

BTME '95 set to reach capacity with 81% of space already sold

With seven months to go, 81% of the stand space at next year's BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate has been sold.

Many of this year's exhibitors were so impressed with the event that they have taken much larger sites in '95. These companies include Lely UK, Ransomes, Hardi Sprayers, Sharpes International, Kings Horticulture and Sisis.

New exhibitors include the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, which will help give the seventh BTME a more international flavour.

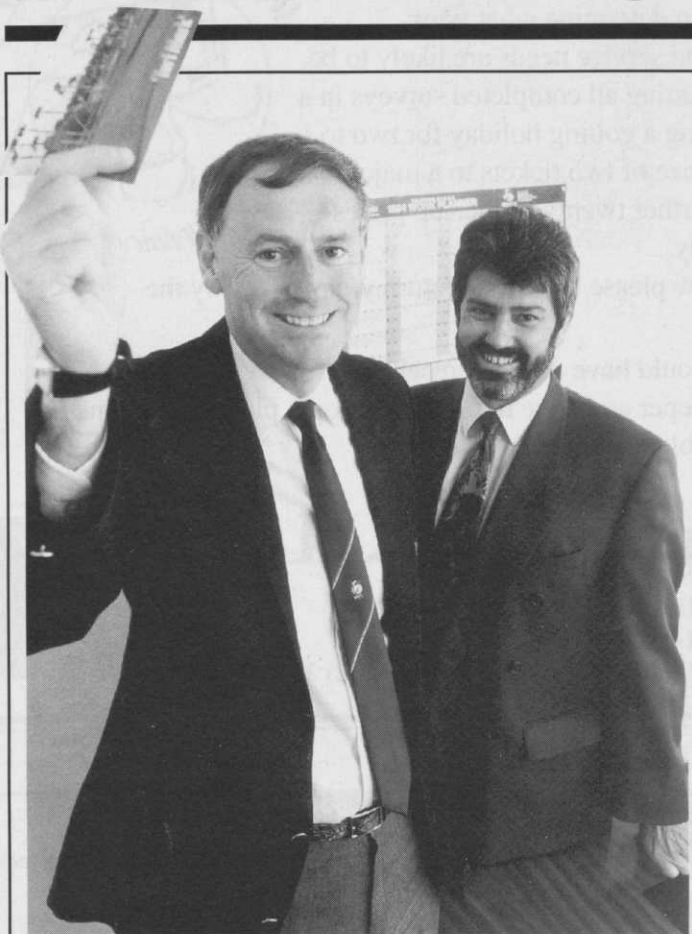
Bill Lynch, BIGGA's marketing manager, said: "The response has been overwhelming. More space had been taken and paid for by the end of May than we had sold by September last year. This, combined with the fact that we are restricting BTME to halls A, B and C to preserve the show's intimacy and the fact that we've lost a bit of space due to new fire regulations, means some manufacturers and distributors could be disappointed unless they book their space soon."

Britain's premier indoor turf management show will take place on January 25-27 in Harrogate's International Centre. For the first time, it will be preceded by BIGGA's National Education Conference rather than workshops. The highly-successful seminar programme will run as normal throughout the exhibition.

● Next issue, you could win an all-expenses paid trip to BTME – watch this space.

● Exhibition plan to date: Pages 42-43.

NEWS



Luck of the draw brings prize boost

A postcard from the edge of Effingham has saved the local golf course £1,000. Head greenkeeper Peter Broadbent was one of 2,000 UK and Irish greenkeepers sent a postcard from the USA to promote an improved formulation of ICI's Turf Mark. Greenkeepers were able to swap the card for a free sachet of the spray dye indicator, and the cards were entered into a draw for £1,000 worth of ICI Professional Products goodies. The draw was made at BIGGA's headquarters by executive director Neil Thomas, watched by ICI's Roger Mossop. The winner was Peter Broadbent of Effingham Golf Course.

David gets six of the best

David Eager, head greenkeeper at Northern Ireland's Blackwood Golf Course near Bangor has taken charge of six new Hayter machines – five Triple Greens Mowers (three complete with groomers and two with treaded front tyres and tees cutting heads) and a T44 fairway five-gang ride-on mower. "Being cut off from the mainstream of the UK trade has in the past restricted Northern Ireland greenkeepers to a limited choice of mowers," said David, "but I met Hayter at a number of trade shows and talked to their sales representative, Robin Boyes. He arranged a demonstration of their Greens Triple and T44. I liked what I saw..."

● David is pictured with greens assistant Jonathon Eager and David Johnston of Hayter dealer Cyril Johnston in Belfast.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ The Isles of Scilly's one and only greenkeeper, Peter Stringer, is off work at the moment thanking his lucky stars that he was wearing steel toe-capped boots. If he wasn't he could have lost his foot, according to doctors.

Peter, 64, was cutting the semi-rough at the nine-hole, 18 tees course. He stopped his old Massey Ferguson to move a seat, but as he was getting out the tractor began moving forward. Peter lost his balance and ended up under the tractor.

The gang mowers cut through the sole of one boot, badly gashing his foot and breaking two toes. "But if I hadn't been wearing my steel toe-capped boots, I'd have lost my foot," he said.

■ The Sports Turf Research Institute has promoted Stuart Ormondroyd to senior turfgrass agronomist.



Stuart joined the STRI in 1980 and has been specialising in golf since 1986, advising many courses in the north of England, Midlands and Ireland. He will continue with his existing duties (including lecturing) as well as assisting in the development and extension of the STRI's advisory service.

■ RPK Turfcare Supplies have appointed three new area reps. Former greenkeeper Peter Jordas will cover Surrey/Sussex, Harry Norman will handle Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Hampshire, and Jenny Waterfield will cover East Sussex and Kent. Tel: 0734 510251.

■ The British women's amateur champion is a former BIGGA employee. Emma Duggleby, 22, worked for the Association from September 1992 to March 1993 before quitting to try to 'make it' in the world of golf. Nobody, probably not even Emma, expected success to come quite so soon.

Just over a year after switching from greenkeeping to golfing matters, she beat 47-year-old Cecilia Mourgue D'Algue 3&1 in the final of the British Women's Championships at Newport.



Picking a winner for The Open

"I wish we could play The Open here tomorrow," said Turnberry's course manager, George Brown, when we phoned him just before we went to press.

Three weeks before the big day, he was very happy with the way the course was looking. After a very dry May, Ailsa had been blessed with enough rain during the early part of June to put a smile back on 55-year-old George's face. Although he has a fully-computerised irrigation system, he says: "You can't beat the real thing".

Are your greens going to be as fast as Oakmont, we teased him?

"Bloody hope not," was his typically honest response. He says he'll be aiming for a speed of 9.5-10. "If there's a strong wind you don't want it more than ten, otherwise they'll be there all day."

George, who backed Jose Maria Olazabal to win the US Masters this year and Ian Baker-Finch to win at Royal Birkdale in '91, reckons the conditions will suit US Open winner Ernie Els.

The rough isn't as dense as it was when The Open last visited Turnberry in 1986, and the fairways and semi roughs are more generous. "You don't have to be deadly accurate, so it will suit someone who hits it a long way but sprays it about a bit."

Greg Norman might also receive a flutter from four-handicapper George.

BIGGA's president, Viscount Whitelaw, favours Seve Ballesteros to add to his Benson and Hedges triumph at St Mellion while Greenkeeper International's editor, Chris Boiling, is backing Scotland's own Colin Montgomerie.



City of Ely Golf Club's Peter Reed won the Ufford Park Golf Day, sponsored by Sisis, RE Rushbrook & Son, Fisons, Rhone-Poulenc, and Lockwood Grass Machinery. Thirty-five greenkeepers and golf-playing groundsmen took part in the event. A raffle raised £60 for Save the Children.

Your chance to win award

Entry forms will soon be available for the Environmental Steward Award. Although this award is aimed mainly at US golf course superintendents, the organisers have told BIGGA "for the first time, we are considering entries from around the world". Awards created to recognise greenkeepers who care for and enhance their local environments are given in three categories: public, private and resort. Closing date for entries is October 31 and the forms are available from Ceres Communications, 421 W Travelers Trail, Brunsville, MN55337, USA. Tel: 0101 612 8942414. Fax: 0101 612 8942423.

Parker Hart acquired by Printsphere

Parker Hart has been acquired by the investment group Printsphere which also owns Rigby Taylor Ltd. But Printsphere's group chairman, Bernard Hedley, says: "We intend that Rigby Taylor and Parkers will continue to operate independently."

The new managing director of T Parker & Sons (Turf Management), which recently bought the business of Maxwell Hart, is Jon Ryan. Mr Ryan, who worked for Parkers for 15 years during the early stages of his career, told GI: "I am delighted to be working again with so many old friends and look forward to building on Parker's traditional strengths in the trade."

INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

Icelandic greenkeepers look towards Scotland



Hannes Porssteinsson and Carol Borthwick, at Elmwood College

That well-known land of golf, Iceland, is making progress on the greenkeeping front. They are setting up the Icelandic Golf Greenkeeping Association and a second Icelandic greenkeeper, Margeir Vilhjalmsson, has finished his year's course at Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife. The first Icelandic greenkeeping student, Olafur Agustsson, is now working at Leynir Golf Club in the south-west of the country. It is one of 45 clubs affiliated to the Icelandic Golf Union, six of which have 18 holes.

A driving force behind greenkeeper improvements in the country is Hannes Porssteinsson, who played golf for Iceland as a junior and for the last seven years has been on the board of the IGU. His role during this period was to look after the junior section of the Union and he captained the junior golf team, which included Agustsson until he went to Elmwood.

Hannes became more interested in the greenkeeping

aspects of the sport when he spent some time working in England. It was then that his interest in importing grass seed to Iceland first emerged. Greens there have traditionally been allowed to develop from natural grasses, but about four years ago Hannes set up seeding experiments with imported mixes and during his trip to Elmwood he learned from Carol Borthwick, greenkeeping section head, explanations of the different grass mixes being tried out on the training ground.

During the visit Hannes pointed out that people imagine Iceland to be bare and rocky, but in fact it is a very green island and he is hopeful that some of the new mixes will mean that the Icelandic courses of the future are nearer to the quality of Scottish greens.

While he was visiting Elmwood, he finalised details of Carol's forthcoming trip to Iceland, where she will be guest of honour at the inauguration ceremony of the Icelandic Golf Greenkeeping Association.

America honours 'Masters'

During last January's BTME those members who had the opportunity of meeting Terry Buchen following his Master Greenkeeper award, will recall the pride he took in joining the august company of those now titled 'Master Greenkeeper'. Terry is based at the exclusive Double Eagle club in Galena, Ohio - a 7,100 yard design by Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish which has only 102 members with just 35 of those being local members. Amongst the national members are Ray Floyd and Chi-Chi Rodriguez.

Writing from America, Terry has enclosed photocopies from eight magazine articles concerning his receiving the Master Greenkeeper Certificate in Harrogate. Amongst the magazines are such well known titles as 'Golf Digest' and 'Golf World' as well as the GCSAA's own 'Golf Course Management'. High-

lighted is the fact that only eight Master Greenkeeper awards have been earned worldwide. Terry says that he has received at least 50 telephone calls from his peers and some 75 cards and letters from other people within golf. He was recently honoured with a dinner and presentation.

I have been saying for some time that the award of Master Greenkeeper status is the ultimate pinnacle for a greenkeeper and accords the recipient the highest respect from his peer group and increasingly the game. The publicity given to the award in America is another major step forward in the worldwide recognition of BIGGA and we are indeed lucky to have three outstanding ambassadors in America in Terry, Bil Montague and Bob Maibusch - Master Greenkeepers all.

Neil Thomas

Enthusiasm can be measured by the queues at new golf course

Ten days after the opening of the driving range at Rudding Park, near Harrogate, North Yorkshire, golfers were queueing up to use the facilities. Managing director Mark Mackaness hopes the golf course will meet with similar enthusiasm when it opens next June.

Designed by Martin Hawtree and constructed by John Greasley Ltd, the 18-hole 6,786-yard course is set in a mature, walled parkland estate.

Rudding Estate was bought by Mark's father, John, in 1972 and the house was turned into a prestigious banqueting and conference facility. Also on the estate is a caravan and holiday cottage park.

Work began on the golf course in June 1993. By September most of the construction had been done and all the greens, tees and the six holes outside the walled estate had been seeded. The fairways and roughs inside the walls already had suitable grasses on them.

A year on, the course is shaping



up nicely. John Greasley has handed over much of the maintenance and growing in to head greenkeeper Richard Hollingworth and his three assistants. Richard, 23, is the son of Graham Hollingworth, the head greenkeeper at Horsforth Golf Club, Leeds. Richard began his greenkeeping career at Moortown, Leeds, where he stayed for five years before joining Yorkshire Mowers as a rep. Six months later

he was back in greenkeeping with a short stint at Outlane GC, Huddersfield, before getting his first head greenkeeper position.

When we met him on the course he was standing near an overgrown cemetery which he will also have to tend. Fortunately the chapel in Rudding House hasn't been used for anything other than weddings for 40 years.

Lovers of statistics will want to know that 120 acres of the 200-

acre golf course site were seeded, 9,500 trees were planted, 400 trees were transplanted using a tree spade, 7-8,000 hedge plants were planted, and 20,000m of drainage pipes were laid. They have also planted thousands of aquatic plants in the three lakes and put up 100 nest boxes.

The greens are built to USGA spec and have been sown with 80% Freda, 10% Sabovil and 10% Highland.

John Greasley Ltd moved 60-70,000 cubic metres of soil during the construction, which isn't a lot by modern standards.

The most fascinating fact, we think, is that there are only seven bunkers and four of them are on the tree-lined 14th. This is because planners don't want the estate to look like a golf course - which is why they have stipulated that the rough can't be longer than 7.5cm.

This will make it a relatively easy - and enjoyable - course for the mid to high handicappers they are likely to attract to this "quality pay and play".

GRUNDON

**NOW SPREADING
IN YOUR AREA**

TOP DRESSING

BUNKER SAND

ROOT ZONE

TEES DRESSING

ALL AGGREGATES

PATH GRAVELS

COCKLESHELL



NEW HOTLINE NO: Wicklesham (0367) 244078

AD
REF
437

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Time for a reminder.

Members should note that the Association is approved by the Board of Inland Revenue under Section 201 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. This means that individual members can claim tax relief on their subscription payments through their annual tax returns whilst golf clubs paying subscriptions for members can claim tax relief through their accounts. This benefit for members substantially reduces the cost of their annual subscriptions and in claiming relief members should simply list their membership of BIGGA and indicate that the Association is an approved body under Section 201 ICTA 1988.

■ Brokenhurst Golf Club in the New Forest was fined £2,500 plus costs of £610 for "illegally" taking water to irrigate its greens. The club admitted it took 80,000 gallons more than it was licensed to use because of a breakdown in communication. Secretary manager Stewart Craven said: "When I took on the job my predecessor did not tell me about the conditions. It was a genuine mistake."

■ Andy McKee has left Fisons after seven years to join Erin Marketing Ltd as sales and marketing director.



■ The greenkeepers at Brighton's Hollingbury Park course had a shock when they turned up to prepare the course for a pro-am. A vehicle had been driven across the 12th green leaving tyre marks in the turf, the flag had been stolen and children had used a bunker as a sand pit. People, believed to be travellers camping just to the north of the course, had also been spotted playing football on the green.

The local council's three municipal greenkeepers, led by Terry Spence, worked frantically with rollers and did a bit of "cosmetic surgery" to get the green fit for the club's biggest event of the year.

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

Criticism against STRI is unjustified

After reading Paul Copesey's letter in your May edition ("Advice Left Wanting"), I must take issue with many of his remarks and especially those comments based on assumption, inaccuracy and misunderstanding.

Whilst brief details were provided to produce an interesting March edition article on the reconstruction of the greens at Royal Birkdale Golf Club, I hope your readers will appreciate that as advisers/consultants, the STRI will always operate normal professional and business criteria with its clients, including that of confidentiality. I am, however, able to say that the decision to replace the old turf of *Poa annua* after the greens were reconstructed at Royal Birkdale was not based on economic grounds. It is, perhaps, somewhat naive to suggest that a golf club totally committed to producing the best possible standards would jeopardise the success of remedial reconstruction works for the sake of an item costing a relatively small percentage in the context of the significant overall costs (least of all Royal Birkdale Golf Club).

The option to import new bent/fescue turf was fully considered but decided against in the light of previous experiences with top quality imported bent/fescue turf laid onto an improved sandy soil rootzone (such turf took several years to acclimatise during which time there was significant invasion by clumps of *Poa annua*). The relaid turf at Royal

Birkdale (which was cut at 18mm thickness) contained no organic mineral soil – the turf comprised of some thatch layers with sand (the latter material originating from several years of past top dressings with pure sand). Mr Copesey's assumption that the relaid turf was inappropriate as it must have contained in part the "undesirable soil" is wrong. Could I also say that in making his criticism of the re-use of the predominantly *Poa* turf, Mr Copesey appears to substantiate his position by purporting to quote from my remarks in the March edition article about Birkdale. He misquotes!

The articles in your March and April editions do not demonstrate inconsistency of agronomic advice from the STRI. Each article was quite different in its concept and purpose, viz an article about green reconstruction in unique and specific circumstances in contrast to Mike Canaway's article on part of a short-term research project. Whilst Mike Canaway's article properly points out some of the possible dangers associated with returning sandy rootzones (substantiated with facts and figures), potential dangers associated with turfing works had been well appreciated by STRI advisers for some considerable time, as well as many greenkeepers and others in our industry. Similarly, the possible merits of washed turf have long been understood but as yet this avenue of establishment has not been pursued in this

country for maybe several reasons, including commercial ones.

I agree with Mr Copesey's comments that in all areas of performance bents and fescues out-perform *Poa* any day. However, I do not think that one should ignore the fact that *Poa annua* is a ubiquitous species which is found in most golf greens in varying degrees. Of course, if greenkeepers can apply good management to sites where architectural, constructional make-up and environmental factors are favourable towards bent and fescue development, then *Poa annua* content can be minimised. Nevertheless, at many clubs it is clear that without *Poa annua* there quite simply would not be golf greens. Yes, thatchy, stagnant, disease-prone bogs of *Poa annua* is the nightmare scenario for any greenkeeper, but there are many courses (including Championship courses) which will have varying but often significant amounts of *Poa annua* (usually with some bent), and whose greenkeeping staff proudly present such greens as very good playing surfaces throughout most of the year (and where members are very happy).

I trust my response will be seen as being mainly explanatory in nature, although I suspect that in some quarters with a blinkered outlook it will be seen as a purely defensive repost!

J Perris, assistant director (advisory services), STRI, Bingley

Why we must build on 'The Way Forward'

May I make a comment on "Looking Back to The Way Forward" (GI May '94) and congratulate Michael Bonallack for the clear description of the R&A's role in golf, probably not well understood by many.

"The Way Forward" surely exceeded the expectations of the authors and its publishers in the impact it made. Accepting that, it had a slow start, partly I suspect because of the reticence in introducing it with much publicity, and partly because the greater part of the audience to whom it was addressed, ie those in influential positions in members' golf clubs, didn't think there was anything wrong in their current methods. But those who did take

it seriously and took some action found much support and enthusiasm. Some, not many, clubs and the Home Unions, especially the English Golf Union, have really moved with their seminars up and down the country.

But I sense that the momentum has slowed and this is the reason why thoughts were expressed at the BTME workshop which I attended that an update of "The Way Forward" would be timely. We still hear too often of large greens committees meeting frequently and the head greenkeeper taking instructions from a chairman who knows all about the technical problems – surrogate greenkeepers they call them. And

then, if things go wrong, who is blamed?

The R&A is respected throughout the golfing world and any report or recommendation emanating from St Andrews is listened to and trusted. I believe "The Way Forward" was a success and I would like to see further advance on that success. Some sort of review of where we are now and what future is indicated would be relevant and very influential.

I am glad that BIGGA has stirred up this subject and hope the organisation will keep the discussion going; but we must also get Golf Club Management involved.

Arthur King, Lympington

Richard's round of 150 holes for charity

BIGGA board member Richard Barker played 150 holes in one day and raised more than £600 for charity. The head greenkeeper from Kirby Muxloe, Leicester, took on the challenge in aid of charities supported by the captain and lady captain of Longcliffe Golf Club, where he is a four-handicap member.

Teeing off at 4.40am, Richard completed 150 holes by 9.10pm stopping only for an hour's lunch and 30 minutes for tea. His fastest round was 1hr 32mins; later in the day he was taking 2hrs 5mins. Scores between 74 and 82 for the 6439-yard par 72 course indicated golf of the highest order and the back nine holes of the eighth round were completed in a level par 36.

With an eagle 2 at the 265-yard uphill 6th and 18 birdies, Richard completed the eight rounds and six holes in 52 over par. Only one ball was lost in the lake at the 15th and it is estimated that about 40 miles were covered during the event which was well supported by Longcliffe members.



Wordy winner

RPK Turfcare Supplies had a tremendous response to their recent 'Wordsearch' competition. Jamie Bennett, RPK's sales manager, said: "We were looking for a novel way to let our customers know about the many products we offer and with 118 words to find it was certainly no pushover."

The first correct entry was received within 48 hours and was sent by Alec Bradshaw, course manager of Malden GC in Surrey. For his effort, Alec collected a £500 credit to spend over the next 12 months. Alec (right) is pictured with Jamie at his club.

Training Manual sets career path for greenkeepers

The Greenkeepers Training Committee working group met at St Andrews recently to put the final touches to the Greenkeepers Training Manual.

The Manual has three main sections: craft, supervisory, and management (or in N/SVG speak, levels 2, 3 and 4). There are, however, additional mandatory units in conservation management and an optional section including greenkeeper/mechanic tasks, chainsaw operations and advanced first aid.

The Training Manual acts as a trainee's record of achievement and also evidence towards the new National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications.

The craft and supervisory sections have been available for a short while. The management manual has only just become available – thanks to the efforts of the working group which was

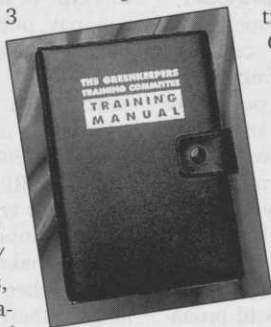
set up three years ago.

This group comprises BIGGA chairman John Millen, BIGGA education chairman Huw Parry, Elmwood College greenkeeping tutor Carol Borthwick, Reaseheath College greenkeeping tutor Dennis Mortram, Askham Bryan College greenkeeping tutor Nick Bisset and GTC education director David Golding.

"No praise is high enough for the work of this working group," said David, "It has been determined to set out in black and white a career path for future generations of greenkeepers and course managers."

The Manual will soon also be available in French, German and Spanish, with funding for this coming from the PGA European Tour.

The working party has also been developing an employer's guide to greenkeeper qualifications.



London golfers seek help with French course

Two young London golfers have gone to France to open an 18-hole par 3 course. Nestled in the heart of Finistere in Brittany, the Golf de Pont Pierre course is a dream come true for BIGGA associate members Manley Mason and Gary Chisholm.

They have long wanted to run a course "where beginners are welcome to come and learn the etiquette and basic techniques all golfers should possess, and where experienced players can perfect their shots." They have six members at present, with the course nearly completed. Once they have purchased some adjacent land, they hope to create a 27-hole complex which will one day "provide the Ryder Cup team with a Frenchman!"

In the meantime they're looking for a student greenkeeper to help them this summer. Write to: Golf De Pont Pierre, 29246 Poullaouen, Brittany, France.

■ John Bourne and Co Ltd has been appointed sole distributor of Fendress to the south-east of England. Fendress topdressing consists of East Anglian fensoils and Leighton Buzzard washed silica sands. It complements Bourne's existing range which includes rootzones, amenity sands, construction materials, turf improvers and drainage systems. Tel: 0797 252298.

■ Shropshire-based BCM Contracts is now manufacturing and marketing the product range of Surrey golf equipment specialist Pro-Tee Products. This includes golf tee mats and golf driving bays. BCM, which already manufactured the glass reinforced cement bases for the tee-mat, is now marketing the Pro-Tee range under the trade name Links Leisure. Tel: 0948 665321.

■ Deere & Company, the American agricultural equipment manufacturer, has reported record net income for the second quarter of the 1994 fiscal year of \$189.3 million, compared with last year's restated income of \$101 million.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Paul Harley, formerly the head greenkeeper at Pachesham Golf Centre, has taken charge at 18-hole Crewe GC following the retirement of Ron Rimmer.

■ British Seed Houses has published the first edition of a new Wild Flora manual for the landscaping industry. The 48-page illustrated manual sets out the basic ground rules for successful establishment and maintenance of wild flora areas. It provides a practical, technical guide for greenkeepers who want advice on seed source and mixture specification, site and mixture selection, ground preparation and establishment techniques. Copies are available from British Seed Houses Ltd, Portview Road, Avonmouth, Bristol, Avon BS11 9JH. Price is £4.95.

■ Silvermere Golf Club, Surrey, now has two of the "most inspiring" closing holes in the country, says architect Martin Gillett. Martin was asked to remodel the fairway to eliminate a blind drive and a spectacular finishing green has been built to give a shot over water to a bulkheaded green.

The Brentwood-based architect has also redesigned the 18th at Redbourn GC, Hertfordshire. The green is now in front of the new clubhouse following an upgrade of the range building and a new target range.

■ Members will be saddened to learn of the passing of Ivor Scoones' wife, Ann, following a long illness bravely borne. During Ann's illness, Ivor continued with his Board of Management and Regional Board duties and indeed was chairman of the Association during 1990. Often under considerable strain, Ivor carried on both his professional and voluntary duties with great fortitude whilst at the same time giving Ann his constant and total support. The Association remains indebted to Ivor for his efforts on BIGGA's behalf particularly during recent years when Ann fell ill. We send our deepest sympathy to Ivor and his family at this sad time.