

Carnoustie to stage Open after 24 years

After a 24-year gap, the Open Championship will return to Carnoustie in 1999. Work already done by John Philp's team includes the reconstruction of four greens and the redesign or introduction of 14 bunkers. He is also trying to encourage the growth of native fine grasses to restore the Championship course to true links character. It has also been announced that the 1995 and '96 Scottish Opens will be played on the 7,400-yard course.

The question being asked now is where will the Open go in 2001? St Andrews will host it in 1995 and 2000. It's going to Royal Lytham & St Annes in '96, Royal Troon in '97 and Royal Birkdale in 1998. When will it next return to Muirfield, Royal St George's or Turnberry?

Trial sites are needed for worm studies

The STRI is looking for trial sites for earthworm control studies, in particular golf courses in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester that experience heavy, fairly uniform earthworm casting.

If you are able to help, contact Dr SW Baker or EC Kirby at the STRI, St Ives Estate, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU or on 0274 565131.

Tony's mission of mercy

Most greenkeepers use their holidays to take a well-earned rest. Not Tony Dyke, the head greenkeeper at Wyke Green Golf Club, Isleworth, Middlesex. He is going to spend his two-weeks holiday, October 13-23, driving to Romania with a truck-

load of goods for handicapped children. This will be his sixth trip there since 1991. Last time he was threatened with an iron bar at the border and nearly dragged out of his cab. "Only my leg wrapped round the steering wheel saved me."

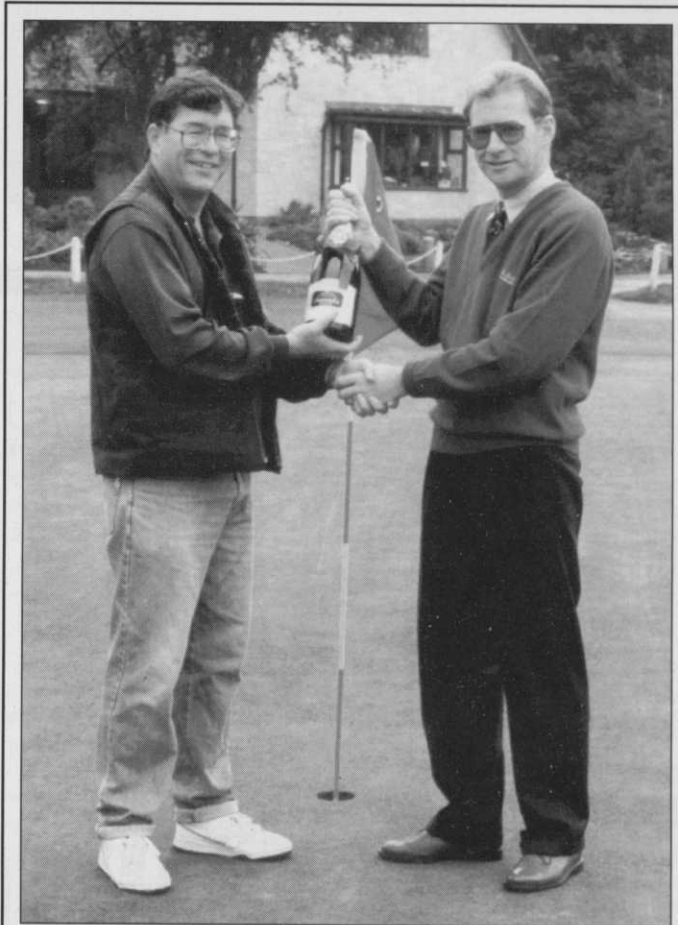
The problem was that some drivers had been stuck at the border for several days and got incensed when Tony's convoy, which is now familiar to the border guards and custom officials, was let through straight away.

Tony is not expect-

ing there to be any trouble this time (at least that's what he has told his wife). He says he was inspired to help these unfortunate children by an Anneka Rice TV programme. "I do it for the children. If you saw the state of the kids, you'd want to help too," he said.

Tony has been lent a 17-ton lorry by Alan Greenwood and John Hobbs of All Seasons Dressing. It will be one of five vehicles heading to Romania for the Ellesmere Port and Neston Romanian Appeal, which has adopted several orphanages in the country. The trucks will be packed with about 50-60 tonnes of goods, including toys, food and clothes.

NEWS



Teetotal Peter Woodward (left), course manager at Moor Hall GC in Sutton Coldfield, receives a magnum of champagne from Nigel Tyler, central sales rep for Rufford Top Dress Supplies. Peter won the champagne in a free draw on Rufford's stand at Saltex '94. He says he will crack it open when Walsall GC's Steve Wood beats him at golf!

FLYING DIVOTS

BIGGA review extended

■ BIGGA's Board of Management has decided to extend the consultation period on the initial draft document setting out a review of BIGGA's activities and its future plans.

The Board has also established a review body to extend the consultative process. Commented executive director Neil Thomas: "It is clear that the initial draft document which was circulated to our regional boards and section committees has stimulated much debate. As such, the Board of Management views the establishing of a review body as a logical step to further the review process. Each of the Association's five regions will be represented on the review body which will report to the Board of Management. At final draft stage, it is proposed to circulate the document to BIGGA's course managers/head greenkeepers for consideration by them and their staff. By the time the review process is concluded there will have been the widest possible consultation with BIGGA's 5,500 members."

The extended timescale means recommendations will be presented to the January 1996 annual general meeting.



■ Links supervisor Walter Woods (left) receives a ship's decanter from St Andrews' general manager Nicky James in recognition of his 20 years service at the Home of Golf.

■ Brian D Pierson's contracts co-ordinator, Paul Mould, has married Brian and Ann's daughter, Lisa.

■ Maxicrop International has appointed Malcolm Philby, formerly of Dow Elanco, as new territory manager covering the Midlands and Wales.



Maintenance facility is a real luxury

Martin Smith, head greenkeeper at Nottinghamshire's Ramsdale Park Golf Centre, has a maintenance facility that most greenkeepers can only dream about.

Costing £32,000, its facilities include an implement and equipment store, top dressing preparation room, chemical store, office, mess room and staff washroom. It is 30.6m long, 16.2m wide and has an eave height of 2.74m. It also looks good with its olive green roof cladding, brown stone wall cladding and high roller shutter doors.

"Most golf clubs or centres do



not have adequate greenkeeper facilities and few have mess and washroom areas for their staff. It is for this reason that the Ramsdale Park's building is the envy of the county," says Mr Smith.

"For example, it is unusual to have an indoor top dressing store. Without the facility, we would have to buy top soil and sand when required because storage under an outside cover proves

wasteful with the bottom of the pile being too damp, thus causing clogging in modern machinery. So not only do we save money by buying materials in bulk at the right time, we also minimise on wastage and keep machinery maintenance costs to a minimum."

The Leofric Buildings' 'Enterprise system building' was erected in 20 days.

Training video launched

A new training video – a joint venture between BIGGA and Toro – is now available. Titled 'Raising the Standard in Mowing Management', the new video was premiered at the recent Saltex show. Topics covered include the proper preparation of machinery prior to use, the correct practice and technique for all mowing situations, such as cutting of banks, rough, semi-rough, fairways, surrounds, teeing grounds and putting surfaces.

The film features animated and slow motion sequences showing in detail the relationship between the cutting action of the mower blades and the removal of grass.

A typical mowing operation from start to finish is illustrated, demonstrating essential health and safety factors as well as the correct course courtesy to be followed. At the end of mowing

operations the film details the recommended practices for preparing machines for storage.

BIGGA chairman John Millen, who has been closely involved in



the video's scripting, believes it to be a major new training aid for all those responsible for golf course turf management. He said: "I welcome this collaboration and co-operation between BIGGA and

Toro in making this education and training video for the benefit of all golf course greenkeepers."

Graham Dale, managing director of Lely UK, distributors for the film's sponsors, the Toro Company, said: "Toro is a big supporter of the education and training of golf greenkeepers and already jointly sponsors the BIGGA-organised 1994 Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper Awards. We are pleased to extend this support through our sponsorship of the new turf management training video."

Free copies of the 40-minute video – filmed at the St Andrews Links Old Course, and Moor Park Golf Club – are being distributed to 2,000 UK golf clubs, including all those with BIGGA members. Copies are also being sent to greenkeeping training colleges. Other copies are available from Sami Collins, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF.

Further details are available from the video's producer, Richard Fry, at Marketing Link Associates. Tel: 0268 413798.

■ BIGGA's latest video, a comprehensive guide to course preparation, is being shot at Prestbury and Royal Liverpool courses at the moment. Due to be launched at the '95 BTME at Harrogate, it is being funded by BIGGA's Education and Development Fund.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ BIGGA's chairman, John Millen, has left the Weald of Kent, the course he helped design and build, to take up the new post of director of greenkeeping with Golf Partners International Ltd. He will be based at the company's headquarters at The Tytherington, Macclesfield, and be responsible for the company's greenkeeping interests. Golf Partners is looking to buy courses.



■ Keen golfer Masakazu Miyake, 47, has taken up his post as president of Kubota (UK) Ltd. He replaces Bon

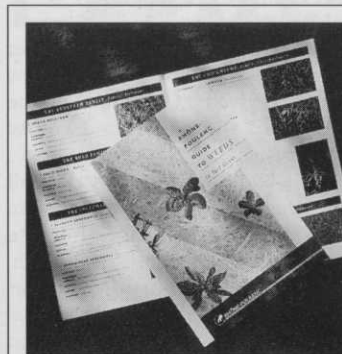
Tabata who has returned to Kubota Corporation's headquarters in Osaka, Japan, as manager of the engine export department.

■ Andrew Corstorphine, head greenkeeper of the Old and New Courses at St Andrews for more than 20 years has died, aged 94.

■ Paul Harley has wanted to be a head greenkeeper since he left school. Now the 28-year-old 14-handicap golfer has got the top job at Crewe GC.

■ Greenkeepers are about to be sold in many pro shops! 'The Greenkeeper' is the name of a new retractable pitch mark repairer produced by Activity & Leisure Products of Wareham, Dorset.

■ New courses opened recently include 18-hole Cookridge Hall near Leeds and nine-hole Blackwater Valley Golf Centre near Eversley, Hampshire. Ten new holes costing £265,000 have been opened at Newton Green, one of Suffolk's oldest courses. Courses in trouble include nine-hole Fingle Glen GC near Exeter which is now in the hands of the receivers. A course out of trouble, in theory, is Sleafy Hall. The Northumberland golf and country club complex, which went into receivership with debts of £27 million, has been sold for around £5 million to a Swedish bank, according to Golf Weekly.



■ Rhône-Poulenc has produced a new book on weeds. The comprehensive guide, which contains photographs and concise descriptions of the major weeds in turf, along with product advice for their control, costs £2 plus 50p post and packing. Alternatively, The Weed Book is free when you purchase a container of Spearhead, the new selective weedkiller for use on turf.

Telephone: 0277 301115.

We went back to basics with the first golf club in East Germany

British greenkeepers Stuart Bishop and his partner Elaine Holland, a trained hairdresser who now cuts greens and fairways and mends machinery with the best of them, have been telling us about their experiences at Potsdam Golf Club, the first golf club in East Germany.

When they arrived in the east of the country after 18 months in the west, Stuart was surprised to find that it took the greenkeepers just eight hours to cut 18 fairways and the driving range with one machine. Asked how they did this, they demonstrated: the driver proceeded to cut the driving range at about 35mph with a 6-ton tractor followed by a flying set of gang mowers. Later, a close examination of the gang mowers revealed no set on (and they'd never heard of this).

The equipment at the course was mainly farming implements of which the 6-ton Russian tractor was their favourite. It was used to cut the fairways and semi-rough – well, almost everything. One problem was that the course was built on a swamp and the tractor kept sinking and making large holes. The answer? Fill the holes with sand and create another bunker!

They had tried to update their inventory with an electric Flymo – but it had to be returned when they couldn't find a long enough cable in East Germany to go around the course. Parts would take 3-4 weeks to arrive from the west. In the event that some-

thing arrived the same day, the staff would break it or insist it didn't fit!

One day the owner decided he wanted the fairways top-dressed. Stuart didn't know this until the top-dresser arrived – a farm manure spreader that discharged out of the rear by a conveyor belt with two bars with flailing rods on them. So going up hill it discharged at a rate of 1 ton per square metre and going down hill, nothing. Stuart and Elaine were assured by the greenkeepers that this was normal practice. Only when Stuart insisted that they all get a shovel and rake to smooth out the 2ft hills did they all remember they had doctor's appointments.

The arrival of a Jacobsen Turf Cat was similar to Unification Day. Suddenly everyone wanted to cut the semi-rough.

The Easteners are very easy going, so it wasn't a complete surprise to Stuart when the day before a big skins game featuring Bernard Langer and David Gilford that one greenkeeper had a day off for shopping plus a visit to the hairdresser's.

The mechanic had spent most of his time working on Russian tractors, which required nothing more than a huge hammer and a 42mm spanner, so when Stuart asked him to adjust the bit of play in the groomers he did just that – he welded the groomers to the frame of the mower, in the down position. Just the job for rotorvating the greens, which brings us to verti-cutting.

"They would normally rotor-

vate the greens because they were set so low and always finishing with twice around the green (as mowing) and once around the foregreen while decapitating any sprinklers in their path," recalls Elaine.

As a rule the greenkeepers were rewarded with a party given by the course owner or with presents of beer – and plenty of it. Stuart, a teetotaler, therefore was not the most popular man in Germany when he banned alcohol from the course.

'This man turned out to be our worst nightmare'

Most of the German greenkeepers are really farmers by profession, so Stuart and Elaine were delighted when their boss told them they were to get a new man with three years' experience. Their smiles turned to laughter when they found out his name was Herr Shiverdick. Their laughter turned to horror soon after he arrived. "This man turned out to be our worst nightmare," said Elaine. "Within two or three days the 6-ton tractor was in one of the streams complete with gang mowers and driver. This was after he had severed a high-pressure stand-pipe, which produced a 100m fountain. Every day there was some kind of catastrophe, but it was good for the others. It made them look competent!"

The mechanic did his fair share of wrecking, too. In the

shed was a reel grinder, two years old and never used as no-one had any idea what it was. Stuart removed the polythene and taught the mechanic how to use it, giving detailed instruction and demonstrations about what could go wrong. The mechanic appeared to have got the idea, so Stuart left him to it. An hour later Stuart returned expecting to see at least one finished. He was a little surprised to see all seven fairway reels finished – with a 5mm convex shape to them!

In Germany they like to apply quartz sand as topdressing, and a lot of it. Stuart decided he would mix soil and sand, which they did by throwing sand and soil in a small cement mixer, mixing it, then tipping it out and throwing it through a fine mesh screen with a shovel. What went through was used, what didn't was scrapped. "When you require 40 or 50 tons this procedure could take about six months," said Stuart. "Germany has not heard of power screens."

Stuart and Elaine have now left that club – "We both felt we had to leave for the sake of our own sanity," said Elaine. "But we hope we have left quite a bit of knowledge and know-how there. At least we know they'll be cutting the grass, not running over it at 35mph."

She adds: "It was a lot of fun and we met some very nice people. The staff are all now competent greenkeepers. It was a joy to work with them and we learnt a lot about life behind The Wall."

Summer madness hits St Enodoc

Picturesque St Enodoc Golf Club in Cornwall has been hit by a spell of summer madness.

One night 10 flags, six tee markers and six boards screwed to stone tee boxes disappeared and five greens were damaged. The vandals had made the holes about 18in in diameter by gouging them out with their hands. They also gouged other holes in the greens as well.

A security guard was brought in, but this did not stop the vandalism. A mini-Stonehenge was built on the 11th green using 6in wooden tee blocks from various

tees. Rakes were put in the holes and flags were planted in bunkers. Stones along a footpath were thrown in bushes.

While the security guard was throwing someone off one part of the course holidaymakers from nearby caravan sites were letting rip on the other side of the links. A second security guard with a dog was employed and, according to head greenkeeper Stuart Dymond, this seems to have worked.

There was no more damage during the summer holidays although the guards' daily reports

to the club showed that every night they escorted someone off the course.

Sticker winner

The winner of our recent sticker slogan competition is Mrs JR Whatling, wife of the head greenkeeper at Heworth Golf Club, York. She receives a £15 WH Smith voucher for her effort: *BIGGA greenkeepers – a cut above the rest*. One slogan that was rejected by the girls at HQ, due to lack of proof, stated: *Greenkeepers do it with BIGGA ones!*

NEW FACES

■ The new head greenkeeper at Brickendon Grange Golf and Country Club, a picturesque parkland course near Hertford, is Trevor Booth, 32. Previously he was head greenkeeper at Oakridge, Nuneaton. He replaces Mike Reece who has gone to King's Norton in Birmingham.

■ Bob Lawton, 39, has moved from South Shields GC, where he was head greenkeeper, to take over as course manager at Billingham GC, Cleveland. Harry Lees has gone to Ramside Hall.

Former welder heralds start of greenkeeping career with an award

Former steelworks welder Carl Price, pictured, has made an award-winning start to his new career as a greenkeeper.

Carl, who lives in Shotton, has just been presented with the 'Hortiplay' award for excellent achievement at the Welsh College of Horticulture in Northop, Clwyd.

He worked at the new Northop Country Park Golf Club during his training and has now been permanently recruited as an assistant greenkeeper. This marks the successful end of a country-wide trawl for work.

After being made redundant from Shotton steelworks in the early '80s, Carl travelled all over the UK as a contract welder, but found it increasingly difficult to find work as the recession bit.

Eventually he returned home to North Wales and saw the greenkeeping course advertised in his local paper.

Carl was one of 11 students



who undertook the NVQ Level 2 course at the Welsh College of Horticulture, supported by the Training and Enterprise Council for North East Wales.

Carl is one of a seven-strong greenkeeping team which looks after the 6,680 yards course at Northop Country Park, which is set within 247 acres of carefully tended parkland.

Noel Hynes, course manager, said: "We are delighted with Carl's success and have found him to be a very productive member of the team."

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Beauty and The Bearwood

Work has begun on what could turn out to be "one of the most beautiful golf courses to be developed this decade".

The 18-hole, par 72, Bearwood Lakes Golf Club will be constructed upon 200 acres of Bearwood College estate at Sindlesham near Wokingham. Built among some of the most attractive heath and woodland in the South of England, the course features an existing 40-acre lake and is scheduled to open for play in late spring/early summer of 1996, with greenkeepers being recruited from next autumn.

The course will consist of two loops of nine holes which will start and finish close to the clubhouse. Each loop is approximately 3,400 yards long and par 36. The course has been designed by Martin Hawtree and the clubhouse is being created by a local company, Izod Design of Wokingham.

Bearwood Lakes is the brainchild of hotelier and leisure and golf operator David Newling Ward, who lives near Henley. David will be chairman of the company which owns the club.

His fellow director and partner, Ray Wilson, is managing director of Southern Golf which has built golf courses in over 20 countries dur-

ing the past 20 years. The company has also been responsible for constructing many other recent prestigious projects, including The Wisley, The Oxfordshire and The Buckinghamshire.

Demand for membership of Bearwood Lakes is expected to be high, with a population of one million people living within 15 minutes driving time of the site, but initially the club owners are only making 100 founder member debentures available at £4,500 each.

"We are inviting golfers to make an initial and returnable deposit of just £1,500, with the balance payable in two additional instalments between now and the opening of the course in 1996," explained Mr Newling Ward. "There will also be a joining fee and annual membership charge."

The estate gardens and parkland are listed by English Heritage as Grade II, the second highest grading awarded to parks and gardens. Bearwood originally formed part of Windsor Forest, but in 1816 was sold to John Walter MP, then proprietor of The Times newspaper.

The mansion and park were gifted to the Royal Merchant Seaman's Foundation in 1919

and became the Royal Merchant Navy School. Now known as Bearwood College, it is a fee-paying boys boarding school with around 250 pupils.

"Because we have 200 acres of wonderful natural countryside available, every hole will not only provide for good golf but will also be scenically attractive," explained Mr Newling Ward. "In addition to the two main lakes there is also a reservoir."

"There are also wonderful redwood, oak, lime and chestnut trees as well as an overabundance of commercially planted pine which will need to be reduced for the benefit of the other types of tree. And at the right time of the year our display of rhododendrons will match anything to be seen at Wentworth."

English Heritage and local conservationists have already supported the development of a golf course on such an exceptionally natural site, and consultant ecologist Dr Anne-Marie Brennan has produced an environmental survey and management plan to benefit the 90 types of bird and nearly 200 species of plant, tree and fungi which inhabit the Bearwood site.

George Shiels is the consultant agronomist.