

# 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*

#### Golden Key Circle:

	
<b>E.T. Breakwell Ltd</b>	<i>Professional Products</i>
The Toro Company International Division Irrigation	
	Lely (UK) Ltd. UK distributor for Toro Commercial Products
<b>HAYTER</b>	
	
	

#### Silver Key Circle:

	
	RISBORO' TURF

*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, Aine, York YO6 2NF.  
Telephone: 0347 838581 Fax: 0347 838864



# An industry

In reflecting on the wholly unwarranted attack by the EGU on BIGGA through the pages of 'Amateur Golf' magazine and wondering still on the motivation for which no explanation has yet been given, the statement that "BIGGA... have the support of grants and gifts from the turf grass industry, though not without certain 'strings'", merits further comment. Traditionally greenkeeping has always enjoyed the support of companies within the industry and for many years this was at a local level and was reflected particularly in backing for section seminar programmes and prizes for golf tournaments. With the advent of BIGGA, it was inevitable that the nature of this support would change. In just a few years, companies found that they were now working closely with a large, professionally run Association which operated nationally and regionally as well as on a section basis. Companies continued to wish to support greenkeepers and the development of their profession but found there were now conflicting pressures at the respective levels of BIGGA. The Association for its part had no wish to see companies pressurised in this way and saw a need for consistency and fairness in its relations with companies working in the industry. After careful consideration, BIGGA's Education and Development Fund was established in January 1992.

This fund enables those companies so wishing to join either the Golden or Silver Key circles, thereby enabling the development of BIGGA's education and training programmes at national level.

Whilst eleven companies are currently taking this route, the Association is mindful of those companies who wish to continue with longstanding support at regional and section level, rather than nationally. This support continues to be much valued. The benefit of the Education and Development Fund to companies is that it provides equal recognition to all and that companies can



## BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

clearly identify the educational and training projects on which their contributions are being spent. A meeting of Golden Key supporters was held at Aldwark Manor last October and set guidelines for the utilisation of company contributions. It was agreed that BIGGA's Education Sub-Committee should determine spending priorities which would then be communicated to Golden/Silver Key supporters at two meetings each year. All Golden/Silver Key supporters are to be acknowledged for each and every spending programme whether or not they are specifically funding a particular programme. The com-

#### BIGGA Staff Profile

#### LOUISE LUNN Sales and Marketing Assistant



Louise was one of the driving forces behind this year's BTME and had a chance to compare her role with her American counterpart when she went with the BIGGA delegation to the GCSAA show in Dallas. She says she loves working on the Exhibition – and work has already begun on the 1995 event. Louise moved to the Association from a family business, to further her career in sales and marketing. She has a degree in hotel management and institutional catering and

worked in Switzerland for seven months as part of the course. Hobbies include travel and cooking and up to the age of 13, Louise was a keen ice skater. If things had turned out differently, maybe Great Britain might have picked up a gold at Lillehammer...



# partnership

panies agreed that they were anxious to avoid overt commercialism whilst their contributions to the fund would continue to be acknowledged and their companies to be profiled.

The fund then is established on a sound basis. Last year saw the production of the first training video – 'Setting the Standard – In Spray Application' and the recent BTME saw the launching of the video 'Keeper of the Green – A Career in Golf Course Management'. Shortly BIGGA members will be provided with a pocket booklet on weeds, pests and diseases and plans are in hand for an environmental project during 1994. None of these developments would have been possible without the fund or, importantly, without company support of the fund. BIGGA enjoys a friendly, business-like relationship with all these companies, membership of the Golden/Silver Key circle brings practical benefits whilst the spending priorities of the fund are the subject of open discussion. It all seems a far cry from "gifts... though not without certain strings".

Another area of industry support which may not be commonly known is the BTME Steering Committee. This committee meets three times a year and fifteen companies are currently represented on it. The Committee over the last few years has been of inestimable value in planning and improving the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, the success of which is due in no small measure not just to companies taking space at the exhibition but to the giving of time and effort by their personnel to attend meetings and actively promote the exhibition. The Association greatly appreciates this commitment and indeed the continuing support within the industry both for BIGGA and for the BTME whose development and growth the Association considers is dependent on a continuing partnership with companies working in the industry.

I will conclude this month with reference to another industry event, the recent GCSAA Conference and Show this year held in Dallas, Texas. This continues to be the major exhibition in the industry with the BTME in hot pursuit! This year's show was bigger than ever but what was surprising was the large number of UK based companies represented there

either directly or indirectly. Again our members were there in good numbers particularly from Europe and importantly the sporting of BIGGA blazers and ties made an excellent impression. It continues to surprise me that GCSAA members do not wear blazers or ties whilst the GCSAA staff similarly do their own thing as far as dress is concerned. The GCSAA has been through a traumatic year losing not only its Chief Executive Officer but two of its senior staff directors who have been replaced by Steve Mona as Chief Executive Officer, Joe O'Brien as Chief Operations Officer and Julian Arredondo as Chief Financial Officer. In discussion with all three, it became clear that their Association is going through a period of reappraisal and reassessment no more so than in considering their future international role. With their new management team in place I see a further strengthening of our relationship as well as a future presence at the BTME. Our stand was exceptionally busy with enquiries for membership, Master Greenkeeper enrolment, magazine advertising and the BTME. Perhaps the abiding impression was the international respect for BIGGA, for our position as the second largest greenkeeping association worldwide, for our professionalism and for our development and progress in such a short timespan. Viewed from afar we are seen to be going places. And finally if you are thinking of going to Dallas, my simple advice is don't – it should be removed from all travel brochures!

## Open invitation

Members wishing to be considered for the greenkeeping support team at the 123rd Open Championship at Turnberry, July 14-17, should forward their name and address to Samantha Collins (Sami) at BIGGA HQ as soon as possible. Preference will be given to members who will be able to attend from Wednesday July 13-Sunday July 17 inclusive.

The players will be competing for a purse of £1.1million – that's £100,000 more than last year. First prize is up by £10,000 to £110,000.

Radio 5 will be broadcasting special preview programmes and phone-ins as well as live commentary from all four days.



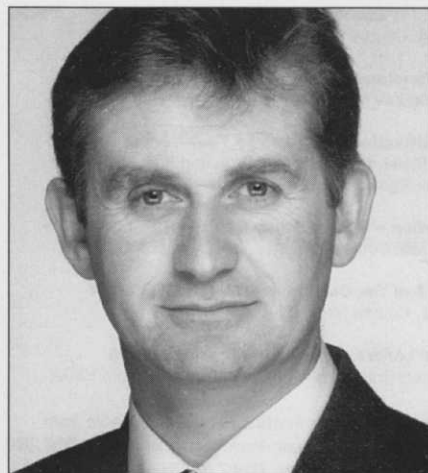
**Golf and Turf Equipment's managing director, Tom Scanlon (above), collects his award as Hayter's top UK dealer.**

## Moving in

Trevor Manning has taken up his new post as head greenkeeper at Ellesmere Golf Club near Manchester. The 29-year-old replaces Andy Peel who has gone to Bull Bay GC after three and a half years at Ellesmere. The category one golfer takes over there from Deric Carter who has retired after 28 years at the Anglesey course.

## Stalwart dies

Doris Plain, a familiar face at many regional tournaments, has died after a short illness. She accompanied her husband of 47 years, Bob (ex-head greenkeeper at Beaconsfield GC and before his retirement at Hazlemere GC) to many BGGGA and latterly BIGGA events. Our sympathy goes to him, daughter Heather and all the family.



## Sales post

Roy Auld, 37, has taken up the position of sales manager product development with Scottish Grass Machinery, dealers for Ransomes, Cushman, Ryan, Massey Ferguson, Victa and Hardi.

# NEWS

## Road route would alter golf course 'beyond recognition'

Hill Barn golf course in Worthing, Sussex, will be changed beyond recognition if the Department of Transport's preferred route for new dual carriageway is adopted, a public inquiry was told.

Bryan Griffiths, a director of Golfconsult International, said the 60-year-old municipal course would become harder and slower to play and more expensive to maintain.

Appearing as a witness for Worthing Borough Council, Mr Griffiths said the most critical effect of the change would be to reduce the net revenue by 90 percent or about £180,000, even when the replacement was fully operational after three years. Before that, the effect would be much worse.

Once the course reopened for limited play in July 1997 there would have to be strict control on the total rounds played annually. There would be steeper gradients in some places which would not encourage older golfers. This was a factor which had lost a number of senior members to nearby West Hove Golf Club when that was altered to accommodate a new road.

To them, golf stopped being a pleasure. A similar situation could be expected at Hill Barn.