altitude in Switzerland**

Anthony Mears, Course Manager, Dinsdale Spa Golf Club: **The Wild Side of Golf**

Dr Peter Hayes, Director, The Sports Turf Research Institute: **The Role of the Agronomist and Supporting Scientific Services**

Robert Brame, Agronomist, Mid-Atlantic Region, USGA Green Section: **Poa Annua: Wherever Did It Come From and How We Manage It**

Andy Cole, Advisory Agronomist, The Sports Turf Research Institute: **Greenkeeping Qualifications – Are We On The Right Lines?**

Patrick Murphy, BIGGA Northern Section Secretary and Course Manager at Shipley Golf Club: **The Lifting, Excavating and Re-Building of a Golf Green with a Drainage Carpet Layer and Having it Back in Play in 17 Days**

Arthur King/Edward McCabe, Green Committee Chairman and Course Manager respectively, Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club: **Course Management – Communication with Members**

Gary Grigg, Board of Directors, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America:

Current and Future Issues in Golf Course Management

Severin Schmitz, Course Manager, Golf Club Schloss Myllendonk: **How a Personal Computer Can Aid a Course Manager**

Ian Thompson, Course Manager, Wetherby Golf Club: **Trees and Tree-Planting for Golf Courses**

Anthony Davies, Course Manager, Prestbury Golf Club: **Right or Wrong – I Did It My Way**

George Brown, Course Manager, Turnberry Golf Course: **Being Open-Minded**

Professor Noel Jackson, The University of Rhode Island, USA: **Patch Diseases in Cool Season Turf Grasses**

Gordon Child, BIGGA South West Regional Administrator and Course Manager at Churston Golf Club: **Greenkeeping – Past, Present and Future**

Iain Ritchie, Course Manager, Portmarnock Golf Club: **Three Years at Portmarnock**

Robert Brame, Agronomist, Mid-Atlantic Region, USGA Green Section: **The Ten Pitfalls of American Turfgrass Management**

Copies of the Programme and Application Form are available from BIGGA HQ, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. Tel: 03473 581 Fax: 03473 8864.



NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Annual General Meeting

The BIGGA Annual General Meeting will be held on

**Wednesday
21 April 1993**

at 2.30pm in the Royal York Hotel, York (immediately adjacent to the Railway Station)

— **NEIL THOMAS**
Executive Director

Copies of the audited accounts will be available from Section Secretaries during the four weeks prior to the Meeting.

