

NEWS

Muirfield tops chart of best British courses

Muirfield – now in the hands of the former deputy head greenkeeper, Colin Irvine – has been voted the Best Course in the British Isles by Golf World magazine. Royal Birkdale, the top English course, where Chris Whittle, Irvine's former boss, is now in charge following the retirement of Tom O'Brien, is number 6.

The rest of the top 10 looks like this: 2, St Andrews (Old), Scotland; 3, Royal Portrush (Dunluce), N Ireland; 4, Royal County Down, N Ireland; 5, Turnberry (Ailsa), Scotland; 7, Portmarnock, Eire; 8, Ballybunion (Old), Eire; 9, Royal St George's, England; 10, Carnoustie, Scotland.

New to the top 50 are Portstewart in Northern Ireland (38), St Enodoc in Cornwall (44), Woburn (Duke's) in Buckinghamshire (47), and Killarney (Killeen) in Eire (50).

This year's rankings, which are published in the November issue, have been extended from the top 50 to the top 100. Two of the courses listed have less than 18 holes. Suffolk's Royal Worlington & Newmarket, often referred to as "the finest 9-hole course in the world", is at number 61, and 12-hole Shiskine on the Isle of Arran, Scotland, is at number 100.

New courses making the list include Arnold Palmer's K-Club in Eire (93), Slaley Hall in Northumberland (90) and this month's featured course, Hanbury Manor (94).

In the same issue, Golf World also publishes its top 10 new developments (built since January 1992). These are: 1, Loch Lomond; 2, Chart Hills; 3, The Oxfordshire; 4, Monarch's Course; 5, The Buckinghamshire; 6, The European Club; 7, The London Club; 8, Carn; 9, Bowood; 10, Hever.



Keep-fitter Nicki Cund is Claymore Grass Machinery's new sales administrator.

Cash bounty for Rolawn thieves

Enough grass seed to produce 40 acres of turf has been stolen from Rolawn's headquarters near York. The cultivated turf producer was able to replace the seed quickly but the directors are determined to see that the thieves are caught and are offering £1,000 reward for information that leads to a prosecution. Anyone with information should contact Ken Dawson, Rolawn's chairman, on 0904 608661.

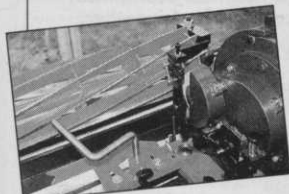
College's big plans

A year after celebrating its centenary, Writtle College in Chelmsford, Essex, is planning to build a £400,000 amenity landscape teaching centre which will include a 500m² workshop, new classrooms and staff offices when it's built next year.

New distributor

Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products has appointed County Amenity as a new distributor for Lancashire, Cheshire, Gt Manchester, Merseyside, North Wales, Shropshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Tyne & Wear and Humberside. Tel: 0925 758886.

NEW PRODUCTS



■ Grinding machine manufacturer Supreme Mowing has developed a fully automatic system enabling unattended relief grinding of precision mowing cylinders. Suitable for use with the company's Supreme System and Golf Leader cylinder grinders, the patented relief grinding attachment enables mechanics to apply a relief angle to each blade of a cutting cylinder automatically. Price is £230.

■ Roffey Brothers are planning to launch a new flagship fertiliser for spring '95 – Gypronit. The Bournemouth-based firm says Gypronit supplies good levels of sulphur and that in trials it "refined and encouraged the dominance of finer grasses within the sward." Price is £12.32 per 25 kgs. Tel: 0202 537777.

■ British firm Cooper Pegler has celebrated its 100th year of trading by launching an all-new knapsack sprayer. The Series 2000 piston-pump sprayers have been designed to exceed previous standards for safety and efficiency, claims the Northumberland firm. Tel: 0670 522225.

Education update

BY KEN RICHARDSON



Winners all

Toro/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year

The final of the Toro/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year Competition was held at Aldwark Manor on Monday October 3, see pages 39-41 for full details.

After a long and difficult day of interviewing and deliberations, the panel of judges selected Euan Grant as the winner with Byron Thomas and Margeir Vilhjalmsson taking the runners up prizes. I anticipated that the final decision would be difficult due to the very high standard of all the finalists and all participants should be proud of their achievement in reaching the final stages.

Master Greenkeeper Certificate

The next Stage 3 Module Examination for the Master Greenkeeper Certificate will be held on December 2 at Aldwark Manor, or other venue by arrangement.

To prepare candidates for the examination, we will be holding an examination technique day on November 21, at Aldwark Manor. All those wishing to sit the examination in December or in the near future should find the day very useful. A review of the MGC will take place in early December and any members with ideas on how the scheme should, or should not be changed should submit them to me at Aldwark Manor.

National Education Conference

A great deal of interest has already been shown in the 1995 National Education Conference. If you wish to attend what promises to be a varied, thought-provoking, educational event then book early. Full details were included in the October issue of *Greenkeeper International* and further copies of the Conference and Seminar timetable can be obtained from headquarters.

Videos

The Toro-sponsored video titled "Raising the Standard of Mowing Management", has been distributed to all BIGGA course managers and head greenkeepers. Further copies can be obtained from headquarters priced at £14.95 for BIGGA members and £19.95 for non-members. The methods and standards of mowing practice shown in the video have been endorsed by BIGGA and the video should prove to be a useful training aid.

ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

In the last edition of *Greenkeeper International*, the dates for the Final of the ICI Premier Greenkeeper competition were given, incorrectly. The final will be held at Aldwark Manor on December 4 and 5.