

Golf club rallies round head greenkeeper

Members of a Dorset golf club have raised £2,300 to send a head greenkeeper and his family on a dream holiday to Florida.

Golfers at Tidworth, on Salisbury Plain, have been touched by the plight of Chris Brown's seven-year-old daughter, Samantha, who had a kidney transplant last June and then suffered a series of setbacks, culminating in a 165-day stay in hospital while she had her gall bladder and spleen removed. Her mother, Jan, stayed with her while Chris looked after their other daughter, Kelly, 6, at home.

Chris worked his job around Kelly's school day, starting at 9am and working to about 3.30pm, and his colleagues, Tony Rose, Mark Arthur and Ted Racey, covered for him at weekends.

Samantha, who'll be eight this month, came out of hospital just before Christmas and is now leading a normal life, apart from fortnightly check-ups.

Members of the downland course, where Chris has been working for eight and a half years, four years as head greenkeeper, raised the money through a review night. Villagers have also chipped in another £700 and another member and his wife have offered them the use of their holiday home in Florida.

The Browns expect to go in October.

NEWS

One of longest holes in UK?

Knaresborough Golf Club in Yorkshire is putting the finishing touches to one of the longest holes in the country. The new-look 17th will be 627 yards off the white tees and 553 off the yellow, making the course 6,481-6,254 yards long. If you've got a longer hole, send us a picture and tell us all about it.



There's a new hazard in the rough of the second hole at Hamptworth Golf and Country Club. We wonder what this woman driver's handicap is?

One step beyond course manager

What's the next step after course manager? Operations manager is the answer. And Kevin Munt, course manager at Buckinghamshire Golf Club, has just been appointed operations manager there.

This expansion of duties will involve him in all aspects of club management and operation.

He said: "This is an exciting challenge for me having been involved in the club's development since day one. It is wonderful to be given the chance to play a greater role in an operation that I have vested the last four years of my career to."

Kevin, 36, added: "This is a great reflection on the educa-

tional system developed by the Association in the last seven years. I hope that my appointment will give incentive and help to other skilled course managers who wish to step into overall golf club management. Hopefully it will also serve as a target for young people entering our profession. There are now great opportunities in the golfing world for people who are willing to study and work hard at their careers. In fact, thanks to the standards set by BIGGA and the GTC, it should be far easier for managers to step from the golf course into the clubhouse rather than the other way around."

FLYING DIVOTS

■ BIGGA is setting up a central library of greenkeeping books, so if you have any old books, manuscripts or information, please send them to HQ. The library will be available to members when attending courses at Aldwark Manor or on a normal loan and return basis.

"We now have an excellent opportunity to collate the history of greenkeeping and long-forgotten books can be dusted down and forwarded to headquarters for safe keeping," said executive director Neil Thomas.

The General Committee of the R&A has given the Association a £10,000 grant to help set up the library and purchase rare books.

■ The management of the Erin Group, which produces and supplies gardening products, have completed a management buyout. Richard Grimmer, formerly operations director and managing director, has been appointed group managing director.



■ The Landscape Industries '94 exhibition is to be held on the RASE showground at Stoneleigh on June 8 and 9. More than 170 exhibitors are due to attend.

■ Golden Key Circle member ET Breakwell of Solihull has been appointed a distributor for Allen Power Equipment's Echo range of brushcutters, hedgecutters, blowers and leaf-collectors.

■ Turf Machinery Ltd, supplier of replacement parts, hire equipment and contract services to turf professionals, has moved to larger premises at Morrison House, 3A Monument Way West, Woking, Surrey. Tel: 0483 764467.

■ Brunston Castle Golf Club in Ayrshire is up for sale, two years after it opened.

■ Alfie Fyles, one of Britain's best known caddies, has died at the age of 66. The Southport-based caddie, who had throat cancer, helped Tom Watson and Gary Player win a total of six Open titles.



See you at Westurf

This month's big event is Westurf. The south-west's premier trade show has attracted all the leading names, including ICI Professional Products, Sisis, Farmura, Rhone-Poulenc, Barenbrug, Ruffords, STRI and Rigby Taylor. The show takes place at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol on Wednesday April 27 and parking and admission are free.

★ If you've got a story, call Chris Boiling on 0347 838581