

Send your letters to The Editor,  
Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor,  
Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF or fax them on 0347 838864



## High flyers collect awards

Here they are – Langside College Glasgow's first HNC in golf course management graduates posing after a ceremony at Strathclyde University. Flanked by lecturers Margaret Hamilton and Colin Urquhart, the students are: (back row)

John Robertson, Stephen Hogg, James O'Neil, Thomas Hindmarch, Hugh Logue; (front row) Iain Barr, Gino Garfagnini, Alex Blacklaw, Brian Porteous, and Paul Brannan. Andrew McDowal and Mark McBride also qualified.

## INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

# Sydney driving range to stay open all hours

Australia's first central city golf driving range is being developed in Sydney. Situated in the heart of the central business district, the 46-bay complex will operate on a seven day and night basis. It has four levels of undercover parking, a bistro/bar, putting

green and a large retail shop that opens onto Pitt Street.

◆ A new nine-hole course is due to open this month at the Honichi Golf Leisure Club in Shenzhen, China. The 18-hole course that opened there two years ago now supports 1300 members, with most of these coming from Hong Kong, 45 minutes away by motorway. Work on another nine holes is due to start in March. A lodge, hotel and cottages are also being developed and should come on line in the next two years with funding coming 50/50 from Japan and China. There are now 38 clubs in China with 26 of them opening within the next 18 months.

◆ Naples (Florida) National Golf Club's superintendent, Gary Grigg, has been nominated for the presidency of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and should take over the post at the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in San Francisco, California, February 20-27. He is currently the vice president.



■ Lee-on-Solent Golf Club assistant head greenkeeper Stephen Pellatt has been named as top student on the Sparsholt College green-keeping phase II/level 2 course. Stephen, 30, was also a regional winner in the Toro/PGA Student Green-keeper of the Year Award.

# Sticking to the rules

As product manager for worm control products at Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products, I would like to explain our situation to the greenkeeper pleading for a wormkiller in last month's issue.

We try very hard to understand customer requirements and realise that chlordane, at the time, must have come close to the ideal solution to the problem of worm control. We, therefore, understand the concerns over its loss of use.

Paradoxically, many of the features of chlordane that users deemed ideal were exactly the same features that led to its withdrawal of approval by MAFF. For example, long persistence and broad spectrum activity.

Due to the long residual nature of chlordane we as a company would be wasting money trying to develop something similar. The registration would fall at the first hurdle.

We work within a very tight regulatory framework, perhaps the strictest of any industry, even pharmaceuticals. This is because we are concerned with the safety, not only of the end user, but also the general public and the environment as a whole. Constantly trying to satisfy both customer requirements and the regulatory authorities is a very difficult task.

Bearing in mind both customer and regulatory requirements, we as a company believe we have the best products on the market in Twister Flow and Castaway Plus.

If anyone requires further information on our worm control products or would like to provide us with further customer feedback, please call us on 01277 301114.

**Jonathan Hill, product manager, Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products**

## Disappointing

I have just received the November issue of *Greenkeeper International*. I must say I find the content disappointing.

We must remember that BIGGA is an association of greenkeepers and not golfers. The amount of space in the magazine featuring golfers exceeds matters that are relevant to greenkeepers. The

amount of goodwill and sponsorship from leading machinery manufacturers that is poured into golfing events would be better being diverted towards the GTC.

To obtain the status that the greenkeeping profession rightly expects will not be achieved by imposing a glossy image, it will come about by the efforts of fully trained professional greenkeepers maintaining courses to high standards.

**David Ward, course manager, Royal Porthcawl GC, Mid Glamorgan**

● Editor's note: *I was disappointed with the November issue as well, but not for the same reason. November and December are traditionally our smallest issues. I had a great deal of material I wanted to get in but only a limited number of pages to play with since we work on a 50/50 editorial/advertising split. The article by Dr James Beard, published this issue, was planned for November but there was so much news and information for the members (and to recruit new members) that I couldn't fit it in. Only two of the 27 editorial pages featured golfers – and they were greenkeepers competing in a prestigious tournament at The Belfry. Incidentally, the three golf competitions we cover in detail – the Hayter Challenge Tournament, the ICI National Tournament and the Kubota Challenge are all sponsored by companies that give a great deal to greenkeeper education via BIGGA's Education and Development Fund (see BIGGA in Focus, page 7).*

## Invaluable

I would like to convey my thanks to everybody involved in organising and running the management courses that I have attended over two weeks at Aldwark Manor.

I feel that I have been looked after in every way and the knowledge that I have gained is invaluable and will help me in my day to day running on the golf course. It has made me look at green-keeping in different ways and has given me room for thought. I particularly like the Belbins team role.

I shall look forward to coming back to do the other two courses.  
**Doug Fernie, Epsom GC**