

## Stalwart looks back on 25 years of service

BIGGA Board Member Pat Murphy was honoured with a dinner for his 25 years service to Shipley Golf Club.

In recounting his time at the club Pat remembered what the greenkeeping facilities were like when he started at the club and how much things had progressed in the time he had been with Shipley.

"In 1987 the committee upgraded the facilities for the greenstaff and I am proud to say that Shipley Golf Club is one of the clubs with decent facilities for the staff," said Pat in his speech.

He also recalled the BTME show in '93 when he was introduced to Prince Andrew and discussed the work that BIGGA does in education and in particular the video filmed at Shipley of the 15th green being relaid which is now being used as a basis for a training video.

# NEWS



■ A team of greenkeepers won the Aberdeen Trades Foursomes tournament at Hazelhead at the first attempt. The team all BIGGA members was Chris Pearson, Murcar, Bradley Wood, Westhill, Richard Watt, Deeside and David Murray of Newmacher clinched the final in the double foursomes format by seven holes. It was reckoned to be the first time that a team had won in its debut in the event since in inaugural tournament in 1936.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death of Bob Plain. Bob was an ever popular greenkeeper beginning his career at Muirfield before heading south to work as Head Greenkeeper at Beaconsfield GC. Before his retirement he constructed the new Hazelmere Golf Club and it was there that he met his untimely death.

Bob was always great fun for all those who had the pleasure of his company. Unfortunately the loss of his wife Doris only 15 months before after many years of happy married life left quite a void in his life. Many friends in the golfing world attended his funeral at Amersham Crematorium on June 7.

Our sympathy goes to his only daughter Heather, her husband and their son.

■ Don Major retired as Head Greenkeeper from Betchworth Park GC Dorking recently after 28 years with the club. The occasion was marked by the club granting him a golf day which was attended by over 40 of his friends connected with golf and the trade personnel. As a surprise Jim Wyllie, accompanied by his wife Fran, arrived from Canada for the day. Jim and Fran had been friends of Don and his wife for many years. It was a great day for Don and he thanks both his club and the colleagues who were able to join him for the day.



■ The Inturf Group has appointed Ken Sparks as its Regional Coordinator for the North of England

following ten years with Grasslands Turf Company in the South of the country.

■ Paul Nicholls, a familiar face to many after 20 years as Sales Manager with Levington Horticulture, died in a road accident at the beginning of July.

Phil Parry, Managing Director of Levington Horticulture said, "Paul will be sadly missed by colleagues and customers alike. He was popular and hard working and our sympathies go out to his wife and family."

Paul was 45.

**The Number One Choice**

Working for the good of the fine turf industry

**A new competition with some great prizes starts on Page 32**

## East Dorset settlement will have long term implications

The East Dorset Golf Club court case, the result of which has been eagerly awaited within the industry because of its wide ranging implications, has been resolved out of court with Hawtree and the STRI settling on and paying out an undisclosed sum.

The terms of the agreement struck two days into the court case precludes both Hawtree and the STRI from comment but it is believed that the combined payment to East Dorset was in the region of £1.8 million.

The case came to court after the club accused Hawtree of costing it around £4 million when the course waterlogged and developed thin grass cover and it

lost potential club memberships and green fees. The core of the matter was a fine rootzone mix which had been decided upon to allow the course to combat the fact that the area was apt to become wet.

Unfortunately, because ultimately the case was not heard in court, the facts did not have the chance to be aired and this coupled with the confidentiality imposed by the terms of the settlement meant that the detail will remain shrouded in mystery.

Chris Bakhurst who was Managing Director of Golf Build (UK) Ltd, constructor of East Dorset said, "Although I have already read some comments in the press

which are ill-informed I frankly do not wish to enter into a public debate about this profoundly complex case. Golf Build (UK) Ltd which, in fact, no longer exists was paid in full for its work and maintained good relations with all the parties involved.

"It is a matter of sadness for me, personally, that Martin Hawtree for whom I have the greatest admiration found himself in this situation and I hope that the industry will leave this matter behind it and continue to strive for excellence."

It is thought that the East Dorset case and the significant settlements may open the flood gates to more law suits.

## Another greenkeeping award for Orton Meadows, Peterborough

Orton Meadows in Peterborough continued its remarkable run of success in producing awarding winning greenkeepers when 28 year-old Chas Campen received the Barenbrug award for being the Best Student of the Year at Milton College in Cambridge.

Chas, who has also been nominated for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, works under the current ICI Greenkeeper of the Year David Walden at the excellent municipal course.

Chas was presented with a cheque by John Bradley, Area Manager for Barenbrug, watched by, from left, David Walden, Roger Fitton, manager of Orton Meadows and Martin Crimmans, Lecturer in Horticulture at Milton College.



## Educational recognition for experienced greenkeepers

Hundreds of experienced greenkeepers who have learned their skills "on the job" can now be officially recognised for their ability without having to go to college.

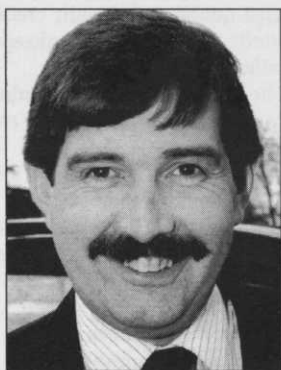
The greenkeepers, many of whom will have seen their young colleagues go to college and gain qualifications, will be able to achieve nationally recognised qualifications at the appropriate level without having to attend college.

This exciting development comes with the Greenkeeper Training Committee becoming an assessment centre by gaining approval from City & Guilds and Scotvec to offer NVQ/SVQ in Amenity Horticulture levels 1,2,3 and 4.

By October the GTC will have 42 NVQ/SVQ adviser/assessors in place. All Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers they will have attained qualifications which allow them to:

- offer accreditation of prior learning and thus be in a position to advise greenkeepers on the appropriate starting level of NVQ/SVQ.

- assess a greenkeeper on the



David Golding: this will help education

basis of watching him or her work and questioning his or her knowledge.

- assess the candidate using diverse sources of evidence other than merely assessing skills and knowledge such as previous non-NSVQ qualifications and testimonials from other Head Greenkeepers.

The 42 adviser/assessors all have the support of their employer and are spread throughout the country with eight in Scotland, 32 in England and two in Wales.

In addition to the 42 there are

200 assessors, who are also Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers, so everyone will have an assessor within easy reach.

"I am delighted that we have achieved Centre Approval and feel that this will help education within the greenkeeping profession and reach as many people as possible," said David Golding, GTC Education Director.

"The GTC's initiative to train advisors and assessors will allow colleges to go back to providing candidates with the underpinning knowledge of their subject and, wherever possible, let the assessment of this happen in the workplace," said David.

BIGGA, colleges and other training providers will still play a large part in greenkeeper training.

"I think this is a great step forward. BIGGA will continue to assess training needs and provide appropriate training courses," said Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer.

Golf clubs are now to be encouraged to contact the GTC to have their greenkeeping staff's training needs assessed and through the NVQ/SVQ advisory service more trained, qualified greenkeeping staff will enhance golf course conditions.

The GTC will continue to train Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers as assessors and if either golf clubs or greenkeepers are seeking more information on the NVQ/SVQ system, assessing etc they can contact the GTC at Aldwark Manor on 01347 838640.

## FLYING DIVOTS

### Tribute to the greatest game

Kent Section Member and avid golf lover Peter Biscoe came across the following observation on the Royal and Ancient game.

As Peter says, "The sentiments expressed echo all that is good about the game and should be good reading when, as often happens, one walks in the door wondering why we persevere but for some unknown reason can't give it up."

So with due credit to author David R. Morgan:

*Golf is a science, a study of a lifetime in which you may exhaust yourself but never your subject.*

*It is a contest, a duel, or a melee calling for courage, skill, strategy and self control.*

*It is a test of temper, a trial of honour a revealer of character.*

*It affords a chance to play the man and act the gentleman. It means giving into Gods out of doors, getting close to nature, fresh air, exercise and sweeping away the mental cobwebs plus genuine recreation of tired tissues.*

*It includes companionship with friends, social intercourse and the opportunity for courtesy, kindness and generosity.*

*It promotes not only physical health but moral force.*

## Salute to Robert Burns

Robert Trent Jones Jnr is to create his first Scottish course, on the Dalquharan Estate in Ayrshire. The new club will commemorate Scotland's national poet.

As the owner of the estate Westway is developing the club and the Dalquharan Castle Hotel and Country Club at a total investment of around £12.5 million. Work begins on-site in early autumn.



## European architects get together

The first meeting of The Council for European Golf Course Architects took place recently at the Berkshire Golf Club, Ascot.

The delegates pictured represented the British, French, and European Groups and made substantial progress towards the formation of a Federation.

Standing: Howard Swan, Rainer Preissmann, Peter Harradine and Mark Adam. Seated: Jeremy Pern and Alain Prat.



# Skin cancer fears lead to warnings about sunburn

The Health and Safety Executive has launched a new free booklet warning of the dangers of sunburn.

The leaflet "Keep Your Top On" is aimed at all those who work outside and are in excessive danger of exposure to the sun.

"It is extremely important for outdoor workers to realise the danger of over-exposing the skin to the sun," said Dr Paul Davies, a senior health policy official at HSE. "Too much sunlight can be damaging - especially to people with sun-sensitive types of skin. Excessive exposure can prematurely age the skin, leaving it wrinkled and leathery and

increase the chance of skin cancer in later life."

In England and Wales there are nearly 40,000 new cases of skin cancer registered among the general population every year and around 1,600 deaths. This number has increased over the last decade and this is believed to be linked to the increased extent to which people expose themselves to the sun for a suntan.

"In our climate the sun is not as strong or as intense as in the tropics but workers are advised to protect their skin from undue exposure to the sun while working out of doors in the summer - particularly during the three or

four hours around the middle of the day. Recommended precautions include wearing a long sleeved top and a hat with a wide brim which will shade the face, head and back of the neck," said Dr Davies.

The leaflet also explains that some people are more sensitive to the sun than others and gives simple advice on how to recognise skin types most at risk.

Copies of the leaflet "Keep Your Top On - Health Risks from Working in the Sun", ref IND(G)147(L) are available free from HSE Books PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 6FS. Tel: 01787 881165.

## STRI sets out its policy statement for golf clubs

The Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) has led the field for many years in providing sound, independent advice to golf clubs.

Golf courses are an integral component of our countryside supporting a wide diversity of habitat types, often contributing significantly to the conservation of the landscape, much of which is under continual threat of habitat destruction and/or modification. Many golf courses are important in conserving nationally and internationally important plant and minimal species. Golf clubs are gradually realising the importance of the surrounding natural landscape for the enhancement of the game, realising the need for sympathetic approaches to ecological management.

In working alongside golf, the STRI is striving to promote a greater ecological awareness through:

- Education to establish a greater depth of underpinning knowledge behind ecological management and naturalistic approaches to landscape

development.

The STRI will strive to:

- Consider all issues related to golf course management, especially those with ecological implications.

- Keep abreast of, and comply with, relevant environmental legislation.

- Work with the management of the golf club to develop and implement environmental enhancement programmes and their future monitoring.

- Avoid activities which could result in undue or excessive danger to plant, fish or wildlife, or which could threaten or damage their habitat.

- Provide recommendations for the most effective and most efficient use of resources.

- Ensure that contractors and managers recognise their environmental responsibilities.

- Provide recommendations for the most effective use of fertilisers and pesticides and to minimise their movement from target areas to the immediate environment through transport in air, water or soil.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ A new report shows that nine out of ten golf courses built within the last five years are in financial difficulty.

The report "Financial Performance of UK Golf Developments" by the Golf Research Group claims that of the 388 courses built since 1989, 88% have incurred losses and many have been forced to cut joining fees and reduce standards to attract new members.

An analysis of the accounts of 78 new courses found that 28 made a combined profit of £17.85 million with two of them accounting for almost £12 million of that while the other 50 had combined pre-tax losses of £32.79 million. The report is available from the Golf Research Group price £195. Tel: 0181 987 9950.



■ Andre Baylis formerly Claymore Area Sales Manager for Midland, Wales and East Anglia has been charged

with running the company's new replacement parts division. "Over the past few years we have seen a considerable increase in the growth of the company and this has meant more machinery being used and a great demand for replacement parts. Andre Baylis will coordinate the whole of the replacement parts operation to ensure we meet our commitment to our customers," said Managing Director Keith Christian.

■ UK based companies considering whether to attend the GCSAA show in Orlando will be interested to know that Department or Trade and Industry funding is available to assist with the cost of a stand. The funding is only available to UK based exhibitors and only goods made in the UK may be displayed. To apply for a grant register through the the AEA - servicing the Amenity, Environmental and Agricultural Industries - by Friday November 3. For further information and an application form contact Debbie Dale on 01733 371381.

## Honour for Fazio

Tom Fazio has been named as recipient of the Old Tom Morris Award by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The presentation, to one of the game's top course designers, will be made during the GCSAA's 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando in February.

Fazio joins Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, Gerald Ford, Patty Berg, Robert Trent Jones Snr, Gene Sarazen, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Sherwood Moore, William Campbell, Tom Watson, Dinah Shore, Byron Nelson and Dr James Watson as recipients of the award. The winner is selected by the GCSAA.

■ BIGGA's presentation to Arnold Palmer: Pages 12-15