

Faces and places



■ The Rt. Hon. Viscount Whitelaw, president of BIGGA, officially opened the new Sedburgh Golf Club last month, five years after the old course, high in the Cumberland fells, had been deemed virtually unplayable by members. Bruce and Lorna Wilson and John and Jean Handley, whose adjoining farmland

hosts the new Maxel designed and constructed course, fought a long battle with planners and conservationists before the first sod was turned. Viscount Whitelaw, who is Sedburgh's first honorary vice-president, opined that there would always be those who claimed that golf courses were a threat to wildlife, but as long as more and more people wanted to play the great game, there would be a need for new courses. He also praised the sympathetic design, which utilises natural features to the full, appearing as if it had 'always been there'.

■ A new specialist group has been formed by the Institute of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE) to cater for those involved with leisure, sport, and the environment – with an engineering requirement or demand. Named the Amenity and Ecological Engineering group, its formation reflects changes taking place, with farmers diversifying into the leisure and sporting sectors and environmental concerns taking precedence. As a result, agricultural engineers are being called upon increasingly to research, educate, advise, design, develop, manufacture and supply equipment and services within areas other than food production.

The agricultural engineering profession is well placed to respond, first because it has long been involved in environmental manipulation through drainage, erosion control, land reclamation and levelling, water storage and irrigation. Second, it is the only engineering discipline with a scientific base in biological science. The new group aims to embrace all aspects of biological science and 'clean' technology: the creation, management and maintenance of sports and amenity areas and the design and management of landfill sites. In conjunction with BIGGA at BTME in January 1994, the group will hold its first public function, a seminar on engineering and its applications within amenity and the golf course industry.



■ Readers may remember Gordon Mitchell writing in Greenkeeper International earlier this year after they had a break-in at the club's equipment store – the story goes that the intruders were eventually spotted in Leek High Street wearing John Deere caps, removed during the break-in,

couldn't explain where they'd got them, and were subsequently arrested and charged.

Among other equipment, the club runs a John Deere 2243 greensmower, 1070 compact tractor and 305 five-gang fairway mower – hence the visit to John Deere's HQ, to update themselves on the parts service and new machines for the golf course – and to be presented with some new hats! Our picture shows the suitably attired Gordon, right, with assistant Rob Pickford.



■ A cautionary tale for those who are forced to chase around the course – Ian Holoran, who assures me he certainly wasn't 'doing a Mansell', came across two golfers blocking his way on the course at Middlesbrough, braked hard on a sloping path and slid less than delicately into a very muddy stream. The result? A well bent Greens King and a

shaken though thankfully unhurt Ian Holoran. The trade, no doubt, were swift to make unscheduled sales calls!

■ The chance to win an expenses paid trip to attend the 1994 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Convention in Dallas, USA and £1000 worth of free Farmura products for the golf course awaits the winner of the Blazon 'Better Way to Spray' photographic competition. Second and third place runners-up will receive £500 and £250 worth of free Farmura products respectively.

The competition is open to greenkeepers and turf managers and each entrant will receive a free 110 camera and film, although entrants may use their own camera if they wish. The photographic theme is 'Summer on the Golf Course' and entries will be judged by a panel of experts chaired by David White, editor of Greenkeeper International. Your winning entry could well end up being featured in Greenkeeper International, certainly it will be displayed at the 1994 BTME in Harrogate. For information call 0233 76241 or speak to a Farmura products distributor.



■ At the All Seasons Golf Day staged at Foxhills, Jack McMillan, left, received a special award in recognition of his recent MBE, presented by Terry Huntley, chairman of the Surrey section of BIGGA, and John Hobbs, sales director of All Seasons Dressings.

■ With the expansion in golf courses through the country, the GTC approved Warwickshire College has taken steps to increase its provision and has just completed the construction of a third green on the college golf course. The work fits in perfectly with the curriculum as students get hands-on experience in the specialist tasks involved during construction, while at the same time the college expands its facilities, thus increasing its resource base. Sponsorship for the green construction has been important and the college has benefited from collaboration with a number of companies including Boral Lytag Ltd, Greenkeeper Ltd, Greenbase and AquaPipes Ltd.

■ Jason Hampton, 22, of Cartmel, Cumbria, has been awarded The Rufford Cup as best overall student following his three year BTEC National Diploma course in Golf Course and Sportsground Management at Sparsholt College, Hampshire. Jason, formerly from Brixham in Devon, plays golf with a handicap described as 'low' and gained work experience during the course duration at the Woodbury Park Golf and Country Club.

At the college's presentation ceremony, The Lord Sainsbury, KG., wished students of this 'most prestigious' college every success and recommended that, in their future positions, they should always remember the customers for their goods and services. "The customer should always be given good value, this being the sum total of quality and price".



■ Jimmy Richardson, secretary of BIGGA's North East section, has taken on the formidable task of managing the 180 acres that form Matten Hall Golf Club, located 20 miles west of Newcastle upon Tyne. Built by Golf Design and Management and designed by 'Mr Happiness', pro golfer Mark James, the 6600 yard course will be in full play by the autumn of 1994, with nine holes opening next spring.



■ David Culpin has been appointed John Deere's area manager for the whole of Ireland. He replaces Chris Meacock, who had previously taken up a similar role in the East Midlands. David became Agricultural Engineering Student of the Year while attending Caythorpe College and has been a member of the British Society for Research in Agricultural Engineering (now Silsoe Link). He lives in Palmerston, Dublin.