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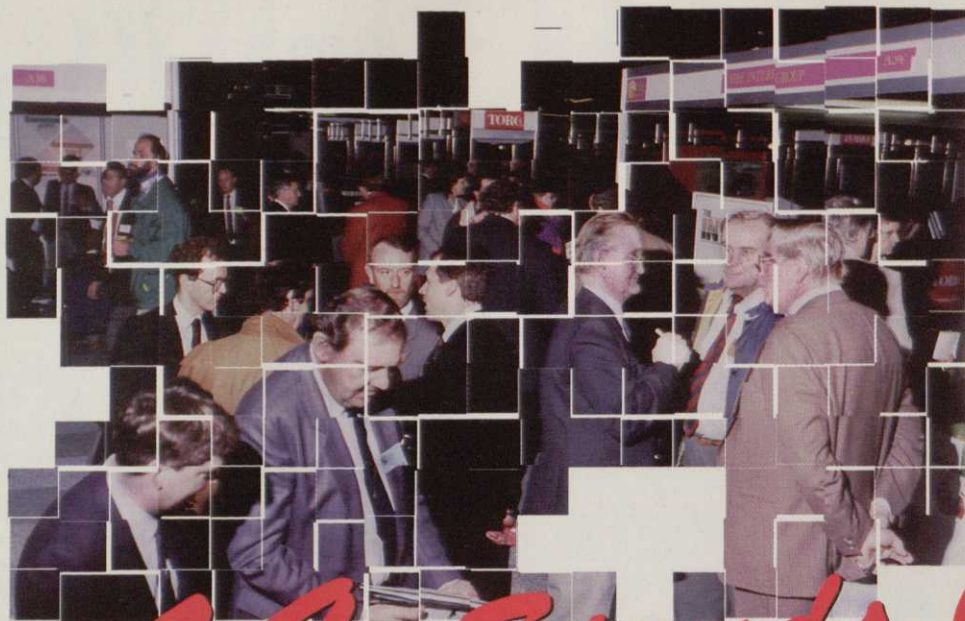
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# KUBOTA CHALLENGE

Greenkeepers scoop famous victory - Page 19





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# THE JIGSAW'S ALMOST COMPLETE

EARLIER THIS YEAR, flushed with the success of the best-ever BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, we said that the 1994 event would be the show "where all the pieces fit together". Today, with the clock fast ticking towards January, the big picture is almost complete.

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The 1994 event is already 33% bigger than the record-breaking 1993 show, and with just over two months to go, the halls in Harrogate are just about full. Based on the average stand size already booked and paid for, there's only enough room left for 14 more companies. It's a terrific achievement for a show now reckoned to be the premier event for the fine turf industries. What it means for those companies who still haven't decided whether to attend or not, the message is clear: book *now*, or you'll miss it.

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**NOVEMBER 1993**



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Golf Greenkeepers Association

# GREENKEEPER

International

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### Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

Launched by Viscount Whitelaw at BTME 1992, the Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 0347 838581.

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on 0347 838581.

# Faces and places

■ BIGGA wishes to advise readers that after three years as editor of "Greenkeeper International" magazine, David White has informed the Association of his decision to resign as editor following publication of the forthcoming December issue.

Commented Executive Director, Neil Thomas, "David White has made a valued contribution to the successful establishment of 'Greenkeeper International' over the last three years with the quality of his writing and editing. We thank him for his services and wish him well for the future."



Commenting on BIGGA's plans to replace David White as editor, Neil Thomas confirmed that the wheels are already in motion to appoint a new editor and an announcement will be made as soon as possible. In the interim period the Association's design and production editor, Tim Moat, pictured left, who is a senior journalist and has edited magazines in the past, will assume responsibilities as acting editor.



■ Allen Power Equipment Ltd have announced the appointment of Ken Welch, pictured left, as their south west area manager, covering an area from Birmingham in the north and extending to West Sussex westwards, including Devon and Cornwall.

■ The sixth National Turfgrass Council



Award for an outstanding contribution to the turfgrass industry has been made by NTC chairman, Jon Bauer, to Dr Tom Kavanagh. Tom spent 25 years at the Kinsealy Research Centre near Dublin, as Head of the Plant Pathology Department in the

Horticultural Division and then, as his interest in turfgrass diseases and research developed, he established a new Turfgrass Unit at Kinsealy. Since his early retirement in 1988 he has continued as an independent turfgrass consultant, adviser and lecturer. Tom is pictured above receiving his award from Jon Bauer, left.

■ BIGGA is proud to herald a new national golfing champion in Dominic Smith, assistant greenkeeper at Ruislip Golf Club in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Dominic broke the course record at Stockwood Park Golf Club, Luton, on his way to winning the National Association of Public Golf Courses championship in September, scoring a record-breaking 67 and adding a second round 75 to win the championship by two strokes from Birmingham's Steve Green, last year's winner.

■ British Seed Houses has announced the appointment of Bob Scott to its sales team. Bob will be responsible for amenity seed sales and technical advice in the South West, South Wales and the Midlands, working from Bicester.

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# Faces and places



■ Elmwood College Golf Team have won the Fife College's Golf Tournament for the second year in a row. The competition was held at Glenrothes.

As Elmwood expands its greenkeeping section with resources by way of three staff in the last six months, competition to play in the first team is getting tougher. This year's winning team are, from left, Dave Hulbert, lecturer, Duncan Moncur, lecturer, Carol Borthwick, head of section - greenkeeping, and John Robertson, director of administration.

Three of the greenkeeping section's lecturers recently joined BIGGA on an outing to Carnoustie Links with lecturers from other colleges in Scotland also in attendance. This highly successful day will, it is hoped, become an annual event.



■ After just two years in the marketing director's seat, Michel Mulder, the hugely likeable Dutchman who is the powerhouse behind Barenbrug UK Ltd, has been rewarded by being given ultimate control, this time as the company's new managing director. Michel has been with Barenbrug for over ten years in Holland and the UK, receiving rapid promotion through sales and marketing positions in both agricultural and amenity grass markets. Dr David Thompson will continue as sales director with special responsibility for the agricultural sector. Michel is pictured above left, with David.



■ Professor Hank Wilkinson, an engaging fellow whose face is already becoming familiar in Britain, has been appointed consultant turf-grass pathologist to Rolawn Ltd of York. Having met Hank, editor White can vouch he is no 'dry' academic, rather an engaging and highly effective speaker who brings his subject to life. Nevertheless, eyebrows were raised at the appointment of an American. Quizzing Rolawn's Terry Ryan, he confirmed that Hank's appointment will give Rolawn an international perspective, whilst avoiding any suggestion of being seen in the clutches of one or other opposing consultant agronomy camp. In addition, Terry explained that Hank's home locale, the US mid-west, enjoys a climate not dissimilar to that of Britain.

■ "Weed Control after Atrazine", is the title of an autumn workshop being staged by Rhone-Poulenc from November onwards throughout the country.

Each workshop will cover three topics: Product selection, how the forthcoming label changes should be interpreted; Cooper Pegler will outline and demonstrate the latest in application technology; and finally ADAS, under a discus-

sion format, will outline the options that are available in contract specification and monitoring their implementation. Call Christine Mitchell on 0277 301118 for dates and venues.



■ David Herbert, with over 20 years experience in the design and supply of irrigation systems, has formed an irrigation consultancy service. He told Greenkeeper International that at one end of the scale he might simply look over a client's shoulder to offer guidance in selecting the most suitable tender. Alternatively he can provide full specification, liaison with authorities, project supervision and management, plus many other services.

"It can be very confusing and difficult to make a choice with so many suppliers offering different solutions," he said. "The BTLIA has helped to provide improved standards, particularly in the hydraulic design of systems, but one must keep an eye on the life expectancy of the materials being used and the standard of installation to be confident of a sound investment." Tel: 0460 72574.



■ It was good to see Jim Fry, president of the South Coast section, in the news recently, rubbing shoulders with none other than Hampshire and England cricketer, David Gower. Jim is the owner of Fry's Accident Repairs, one of Hampshire's largest independent vehicle repair centres, now proudly flying the cherished British Standards kite mark, signifying receipt of the BS 5750 certificate of accreditation.

We know greenkeepers are the safest of all road users, but should any of you guys down 'ampshire way have need of a dedicated crash repair service, no doubt Jim Fry will be happy to oblige - and you can natter away about Fusarium patch while the dents are being miraculously healed!

■ Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd has been high in the news, first by appointing Moray Tractors of Elgin and George Henderson of Edinburgh to join forces with Hamilton Bros of Glasgow to make a formidable trio of distributors covering the whole of Scotland. All three have worked together for years selling Kubota compact tractors, so Charterhouse tractor-mounted products will ideally complement them.



Geoffrey Burgess, left, is a new appointment to the Charterhouse board of directors, whilst David Jenkins, below, the man responsible for pioneering the establishment of Jacobsen, Ryan and Bunton products in the UK, and since 1982 the managing director of Charterhouse, has been elected president of the Agricultural Engineers Association, an industry with sales of over £2000 million a year and a justifiably proud export record.



■ Sparsholt College, Hampshire, having launched a three year National Diploma course in Golf Course and Sport-ground Management in 1990, have announced their award-winning students as David Mathie (Best Practical Student and winner of the BIGGA Southern Region Shield), and Jason Hampton (Top Student and winner of the Rufford Cup). David, aged 30, has secured a position as course manager at Swanmore in Hampshire, whilst 23 year old Jason, having gained work experience at Woodbury Park G&CC is currently 'in the market' for a greenkeeping position.



■ The life of a promising young greenkeeper came to an untimely end in October, when 25 year old Alan Morgan, assistant greenkeeper at Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society, Edinburgh, died suddenly of a reported heart attack. An Oatfield College graduate, Alan won the 'Most Improved Student' award of 1990, the 'Best Third Year Practical Student in Greenkeeping' 1991, and was runner-up in the prestigious TORO-PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year award for 1991. Our condolences are extended to his family and friends at this sad time.

■ A new nine hole extension to the existing course at Kilmarnock Barassie GC in Troon will suit members to a 'tee' when it becomes ready for play early in 1994. Work was recently completed, built on derelict land bordering Gables seashore and acquired through funding by Enterprise Ayrshire, the R & A, and club members. The new layout now offers the option of 27 holes for play. Committee members are currently considering the options available for the extension, however, it is expected that the course will maintain an 18 hole layout allowing nine holes to 'rest' for maintenance throughout the year.

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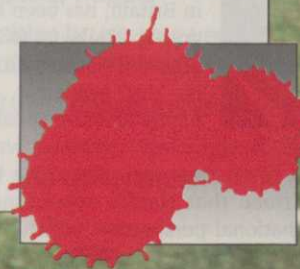
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# BIGGA just keeps on getting bigger

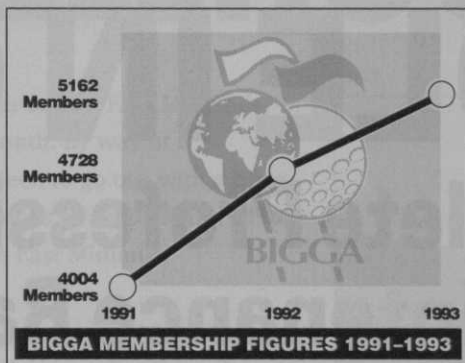
More and more greenkeepers are joining BIGGA – and the trend is being actively encouraged with the launch of the Association's biggest ever membership drive.

BIGGA membership grew by 18% during 1992 and increased by a further 9% in 1993, to stand at a record 5162 members.

"BIGGA just keeps on getting bigger," said the Association's sales and marketing manager, Bill Lynch. "Keep watching our development during 1994 because with the introduction of our biggest membership promotion to date, we'll be even BIGGA when '94 membership closes!"

Despite a growth of some 434 members in 1993, executive director Neil Thomas says there is no room for complacency: "I am delighted at our continued growth, however each year a substantial number of greenkeepers leave the industry and hence the Association. Happily each year this fall out of members is more than compensated for by our ability to enrol new members. Yet there remain many more greenkeepers to be attracted to the benefits of BIGGA and an ongoing membership drive is essential."

Golf clubs currently with no BIGGA mem-



bers in their greenkeeping staff are to be specifically targeted.

Plans for the 1994 membership drive are now in place and include the introduction of a "Refer two members" scheme. A section of each new membership application form will allow for entry of the name of a current member who is the source of referral to the Association. For every two new member referrals who subsequently become members, the nominating member will receive an entry into a prize draw. A prize of £600-worth of airline tickets

will be awarded when the draw takes place at BTME '95.

Commented Neil Thomas: "We hope that this scheme will provide an incentive for our current members to actively seek out potential new members. I suspect that almost every greenkeeper knows a fellow greenkeeper who does not belong to BIGGA and there can be no doubt that a concentrated effort by our members will result in a substantially enlarged membership."

Two recent cases highlight the merits of being a member of the Association:

- BIGGA's legal advisory service came to the aid of a member claiming unfair dismissal from his golf club. At an industrial tribunal, the Association's lawyers played their part in obtaining £15,000 compensation for the BIGGA member.
- The Association's insurers paid out £5,000 to the family of a BIGGA member, following his untimely death. A personal accident policy forms part of the membership package.

For details of the 1994 membership benefits, see Pages 23-29. A post-paid membership enquiry card is opposite Page 2.

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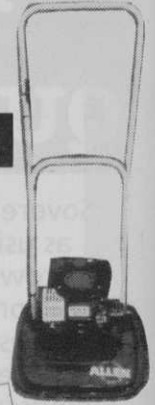
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# TOURNAMENT TROUBLESHOOTER

Tony Howorth, section secretary and reporter for the East Midlands, retires from his BIGGA commitments this month. By way of a swan-song, which Tony describes as 'being seen to go out with a bang rather than a whimper,' he gives his impressions of a typical day of tournament golf with greenkeepers from the East Midlands

Earlier this year at the now annual gathering, section secretaries were each given a document prepared by Elliott Small, outlining how to properly run a golf tournament. What follows is probably an outstanding example of how *not* to!

One of the points Elliott makes is to have an early cut-off date for entries – preferably 14 days before the event. Our autumn tournament this year took place on 21st September. As of 14th September I had 14 entrants; the final number attending on the day was 53. Mind you, I have only myself to blame for this – for due to a word-processing error we nearly became the first section to hold its autumn tournament on 20th April! Suffice to say that the week before a competition can be fairly hectic, usually to the point where my wife threatens to leave me 'if that damned 'phone rings once more!'

So, to the big day. Being a believer in not doing today what can be put off until tomorrow, the day begins for me at 5.30 am when I write up the starting times and the list of those who have still to pay. This completed, it's into town for an early shopping trip. I would give more than a penny for the thoughts of the supermarket check-out girl, whose first customer of the day arrives with a basket full of booze and biscuits. 'They're raffle prizes', I tell her, and get a 'likely story' look in return.

Shopping completed, having also obtained petty cash, photocopies and raffle tickets and spent 20 minutes polishing the tournament trophy, I'm ready to depart for Ruddington Grange. This is a critical time, trying to ensure that you have everything you might need with you. It's surprising what members will arrive without – at the East v West Midlands match last year I spent half the day holding my trousers up, whilst *my* belt ensured that Jamie Bedford didn't lose *his* trousers on the first tee. I try to arrive on site a couple of hours before the first tee-time, but I'm seldom the first, usually being beaten by trade members in early attendance for the expense-account bacon sandwich.

As I pull into the drive, the course looks a Belfry-esque picture – I often think that efforts made for Captain's Day pale into insignificance compared with what's done for visiting greenkeepers. Having made a 'getting to know you' tour of the relevant club personnel, run up the BIGGA flag and collected the score-cards, I can

then sit back and let it all happen – for about two minutes!

Our section has been blessed with many new members over the past two years, and it is always pleasing to see new faces at our tournaments. It still makes me cringe a bit, though, to have to walk up to someone and ask 'good morning, who are you?' – especially when the guy turns out to be a member of some 15 years standing who I've not met before.

Everything proceeds smoothly. First tee-time is 12.30, and the official starters arrive promptly at 12.28 (Mark and Walt, you did a grand job really). One of the highlights of my day is watching the looks of trepidation on the faces of the occasional golfers at the first tee, willing their first drive to be a good one. I note with satisfaction that the out-of-bounds on the first hole is on the left – leaving no need to send out spotters for Baz Gostinshie's terrible slice. I am also rewarded by seeing the shortest drive of the day – a classic pitching-wood shot which lands a yard in front of the tee.

With all the players away, everything is calm until disaster strikes Maurice Emery on the tenth – he leaves his pipe on the tee and has two card-ruining holes before I return it to him on the twelfth. Wives go shopping or read books, while I devote my attention to the prize tables. Thanks to the generosity of the trade, I swear we end up with more bottles to give away than there are behind the bar.

As the protagonists return, expressions tell it all – from the plainly disgusted to the quietly confident. As the results become clear it's time to check the prizes again, to ensure that cordless shavers are not presented to gentlemen with beards, and large shirts are not given to small members. This having been attended to, speeches written and raffle tickets sold, it's on to the meal.

Section meals tend to be lively affairs, due largely to the activities of Dave Leatherland, who manages to produce an array of props – from whistles to rubber gloves – which invari-



They're off, in an autumn golf tournament which almost took place in April

ably leave those in his near vicinity helpless with laughter. With the section's good name in mind however, and having seen previous performances, I have to insist to the waitresses that under no circumstances is Dave to be given an orange!

As it transpires, it is Trevor Bennett, our sponsor for the day, who provides the entertainment with a 'hot and bothered' routine which delays the main course for at least ten minutes. With the meal completed the vice-chairman speaks, the prizes are presented, and the day is concluded with the drawing of the raffle. It has become a tradition that this is done by Gordon Mitchell, whose Scottish brogue and ready wit make the raffle an event in itself, especially if the dreaded number 'tue tue tue' happens to be drawn.

Of those present, I would especially like to welcome new member Ian Meakin to our section, and to congratulate Anthony Foulds on being amongst the prizes on his first attempt. Further, it would be remiss of me not to thank Dave Johnson and all the staff at Ruddington for a most enjoyable day.

TOURNAMENT ROLL OF HONOUR. *Class One* (0-9) 1st R. Peck. 2nd G. Mitchell. 3rd R. Barker. *Class Two* (10-18) 1st P. Billings. 2nd A. Foulds. 3rd J. Dickinson. *Class Three* (19-28) 1st G. Arnold. 2nd I. Dunmore. 3rd M. Bindley. Trade prize – Mike Franklin. Low gross – Richard Barker. Best nett and overall winner – Graham Arnold.



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**John Plummer**  
Course Manager  
Grange Golf Club  
Dublin

Greenkeepers in vulnerable locations will be aware of the problems that security, or lack of it, can bring. Housing the sophisticated and expensive machinery necessary to maintain today's golf courses should be a concern to us all. Greg Preston explains how system-built structures can provide greenkeepers with a secure store and workshop, with many added functional advantages.

**H**istorically the greenkeeper's shed has been purposely constructed far away from the clubhouse and, ironically, its isolated location is now increasingly a contributory cause of theft and vandalism. As golf clubs are faced with the escalating costs of machine, equipment and materials replacement; building damage and higher insurance premiums, what can be done to minimise these disruptive effects?

Clearly there can be no absolute guarantee of totally eliminating the problem but careful consideration at building design stage can legislate against the 'remoteness factor' to the satisfaction of members and greenkeepers and without offending local authorities. The greenkeeping staff must be able to service all parts of the course effectively from a building that is accessible, functional and enhances working conditions.

Such is the flexibility of today's system building, that the greenkeeper can actually benefit considerably from improved space utilisation, leading to even greater efficiency and control. Whether a new building is under review, or an existing structure scheduled for upgrading or replacement, it is sensible to invite the system-building manufacturer to visit the site to survey the existing facilities, establish the club's short and long term aspirations and assess the proposed site.

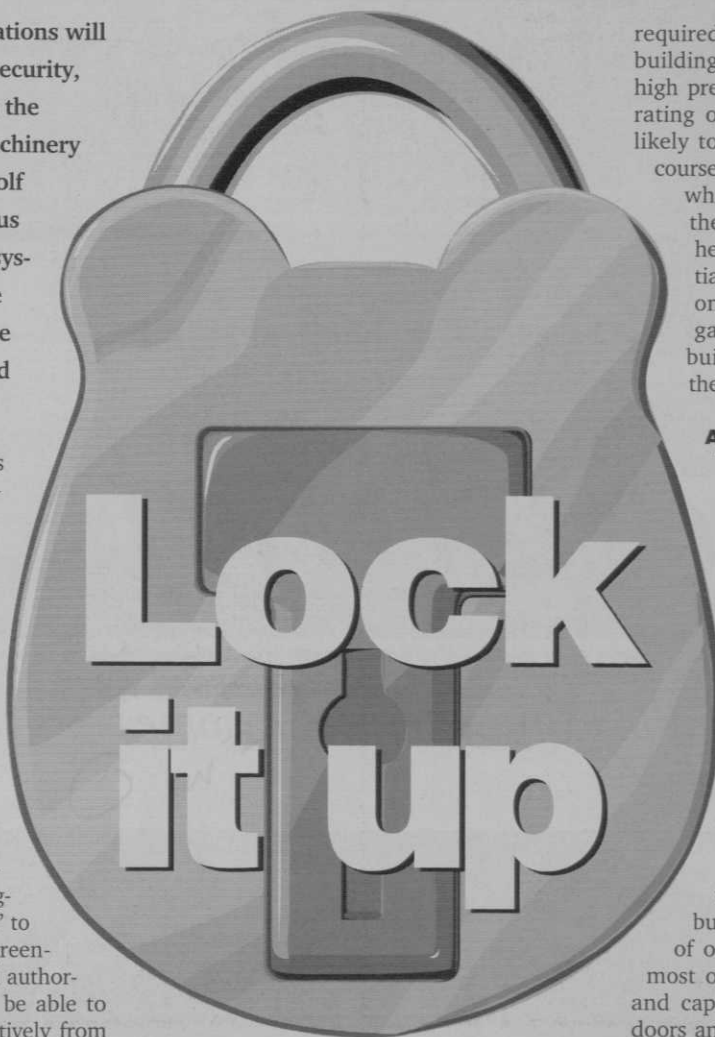
The initial survey and proposal should focus on such aspects as:

- access to meet the needs of vehicles and storage
- provisions for external storage of fuel, top dressing and fertilisers
- provisions for machinery washdown
- organisation of internal space to achieve maximum security, safety and operational efficiency
- passive and active security
- the building programme and timescale
- the building structure and any customised requirements.

Personnel access doors are available in a variety of materials and finishes, including:

1. Timber
2. Lightweight steel
3. Simple plate steel
4. Sophisticated security doors

The first two would require supplementary alarms to be fitted whereas three and four, although more expensive, are likely to obviate the need for additional security measures. The



skill is in balancing aesthetics and function with total construction costs. For vehicle entry, the roller shutter door, for example, provides excellent accessibility and is the best and simplest door for internal locking, without any visible means of entry. It has a proven track record of reliability and, being big, heavy and noisy to operate, will put off the average intruder. Windows should be as small as possible; high level; lockable; double-glazed – preferably with laminated glass and without visible hinges or fixings.

In particularly high-risk areas, an external, protective steel grille should be incorporated which also acts as a visible deterrent. Not all segregated areas actually require lighting from windows and this fact should be taken into account at design stage.

#### **A cleaner, quicker process**

A predictable building programme is assured because, using dry construction, the project will not be delayed through poor weather conditions. Compared with traditional wet construction there are no unsightly piles of bricks, sand and cement. There is minimum disruption and inconvenience to members during the construction period and the completed structure will blend harmoniously with its environment – an important consideration for members and the local authority planning department.

#### **Strong, solid and secure**

A major deterrent in the battle against theft and vandalism prevention is a structure that looks solid and secure. This will of itself cause the potential intruder to think about the effort

required and the risks of breaking into the building. A steel framework clad in tough, high precast concrete wall units and incorporating other visible security features is very likely to dissuade the would-be offender. Of course it is not simply the professional thief who is responsible for the upsurge in theft and damage. Unfortunately in heavy residential areas, there are potential problems with children who venture onto courses for either opportunistic gain or sheer devilment. The isolated building is perceived as fair game to them.

#### **Active and passive security**

The greenkeepers building can be protected with active security measures which embrace intruder lights and an audible alarm system linked with either the clubhouse or security company. However, it is sadly the case that the remoteness of the building can mean the damage is done before anyone can respond. This further reinforces the importance of the building having passive security from the first day it is handed over.

The more progressive system build manufacturers will accommodate all the appropriate security features in their design solution and offer the building owner and operator a number of other benefits. The best advice is the most obvious. Start with a secure building and capitalism on this position with secure doors and windows. By assessing key areas of the building, design decisions can be taken at the outset which optimise door and window type and position. Being the daily working and entry point of the building and offering a 'soft target', every effort should be made to keep doors to the minimum.

Requiring virtually zero maintenance, the more high performance system building will be clean, functional with the capability to offer the greenkeeping staff office, toilet, shower and mess-room facilities. Additionally the building fabric should of itself reduce the risk of fire and control the spread of flame but normal fire precautions should also be taken in the event of a fire starting inside or outside the building.

One further word of advice. Having made the commitment to a secure building, it is important to plan and organise internal and external space for that building. COSHH and The Health and Safety Executive ask that separate facilities be provided for:

- Hazardous storage
- Equipment/Workshop
- People

At the initial survey stage, therefore, time should be spent discussing the orderly and regulated division of all internal space to cover among other items fertiliser and chemical storage; plant and vehicle garaging; workshop facilities; parts stores; oil storage; flags and other course furniture. Thus it may be seen that system building can be a quick, cost effective, practical and secure solution to the greenkeepers storage and workshop needs. Close inspection of its many aesthetic and functional benefits may serve to underline just why.

■ The author, Greg Preston, is a system-building expert with Enterprise Buildings Limited.

# If it's Wednesday, this must be Belgium...

*DAVID WHITE travels Europe with Ransomes*

**W**e're cruising the Autobahn, Germany's main artery, my life in Andrew's hands, speedo flickering 90. Low-flying Merc's, Beamer's and Porsches zoom past so swiftly we might almost be standing still, the impression given that 90 is snail-pace slow. It's not unlike the M25 on Friday afternoon, but speeded up like an old Mack Sennett cops and robbers movie! Returning from a five day, four country invasion, a fact-finding jaunt for me and just another routine week of selling for Andrew Sunaway, who is the international sales manager for Ransomes, we are trying to make the Dutch ferry before nightfall – and he is quizzing me.

'How did your interviews go', he asks, 'what line will you take with your story on Belgium, how will you describe your impressions of Denmark, will you include that guy we had dinner with last night in your story, wasn't he fantastic?'. Come off it, Andrew, don't ask me such things, I can rarely visualise a story until I've agonised over it, won't recognise the end until I get there.

Well okay, let's first look at Belgium, which, if my memory serves me, was on Wednesday? It's a country that holds good memories for me, having lived and raced there in the '60s. I'd forgotten how nifty Belgium could be, found myself floating in a reverie – it was always a good place to live and the natives are still as charming as ever.

Belgium, as I recall, is famous for Hercule Poirot, Django Reinhardt, Brussels lace, world-class racing cyclists, addictive chocolates and mind-destroying beer. However, I remember no nationalist banner-waving or claims to fame where golf was concerned. Right, it's established I know nothing of golf in Belgium, but it doesn't matter, Danny Verbeke will put me wise.

Danny Verbeke, urbane, perfect exponent of



**Krist Calmeyn, head greenkeeper at Palingbeek: position invites respect and he gets it**

the English tongue and – a bonus – the keenest of golfers, is one of three brothers. Their business, A Verbeke & Zonen N.V., is of the select few that have earned the Belgian Royal Warrant, seen throughout the country as a commitment to service above the norm. The Verbeke group, a diverse company employing about 100, is divided into three sectors, consumer; playground equipment and professional, with the professional side masterminded by Danny. The company was founded some 89 years ago by grandfather Verbeke, the old man forging the Belgian link with Ransomes as long ago as World War One, thus making their combined business connection the longest established in all of Europe. They distribute Ransomes professional machinery throughout the whole of Belgium, Luxembourg and parts of northern France. Outside of North America, they are Ransomes' largest distributors.

The Verbeke company, I learned, is in a unique position, for they have over 200 dealers – it seems as though every village in Belgium offers something from their huge product range. Whether golf orientated or not, these dealers are the eyes and ears of the par-

ent company: nothing escapes them and every new business opportunity is followed up with swift efficiency. In addition Verbeke have their own retail stores, thus enjoying a network that is hard to fault. With offices in northern France and Belgium serving the professional division, and with a sales force of six to cover an area not dissimilar to Wales, they can reach every client (and get back) in the same day – three hours at most to the farthest point.

Danny explained there are just 56 golf courses in Belgium and Verbeke's are in

contact with every one, plus all five located in Luxembourg and 25 more in northern France. The company lay claim to a giant share of the total Belgian golf market – between 66% and 75% – and without elaborating, I fancy the company's trading rule, that every end user of capital equipment purchased must be given a thorough course of instruction, has a lot to do with it. Be they operator or mechanic, they come automatically to be trained by Verbeke's own professional service manager – which gives users a closer feeling for the machinery and instils into them an affection for their charges. It is altogether a praiseworthy philosophy, and it works! Twelve such courses are held each winter, all hugely popular with the greenkeeping fraternity.

Professionalism, however, is not confined to the sale and servicing of machinery alone, as I discovered when Danny took me to one of Belgium's newest golf courses, the G&CC de Palingbeek, open just one year. At this club, as indeed at most others, Danny Verbeke is simply a good friend. As like as not when he visits, the fat cats will gather for luncheon: president, green chairman, captain, head greenkeeper and D J Verbeke. A little wine, a little food –



War graves at Palingbeek: final resting place for several hundred British soldiers. Inset: a German World War I pillbox, now a feature of the golf course



between them the world can so easily be set to rights.

The Belgians have yet to adopt the pomposity of golf, prevalent elsewhere and especially so in nearby France, as a snob game. Golf in Belgium is still a 'young game' (only ten clubs were instituted between 1888 and 1939) and the greater proportion (39 clubs) were built in the '80s and '90s, Belgians simply get on with the job of being golfers, without the lunacy of 'crass class'. As an example, Krist Calmeyn, Palingbeek's head greenkeeper, is fully integrated, with all relevant decisions on purchasing or policy being made through his guiding the committee, rather than by his being guiding by them. Democratically, any questions the green chairman cares to pose are provided in writing before any meeting, likewise if Krist has questions, they also are put in writing before such a meeting takes place. Krist is as much at home inside the clubhouse as the president, he invites respect, and gets it. Incidentally, Palingbeek's delightful president, Carl Vanbiervliet, is a non-golfer, elected (though he has numerous other qualities), specifically for this reason – to ensure that golfing techno-babble forms no part of his domain.

The G&CC de Palingbeek, near Ypres, is an evocative place reeking of history, located upon a Great War battlefield that echoed once to the sound of exploding shells, of men dying and of too much blood spilled by too many unsung heroes. Excavated, the course revealed remnants of cannon and mortar (some still primed) and there are still reminders of the futility of war for all to see, here an old German pill box that is now a course hazard, there an overgrown track cut deep by gun carriage wheels. It is peaceful now, though lest any should forget, a military cemetery lies hard by the ninth green, a Union Jack flying to remind of the countless thousands who perished...

What of Palingbeek as a golf course, a test of mettle? Well, its designer, 72 years old Harold Baker, has used the land imaginatively without shifting huge quantities of earth, making it no



### Danny Verbeke

*'...it seems as though every village in Belgium offers something from their huge product range'*

push-over. It looks natural and belies its youth. Though I personally don't much care for water features, the natural lakes (not excavated) at holes 3, 10, 16 and 18 serve to enhance rather than inhibit – and of course they're valuable sources of irrigation water. The fairways flow nicely and the greens still show a goodly percentage of the Pennlinks sown some two years back. Krist is fortunate in having a stable of fine modern equipment – unsurprisingly, predominantly Ransomes – and he has an empathy for the machinery which suggests Verbeke's have worked their magic.

It's interesting to note that many of Belgium's new courses have been built on traditional lines, natural enough – almost typically British – yet with a high predominance of American method: countless pure sand greens sown with Penncross or Pennlinks. Time will tell, but I doubt that too much Penncross will survive more than a few years – and what of the high cost of maintaining such strains?

Problems? Krist indicates there are not too many yet, though rabbits are a real pest and the surrounding woodlands (a nature conserve) are just too huge to encircle with wire netting – they shoot and trap and numbers are being contained. For agronomic advice he calls the BASF advisory service – which is indepen-

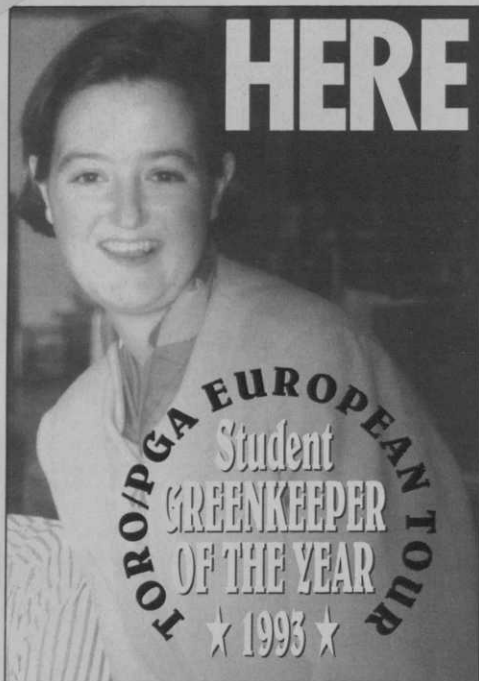
dent of the parent company – though we both chuckle when I ask him which fertilisers he uses. 'Can't you guess', he replies.

The Belgian Greenkeepers Association is small but flourishing, Krist attends most meetings and they entertain speakers from Belgium, France, Holland and, occasionally, Britain. Belgian greenkeepers are, it seems, teaching each other and are at their best when bouncing ideas back and forth: problem shared equals problem halved – or even solved.

Is it so different from Britain? Well the democracy factor is refreshing and is something from which we all might learn. The original 14 industrialists who conceived the idea for a country club at Ypres – the nearest before was 40 kilometres away – have certainly got the act rolling along prettily. Such is Palingbeek's attraction that the Belgian PGA plan soon to establish Palingbeek as their headquarters. The golf offered is of a high standard whilst the club's culinary standards are of such quality that 'Golf & Gastronomie' mini-breaks are hugely popular. If all else failed (and it is unlikely so to do), glorious food will always get my vote.

### Machinery in the Palingbeek stable

- 1- Cushman Turf Truckster
- 1- Top dresser
- 1- Quick aerator
- 1- Ransomes Super Certes
- 1- Ransomes 1800 D
- 1- Ransomes 213 D
- 1- Ransomes GT Greens Classic
- 1- Ransomes GT Champion
- 1- Super Rake
- 1- Mataway + overseeder
- 1- J R Sodcutter
- 1- Greensaire GA 30
- 1- MF tractor
- 1- Kubota tractor
- 1- Vertidrain



# HERE COMES THE BRIDIE!

Bridie Redican came out tops in an exciting final, as David White reports

elling regional pre-selection panel consisting of Debbie Savage, BIGGA's education officer, Huw Parry, education chairman, and a senior official from Lely (UK) Limited. Thus to have reached even the final eight this year was, I suspect, as exacting as it had been in previous years to make the final three!

And why Bridie Redican? From the moment I set eyes on the CV of this charming young lady greenkeeper, I knew she would be my 'banker', as near a 'cert' as anyone could be. Lest readers accuse me of showing favouritism, let me assure them that I had no say in the choosing process, keeping well away 'till the deed was signed and sealed.

Bridie Redican, 25, is as Irish as a Leprechaun, with a career pedigree that is tailor-made for such an occasion. If you doubt me, turn back to the wee profile which appeared in October. From a career which began at Horticultural College in County Louth, on completion of her studies Bridie took off for America, immediately falling for the 'golf game' and landing a job as a pro-shop assistant. To recognise so soon the direction in which she wanted

to go was in itself something of a miracle, and to land a job upon her return to Ireland at a Robert Trent Jones course under development, albeit as an assistant gardener rather than greenkeeper, was another feather in her cap.

Sadly the project came to a grinding halt, but not to be outdone, Bridie took off again, on this occasion to Australia, landing a job at Lake Karryup Country Club, and as a greenkeeper proper to boot! Neil Adams, the head greenkeeper there, secured her a second job, at Burswood in Perth, and from there, having gained still more valuable experience, she returned again to the Emerald Isle.

Did I mention the luck of the Irish? Well for a while it deserted our heroine, but after six months of searching Bridie landed a plum job, at the Jack Nicklaus designed Mount Juliet no less, first as an equipment operator, now an assistant greenkeeper, working under the wonderful guidance of Aidan O'Hara, himself something of a wizard with turfgrass.

Her career continues apace, for this year she's been part of the team preparing Mount Juliet for the Carrolls Irish Open, even though

**C**all it the luck of the Irish, a case of kissing the Blarney Stone if you like, but to this seasoned observer at least, there was never any doubt that Bridie Redican would come out on top in the latest – and most exciting by a mile – Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year award ceremonies.

Why exciting? Well, for the first time ever the eight (in previous years 13) finalists had been selected (from an original field of 31) not only by their respective college lecturers, but also by subjecting themselves further to a gru-

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Pictured left: Bridie with Toro Irrigation's Mark Gunter, left and Lely's Graham Dale; pictured right, the runners-up: Jonathon Oldknow and, far right, Richard Andrews



charm at the University of Massachusetts, where she'll be spending six weeks as Toro's honoured guest.

The Toro/PGA European Tour runners-up, mere males, nonetheless are worthy winners beyond doubt. Richard Andrews and Jonathon Oldknow, both 26, are living proof that it is possible to make a successful career change. Richard, for example, started in hotel management,

moved into retail sales, and though he told me he didn't wake up one morning announcing 'I want to be a golf course manager,' he did on many occasions say to himself, 'I don't want to be a retailer'. He is a grand golfer and once his decision, a radical one, had been made, he set about making it work, attending Oaklands College, gaining valuable work experience at Highgate GC, while once his first course of study was complete, also landing a job at Highgate GC under Derek Mason. Clearly, they knew a good man when they saw him!

For Jonathon also it was a case of knowing what he didn't want to do, less of knowing that greenkeeping would be the ultimate answer. He's been fortunate, having gained invaluable knowledge with Warwick Parks and Leisure of the many turfgrass situations akin to golf, yet essentially different, like bowling, tennis and cricket. Now he's an assistant greenkeeper at Coventry Hearsall, three years down the road to his next goal, that of managing a course of his own. Both Richard and Jonathon were at pains to impress upon me that they are in no hurry – both believing that there is nothing to substitute hard experience and time served, though both are sure that winning the award, two weeks with the PGA European Tour, will do their careers no harm at all. Like Bridie, they were fulsome in praise for their respective tutors.

Every finalist has it within him or her to be a star of tomorrow, with their colleges – and sponsors Toro Irrigation Limited, Lely (UK) Limited and the PGA European Tour – as mentors for a bountiful future. I take my hat off to them all.

the course itself is a mere stripling at just two years old, and she's been busying herself with intensive turfgrass studies at the Botanic Garden College, Dublin, taking Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Of the future, there can be no doubt that this eminently talented young greenkeeper will become a role model for others of the fair sex who fancy their chances in a hitherto male-dominated profession – and you may be sure that she will make it to the very top of her profession, whilst wowing them all with her own brand of Irish



GREENS TURF, GLENEAGLES MONARCH'S GOLF COURSE. "THE FINEST TURF IN SCOTLAND." (Pic. courtesy Gleneagles Golf Developments)



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# The role of the

# GTC



GTC Education Unit staff, based at Aldwark Manor near York, are David Golding, Education Director and Sue Gudgeon, Administrative Officer

■ An update on the Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) Education Unit, in which David Golding, the unit's appointed education director, answers questions posed by David White.

*David, many readers have asked that you explain the differences between the 'old' GTC and those of the new GTC Education Unit. To begin, how did the new unit 'come about' and who now makes the decisions?*

DG: It is essentially about funding, and of a desire to see those funds directed with arrow-like accuracy toward the final goal. The recent development by the GTC to fund an education unit for golf greenkeeping proved finally that, from a period of 'marking time' due to lack of funds, a level of cash has at last been allocated which enables it to play a premier role in establishing national competence standards for the greenkeeping profession. Furthermore, and this is most important, the new unit represents both sides; the golf club and the greenkeeper.

*And what of the committee, which in the past was accused of being unwieldy?*

DG: A much more streamlined committee is now in force made up of representatives from the Royal & Ancient, the four Home Golf Unions and a nominated BIGGA member, who represents greenkeepers from the UK and Ireland.

*Tell me about your own appointment.*

DG: After working as the BIGGA education officer for four years the position with the GTC seemed a natural enough progression, akin to much of that which I had strived to achieve with BIGGA. Nevertheless, I was flattered by the offer and delighted to become the education director of the new unit. As you know, I was a working golf course manager myself, I understand the needs, aspirations and indeed fears of those in greenkeeping and I also know the thinking, their thinking, regarding 'education'. I identify with greenkeepers whole-heartedly.

*What do you see as the major benefit, the raison d'être for the new unit?*

DG: The major benefit is that it truly represents the greenkeeping profession, with no side issues whatsoever. This is proving especially invaluable with the current changes in education. For example, when an industry such as ours can be represented at meetings wearing two hats, those of employer (the club) and employee (the greenkeeper), there is a much greater acceptance of our 'united' voice. In addition we are spreading the 'gospel' directly into clubs, working with clubs in devising individually tailored training programmes. It doesn't cost the club a bean and is, I believe, another major breakthrough.

*And what of NVQ's and SVQ's, how are things*

*mat which we believe will be accepted as the levels of skill required to acquire an NVQ at level two. In due time the manual will include supervisory and management sections, and these also must become the accepted criteria for levels three and four NVQ's and SVQ's.*

*So you've taken the first initiative, and the ball is in ILBAH's court, so to speak.*

DG: Not only has the GTC taken the responsibility to set standards for greenkeeping qualifications, but it has also insisted (to ILBAH) that it must be consulted on the choice of locations where standards are assessed, and by whom. We see a danger of the NVQ and SVQ at level two in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping Option) being awarded (or not, as the case may be), by assessors who have no knowledge or experience of fine turf. What is even worse, proper facilities are often lacking at these assessment centres and as a result the tests cannot be carried out in accordance with the set criteria.

*Does this situation suggest a less than happy state of affairs, a case perhaps of having to 'go it alone'?*

DG: I hope not, for with our reservations stated, the principle of vocational qualifications is something we support totally. Acknowledgement of skills, as opposed to examinations that give a pass or fail, must be welcomed by our profession. Furthermore, the offer by the GTC to set standards and to monitor them – by establishing a network of assessors and verifiers throughout the UK and Ireland – is something we believe is in line with the government's principles, that of an industry taking the lead in training and of acknowledging the skills of the workforce. Problems have arisen because the government has insisted on only a limited number of Lead Bodies being set up to represent all professions, leaving some specialist sections (such as greenkeeping), having to protect their own industry standards.

*Turning to another matter, there was always pretty close liaison between the old GTC and the colleges, and though a great many did sterling work, some were – to put it bluntly – quite ghastly, blundering along and appearing totally out of touch with the realities of greenkeeping. What changes are envisaged?*

DG: Another vitally important role of the GTC Unit is to monitor those training courses provided by a growing number of centres. One decision of the old GTC, one which became more and more acceptable by golf clubs and greenkeepers alike, was to send trainees to GTC 'approved' colleges. I know there are some excellent training establishments throughout the UK and Ireland, colleges where first rate courses are provided which complement the skills element of greenkeeping. The committee will continue a close liaison with them. In addition, we anticipate local colleges

*progressing on that front?*

DG: Never has there been a better example of an industry making a stand than with the introduction (into greenkeeping) of National Vocational Qualifications and Scottish Vocational Qualifications. Our profession has been 'attached' to the Industry Lead Body for Amenity Horticulture (ILBAH), a body which was convened some two years ago to set standards for all of those industries allied to horticulture.

*Apart from giving us yet another acronym (ILBAH) to remember, how has the 'attachment' helped?*

DG: It soon became apparent to us that greenkeeping was the minnow in ILBAH's ocean and that greenkeepers were in danger of having NVQ standards inflicted upon them by folk with scant knowledge or experience of the fine turf sector. Only after being invited into ILBAH did a voice from the greenkeeping world begin to be heard. Today the battle continues, specifically to see standards for our industry accepted by the Lead Body.

*How can this aim be achieved?*

DG: The GTC has moved swiftly in trying to protect future golf course maintenance standards by producing The GTC Training Manual, which has the craft level skills detailed in a for-



# The Last Word

Send your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firlie Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL

## 'Them' and 'Us' concern

Having been a greenkeeper for some 25 years, working my way up through the ranks to course manager, I feel I must respond to the situation occurring in Holland at this time.

I am a BIGGA member and have been since the onset of the Association. Recently I received an invitation to attend the first BIGGA meeting in Holland but I chose to decline, fearing a situation arising of 'them' (the Netherlands Greenkeepers Association), and 'us' (BIGGA).

I recall being a member of BGGGA, at the time holding office as chairman for the Sussex section, when other members of the Association and myself were involved in the organisation of EIGGA and experiencing the 'them' and 'us' situation against SIGGA and finally, after many meetings, the formation of BIGGA.

If BIGGA is to grow in Holland, surely the correct procedure must be to involve NGA members at initial meetings, explaining the advantages of BIGGA membership to them, not an 'ego trip' for an elite few who are BIGGA members already.

**Lionel Harris, Course Manager,  
Grevelinghout Golf Club, Holland**

*Frederick ten Hage, BIGGA representative for the Netherlands, responds:*

*I understand Mr Harris's concern about developments taking place within BIGGA at the moment, especially as the Association is trying to expand the international side of greenkeeping matters. I would assume that working on this particular subject will have everyone's approval. This must be done in good harmony and understanding, i.e. beneficial to those most concerned.*

*Mr Harris's opinion of a 'them' and 'us' situation is absolutely unfounded and not of this time. It would have been more appropriate had he accepted our most serious invitation to join the meeting. Unfortunately he felt the need to decline, though I am sure that had he attended he would have concluded differently.*

*For this same reason he would not, I think, have found the need to close by speaking of an 'ego trip' for an elite few. This suggests some profound prejudicial points of view. An attitude of this kind will not contribute to the building of a sound platform, one from which we might start and maintain good relations between both associations. This is one of BIGGA's main targets for the future.*

*It is a vital and most necessary action to upgrade the profession of greenkeeping throughout the world. Furthermore, and to finish this reaction, may I suggest a referral to the BIGGA Holland column in 'Around The Green' of this issue.*

*Executive director, Neil Thomas concludes, "The recent initiative of Frederick in calling a meeting of BIGGA members in Holland is to be welcomed. The meeting came about following discussions held during the European Forum at the BTME last January. I can assure Lionel that his points are well taken and BIGGA members in Holland will wish to work very closely with members of the Netherlands Greenkeepers Association. It is our wish to see our fellow Associations in Europe flourishing and growing and BIGGA*

*remains ready to offer any practical assistance in their development which may be requested and which it is able to give. It is unfortunate that Lionel did not feel able to attend this initial meeting as I feel sure he would have come away reassured over his points of concern. Frederick will be reporting on developments in Holland during the European Forum at the 1994 BTME and I would hope that as many members of the Netherlands Greenkeepers Association as possible will attend in order to cement the relationship of our Associations. I would also point out that we enjoy an excellent relationship with the Netherlands Golf Federation which has been instrumental in the setting up of the Netherlands Greenkeepers Association".*

## Beware 'man in a pub'

On a cold March morning one of the fleet of SISIS demonstration wagons, fully laden with new and demonstration machinery, was stolen from a secure parking location. Police were immediately alerted and facts were circulated via computer links throughout the country. Friends and relations were advised, dealers were acquainted, even competitors were given a smile or two when they were put in the picture. The insurers were given the news, to add to other disasters they have had to bear.

From April through to August, information was as scant as orders in the aforementioned competitors' books. The condition of golf courses from Amsterdam to 'Ammersmiff', from Manchester to Malaga was constantly reviewed, as improved putting surfaces might well have seen Interpol on full alert.

When a confirmed sighting was eventually made, however, it was much closer to home, South Lancashire in fact. The eagle eyes of a young rep. spotted a galaxy of the famous yellow machines at a new golf club, where such units had not been seen previously.

A call to head-office was swiftly passed to the SISIS regional manager. Nudge, nudge, wink, wink, speed limit observed (but only just) and every single unit was found, some still bearing the SISIS DEMO UNIT logos, not a solitary serial number obliterated. This is probably why the police, for once, believed the one about the man in the pub.

The moral, it seems, is to always say 'no' if someone in a pub offers you some SISIS machines. We've so many reps, friends, relations, in-laws, dealers, associates and contacts - why even our competitors are friendly! With so many ears to the ground thieves hardly stand a chance of avoiding discovery.

By the way, if anyone offers you a Leyland DAF painted in the famous yellow livery (though heaven only knows what colour it might be now), you could make a few people very happy by phoning SISIS, perhaps saving a little on your next insurance premium at the same time.

**Lynn Hilton, SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd., Macclesfield, Cheshire**

PS. Incidentally, after nearly six months using the range, the club in question found it couldn't bear to part with the Multislit, Contraseeder and Powasped - so it bought them!

becoming assessment centres for NVQ's or SVQ's. The greatest benefit to greenkeeping is that these centres will provide the training for candidates and also carry out the assessments.

In the future there will be colleges established as Regional Training and Assessment Centres: offering courses and/or assessments for craft, supervisory and management levels, together with many more 'local' centres approved for just craft level training and/or assessments.

All greenkeeper training, we believe, should involve the use of The GTC Training Manual, and that it should be used not only as an individual's evidence collector but also as a record of achievement towards an NVQ or SVQ.

By now you will have gathered that there are major changes taking place which we intend to monitor very closely. The GTC is keen to develop a partnership between those who provide training and those in the greenkeeping profession. This is already evident, with leading colleges using trained and skillful course managers (and, in some cases, their deputies) as part-time trainers and/or assessors. This is a major initiative which has our full support.

Assessor qualifications will need to be achieved by GTC approved industry representatives, and help and guidance will be given, especially as the committee has no wish to burden a mere handful of industry assessors when their priority obviously is in the workplace. On that point, if any BIGGA member needs further information on how to become an assessor, I hope that he or she will call me.

*Where does BIGGA fit in, what role will it now play?*

DG: The GTC will be looking to BIGGA for continuance of their excellent role as training providers. In addition, of course, we anticipate working together in close co-operation and consultation on such things as conferences, seminars and management courses. The GTC will continue also to work with other training providers, such as the STRI, and with the greenkeeping associations in Northern Ireland and Eire.

In summary, it is the role of the GTC to set the standards of greenkeeping qualifications, to monitor those standards, and to work closely with those who provide the training, thus ensuring that first class training is always available. I believe the relationship we enjoy with the R&A and the Home Unions, with BIGGA and other greenkeeping associations and with those interested bodies such as the PGA European Tour, will ensure that standards of greenkeeping will improve and that the quality of our courses will continue to be maintained by a highly skilled and motivated workforce.

● The GTC Unit is situated at the Aldwark Manor Golf Hotel, York. Tel: 0347 838640 Fax: 0347 838775.

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Success once again for the greenkeepers means the Kubota Challenge Trophy returns to Aldwark Manor for the eighth time in nine years. But as David White reports, the tournament had its sticky moments...

**T**he Kubota Challenge Trophy does not belong to the greenkeepers, certainly it is not the exclusive property of BIGGA as a God given right. No, it must be battled for year upon year. That stated, it will come as no surprise for readers of Greenkeeper International to learn that a selected team of eight BIGGA golfers have once again clasped the venerated Japanese vase to their chests, raising the old porcelain crock high, along with pride for their profession and for their undoubted prowess in the ultimate field of battle – match play golf.

At Kiawah Island in '91 American supporters wore gimme-caps proclaiming the legend 'The Ryder Cup belongs in the USA', and as a thought for 1994, as the trophy is returned to Aldwark Manor yet again – for the eighth time in nine years – there must now be a good case for our next team to bear the legend on their head-gear, "The Kubota Trophy belongs in BIGGA's hands!". By way of additional praise, this time from twice Amateur Champion Peter McEvoy, undoubtedly one of Britain's finest ever players, came the opinion: 'their (the greenkeepers') continued success comes as no surprise, and may be easily put down to both preparation and dedication.'

Before revealing the bones of BIGGA's success, let me first express a huge vote of thanks to Belfry course manager, Derek Ganning, on behalf of all Kubota players. The Brabazon periphery (and indeed parts of some fairways) had been ravaged by Ryder Cup crowds, transport and grandstands, whilst huge chunks of the adjacent Derby course resembled scenes from the Ardenne battlefields. There was mud, mud, and still more mud, a nightmare for Derek's team. Mud notwithstanding, the course was also taking a pasting from the heavens and it would not have surprised us to see the course closed. 'Not so', declared Derek, 'these games must go on, we'll close tomorrow'...and so they did. Full credit too, for the remarkable condition of all eighteen greens, together with remarkable drainage. Derek, give your team a bonus!

I suspect that meeting the greenkeepers in battle is enough to frighten many a team into losing before a blow is struck, thus it is to the credit of the Golf Club Secretaries that in the semi-finals they took us down the wire, indeed gave us a moment or two of apprehension before succumbing to a 4 – 3 defeat, with one halved match.

Thus in the final, Greenkeepers versus the English Golf Union, there was no feeling of invincibility in the greenkeeping camp, the pot had still to be won, the match needing to be played through incessant rain. To say the least, it was nasty, but when the going gets tough... the tough et cetera, et cetera.

First away, George Paterson (1) waged a monster battle against ex International Les



# VICTORY in the MUD



The winning team of greenkeepers with the Kubota Challenge Trophy. Top, The Belfry's tenth hole, showing flooding near the lay-up zone and mess left behind from the Ryder Cup

Walker (1), declared later by George to have 'a good old head on him.' Their game dinged, square at the turn, George one down at fifteen, square again at sixteen. The seventeenth halved, their game went the full five pennyworth, finally falling Walker's way when he rolled in a single monster putt (was it really only 20 feet, it looked even longer) to claim a one hole victory. Some matches were one-sided, and Aled Hughes (4) found Brian Evans (3) a smidgen off form, defeating him seven and five, whilst 'never down' John Mitchell (7), our hero, scored the sweetest of victories by annihilating Peter Wilson (6) to the tune of eight and six! More was to follow, with Mr Steadiness, Mike Hughes (4), scoring a deserved and well fought two and one victory over David Hood (6), whilst George Brown (4), ever the 'banker' in these circumstances, won what he described as 'a tough match' by three and two against John Brew (5). Interestingly, another competition was also being staged by Oracle, and at their declared 'longest drive' hole, George Brown thumped his ball some 44 yards past their winners mark!

Spare a moment now to cheer for Huw Morgan (7), who came from being three down with five to play to halve his match against that wily old bird, Brian Lewis (7) – great stuff Huw, especially recovering from dormy one

down to snatch a rattling good half – share also in the disappointment of Chris Yeaman (12), who fell to Tony Everett (9) by three and one, though not without giving of his very best. Chris was certainly the semi's hero, coming from four down with five to play to halve his match, which took us into the final! Can't win 'em all, they say. What can I say about Roger Willers (15)? His performance in the semi's (five down after five) was not of the usual Willers' standard and I suspect he gave himself a thorough talking to before meeting Maurice Hutchins (10) in all that rain. His victory (five up after six) was the sweeter for being least expected, and we applauded his three and two as though he'd sunk the winning putt for the Ryder Cup.

Last year we thanked our good friend Brian Hurtley, Vice President and Director, Kubota GB Ltd, for the wonder of this fabulous event – real golf, proper golf, man to man combat that makes the spine tingle. We thanked him again this year, reminding him that the Kubota Trophy remains in very safe hands indeed – and that we'll not part with it without a struggle!

Results: The Greenkeepers defeated the English Golf Union by five matches to two, plus one match halved. In third place was the Golf Foundation, who defeated the Golf Club Secretaries by a single point.

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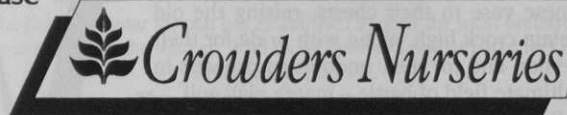


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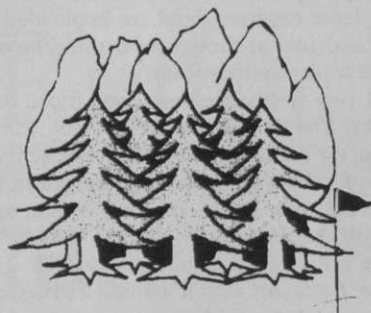
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The need for tree and woodland maintenance on your golf course, by Hens Hinloopen

# TREES are jolly good fellows

It has always been my belief that trees and woodlands on golf courses add greatly to their value and character. Equally, they now require more care and attention than may have been given in the past and it seems that many people who work in the maintenance and construction of golf courses agree. Trees and woodland, quite apart from having an intrinsic beauty, also have an important golfing function. However, due to a lack of time and resources, they have often been neglected.

Golf has seen many changes since its invention. In the last few decades, with its massive increase in popularity and the desire for ever higher standards, the challenges for the greenkeeper have come thick and fast. Consequently, greenkeepers have been able only to tend to their trees spasmodically and then only in areas where the work is considered crucial. This often means that work is only carried out in areas where the trees interfere, or threaten to interfere, with the playing of golf. The opportunities to do even this sort of limited work are then further constrained by time and weather conditions. It is in this way that neglect builds up over many years.

## THE EFFECTS OF TREE AND WOODLAND NEGLECT ON THE GOLF COURSE

When golf courses are built and trees are planted, they are often planted relatively close together. There are two reasons for this. Initially trees growing close together will grow taller as they compete for light. The top crown canopy then closes up, which denies the base weeds light and discourages them from growing.



Whilst at first this may appear to be a good thing, without thinning between the trees the lack of space soon becomes a problem. It is the situation I come across most frequently on golf courses.

Ideally fully mature trees, oaks for example, should grow at a spacing of 15 metres in order for them to flourish. This would mean 150 fully mature oaks on a one hectare site. In order to produce these 150 mature oaks, 1500 would need to be planted. However, when the trees are neglected, as so often happens, they continue to compete for light, water and nutrients. The surrounding grass areas then begin to suffer, making them susceptible to disease and fungi. This is caused by trees leaning over the

play areas and creating harmful micro climates that stifle growth. I have also come across many heathland courses where the trees have slowly encroached upon the course, leading to the disappearance of heather.

Whilst more fertiliser may be called for on grass areas, simply to encourage the grass to grow, thatch forming also needs to be treated. Chemicals and fertilisers only treat the symptoms, they do not cure the fundamental problem. To do this, a more remedial approach is needed. Thus it would be far better for you to ask yourself: does my green get enough light and air?

## WORRIED MEMBERS

The carrying out of tree work

on golf courses is often a sensitive issue, no matter how vital it may be. Members may demonstrate complete confidence in their greenkeepers as far as preparing the playing surface is concerned, whilst tree work may get an altogether different reaction. If trees and woodland have been neglected, any work carried out can at first sight look quite radical.

For example, neglected strips of woodland dividing fairways often need attention, especially when they begin to encroach on to the playing area. When these areas are opened up to provide better growing conditions for grass and trees, members can often see from one fairway to the other, where in the past this view was denied them. This often leads them to complain, without realising that it is years of neglect that are to blame and not the corrective and constructive measures being used to solve the problem. Past neglect can be corrected, but it can take time, 10-20 years is a long time in human terms but a far shorter time as far as trees are concerned.

## PLANTING

Another large problem facing many golf courses is the uniformity in age of the trees on the course. This means that the majority of the trees will reach maturity at the same time. It is therefore important for a golf club to have a wide age span of trees on the course. Planting and transplanting are two ways of ensuring that a course has a wide age range, and this will guarantee and protect the courses character for future years.

Many clubs appreciate the need for planting, however it is seldom carried out as part of a planned

# TREES

planting programme. Over the years courses become littered with different varieties of tree, often planted in areas and soil types for which they are not suited, and the overall quality of planting is poor. More importantly, after planting, scant attention is paid to the trees. Stakes are often left to rot away, tree ties are allowed to grow into the trees, whilst watering, pruning, weed control and fertiliser are so often forgotten.

## LONG TERM TREE AND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

To maintain the character of a golf course over a long period of time it is essential that a long term management plan be implemented. This should be backed up by a short term maintenance plan to rectify the immediate problems. Such a management plan should set objectives to be achieved and lay down a framework through which the work may be implemented. The overriding concern of the plan,

always, should be the provision of the 'best possible playing surface' for the golfer.

An important aspect of any plan is the education of club members, so that they understand why work needs to be carried out and when. I have used seminars for this purpose in the past and they have proved very useful. In this way difficult and controversial decisions do not have to be taken by greenkeepers or green committees alone, the club can move forward on the basis of a strong consensus among its members. The management plan must be designed to serve the club for many years and act as the continual point of reference when tree and woodland work is being discussed.

Such a maintenance plan might cover a period of five years and be used to rectify the immediate problems facing the trees and woodlands on the course. The plan should enable the club to assess the volume of work that needs to be carried out, how much of this can be done by the



green staff, and how much might need to be sub-contracted. Work involved in this plan normally consists of thinning, felling, tree surgery, planting and transplanting. New health and safety regulations demand that this work be done only by properly qualified and equipped staff.

Greenkeepers should not treat the playing surface and woodlands in isolation, for they are both inextricably linked, one affecting the other. Caring and planning for the trees on your

course now will provide fundamental benefits in future years. Regular thinning, felling and tree surgery will not only benefit the trees but will also have a fundamental impact on the greens, fairways and tees.

■ The author, Hens Hinloopen, is the founder and owner of Woodcare, a specialist forestry and arboricultural company specifically involved in golf course activities. Hens' track record includes major work on such courses as Sunningdale, Hankley Common, Coombe Hill, Effingham and Moatland.



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The key to the progress which has been made lies in education and training where the establishing of college-based courses and improvements in existing courses has had a significant impact. Allied to this has been the introduction of "in-house" training courses at BIGGA's headquarters at Aldwark Manor. The development of Aldwark Manor as a training base will prove a major educational resource for the profession in the future.

Many within the game of golf and those working within the fine turf industries now

recognise the value of these educational programmes and the need to ensure first class training for those entering the greenkeeping profession if the desired standards of golf course management and maintenance are to be achieved, maintained and improved upon in the future. To sustain those educational programmes and improve training opportunities will necessitate on-going financial commitment and the Education and Development Fund has been established to enable the promotion and financing of educational programmes, scholarship awards and training aids for the benefit of the greenkeeping profession. The enhancement of knowledge and technical expertise which will result will surely in turn lead to higher standards of course management and better playing conditions for golf club members.

Financial contributions will channel the resources of the game and the industry into one central Fund from which specific spending programmes can be determined. Those supporting the fund will be welcome to make suggestions in relation to appropriate spending programmes.

The Education and Development Fund represents the ideal opportunity for companies, groups and individuals to make donations, gifts and bequests which will advance both the status of the greenkeeping profession and standards of golf course management.

**◆ Education – the key to a great future for greenkeeper, golf club and the game. Your contribution will help secure this future – unlock the doors to progress through BIGGA's Education and Development Fund.**

**BIGGA greatly values and appreciates contributions to the Education and Development Fund and accordingly wishes to give recognition to those contributing. Those supporting the Fund will become members of a 'circle' which will bring certain ongoing benefits:**

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#### **Individuals**

- Special Tie – BIGGA/Golden Key Circle design
- Association Membership – to include monthly copies of 'Greenkeeper International' magazine
- 15% discount on all BIGGA Educational Programmes

**Contribution:** Donations of over £150 annually

### **MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS OF SILVER KEY CIRCLE**

#### **Companies/Groups**

- Listing in 'Greenkeeper International' magazine
- Plaque
- Special Tie – BIGGA/Silver Key Circle design
- Association Membership – to include monthly copies of 'Greenkeeper International' magazine

**Contribution:** Donations of £1,000–£3,000 annually

#### **Individuals**

- Special Tie – BIGGA/Silver Key Circle design
- Association Membership – to include monthly copies of 'Greenkeeper International' magazine
- 7.5% discount on all BIGGA Educational Programmes

**Contribution:** Donations of £75 – £150 annually

**Join the inner Circle and ensure a great future for greenkeepers and the golf courses they manage and maintain.**

## **WHAT TO DO NEXT**

**Complete and post the pre-paid Membership Request Card in this issue.**

**Existing members: Do nothing yet – we'll contact you direct.**

### **What the Education and Development Fund money is spent on**

BIGGA's first turf management training video was wholly sponsored by companies contributing to the Education and Development Fund.



The video, first in a planned series, has been acclaimed as a major training aid for all those involved in turf management and is available at a cost of £18.75 (BIGGA members) or £23.75 (non-members) from BIGGA HQ.

## **FOR 1994**

**Look out for the BIGGA Career Video (which will be launched at the 1994 BTME) and a new guide on weeds, pests and diseases, to be distributed to all golf clubs soon.**





## BIGGA SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 1994

### PAY EARLY - AND PAY LESS!

These are the prices to pay if you want to join BIGGA without linking your membership to the Education and Development Fund:

	New Members In 1994	Current Members if paying before 31 Jan.94
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£58.00	£52.00
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£50.00	£45.00
First Assistant/Assistant Greenkeeper	£43.00	£40.00
20 years of age or under	£29.00	£26.00
Associate/Company (including one year's subscription to 'Greenkeeper International')	£50.00	
Associate/Company without magazine	£25.00	
Corporate International	£560.00	£50.00

NB: The First Assistant is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where appropriate to the size of the club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper subscription rate should apply.

1993 members will be invoiced for subscriptions due prior to 1st January 1994. If you have not received your renewal notice by the end of December, please contact Headquarters.

Those enrolling in the Associate/Company membership category will be encouraged to play a full part in the Association's affairs. Associate members will be those having a close interest in greenkeeping without being specifically employed as greenkeepers. As such this category of membership will be of interest to Chairmen of Green Committees, Club Secretaries, Golf Course Architects and Constructors and many others with a close affinity to greenkeeping. Company membership is available on an individual or corporate basis and will be of interest to those employed within the fine turf industries.

Individual membership cards will be issued and will entitle the member to participate in all national, regional and section events authorised by the Association.

Holders of Associate and Company membership cards are not entitled to use their cards to seek courtesy of the golf course.

Delegate fees at both the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and National Education Conference, as well as at Regional seminars, will be offered to Associate and Company members at a discounted rate. Whilst many members may wish to identify with a particular local section or region, members are able to participate nationally if they so wish. They will be allocated to the section covering the geographical area in which they reside.

All Associate/Company members (with the exception of those Associate members in the £25 category) will receive each month a copy of 'Greenkeeper International', the Association's official publication and essential reading for those involved with or interested in greenkeeping.

A special Corporate rate is available for those companies wishing to enrol an unlimited number of their staff as members of the Association and individual membership cards will be issued.

# You too can work towards the industry's top honour

## The Master Greenkeeper Certificate

BIGGA supports golf greenkeepers at all levels of expertise - and for members wanting to get more out of their job, the route to the top is via the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

Holders of this prestigious award have demonstrated they are committed professionals. What's more, they are entitled to use the initials 'MGC' after their name.

The award of this Certificate indicates that the recipient has achieved the highest standards of excellence within the profession of greenkeeping. It is an award based on experience, ability and education. The award is designed through a combination of experience and ability allied to a study programme to produce a well educated and qualified individual.

Educational Credits, which accumulate to take the candidate to the required level, are available through the approved colleges system in terms of NVQ, City & Guilds and Scotvec, as well as for other individual qualifications approved by the Association. Credits will also be awarded in accordance with participation in the BIGGA educational programme, for example the National Conference, BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition Seminars, Management Courses, Regional and Section Seminars.

For full details, contact BIGGA HQ for a copy of the MGC leaflet and registration form.



**Important - all greenkeeper members will be required to obtain a passport size photograph to validate their 1994 membership cards. The photograph should be affixed to the membership card, which should be signed and then inserted into the cardholder and sealed, thereby giving proof of identity and preventing any possible misuse of membership cards, particularly in relation to seeking courtesy of the golf course. Photographs are to be affixed by members personally on receipt of their card and should not be sent to Headquarters.**

**Included in this year's membership package is a 1994 diary bearing the BIGGA logo. Commented Executive Director, Neil Thomas, "We aim to 'test the water' with this 1994 diary. In looking ahead to 1995 membership benefits we would like to produce a personalised BIGGA diary to include a wide range of information on the Association which will be of practical benefit to members. However, we do need feedback from members as to the value they would place on receiving such a diary annually before a decision is taken to proceed with an official BIGGA diary for 1995". Members should note that the 1994 diary will only be sent to current and new members paying their subscriptions by 31 January 1994.**



**FIND OUT MORE:** Contact BIGGA HQ for more information. Call us on 0347 838581, fax us on 0347 838864 or write to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF

### THE BIGGA RECOMMENDED MINIMUM SALARY/WAGE SCALE, 1994

The Association has updated its recommended minimum salary/wages scale, although actual figures remain the subject of negotiation between the Golf Club and Greenkeeping staff. Quoted rates apply from 1 January, 1994.

	18 Holes	27 Holes	36 Holes
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£18,550	£20,220	£22,630
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£13,390	£14,590	£16,320
First Assistant	£222.80 pw	£222.80 pw	£222.80 pw
Assistant Greenkeeper	£209.60 pw	£209.60 pw	£209.60 pw
Apprentice Greenkeeper (all courses) Age 16/17: £104.80 pw; Age 18: £131.00 pw; Age 19: £157.20 pw; Age 20: £183.40 pw; Age 21+: £209.60 pw.			

NB: Where appropriate these rates should be increased to reflect Regional variations up to a maximum of 24% in the South East Region.

The First Assistant is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where appropriate to the size of the Club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the appropriate Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper salary scale should apply.

Staff in possession of recognised qualifications should have this reflected in an addition to basic salary.

#### Basic conditions of employment should include:

1. Where accommodation is provided by the Club, it should be rent free with heating/lighting costs borne by the Club. The Club should compensate for Council Tax Liability.
2. Where accommodation is not provided by the Club, a suitable remuneration in addition to the above salary should be paid.
3. 40 hour week.
4. Retirement Pension Scheme.
5. Telephone costs on Club business.
6. Mileage allowance.
7. Time off to attend lectures, demonstrations, BIGGA functions and tournaments.
8. If not salaried, basic overtime to be paid at time and a half, with double time on Sundays and Statutory Holidays.

**NEW  
FOR 1994**

# BIGGA GIVES MEMBERS THE CHANCE TO WIN BIG MONEY!

★ Join BIGGA and you also have the opportunity to join BIGGA's Pot of Gold lottery – with the chance to win big, big cash prizes!

Each participant will have a chance of winning a cash prize every quarter throughout 1994. If your lucky number is drawn, you could collect £50, £150, £250 or even £600!

And at the final quarterly draw, top prize is a whopping £2,500.  
**YES £2,500 IN CASH COULD BE YOURS!**

#### So how does the Pot of Gold work?

This lottery competition is only open to BIGGA members and is restricted to 400 numbers. Cost per number is £50 per year and these will be allocated on a first come first served basis. There are ten cash prizes awarded each quarter, which means 40 prizes in total over the year, giving plenty of chances to win!

#### How much can I win?

In each of the first three quarters, there are seven prizes of £50, one of £150, one of £250 and a first prize of £600. At the final

draw, there will be seven £100 prizes, a £500 prize, a £1,000 prize and a top prize of £2,500.

#### When are the numbers drawn?

At BIGGA events. The January–March draw will take place at the National Education Conference in April; the April–June draw will be made at The Open in July; the July–September draw will take place at the Hayter Challenge final in September and the October–December draw will be made at the BTME '95, in January 1995.

#### Can I share the cost of taking part with my friends?

If you want to share the cost – and, of course, share any prize you might win, then that's up to you. By all means get together with other BIGGA members who you may work with, so that you all chip in to buy a number. As far as each application form is concerned, we can only accept one name and one amount of £50. However, subject to availability, members can apply for more than one lottery number thereby increasing their chance of winning. All entries will go into every draw regardless of whether you have won previously. The key name will receive any winning cheque and it will be up to you to share it out.

#### I want to go ahead – what should I do now?

Existing members – You can join the Pot of Gold by sending your £50 (cheque or postal order) to us with the completed form when sending your membership renewal form or alternatively upon receipt of your 1994 membership details. New members – Rush us your Pot of Gold application on receipt of your '94 membership details.

**Please note, entry to Pot of Gold is restricted to 1994 BIGGA members.**

**POT OF GOLD**

**MEMBERS HAVE TO BE IN IT  
TO WIN IT!**

**YES! I'd like to take part in the BIGGA POT OF GOLD  
I enclose my cheque for £50.00 payable to BIGGA**

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... 1994 Membership Number (if known): .....

Post to Pot of Gold, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF.

Photocopy this form or use a separate sheet of paper if you don't want to cut up your magazine.

Come with BIGGA to the  
GCSAA Conference  
and Show

**DALLAS  
1994**



The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will be holding its 65th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas from 4-7 February.

BIGGA's party attending this major international event will assemble on Sunday, 30 January at the Moat House Gatwick Airport, leaving the next morning on a *direct flight* to Dallas Fort Worth Airport and arriving back at Gatwick on Wednesday, 9 February.

In over 150 years, Dallas has grown from a cabin on the banks of the Trinity river into an internationally recognised commercial and manufacturing centre thanks to the discovery of Texan oil and the tenacity and spirit of its people. It is a major cultural centre of skyscraper banks and offices; elegant shops, fine restaurants and hotels. Neighbouring Fort Worth, originally a military outpost, retains a 'western' atmosphere and continues to be headquarters for the cattle industry. Fort Worth's clubs feature country and western music whilst its western heritage is most evident at the Historic Stockyards Area where there are frontier-style shops and cafes.

GCSAA will be organising more than 70 educational seminar sessions and forums, a three-day, 190,000 square foot trade show with more than 600 manufacturers and distributors of golf and turf industry products, supplies and services together with a gala banquet featuring performances by the Oak Ridge Boys and country star Crystal Gayle.

An exciting trip is in prospect and *bookings with full payment must be received by 19 November.*

**ITINERARY**

**Sunday, 30 January**

All participants assemble at the Moat House Gatwick Airport, overnight accommodation with FREE car parking is included.

**Monday, 31 January**

Depart Gatwick for Dallas Fort Worth Airport on British Airways - 10.05 hours - arrive 14.40 hours. Upon arrival transfer to Hotel Loews Anatole, stay 8 nights.

**Tuesday, 8 February**

Return transfer to Dallas Airport and depart on British Airways - 16.40 hours - arrive 07.30 hours on 9 February. Return transfer to Hotel to collect cars and drive home.

**Price**

£724 per person based on twin shares; £1,060 per person based on single room accommodation, plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration: £35.

Included are: flights UK to Dallas and return; US Airport taxes; Hotel accommodation in the Loews Anatole including taxes, room rate only; Full comprehensive travel insurance for the duration.



Please forward full payment of £759 or £1,095 (unless travel insurance is *not* required) to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF to arrive by **Friday 19 November at the latest**, together with name, address and contact telephone number.

A BIGGA  
**Thank  
you**



**BIGGA  
GOLDEN KEY  
and SILVER KEY  
CIRCLES**

*...to the following  
companies, in recognition of  
their continued support for  
the Greenkeeper Education  
and Development Fund*



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Lely (UK) Ltd.  
UK distributor for Toro  
Commercial Products



**RANSOMES**

**HAYTER**

**farmura**



MILLIKEN  
CHEMICALS



*Together, we're building a  
great future for golf club,  
greenkeeper and game*

For details of how you can support the  
Education and Development Fund,  
Contact BIGGA at Aldwark Manor,  
Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF.  
Telephone: 0347 838581 Fax: 0347 838864



**BIGGA: BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE**



# Christmas Gift ideas



Be on the ball this Christmas – settle all your present-buying problems with exclusive, top quality BIGGA merchandise! Fill Santa's sack with a whole range of goodies shown on this page. Choose a smart BIGGA blazer or perhaps a stylish sweater. You can buy with confidence because each item has the BIGGA seal of approval – and a BIGGA logo too!



**£87.95**  
Inc. P&P

Be proud of your profession with a BIGGA Blazer. This high quality garment is recommended by the Association and can be worn on any occasion when the image of a professional greenkeeper is all-important. Supplied complete with embroidered BIGGA logo, this is an investment which will provide many years of service.

**BIGGA TIES – £4.50**

Available in Navy (as picture), Light Blue or Green

## Glenmuir Sweaters

Here's a favourite garment that makes an ideal Christmas gift – for a man or a woman! These quality sweaters come in a variety of sizes and colours and we have a number in stock at reduced prices. Ring Samantha Flint at BIGGA HQ on 0347 838581 to find out what's available. Or place your special order from the colours listed below before the end of November and we'll rush through your garment before Christmas. Sizes XS to XL. **£28.95** inc p&p. Colours: Charcoal, Navy, Incomparable, Usher, Oyster, Ming, Helio, Peacock, Strawberry, Sapphire, Carmine, Claret, Crimson, Firtree, White, Black, Slate Blue, Royal Blue, Buttermilk, Pansy.



## Greenkeepers' Cap

Keep the snow off with this smart, recently introduced greenkeepers' cap available in blue complete with BIGGA logo. Similar to baseball caps, it is fully adjustable. Just **£6.95** inc p&p. **ONLY A FEW LEFT – ORDER TODAY!**

## Books – Fireside reading for those long winter nights

**MANUAL ON GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION, TURF ESTABLISHMENT AND CULTURAL PRACTICES**

by Dr James Beard **£22.00** inc p&p.

**GOLF COURSE PRESENTATION** by John Hacker and George Shiels. 48 pages packed with a realistic and practical approach to this vital topic **£7.95** inc p&p.

**SPECIFICATIONS FOR A METHOD OF PUTTING GREEN CONSTRUCTION** edited by William H Bengueyfield **£2.50** inc p&p.

## ORDER FORM

Place your completed order and cheque made payable to BIGGA in an envelope and post to: BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF

Product Description	Colour	Size	Quantity	Price

Name: .....  
Address: .....

Prices are inclusive of postage, packing and VAT. Photocopy this form or use a plain sheet of paper if you don't want to cut up your magazine



## Stocking fillers

**TIE BARS** Gold effect with coloured BIGGA logo **£2.95**

**LADIES HEAD SCARF** in navy with attractive BIGGA logo – a lovely gift for the lady in your life! **£6.95**

**LAPEL BADGES** Gold effect with coloured BIGGA logo **£2.95**

**LIMITED SUPPLY COTTON/JERSEY MIX POLO NECK LONG SLEEVED SHIRTS TO CLEAR AT SPECIAL PRICE OF ONLY £12.95**

# £15,000 AWARD THROUGH BIGGA LEGAL HELPLINE

The BIGGA Legal Helpline service swung into action to take up the case of a member claiming unfair dismissal from his golf club.

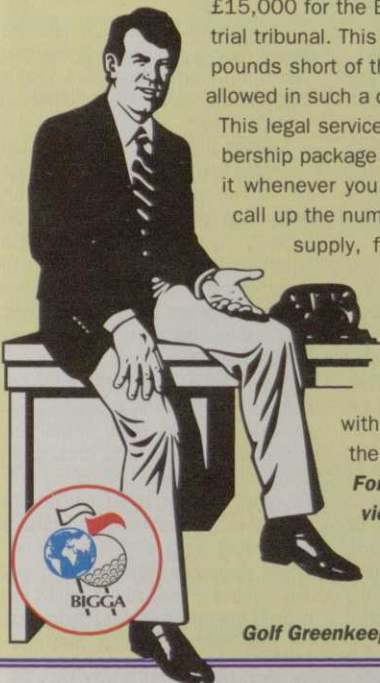
Our legal eagles played their part in obtaining £15,000 for the BIGGA member at an industrial tribunal. This is just a couple of hundred pounds short of the maximum compensation allowed in such a case.

This legal service is part of the BIGGA membership package and you are entitled to use it whenever you think it's necessary. Just call up the number on the special card we supply, for confidential, free legal advice.

You, your spouse, your children (if under the age of 21) and even your parents if they live with you, are all covered under the scheme.

*For peace of mind, it's a service you'll be pleased you've got - and it comes with your membership to the British and International*

*Golf Greenkeepers Association!*



# FINANCIAL ADVICE THAT'S BIGGA AND BEST FOR YOU



BIGGA has appointed a team of independent financial advisers, whose brief is to get YOU the best possible deal whether you're looking for a pension, life assurance or investment advice.

A panel of 35 FIMBRA registered brokers across the UK means your enquiry is dealt with by someone local to you - helping to guarantee a personal and effective service.

The selected brokers will automatically have your best interests at heart - after all, they're Associate members of BIGGA themselves!

Being independent financial advisers, they are able to scour the complex financial markets to make sure you get the deal that's right for you. With a pension, for example, this could mean a difference of thousands of pounds in years to come.

For more information on BIGGA's financial services to members, contact John Pemberton at BIGGA HQ on 0347 838581 or write to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF.



**NEW**  
**KEEP DRY WHEN IT'S WET**

As approved by  
**CRAIG STADLER**

**£79.95**  
inc. p&p

# Lightweight, Breathable, Waterproof GOLF SUITS

Now you can keep warm and dry AND look smart on the golf course with the NEW BIGGA golf suit!

Supplied in navy blue with a stylish jacquard pattern, the suit comprises jacket and trousers made from a soft, supple and waterproof material. Manufacturers Walrus have got together with BIGGA to supply these quality suits for a special price of just £79.95. An embroidered BIGGA logo is featured on the arm and leg. All seams are stitched and heat taped to guarantee the garment being waterproofed. What's more, a 'breathability factor' of 70% keeps you cosy whatever the weather! *Order today for delivery before Christmas.*

Please rush me ..... (quantity) of the new BIGGA Golf Suits at £79.95 including post and packing. Sizes available: Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large.

Size(s) required:.....

Name:.....

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Clip this coupon and post with your cheque made payable to BIGGA, to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF. Write the details on a separate sheet if you don't want to cut up your magazine.

The countdown has begun to the final of the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

# To be the BEST

In casting my thoughts back over the past three years of writing about ICI Professional Products – of the individual personalities who essentially are the company – and of their association with BIGGA, it occurs to me that a huge debt of gratitude remains outstanding to this most supportive of BIGGA's sponsors. It's the sort of debt that cannot easily, if ever, be repaid, though in truth the team at ICI Professional Products would, I fancy, never look on their commitment in such calculating fashion.

I'm prepared to bet that they gain their greatest satisfaction in seeing the fruits of their fabulous promotions: the National Golf Tournament, involvement in education programmes, and this, the incredible ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award, as reward enough when witnessing the great fillip they have given to previous winning greenkeepers, for to win this coveted award is almost assuredly a huge step forward career-wise, whilst for finalists also it is a decided 'feather in the cap.'

Winning has changed several careers for the better, and without again naming names, their successes actually reflect success for BIGGA also, for the kudos gained has a delightful habit of rubbing off on almost every thinking greenkeeper, giving them enormous pride in their profession.

There can be only one winner in December, a proud fellow who will strut forward to receive the ultimate accolade from ICI Professional Products – and the admiration of his peers. That stated, give a silent cheer or three for ICI Professional Products, including Roger Mossop, Dave Siddon, touring 'pro', Richard Minton, and all the guys who call on you year round. They, above all, have your greenkeeping interests at heart.

DAVID WHITE

## TERRY HUNTLEY



Terry Huntley, course manager at Ashford Manor Golf Club in Middlesex, is well versed in the preparation of arena's for top sporting occasions, having worked on turfgrass surfaces that have graced two Tournament Players Championships, a Ladies British Open Championship, and no less than six PGA Tour School events.

In order to appreciate Terry's greenkeeping pedigree, I must begin by speaking of young Terry's first bleeding as a trainee in 1973. This was at Fulwell, Bill Cox's old stamping ground, where Terry spent the seemingly obligatory 'two years before the mast,' before grabbing the chance to join the newly opened Foxhills Country Club as an assistant greenkeeper.

Around this time Terry gained his NTC in Sportsturf Management from the IoG. Promotion followed fairly quickly, and at the tender age of 21 Terry was made a deputy course manager, responsible for two 18 hole courses and a dozen staff. This, as one may imagine, helped him immensely in building up essential management skills, and it was at Foxhills that the aforementioned championship skills and experiences were honed to a fine level.

In 1985 Terry took the post of head greenkeeper at Laleham Golf Club in Surrey, enjoying three happy years there before moving to his current position.

Terry, 36 this month, is married to Christine and they have a son, Christopher. Terry holds his current job in high esteem and is proud to be what he describes as a high-profile member of the BIGGA Surrey section.

## LAUGHLAN MILLAR



Down in the West Country, the Millar name is synonymous with greenkeeping of an extremely high order, with 31 year old Laughlan the third generation of a family well versed in the art of turfgrass management. Laughlan's grandfather was of the old breed, a greenkeeper cum professional in Scotland, where they've always known a 'thing or two' about 'gowf' and about growing grass and tending to the finer points of razor keen putting surfaces.

Laughlan's father also has always been a greenkeeper, without question one of the West's finest, and to this day he masterminds the majestic linksland of Burnham and Berrow. It may be written with some certainty that Laughlan himself was practically weaned on Dunlop 65's, his first real 'toy' no doubt a cut down jigger!

Laughlan is 31, married to Diane, and is the head greenkeeper at Dawlish Warren, Devon, a post he's held for nearly five years. Previously at Hartsbourne Country Club as an assistant course manager, earlier still as an assistant to Laughlan senior at Burnham and Berrow for seven years,

Laughlan is both a skilled practitioner and a fine theorist.

He's a graduate from Cannington College with City & Guilds to his credit, plus AEI in Biology, Greenkeeping Principles, Practice of Horticulture and Greenkeeping, and Horticultural Machinery – in fact he's a well-rounded character with a pedigree of which he may be proud.

## TONY MEARS



Tony's greenkeeping career really started before he left school, for he was a junior member at Darlington Golf Club, forever eager to help the staff whenever the opportunity arose. At weekends, during long summer holidays, he would always jump at the chance.

It naturally followed that on leaving school and being offered an apprenticeship, he was overjoyed and has never regretted biting the bullet on that early boyhood ambition – to be a highly skilled exponent of the turfgrass art.

A brief spell as assistant at Billingham Golf Club was followed by a dream come true, the offer of course management at the Dinsdale Spa Golf Club.

Tony has been manager of Dinsdale Spa for some 13 years now, proud of its one hundred acres of parkland, inspired by its undoubted qualities, and eager no doubt to ensure that come 2010, when the club celebrates its centenary, it'll be seen as a credit to his management and his empathy for the wildlife environment.

Dinsdale has seen many changes under Tony's direction, some of them quite major and including the complete refurbishment of every bunker, the enlargement of many tees, and the construction of two new greens and two large ponds. It is Tony's avowed aim to encourage wildlife on the golf course.

Tony is a graduate of Durham Agricultural College, holding a C&G Distinction in Greenkeeping, and he's always been an upholder of the education process, attending many of the BIGGA workshops and seminars. He presented a fascinating paper at the National Education Conference this year on 'Golf on the Wild Side.'

Married to Jean, with a son, Peter, and daughter, Jessica, Tony's leisure time is well wrapped up with his family, though he still finds time to golf, playing to a nine handicap.

## GRAHAM WOOD



If the reader really wants to know how fine a head greenkeeper Graham Wood really is, he need do no more than play a round on the East Links of Dunbar, a dual creation credited first to Old Tom Morris, always to Mother Nature... and, for the past 20 years, especially to Graham Wood!

Graham is 42 years old, married to Helen, and has two teenage offspring (his

son Paul is also a budding greenkeeper, having recently taken an apprenticeship at Winterfield). Furthermore, he's a native of East Lothian – and there is no finer pedigree than that.

Graham began his career at Dunbar, serving a three year apprenticeship under the late Bill Paton, followed by four further years as a journeyman before making a move to nearby Monkton Hall, Musselburgh, as their head greenkeeper. Three years later the lure of Dunbar beckoned again and Graham, forever a master of his craft, landed the plum job of managing Dunbar's fabulous course.

The making of a great greenkeeper comes in many guises, and there's no disguising the fact that being an East Lothian greenkeeper counts for a great deal and Graham is justly proud in pointing to Dunbar (and, let it also be known, down also to his own considerable skills in imparting knowledge) as a breeding ground for future managers. The club encourages and is proud of their record, whilst there's many a young greenkeeper who, having cut their teeth at Dunbar, will give full credit to Graham – an Elmwood College graduate – for setting them on the right road to greenkeeping fame.

## GORDON IRVINE MGC



Gordon Irvine, 27, is the youngest yet to achieve MGC status, and the third Scot to be so honoured. Though still the youngster, Gordon has ten solid years of experience behind him, culled mainly on the links of Turnberry.

Joining Turnberry from school, his first assignment was on a Job Creation Scheme, swiftly followed by his being hired as a trainee greenkeeper, a fortunate decision for both parties.

Fortunate again, Gordon was sent to Langside College, where he studied Greenkeeping Management and won the coveted title: 'Young Scottish Greenkeeper of the Year'. It is his proud claim that whilst at Langside he received training from some of the finest course managers in the country, while also working with a team of 'highly skilled greenkeepers'. Seven happy years were spent at Turnberry, preparing the course that plays host to The Open, this acknowledged as a huge bonus in his learning curve.

The time came, however, when Gordon was ready 'to put back into greenkeeping all that I had been trained and educated to achieve.' Gordon landed a job at Surrey's new Mill Ride Golf Club, where in 1989 he came as clerk of works, now its course manager. His fortune continued during construction in being teamed with the triumvirate: architect Donald Steel, agronomist Jim Arthur and constructor Brian Pierson – who encouraged his input and responded favourably to his many ideas. Opening the project well ahead of schedule, the course has deservedly received huge praise.



**Professional  
Products**

# The **NEW** Kubota ST30. The compact with the big tractor performance!

It looks like a characteristic Kubota compact tractor. But on sports fields and recreation grounds, it performs like a big 'un! Producing more power, more productivity and more profitability.

Never has such a small tractor generated so much power.

- 29 (DIN) HP gives pulling power that's more than enough for the cylinder mowers.
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Never has a quart been so successfully squeezed into a pint pot.

Available with a roll-bar or a European-designed Q Cab, the Kubota ST30 provides more power from a compact tractor.



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**The POWER that leads**

# Reduce your handicap

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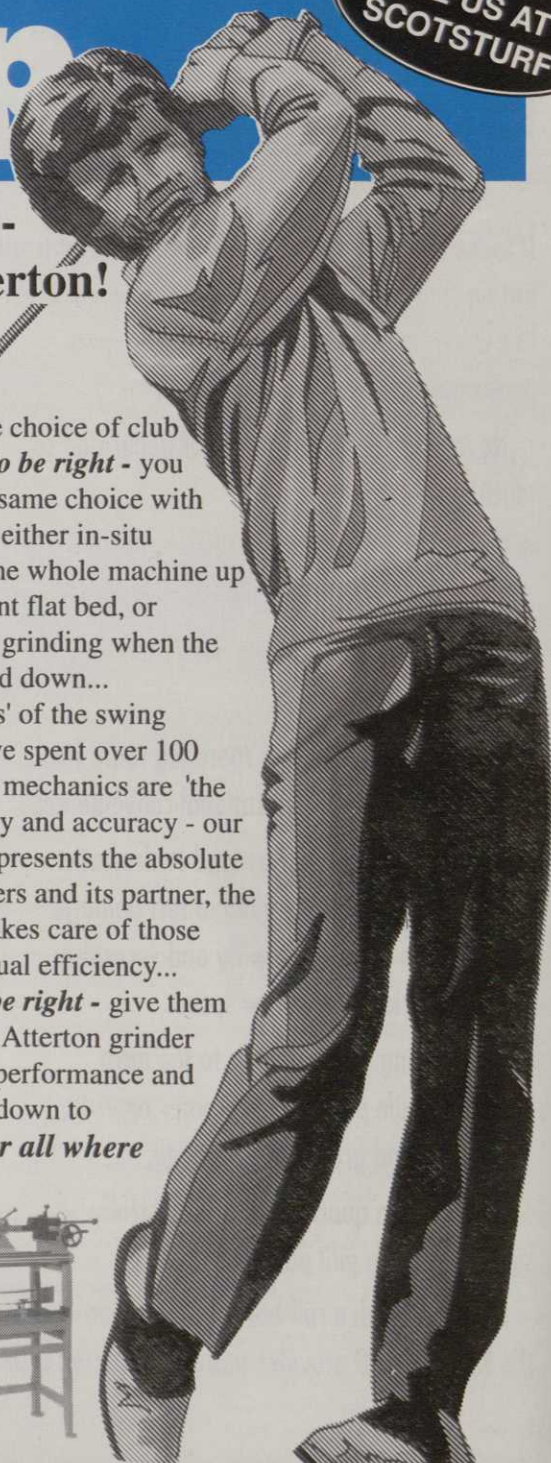
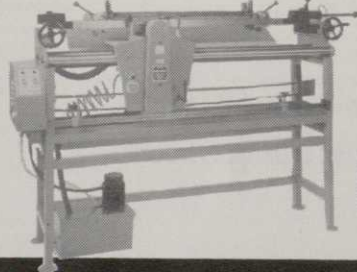
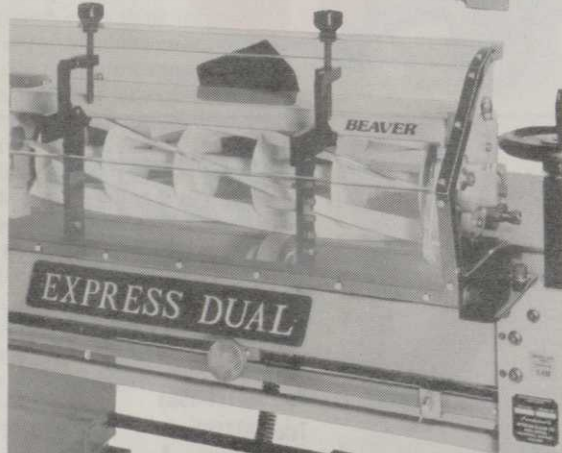
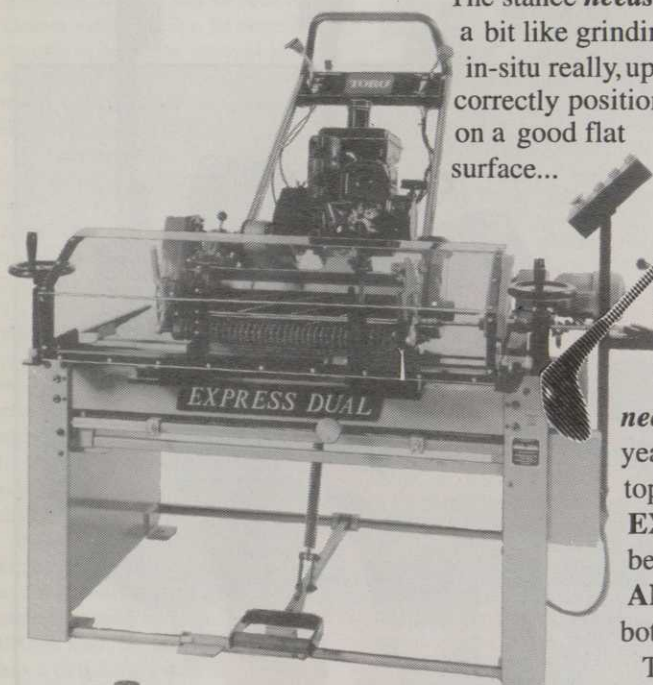
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## BONES OF CONTENTION

# As long as it looks good...

**T**here are many styles of management utilised in the interests of producing a first class golf course in top notch playing condition. Unfortunately, the pressures placed on many greenkeepers – to produce playing conditions under difficult circumstances – result in the art of greenkeeping, i.e. the production of fescue and agrostis playing surfaces, often being given low priority and with a greater emphasis placed on the intensive management of *Poa annua* in an effort to mimic conditions naturally produced in fine turf.

As these meadowgrass conditions are becoming the norm, and are widely accepted by club golfers and pro's alike, the question now being asked is not 'how do you produce quality turf grasses?', but rather 'what do they look like?'. How therefore can we expect golfers to appreciate the benefits of quality turf when opinions on what actually constitutes quality turf vary according to the surfaces played upon. This leaves agrostis and fescue greens at a disadvantage as they are not produced often enough, and those who have the privilege of playing on them regularly take them for granted.

Although there is now a greater demand for information regarding traditional maintenance practices, that demand, I believe, comes from a minority of greenkeepers with traditional quality in mind. By the same standard, as fewer people now are familiar with these practices, our growing profession is becoming a dying art.

I'm sure the tongues are already wagging to the song, 'That's OK for links courses, but you can't grow bent and fescue here.' Of course there may be conditions which make the corrective process difficult to achieve satisfactorily over every green, but it should also be noted that though it takes time to produce fescue areas, agrostis is a very competitive grass when given a chance – and we can't all claim to be the exception.

For the programme to be considered successful, 100% bent and fescue is not necessarily demanded, although a high percentage should certainly be the aim. Part of the problem is that greenkeepers undertaking a corrective policy don't know what to expect, and when *Poa annua* begins to look sickly, the tendency is to change the programme by way of a fertiliser application.

However, after the first season, signs of agrostis begin to show in the form of small veins through areas of the turf.

Those on links courses may be more fortunate, with small areas of fescue (which may have been overpowered in the past) now showing in patches, indeed becoming more competitive as their environmental conditions change. But there are other changes which the greenkeeper does not see, and these are the ones which can cause the biggest problem. As an example, within an improvement programme the greenkeeper may be determined to discover what happens under extreme conditions, and in so doing he may be seen as greenkeeping for personal satisfaction and not acting in the best interests of his club. This may take the form of drying turf excessively when this is not required, or some other exaggeration of what he deems 'necessary' in the requirements of a corrective programme.

Although this is not part of an improvement programme, it is often labelled as such, suggesting therefore the poor conditions which a corrective programme creates – NOT TRUE. This proves often to be a golfer's impression, and can be a valuable learning experience for those who continue. For others, however, a loss of interest, coupled with pressure from club officials, can result in an about-turn of policy and a return to intensively managed *Poa annua*. However, the programme does work, albeit demanding a degree of patience, commonsense and the determination to succeed.

In carrying out a corrective programme, tremendous pressures may be placed on the head greenkeeper, thus making it even more vital that he communicates adequately at committee level, and informs the membership generally of all progress and of the benefits to be gained from year-round improved conditions.

The greenkeeper, I believe, must present himself in such a professional manner, otherwise those from a different sector of the golf industry may well be given administrative positions to cover perceived shortfalls within his domain, and the greenkeeper will again be pushed to the background. Further, as his work encourages the growth of visitors and increases income for club, professional and steward alike, the

greenkeeper may find nothing more than an increased workload, created by the effects of added traffic, and receive no professional recognition.

We now have a very strange situation in British greenkeeping which I am sure we all find of interest in varying degrees, depending on whether we support the use of creeping bents or are just plain inquisitive of the conditions under which they will survive and the surfaces they will produce. That situation is further confused in that we are requested now to consider the management of grasses for turf that are not naturally dominant in our climate, when we haven't even mastered the production of grasses which are!

I was interested also to read some months ago about the speed of greens being a reason for cutting greens at 3/16 of an inch, however it should be noted that carrying out maintenance methods

for indigenous turf generally produces greens with exceptionally fast surfaces, and heights may require to be raised in order to maintain putting speeds that are acceptable to the majority of club golfers. This being the case, one of the major limiting factors of fine turf – ultra close mowing – can be eliminated.

In a nearby golf shop the following verse is displayed:

*Those who work with their hands  
are tradesmen,*

*Those who work with their hands  
and their heads are craftsmen,*

*But those who work with their  
hands, their heads and their hearts  
are artists.*

I think this describes greenkeepers very well.

■ This contribution to 'Bones of Contention' is from William McKechnie, assistant links superintendent at Carnoustie Golf Links, Angus, Scotland.



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## Bill Hawthorn looks at the history of golf course irrigation in the UK

There is a widely held belief that automatic irrigation of golf courses is a relatively modern intervention. At the 19th hole you will hear tales of golf courses that have supposedly been 'ruined' by pop-up sprinkler irrigation and in particular you will hear reference to some of the famous links courses, with tales of how their fairways have been totally wrecked. It might therefore surprise some of you to learn that two of the oldest golf courses in Britain have practised fairway irrigation for over 90 years. At St Andrews the pipeline system through the Links essentially comprises a five inch cast iron main which was laid down in the last century, including hydrant outlet points along the fairways. The Royal St Georges Golf Club at Sandwich had a cast iron main installed at the beginning of this century and that also had hydrant outlet points for the fairways. It is interesting to note also that the pipeline laid at St Andrews all those years ago forms part of a modern automated irrigation system in use today.

Irrigation of golf courses was a labour intensive affair until the

1960s. In more leisurely times, when the amount of play on courses was quite low and labour was cheap, it made sense for water to be applied by a hand-held hose or from a strategically placed rotating sprinkler. These rotating sprinklers came into being in the 1920s. They were normally heavy iron affairs requiring two men to drag them about

and having giant arms which rotated by a reaction from the water jet. In 1933 in the USA the impact drive mechanism for rotating a sprinkler was invented, leading immediately to a dramatic reduction in the size of the sprinkler unit. The design developed at that time continues to remain in production throughout the world in a funda-

mentally unchanged form.

In the United States during the late 1950s it became apparent that if one of these compact sprinklers could be taken and placed into housing in the ground, the design to 'pop-up' when the water came on, one could more conveniently set a sprinkler system to water a golf course. Hence the pop-



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up sprinkler for heavy turf applications was born. Engineers worked on other ways of rotating sprinklers, mainly by using a turbine driven by water through the gears. In this way the gear-driven pop-up sprinkler was born. American engineers soon began to utilise these sprinklers in order to more easily irrigate the thousands of golf courses in the Sunbelt states of the USA and quite soon on golf courses located in hot climates in other parts of the world.

In 1964 the writer was charged with the task of introducing automatic pop-up sprinkler irrigation to British golf courses. It was in the winter of 1964/65 that three courses had an automatic system introduced to water their greens, the very first being the Handsworth Golf Club in Birmingham. The technology was basic, although the fundamental principals were the same as they are today. That system had five plastic gear-driven sprinklers around each green, fed with water by a 24 volt AC pilot solenoid operated valve connected by a network of cables back to a sequence timer at the pumphouse. The water was drawn into the system from a lake,

utilising an item which is still in common use today: a Grundfos multistage pump.

Although the impetus to develop the first pop-up sprinkler equipment and control systems lay in the USA, mainly due to their climatic conditions dictating the development of a sophisticated irrigation manufacturing base, from the very beginning British engineers started to introduce their own ideas. The American approach to controlling sprinklers was by using a hydraulic control tube arrangement with miles of spaghetti-like plastic tubes connected to a controller of the rotary valve system variety. We British took the American valves and modified them for electrical operation. In a similar manner, the first reliable irrigation controller was an American hydraulic unit converted into electrical operation.

Those who are unaware of the complexities of keeping a golf course in top condition are often amazed to discover that irrigation takes place in the UK at all. Although it rains frequently it is also a cruel fact that rain does not always fall at exactly the → 36

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AD  
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# 'The major advantage of an automatically controlled system is in the word 'control'.'

35 → right time. Golf course greens in particular are now constructed to provide exceedingly free draining surfaces which remain suitable for play in the wettest conditions. Consequently, in any spell of dry weather, moisture levels soon fall to a point where turfgrass can enter into a stress condition. The major advantage of an automatically controlled system may be found in the word 'control'. It is vital that a greenkeeper should be

able to apply just the right amount of water at just the right time if he is to obtain the best results.

Since those early days there has been an explosion in the number of supplying companies and the range of irrigation equipment available. Equally, the extent of irrigation considered necessary has grown in line with the demand for golf. With golf courses crammed with players from dawn to dusk, an efficient automatic watering system has

become as vital a tool for the greenkeeper to maintain a course in good condition as having a good mower or slitter.

It was British irrigation engineers who first tackled the problems of complexity in an installation by reducing the amount of electric cable necessary. The first ever successful two-wire irrigation controller was produced by Watermation in the late 1970s and it may now be seen that two or

three wire digitally controlled systems are the norm. Manufacture in the UK of pop-up sprinklers and control systems began in earnest as a real commercial proposition in the early 1980s. Now, by way of a most welcome reversal, British made pop-up sprinklers are being exported for installation on golf courses in the USA.

■ The author, Bill Hawthorn, is managing director of Watermation Sprinkler & Controls Limited.

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# Shutting down the system for winter

With tongue lodged firmly in cheek, Jack Wheeler, director of Watermation Maintenance Limited, suggested to editor White that the best possible tip he could give would be to provide his telephone number, thus saving readers the problems he describes as 'an endless list of pitfalls.' However, Jack insists that if you are going to undertake the shut-down task, the following are a few MUSTS.

- Start with the water supply. If you have a storage tank fed from the Water Authority main, turn off the stopcock and remove the plug from the base of the water meter. This item is often overlooked and an expensive error if replaced.
- The riser feeding the ball valve needs to be drained, and the arm and float removed. If this is not removed, when the tank freezes the float is forced upwards, causing damage to the valve seat or breaking the arm.
- Leave the tank full with water. If emptied, strong winds have been known to blow tanks off their concrete base. With a stream or lake as the water supply, remove the suction float and pipework.
- Pump House. Ensure that water cannot enter the pump house by shutting the suction valve. If this is inside the house and not underground, ensure that it is properly lagged, otherwise it will split and discharge the tank full of water. Remove both top and bottom plugs from the pump. There is a fair chance that corrosion or muck will block these, so rod them out. The pressure vessel needs draining of both water and air pressure. If the air remains in the vessel, undue strain will occur at the top and bottom flanges. Open all remaining pump house drain cocks. Obviously the pump must not run when drained, so remove pump fuses or open circuit breakers.
- On the course. Frost damage to pipework buried on the golf course in this country is rare. Manual hydrants should be opened at all the low greens and ditch crossings. Other than this, leaving the controller operating for a programmed one minute each week will ensure any water left in the pipes will be expelled through the pop-ups or auto drain valves. Furthermore, this will keep the solenoid pins from seizing up.

*With all of the above completed, you should be able to relax for winter and enjoy Christmas.*

# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## BIGGA IN EUROPE - HOLLAND

On 28 October, ten BIGGA members met for their first official meeting, staged at De Hilversumsche, a club offering us a most hospitable welcome and the use of their board-room.

According to the agenda of about eight points, the meeting began with an explanation of the present situation within BIGGA, and of course the future, especially the Association's desire to become more active internationally.

A 'Master Plan' for Europe was brought forward and a proposal was made urging members to travel to Harrogate for BTME '94 in order to attend the next European Forum, where all kinds of ideas and good intentions will be discussed. Hopefully, some of these will be put into practice within a reasonable time-span.

On the subject of raising 'live' matters amongst members, one significant question was posed: 'what kind of relationship will there be between BIGGA Holland and the Netherlands Greenkeepers Association (NGA)'?

It must be made clear that this must be one of a positive and constructive nature. An invitation will be sent to the secretary of the NGA to meet and discuss such matters, whilst at the same time the Netherlands Golf Federation will be invited to meet BIGGA Holland members. Members will be kept up to date on these activities. We have agreed that our next meeting will take place in February 1994.

Further points discussed posed questions of 'how and where the Association might be of assistance to its members here. 1) The position of the course manager/head greenkeeper. 2) The level of maintenance of Dutch courses. It became clear that on education and training, we in Holland might benefit from UK programmes which have already proved their value in Britain.

At the time scheduled the first meeting came to an end, though with many things requiring further thought and planning. In the bar we enjoyed a few drinks, sandwiches etc. BIGGA Holland has been lucky to find local sponsorship so quickly, provided by Pro-Grass (Professionals in Grass service). Pro-Grass managing director, Jan van Mondfrans, (a BIGGA member), will support this foreign section in the immediate future and we are most grateful for his kind gesture.



My personal thanks to Rob Judels, who has provided me with the notes taken by him, vitally necessary if I am to make a full report, which will most certainly find its way onto Neil Thomas's desk at Aldwark Manor.

FREDERICK ten HAGE

## KENT

September 15 saw our Autumn Tournament at Langley Park, a day blessed by a fine morning, though a dull afternoon, and all a welcome change from the very wet weather we seem to have had of late. The morning Stableford competition was a hotly contested affair, with Rob Lucas coming out on top with 33 points, just in front of Peter Biscoe and Neal Carter on 32. Peter, just second on back nine score, held up English pride and prevented a Welsh whitewash.

A Stableford was again the format after lunch, the Sta-Brite Shield this time, bringing out the best in the Scots. The head and shoulders winner (in more ways than one), clear above the field was Malcolm Arthur with 35 points, whilst keeping it in the family in second place came Andy Arthur with 30 points. Sneaking into third was Langley Park's very own Derek Gould. The best trade score was that of Brian Willmot, whilst nearest the pin prize, kindly donated by Derek Gould, was won by Russell Judd. We all had a very enjoyable day and express thanks to our gracious hosts at Langley Park for looking after us so well. The catering staff put on a fine spread and those of us who took the hearty breakfast at 7.45 am certainly appreciate the stamina

exhibited in providing us with such a fine evening roast dinner. Many thanks to Derek and his hard working green staff. I think we can all appreciate it was a rather odd late summer period, although not too hot and sunny, very dry and then into early autumn and lashings of rain. Thanks to Langley's captain, Ian Russell, for presenting the prizes and to our trade friends for again supporting our events, especially Chris Sharp and Sta-Brite for donating the splendid afternoon prizes.

Let me recount some freak events of the day. On the first hole in the morning Andy Arthur managed to wrap a seven iron round a tree, snapping the shaft in two. If that wasn't enough to cause a major twinge in a Scotsman's pocket, on the same hole in the afternoon his tee shot saw not only the ball go flying up the fairway, but also the driver head, this time the shaft having snapped at the socket. This would not have normally been such a financial disaster, but it was one of those £100 carbon shafted jobs!

Pattison's Brian Willmot appeared to be on a bit of a 'small game shoot' in the afternoon: not content with almost knocking seven bells out of a duck as his ball plummeted into the pond at the 18th hole (our 6th), his topped tee shot at the next nearly decapitated a squirrel. The poor creature was somewhat startled, one minute playing with his nuts, the next almost a trophy attached to his bag. Brian suggested he could have quite adequately hung both the squirrel and the duck on his bag, only this might have provoked an anti-golf stand from those opposed to blood sports, also it made me thankful we were not playing at Knole Park. Just imagine, a deer would take some attaching to a golf bag, certainly some carrying.

Apologies were received from the depleted Mid Kent contingent, this from their absent, love struck young hot-shot, Ian Rawlins. It appears he had to take his young sweetheart, who was flying away on her holidays, to the airport. I seem to remember at the Spring Tournament Ian was eagerly awaiting her return from a foreign holiday. Then someone queried why she takes so many holidays and why she appears always to go without Ian?

To round-off, I must apologise for not reporting the event when a small group played an informal afternoon of golf, courtesy of Mike Smith, at the new Moatlands course. I understand numbers were slightly depleted, as many of us were snowed under with work at the time. Stories of sand, sand, and still more sand have filtered back to me from those trapped by Moatlands' bunkers (or was it the northerly extremes of the Sahara Desert?). Bernard Dithams said that it generally took five full shots to reach from one end of a bunker to another. Perhaps he spent so much time in the bunkers he forgot to tell me about the curious placement of the trees.



PAUL COPSEY

## CLEVELAND

At the time of writing (23 Sept), greenkeeping students on C&G block release courses have not received results from their previous year of work. This is unreasonable for students and I hope to see considerable improvements next year. Students should enrol without delay for new courses. This means pressure on colleges.

A wet September meant irrigation finished earlier than usual here in Cleveland - and the swallows all disappeared by 10 September.

Acting as an assessor for candidates in the north east who entered for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award, I must tell you what a great pleasure it was to visit their golf courses. The interesting variations and superb conditions presented - from the north east to Cheshire and North Wales - indicated that applicants had worked hard on presentation, also on keeping records regarding pesticides, safety requirements and COSHH. Final decisions were made at the sheds, both

inside and out, i.e. concrete floors for washing vehicles, thus ensuring cleanliness upon entering: Cleanliness = Safety.

The candidate from North Wales came very close to winning, but in the event Tony Mears (Dinsdale Spa GC) won the northern region nomination by a single point. We wish him luck. Our visits revealed a shortage of trained and certificated spray operators, bringing the observation that training in all aspects of greenkeeping is essential.

Diary dates: • 16 November at Darlington GC – AGM at 7.30pm followed by an address on turf diseases by Neil Baldwin. • 7 December, also at Darlington GC at 7.30pm, a quiz sponsored by Turf Care Products, plus free supper – don't miss either!



BRUCE BURNELL

## WEST SCOTLAND

The Autumn Tournament was held at Drumpellier GC on 15 September, with home player Stephen Hogg taking the scratch prize with a score of 70. The day was sunny and dry with a healthy field of some fifty members, traders and guests taking part. Our thanks go to Stephen and his staff for presenting the course in such excellent condition and to the caterers and bar staff for a lovely meal and excellent service.

Other results: First class: 1st S Taylor (Killer-mont) 72-1=71. 2nd N Bulloch (Haggs Castle) 75-3=72 (BIH) 3rd G Kerr (Gleddoch House) 81-9=72. Second class: 1st S Cameron (Drumpellier) 84-18=66. 2nd B Hillen (Drumpellier) 88-18=70. 3rd A Brawley (E. Kilbride) 87-16=71. Third class: 1st A McDowall (Torrance House) 84-20=64. 2nd N Hendry (Langlands) 96-26=70. 3rd K McGuire (Drumpellier) 93-20=73. Apprentice Trophy: S Cameron (Drumpellier) 83+66=149. Trade: Richard Aitken 87-18=69. New Member: A Young (Dougalston) 111. Visitor: J Moylan (Gled-doch House) 104-27=77.

Our next section event is the Annual Dinner, held this year at the Admiral Restaurant, Glasgow, on Friday 26 November. Three excellent speakers have been confirmed and a good attendance is anticipated. Tickets are limited, so it must be a case of 'first come, first served'. Tickets may be obtained from any committee member, or call me on 886 3899.



SANDY BULLOCH

## EAST SCOTLAND

Our annual Autumn Tournament was held on Tuesday 14 September at Ratho Park GC., when 55 members, guests and traders took part – despite very wet and windy conditions! All credit to Tom Murray and his crew for the excellent condition of the course, which everyone enjoyed. Ratho Park is always a very popular course and this day was no exception, despite the conditions. This was the second year running that the tournament had almost to be cancelled due to bad weather, and I'm inclined to think that perhaps next year we should change the date.

Results: Scratch: T Murray (Ratho Park). 1st class: P Bowden (Newbattle), 2nd class: R Thomson (Peebles), 3rd class: J Nisbet (Peebles). Veteran: J Lockerbie (Baberton), Aggregate: G Hobbs (Torphin), Trade: M Dennis (STS).

In the afternoon the final for the Richard Aitken Trophy took place, a knock-out tournament which begins at the start of each season, played in two-ball format. After a very thrilling game, R Frame and G Ferguson beat S Greenwood and G Wood on the very last green. Our grateful thanks go to all those who made this the excellent day it was, especially the captain and council for the courtesy of the course.

Only the day before we learned that Ralph Bullock, head greenkeeper at Seahouses GC, had retired – thus a small presentation was made to him. All our best wishes go to Ralph for a long and happy retirement, which he thoroughly deserves after all he has gone through this year.

Taking Ralph's place we have Alister Holmes, latterly first assistant at Goswick. Alister has been a very popular figure in the section for a number of years and we are all delighted that his chance has

# Around the Green



finally come. Certainly we wish him well in his new job.

Believe it or not, summer finally arrived in the east of Scotland at the start of September, when we enjoyed one full, glorious week. I even tried out my new irrigation system! However, the sunshine didn't last and it has rained solidly ever since. Well, there is always next year!

Weather-wise, in this part of the country we will be happy to wave good-bye to the year, hopeful that a mild winter may follow. There are still a number of important events to come and notification should be with you very soon. Let's not lose touch over the winter months, come along to every event and support your section to the utmost. Non-members will be made most welcome, especially as we shall do our best to persuade them into joining us as members in 1994.



WILLIE BLAIR

## NORTH SCOTLAND

Congratulations to Wilson Morrison on his promotion to head greenkeeper at Alford GC and every success in his new job. Also to be congratulated is Paul Murphy, who is the North section's recipient of the Scottish Patrons Award. This award is in the form of a grant, which will take him to Harrogate in 1994, or on an educational course. He wins the nomination by having supported most BIGGA events during 1993 – from section outings to regional events, plus events of a national nature. Next time it could be you! To reiterate, every member in the section is eligible, so you now know what must be done. Our special thanks to our Patrons for this excellent prize.

Our Autumn Outing to Kirriemuir was a great success, for even the weather was good. We had 83 in attendance, with all bar two venturing onto Jim McCormack's excellently manicured course. Everybody at the club made us most welcome and nothing was too much trouble.

RESULTS: Scratch 1st George Paterson 71, 2nd Kevin Peace 75. Class One: Gary Tough 71-1=70, 2nd Andrew McRae 77-6=71, 3rd Stephen Sullivan 77-5=72. Class Two: 1st Sam Morrison 77-10=67, 2nd Eoin Riddell 77-7=70, 3rd Robert Hardie 77-7=70. Class Three: 1st (plus the Maclean Trophy for best nett score) Robert Allan 91-26=65, 2nd Steven Simpson 85-18=67, 3rd Stuart Hogg 98-26=72. Veteran: (Toro Trophy) Alisdair McLaren 76-6=70, 2nd Tom Simpson 92-20=72. Apprentice: 1st John Milne 76-5=71, 2nd Kevin Fowler 83-11=72. Trade Shield: Kevin Brunton 74. Guests: Equal first R McRae and R J Taylor (both 69). The Meldrum Trophy (spring and autumn aggregate) and Committee Glass: Sam Morrison. The M&M Trophy: (veteran aggregate) Arthur Williamson.

Thanks to George Hampton for the donation of a trophy for the Best Scratch score at the Autumn Meeting, won this year by George Paterson. Longest drive was Gary Tough, nearest the pin Steven Simpson and Paul Ross. Finally, the booby prize went to Duncan Adams! The BIGGA blazer was won by Gordon Moir and the four lucky winners in our latest 200 Club draw were (May £30) Keith Beaton of Turriff, (June £30) James McCormack of Kirriemuir, (July £40) Peter Tait of Inverurie, (August £100) Alick Mackay of Skibo by Dornoch. The final four monthly draws will take place at the AGM, along with two extra draws for education vouchers worth £150 each, for members to use towards either a trip to Harrogate, the National Conference, or a course held at BIGGA HQ or an approved college.

Later this month our AGM will be held, courtesy of the council of Nairn Dunbar GC, and sponsored by Souters of Stirling. We hope to start the day with talks by John Souter and Ian Hume of the

Scottish Golf Union, followed by a tour (weather permitting), of the new holes constructed by Souters, in turn followed by a light lunch. The annual Chairman versus Vice Chairman Match will then take place, and for those who want it, high tea will be available. The AGM will begin at 5.00 pm. It should be a great day.....and all it will cost is the price of your high tea (if you want it)! Let's have a good turn-out, so get your entries in now. This is your chance to have a say in the way things are run, so don't miss out.



IAIN MACLEOD

## CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The date set for the section AGM is 30 November, to be held at Alloa GC. If you have constructive ideas on what you would think should be happening in the section, or indeed in the Association, come along and put them to the committee. Prior to the AGM, John Souter will give a presentation on rootzone trials for greens and tees. The programme begins with Mr Souter's presentation at 11.00 am, followed by lunch at noon, the AGM starting at 1.45 pm.

Please note, the date of the annual dinner has been changed from Friday 3 December to Friday 10 December, again at Alloa GC. The guest speaker will be Tom (Tiny) Wharton OBE, FBIM, former top-class football referee. Tickets, £12.50 each, (including the presentation of 1993 golf trophies, plus a prize draw and followed by a disco), are available now – if you don't want to be disappointed, get your ticket(s) by contacting me (Tel 041 429 6499) or a member of the committee.

Congratulations to section member Alex Wallace of Dollar GC., who triumphed in the 'Over 55's' section of the Hayter Challenge Tournament at Sand Moor. Everyone who participated in this tournament had a great time and our special thanks go to Kim Macfie and everyone from Hayters for their help and support.

Prize draw tickets have been circulated and hopefully everyone is making an effort to sell their allocation, as this is the biggest fund-raiser for the section. From the 1992 draw £200 was donated to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, £250 to the Sunshine Coaches for Kids Appeal, whilst three section members gained an all expenses paid trip to the BTME at Harrogate – not bad for a section with under 200 members!

By popular demand, further social evenings at the ten-pin bowling centre at Falkirk will be organised during the winter, so get practicing! Thus far we have had zero response to the idea of an evening at Glenrothes Bowling Alley!

Details of events finalised thus far have been circulated to all members, but if you have not received them, get in touch with me (041 429 6499) and I will forward a list to you. If you wish to bring a member of your golf club committee to any of our events (except the AGM), they will be made most welcome.



JOHN CRAWFORD

## AYRSHIRE

We had an excellent turn-out of 35 for the Autumn Outing at Old Prestwick on 28 September, a lovely autumn day, better than most of this year's summer, with golf played of the highest calibre. Indeed, it had to be, as Old Prestwick is a very stern test of golf played the old-fashioned way. We have to sincerely thank the committee and caterers at Old Prestwick for helping to make the day special, and course manager Murray Stewart for the fine condition of the links.

RESULTS: Scratch: I McNab (Dumfries and County) 73. First class: 1st S Higgins (Ardeer) 74-7=67, 2nd G Brown (Turnberry) 75-4=71, 3rd S Ross (Troon Municipal) 81-10=71. Second class: 1st J Johnstone (Turnberry) 87-16=71. 2nd S Mercer (Skelmorlie) 87-13=74, 3rd J Paton 92-18=74. Trade: K Brunton (Souters) 76-1=75.

The monthly draw has begun, with the first big win going to Steven Knaggs of Dumfries & County, gaining £100. Other winners are Keith Hardy, Neil Turner, Keith Erskine, David Knaggs, Brian Taylor and Andrew Gibson. Anyone wishing to enter can do so by sending a cheque to Jim Paton at West Kilbride.

Good luck messages to Brian Findlayson on taking over the reins at Kilmarnock Barrassie, and Jim Smith on moving to Ardeer from Kilmacolm, plus congratulations to Charlie Pickthall from Gatehouse of Fleet on winning the Best Student Award at Kyle and Carrick Training Centre, then failing narrowly to qualify for the TORO/PGA European Tour Student of the Year award. More on this elsewhere.

I have the sad duty to report the death of Harry Diamond's wife, Greta, after a long and brave fight against illness. Harry has asked me to pass on his deepest gratitude to those in the Association who have supported him and Greta over these times, and to give sincere thanks for the many expressions of sympathy received. Harry, our thoughts are with you and your family.

Finally, on a lighter note, spotted over the West Kilbride course the other week was a big red balloon filled with hot air (no, not Jimmy!), and carrying half a dozen German tourists. Apparently they find it easier to describe where they are on the radio if they land on a golf course rather than a



field. When last seen, they were heading for Turnberry and courses beyond. Our next get together will be at the AGM and the Christmas games night, details of which will be sent out soon.  
DUNCAN GRAY

#### MIDLAND REGION

On 15 September the final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament was played at Sand Moor GC. Although the day stayed fine for us, some 2-3 inches of rain fell during the previous day, leaving the course very wet. This did not affect Mike Hughes however, who dropped only three shots over 27 holes on his way to overall victory and receipt of the Hayter Challenge Trophy - well done, Mike. The team award was won by the Northern Region, with our own Midlands Region team coming a close second. Congratulations to all of my team - you played well and represented your region with golf of the highest calibre. I thank Sand Moor GC for making us feel so welcome and the staff at BIGGA for organising such a grand event over two days.

#### SECTION NEWS:

A visit to the Jacobsen factory has been organised for 9 December, sponsored by Abbey Mowers in conjunction with Jacobsen. Numbers will be limited to about 25, with visitors being driven to the venue in a coach. Members wishing to go on this trip should contact me, not later than 28 November, Tel: 0789 762912.



DEAN CLEAVER

#### SURREY

Yet another highly successful section golf event was held when the Drift GC hosted the Parker's Salver on 8 September. Despite heavy rain on preceding days, the course was in first class shape and played as tight as ever! Ian Sutcliffe won his second consecutive section event, pipping Terry Edwards on a count-back with 36 Stableford points. Furthermore, I welcome the opportunity to name myself as placing third! Thanks went, as usual, to the club for first class hospitality and courtesy of the course, to Paul Weston and his team for the hard work required in presenting the course so well, and to Ron Jobson - who not only helped with the cards but brought along the prizes as well!

The Huxley Bowl has passed, with games being played promptly and in the usual friendly spirit expected. In the final, Dave Gibbs and Roger Glazier triumphed over Barry Robertson and R Halland. Well done to all finalists. Congratulations also to Mark Todd of Lingfield Park on achieving a double distinction in his Phase II City & Guilds at Plumpton College.

Our second winter lecture of the season will be a presentation by British Seed Houses on 6 December at New Zealand Artisans Club - please support these evenings. The trip to BTME is also worthy of support and anyone interested in taking advantage should contact Derek Walder for final details (not available at time of writing).

Finally, we bid farewell to two members of the Surrey committee who have left the area. Treasurer Robert Brewer has taken up his new position at

# Around the Green



Naunton Downs, whilst Mike Yorston, the man responsible for section handicaps, has moved to Bottley Park Hotel. I take this opportunity to not only wish them all the best, but also to thank them for the hard work they put in for the section. I also welcome Tony Iafate, who has recently joined our committee.

ROGER TYDEMAN

#### SOUTH WALES

The Ashburnham GC hosted this year's competition for the Presidents Shield, with weather that was warm, sunny, and made for golf - ideal conditions for this long and demanding course. Our thanks to Paul Hopkins and his green staff, for the course was in super condition. The day was sponsored by Kubota UK Ltd and our thanks go to them, especially our Kubota area representative, Colin Hennah, who had his work cut out keeping us entertained for two hours due to a faulty video recorder. His splendid efforts were greatly appreciated.

The winner of the Presidents Shield, with a low nett of 71 was Chris Thomas (Kubota tracksuit), runner-up Tony King 73 (overalls), low gross Gary Johnston 79 (Kubota umbrella and golf balls), runner-up Stephen Price 80 (overalls).

The winter evening lecture programme at Pen-coed College, Bridgend, will have started by the time this appears, but is as follows: (all on Wednesday's except November).

Thursday 11 November, John Hinton on Floronid fertilisers. 12 January, Richard Minton giving a chemical update. 9 February, Jim McKenzie on the Celtic Manor Golf Course and its development. 9 March, Lyn Davies on Conservation Management. 13 April, A seminar featuring Mechanisation on the golf course.

The format is the same as last year, using the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of November, which is on Thursday. Each lecture will commence at 7.00 pm. Please make every effort to attend these events, for if they are to continue, they must have YOUR support!

Many of our local dealers have been holding Open Days and Demonstration Days this month (September). Ted Hopkins held his on the 23rd, at Wentloog, Newport. The day being well attended (so good to see) with many participating in the clay pigeon shoot. Many top brand names were on show, including Amazone, Iseki, Massey Ferguson, Dori, Hardi, Stihl, Hayter Beaver and many more.

On the 28th, Power Cut held their annual John Deere Roadshow, this year for the first time holding it at their own premises, Oaklands Mansion, Cwm-frwydd. Again the day was well attended, with around eighty viewing a vast array of machinery and attachments. An excellent demonstration of new and well established John Deere machinery took place, with the ever-efficient Howard Storey on hand to answer any queries.

On the 29th, Pyle & Kenfig was the venue for a Toro Workman demonstration day. Pro-Turf Equipment and Lely UK put together an excellent exhibition of the Workman 3200 and 3300D, together with a vast array of attachments. Around forty people attended and everybody was well impressed with the Workman truck. The truck's sturdiness, operator comfort and excellent manoeuvrability was plain for all to see. We wish Toro well and thank them for their support and sponsorship of our Matchplay Knockout Competition in 1993.

PETER LACEY

#### SHEFFIELD

Rain, rain go away... It didn't! Nevertheless, 27 stalwart Sheffield members braved the elements to

participate in the Autumn Tournament at Stocksbridge GC on 14 September. Derek Cheetham and his staff had been busy the day before, replacing the many tons of sand which had been washed out of the bunkers and working strenuously to present the course in fine order, despite horrendous weather conditions. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Our thanks also to the Stocksbridge management for permission to hold the tournament, also to in-house staff for their hospitality and to Mrs Cox, the caterer, for a splendid meal.

The prize table was excellent - thanks to trade support from Yorkshire Mowers, Rigby Taylor, Aitken Sports and Amenity Turf Supplies.

Congratulations to all prizewinners, in particular to Ian Batty (deputy head at Stocksbridge). One wonders how he found the energy to play 18 holes after working so hard? Ian won the competition with 36 points, with Craig Batty second and Robin Grayson in third place.

Finally, our thanks go to all the members who took



part for making the competition a success. CALENDAR NOTE: Christmas Competition, 1 December, at Wortley GC, tee-off 10.30 am, followed by what is always a superb Christmas meal.

JANE RYAN

#### DEVON & CORNWALL

Our Christmas meeting will again be held at Oakhampton GC on Wednesday 8 December, and in a repeat of last year, numbers for this event will be limited to eighty. The day will commence with a Greensome Stableford competition for the P J Flegg Trophy, while our non-golfing members will partake in the now traditional 'course-walk' before returning to the clubhouse for some festive 'spirit'! Our comedian this year will be Graham Gadd, a comic who comes to us on the recommendation of last year's entertainer.

Our congratulations to Jeff Mills, course manager at Woodbury Park GC, on his election to the National Board. I am sure that Jeff will serve our Association well.

To finish, the 'grapevine' informed me that Laughlan Miller had been so busy preparing his course for the assessment toward entry in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award that he forgot the date of the Hayter Challenge Tournament final. To his credit, upon discovering his error he jumped into his car and arrived in Leeds in time to compete - without once breaking the speed limit!

RICHARD WHYMAN

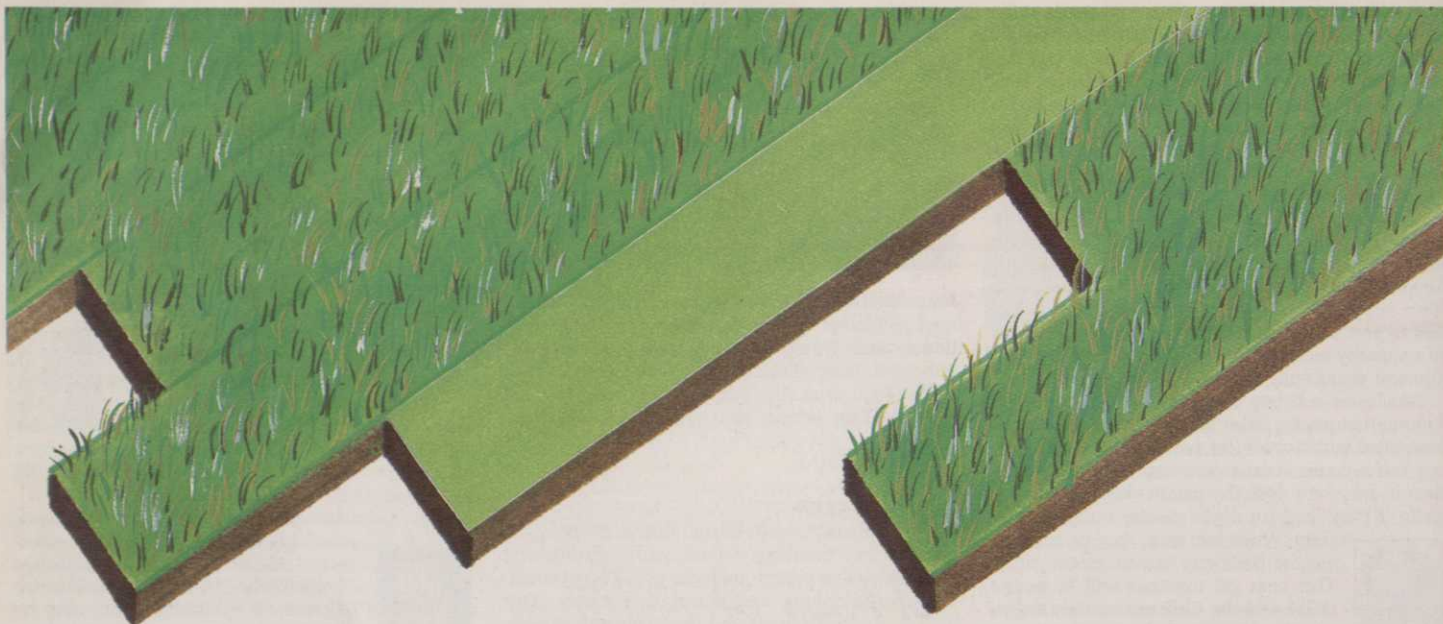
#### MID ANGLIA

All members should have received a fixture card, listing all the events planned for the rest of this year and into 1994. Currently we are in the process of approaching golf clubs with a view to booking for 1995.

Section matches were played during August and September against the Midlands and London sections - and we were fairly successful. Dunstable Downs GC hosted the Midlands match and we managed a convincing win, while Knebworth GC was the venue for the London match, which resulted in a draw. Well done to all those who took part, and thanks to the clubs concerned for allowing the events to take place. A match against Bucks, Berks and Oxon was also arranged, but unfortunately had to be cancelled at the last moment.

Our good wishes to Jim Cassidy (Ashridge GC), who has been nominated as the section's representative in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award. We can all sample the delights of Jim's course in December, when on Friday 3 December our Texas Scramble takes place. The form enclosed with the fixture card should be used to enter your team - send it to Chris Brook. The cost is £20 for members, £30 for guests, and numbers are limited, so get your entries in quickly! Teams entering should be aware that every player must bring a prize (value £5.00). Last year, for some reason, several players failed to do this.

The Midland Regional Seminar will be staged at Sketchley Grange Country Hotel and Confer- ➔ 50



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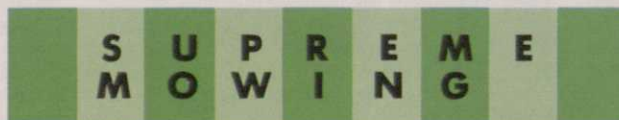
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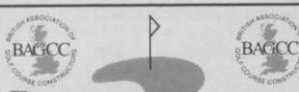
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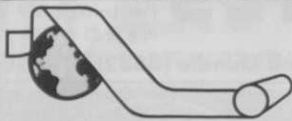
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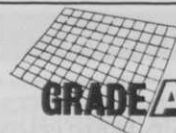
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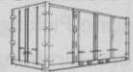
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## Bishop Auckland Golf Club HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the above appointment.

The Club is celebrating its centenary year in 1994, being one of the oldest Golf Clubs in County Durham. The parkland course, set in the grounds of the Bishop's Palace, is also one of the finest golf courses in the area.

The Club is seeking a Head Greenkeeper who is able to maintain the tradition of the Club and manage the course under the supervision of the Committee. Salary and fringe benefits are negotiable and will depend upon the experience and qualifications of the successful applicant.

Applications containing full personal details and the names of two referees should be made in the applicant's own handwriting to Mr G Thatcher, Club Secretary, at High Plains, Durham Road, Bishop Auckland, from whom further information may be obtained (Telephone: 0388 663648).

Applications should be received by not later than 29th November 1993.

## Melbourn & Kingsway Golf Centre Limited HEAD GREENKEEPER

Opened in April 1991, and now under new ownership, the Centre currently consists of a 9 hole golf course, 9 hole par 3 pitch & putt course, 40 bay all weather luxury floodlit driving range, professional shop, bar and lounge facilities. Additionally we have planning permission for a new 18 hole golf course adjacent to the existing complex.

Applicants must possess a recognised qualification and be experienced in all aspects of course management. The ability to lead and motivate a small team of greenstaff, organise work programmes and maintain health and safety requirements is essential. Practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping machinery and budgetary control is also required.

Please send written application with full CV to:

**The Secretary**  
Melbourn & Kingsway Golf Centre Limited  
Cambridge Road, Melbourn, Royston  
Herts SG8 8EY

## HEAD GROUNDSMAN

Applications are invited for the post of Head Groundsman at Eton.

The successful applicant will manage a team of ten groundsman in the maintenance of about 200 acres of playing fields. The post requires a considerable amount of technical and management expertise. Applicants should be members of the Institute of Groundsmanship or similar body.

A house will be provided.

Ideally we would like the successful applicant to start at the beginning of April 1994, and work for several months alongside the present Head Groundsman, who is retiring.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from The School Bursar, Eton College, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 6DJ

Closing date for applications:  
23rd November 1993

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## *Harborne Golf Club Ltd*

Applications are invited for the position of

# DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

for an established course maintained to a high standard.

The successful applicant should have at least five years experience in modern greenkeeping, have City and Guilds Phase 2 or equivalent and a thorough knowledge of machinery maintenance.

No accommodation – salary negotiable.

Written applications in strictest confidence including CV to:

**The Secretary, Harborne Golf Club Ltd**  
40 Tennyal Road, Harborne, Birmingham B32 2JE

## Birchwood Golf Club

requires

# COURSE MANAGER/ HEAD GREENKEEPER

Birchwood Golf Club, acknowledged as one of the most progressive and ambitious golf clubs in the North West with a significant reputation and record of achievement, now seeks to appoint a suitably qualified person to take full responsibility for all course matters.

Applicants must possess recognised qualifications as well as a proven track record in course management. The ability to lead and motivate an established team of green staff, organise work programmes and to bring about improvements to fine grass areas is essential.

A practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping machinery, current Health and Safety regulations and budgetary control skills are also required.

Salary is negotiable but will not include accommodation.

Apply in confidence with full CV to:

**Mr B Smith, Chairman of Green, Birchwood Golf Club,**  
Kelvin Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 7PB

## The Jed Forest Hotel

requires a

# DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Jed Forest Hotel is situated on the A68, four miles south of the Scottish border town of Jedburgh. Bordered by the River Jed, the hotel has some 35 acres of parkland, on which the owners are seeking to construct a 9 hole golf course. The applicant, in close liaison with the golf course architect, will be expected to oversee the construction of the course, liaise with local contractors, and train and motivate junior staff. Applicants should be suitably qualified and have appropriate experience.

Temporary accommodation may be available.  
Salary negotiable.

Apply in writing, with full CV to:

**Dick Chapman**  
The Manager, Jed Forest Hotel, Camptown,  
Jedburgh TD8 6TJ

## Woodcote Park

G o l f  C l u b

Coulsdon

requires

# ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

and

# ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Woodcote Park, first opened in 1912, is an attractive 18-hole course, situated five miles from Croydon. Applicants are asked to write, giving details of age, experience and qualifications. Possible accommodation available for both posts.

Please write to:

**Mr B E Dunn, Secretary,**  
Woodcote Park Golf Club, Meadow Hill  
Bridle Way, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2QQ



Rudding Park Golf Course,  
Harrogate, North Yorkshire

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

required for an 18 hole golf course currently under construction in 170 acres of parkland and which is expected to open in spring 1995.

Applicants must be suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of course management.

The successful applicant, who will probably take up the appointment on 1 March 1994, will be required to build up a team and take the course to opening and beyond.

Salary by negotiation. No accommodation.

Please reply in confidence with full CV to:

**M Mackaness Esq**  
**Managing Director**  
**Rudding Estate Office**  
**Follifoot, Harrogate**  
**North Yorkshire HG3 1DJ**  
**Fax: 0423 873011**

## *Ballyliffin Golf Club*

require a

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

URGENTLY

Applicants must be suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of course management with particular experience on links terrain.

An ability for hands on management combined with motivation and leadership skills is a high priority.

This new position will have responsibility for the management of the present 18 hole course and to take over the final growing-in period prior to opening in July 1995 of a further 18 holes.

Salary negotiable with experience. No accommodation.

Applications in confidence with full CV to:  
**K O'Doherty, Hon Secretary, Ballyliffin Golf Club, Carndonagh, Co Donegal, Ireland**



## Coombe Hill Golf Club

require a

## DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Applicants must be fully qualified, with a minimum of five years experience.

A salary of circa £19,000 is offered.

No accommodation is available.

BIGGA membership is essential.

Applications in writing with CV to:

**Course Manager**  
**Mr A McKechnie**  
**Coombe Hill Golf Club,**  
**Golf Club Drive, off Coombe Lane West,**  
**Kingston, Surrey KT2 7DG**



Southwick Park Golf Club  
require a

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

This busy 18 hole parkland course requires applicants with recognised qualifications. Experience in all aspects of course machinery and irrigation maintenance is essential.

An ability to manage, lead and motivate staff is a priority.

No accommodation available. Salary negotiable.

*Previous applicants need not apply.*

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Manager, SPNRC**  
**Pinsley Drive, Southwick, Fareham, Hants PO17 6EL**

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**Mr A Dommett, Devon Garden Machinery,**  
**Kerswell Gardens, Newton Road, Torquay TQ2 7HX**

39 → ence Centre, situated just off junction 2 of the M69 in Leicestershire. The cost is £20 per delegate and a broad spectrum of topics, including Health & Safety, Education and Lubrication, will be covered by the speakers, together with greenkeepers talking about developments on their courses. When the seminar is over, Hardi Sprayers invite all delegates for coffee and a guided tour, their premises being just a few hundred yards from the conference centre.

Finally, as you will see from the fixture card, the Family Golf Centre at Graveley will be used this year for the section's lectures and talks. The centre is situated just off the A602 (Stevenage) junction of the A1. Our thanks to Beadlow Manor for the facilities provided in the past.  
PAUL LOCKETT



## LONDON

The match against Mid-Anglia in September at Knebworth resulted in a draw. The four-ball better-ball format was very enjoyable and I would like to thank the Mid-Anglia section and Knebworth GC for their hospitality and help throughout the day. I would also like to congratulate all our members who qualified for the Hayter Challenge Final at Sand Moor GC. Well done to Colin Forde (Mill Hill GC), Peter Preston (Wanstead GC), and Mick Sherris (Muswell Hill GC). Congratulations also to Richard Andrews (Highgate GC) on winning the regional nomination for the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper award. Results of the final will no doubt appear in this issue. Richard attended Oaklands in 1992/3 and passed all his exams to very high standard. He is continuing his education programme this year by attending Oaklands for the management course. Richard, we wish you well for the future.

This month we shall be running a chainsaw competence course at Oaklands, though the date has not been finalised. Anyone interested should contact me ASAP as places will be limited. The programme for our winter seminar at Oaklands College on 2 December has been agreed. The day

# Around the Green



will commence at 9.45am and the speakers are as follows: • Ed McCabe – Developing a course management policy. • Gordon Jaaback – The benefits of weather recording in golf course management. • Kevin Munt – *Agrostis Stolonifera* – The Facts. • Jack McMillan – Grass species – The Reality. A buffet lunch will be served and various suppliers will have information and products on display. The cost will be £8.50 per head and places may be reserved by contacting me or by returning an application form before 25 November. A draw will take place for the delegates attending and the winner will receive a day at the BTME in 1994. So come along, it's well worth it! Call me on 081-959-5629, evenings or weekends.  
TONY DUNSTAN



## SOUTH COAST

In the annual match against the South West section, held at Dunwood Park GC in September, the South Coast section was beaten by three games to two. Congratulations to Paul Worster and his team and our thanks to Mr Tingey and the officials at Dunwood Manor for their help and support.

I am pleased to inform members of our December competition, as follows: Tuesday 7 Dec at Royal Winchester GC, an 18 hole Stableford, teeing-off from 10.30 am onwards. The fee is £15.00 and the closing date is 27 November. Applications to me, please: BOB DENNIS, SPARSHOLT COLLEGE, SPARSHOLT, HANTS SO21 2NF. Be sure to include handicap details and enclose the correct fee. My

thanks to Rigby Taylor and New Forest Farm Machinery Ltd., who are sponsoring this competition.



## SOUTH WEST

I'm afraid I have a serious complaint concerning 'Setting the Standard', the video recently distributed by the Association. Having left the cassette lurking on the video shelf at home, I became aware that my family were watching it regularly, with the result that my wife now knows more about spray application than I do. Imagine the scene: we are lying together in bed, all is dark & still, the kids are asleep. I snuggle a little closer, my wife turns and breathes into my ear "Tell me the precise spray volume rate for Rovral?" I retreat, harbouring dark thoughts of dire consequences for BIGGA HQ.

The section team had a great day out in Hampshire in September, visiting the Dunwood Manor course at Romsey, the opposition being our friends from the South Coast section. Despite rainfall during the latter part of the round, Paul Legg and I had a super game around a tricky course and thanks to a couple of brave putts over the final holes won by the slenderest of margins: one-up. This obviously inspired the team, helping the South West to a rare victory by three games to two. Many thanks to the



South Coast and Dunwood Manor for the day. Please keep those applications for sprayer tests & tuition coming in, also note that further first aid & chainsaw training can be organised on demand.  
PAUL WORSTER

## NORTH WEST

At the Hayter Challenge Final at Sandmoor GC in September the Northern Region won the team prize and a cheque for £500. Also successful was Chris Hulme, the only NW qualifier, who won the 10-18 handicap section. Very well done all of you. How about the Ryder Cup? Europe may have lost the cup but Derek Ganning and his staff won where course presentation is concerned. Unfortunately I was unable to scrounge a ticket so I had to watch the matches on telly, seeing the most exciting golf possible. But I also enjoyed seeing the course, which was prepared and presented to the highest standards possible. Well done Derek, you did us proud.

News has just reached me that John Lowrey has been appointed head greenkeeper at Marple GC.

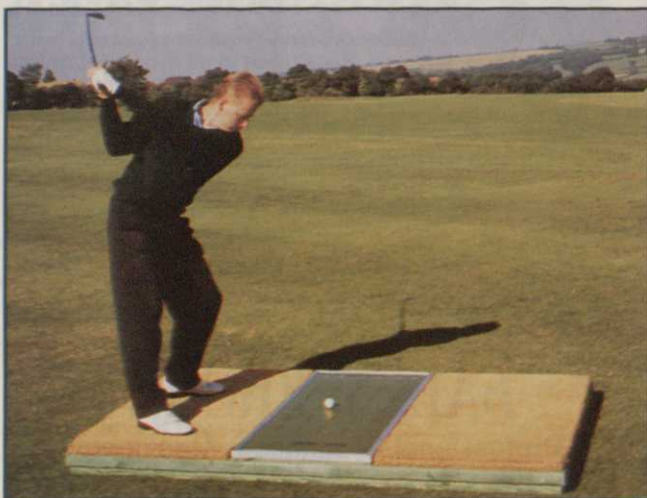


Welcome back into the game, John. The North West AGM will be held late in November, though date and venue have yet to be arranged. Any news, views, or complaints – ring me on 051 724 5412.  
BERT CROSS

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## EVENTS DIARY

- December 1-3: Golf Course Europe Conference and Exhibition, Paris.
- December 6-7: ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award, Aldwark Manor.
- January 19-21, 1994: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), Trade Show and Educational Seminar Programme, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
- February 4-7: GCSAA Conference and Show, Dallas, Texas
- March 5-8: Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, Calgary, Alberta.
- September 6-8: Saltex (previously loG) Trade Exhibition, Royal Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire.

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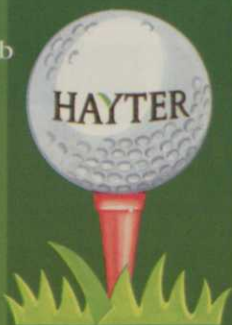
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