

# Swedes discover delights of Scotland

A Study Trip taking in some of Scotland's finest golf courses was completed by 16 Swedish greenkeepers recently.

The group combined the educational element of the trip with the opportunity of playing some golf and visiting the Alfred Dunhill Cup in St Andrews.

Among the clubs they visited were Elie, where Head Greenkeeper Brian Lawrie gave them a tour of the course and led a discussion on all aspects of links maintenance; Gleneagles where the format was the same but the style of course completely different; Ladybank, where Head Greenkeeper Ian Menzies played host. They also visited Elmwood College to discuss greenkeeper education.

They were also welcomed by Scottish Regional Chairman Gordon Moir at St Andrews who gave them a tour of the Old Course and a look at the St Andrews sheds and Scottish Regional Administrator Elliott Small, who hosted the group at Tulliallan.

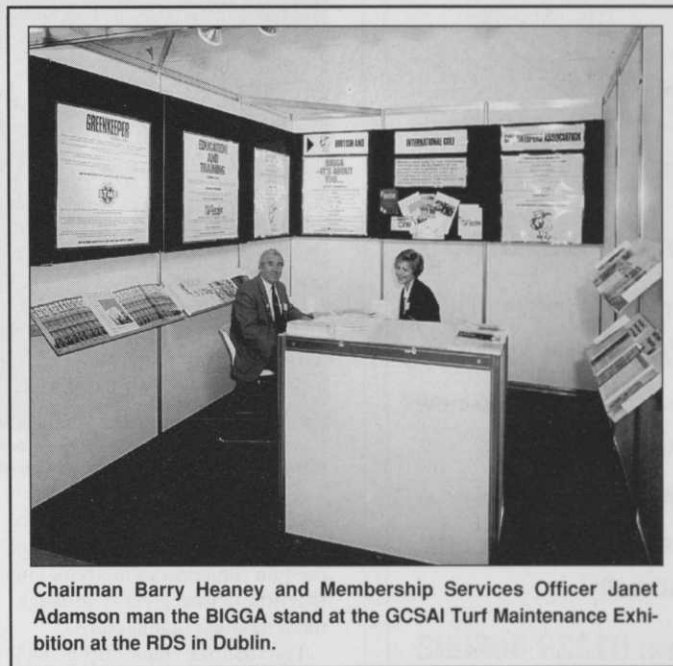
In addition to those courses they also squeezed in a game at Auchterarder, thanks to Head Greenkeeper Archie Dunn and the Jubilee Course at St Andrews.

## German connections

BIGGA member Craig Smith has used his German golf club contacts to assist him with organising "Golf Tours to the Home of Golf".

In conjunction with a Scottish associate he has targeted Gleneagles, the St Andrews' courses, Turnberry, Royal Troon and Old Prestwick. "It could be a valuable and exciting experience for a group of greenkeepers and any interested parties can contact me in Germany (Tel/fax 06284 1799) or Doug Robertson in Scotland (Tel 01738 623668)," said Craig.

# NEWS



Chairman Barry Heaney and Membership Services Officer Janet Adamson man the BIGGA stand at the GCSAI Turf Maintenance Exhibition at the RDS in Dublin.

## Back on the mats again!

The artificial turf mats which were tried out for fairway play on the Old Course at St Andrews last winter have proved so successful their use is to be repeated.

This winter, however, the mats will only be in use for four months – December to March – compared with five months last year. The decision to re-introduce the mats which were originally brought in to protect the course for The Open Championship was taken by the Links Management Committee.

"For some time we have been evaluating the effects of the experiment of last winter," said Robert Burns, Chairman of the Links Management Committee. "The

impact of using the mats has been dramatic and the improvement in the course's condition has been apparent to all golfers."

It is estimated that the use of the artificial turf mats saved the Old Course from over 150,000 divots last year. The 10cm x 25cm mats are issued to golfers at the beginning of their round and handed in at the end for re-use. Their introduction last winter was as a result of seeing the effects of their use on other courses in Scotland.

As last year the green fee for a round on the Old Course while mats are in play will be discounted from the normal winter rate of £40 to £30.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ Tim Yardley, Hayter's Marketing Manager, tragically died on Snowdonia in October. He was 30 and single. "Although he had only been with us for eight months he had become an integral and indispensable member of our team," said Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director. "Seldom have I known anyone to settle in so quickly and so well to a new job and his tragic death has shocked us all at Spellbrook."

■ Ocmis Irrigation (Scotland) Ltd have moved to new larger premises offering increased storage and service facilities. The office, at Broad Meadow, Harburn, West Calder, West Lothian, Scotland EH55 8RT will work in conjunction with other offices throughout the UK.



■ Following the launch of the new business operation Miracle Professional (formerly ICI Professional

Products) to the Sports Amenity and Landscape industry, management changes have been announced. Roger Mossop, previously Marketing Manager, has been promoted to Business Manager assuming responsibility for both marketing and sales. He will respond directly to Chief Executive John Wilson, a main board member of Miracle Garden Care Ltd.

■ For the fourth year, Atterton & Ellis Ltd, main agents for Toro grass machinery in Suffolk and parts of Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, has supported the West Suffolk Greenkeepers Challenge.

The Challenge is played at four venues throughout the summer with the team's Stableford scores for all matches added together.

The winners once again were Gog Magog GC comprising Lyndon Upham, Julian Hill and Peter Mallows with a score of 371 beating Haverhill GC into second place by just six points. Newmarket GC finished third with Bury St Edmunds GC fourth. Alan Carter of Haverhill had the highest individual total of 137.

## HMC Pro-Sport launched for the sports market

Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals Ltd has launched HMC Pro-Sport onto the Sports market.

Pro-Sport has been designed for use in the construction and maintenance of golf courses, sports pitches and leisure facilities.

The grading processes produce new sands for specialised applications – HMC Pro-Sport sands; HMC Pro-Sport top dressing and HMC Pro-Sport root zone.

HMC has 17 working quarries up and down the country and all prod-

ucts are formulated for consistency, which means the product will be the same from one month to the next and from one quarry to the next.

For further information contact 01270 752 700.



## FLYING DIVOTS

■ A Stihl Chainsaw mounted on a portable sawmill has set a world record by producing the longest plank of wood ever to be cut from a log. The plank measured 109 feet long (33.02 metres) and was cut from a five ton log.

The record sawing operation was achieved at the Jonkoping Fair for Forestry Products in Sweden by Bengt-Olov Brystrom, pictured below, who designed the 'Logosol' portable sawmill which, for the mammoth cut, was fitted with an 85cc Stihl 064 chainsaw.

Bengt-Olov said "It wouldn't surprise me if someone in a country with taller trees than Sweden tries to beat our record." In the meantime the next edition of The Guinness Book of Records will feature the Stihl cut 109 foot plank.



■ Preparations are well under way for the 1996 Grounds & Greens seminars organised by Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd. Following two very successful events at Newmarket Race Course and Lancashire Country Cricket Club, Old Trafford, next year's event will take place on June 11 and 12 at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh. Speakers will include Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper of the Old Course at St Andrews, Steve Isaac, STRI, Duncan McGilvray, Letchworth GC, David Lucas, Golf Course Consultant, Jay Dobson and David Rhodes, Myerscough College and Terry Robinson Haydock Park Race Course.

■ Fine Agrochemicals Ltd has appointed Steven Wilson as Technical Manager. Steven, who was formerly Technical Service Manager of Herbicides with Zeneca Crop Protection, will take responsibility for product development, technical service and quality management of Fine Agrochemicals' range of products.

## Pebble Beach signs up with Ransomes

The Pebble Beach Company has selected Ransomes as its exclusive supplier of turf maintenance equipment.

The three-year rolling agreement with the world famous Pebble Beach resorts states that all new equipment for their golf courses and grounds maintenance will come from Ransomes/Cush-

man/Ryan product lines.

"The exclusive agreement to supply Pebble Beach is significant because it emphasises our company's leadership role in the turf maintenance industry," said Peter Wilson, Group Chief Executive of Ransomes plc.

Pebble Beach is recognised not only as one of the leading golf

courses in the world, but also one of the most beautiful. This agreement links two companies which have leading brand recognition and share a concern for, and give an industry lead in, environmental, safety and quality issues.

Pebble Beach considered all the leading turf machinery companies before reaching its decision.

## Monty wins our vote to scoop top golfing title

The Johnnie Walker Golfer of the Month for October was chosen by a panel of five golf writers including your Editor Scott MacCallum.

Scott joined John Hopkins, golf correspondent of The Times; Colin Callander, Editor of Golf Monthly; broadcaster, John Fenton, and Chairman Renton Laidlaw, golf correspondent of the London Evening Standard at the Halcyon Hotel in London to select the player most deserving of the award.

There were several candidates in contention. Colin Montgomerie who helped Scotland to their first Alfred Dunhill Cup victory and finished runner-up in the Volvo Masters at Valderrama, playing the tough back nine in one under par to snatch the Volvo Order of Merit title from Sam Torrance by one shot.

Alexander Cejka, the young German, who birdie five of the final eight holes at the Volvo Masters to win his third tournament

of the year.

Scotland's Alfred Dunhill Cup team which in addition to Montgomerie included Sam Torrance, whose heroic final round in the Volvo Masters, two better than anyone else in the field, took him to within one shot of a first Volvo Order of Merit title in 24 years on Tour and Andrew Coltart, who became the first player to make a hole-in-one in the Alfred Dunhill Cup at the Old Course's 8th in the final. He now boasts an Alfred Dunhill Cup record of played eight won seven.

After each of the panel had outlined his thoughts to the others and the representatives of Johnnie Walker and the PGA European Tour who were also present a vote was held and Colin Montgomerie, carrying Scott's vote, emerged the winner.

He wins a trophy while the Golf Foundation and the PGA European Tour Benevolent Fund each receive £1000.



■ East Midlands section is the first in the country to make a contribution to the BIGGA Building Fund, set up to facilitate a move of Headquarters to a larger building.

Tim Allard, the newly elected Chairman of the section, is pictured presenting a cheque for £300 to Barry Heaney which, added to the association's initial transfer of £5000 out of the general fund, is an excellent boast on the way to the target figure of £250,000.

The section also made a donation to the Matthew Fell Appeal, which was highlighted in November's magazine.



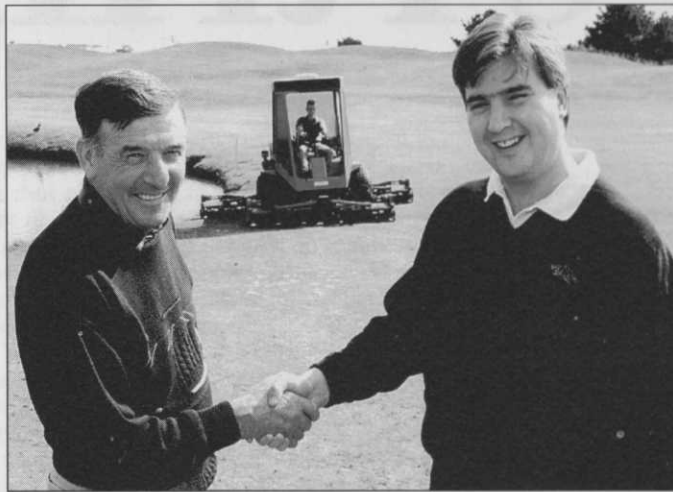
# Robert takes top job at St Mellion

Roy Battishill, Head Greenkeeper at St Mellion for the last 18 years, has retired and handed over the reins to Robert Brewer, the former Assistant Course Manager of Sunningdale's Old Course.

Roy, a former agricultural contractor in the Tamar Valley area of Cornwall was offered a green-keeping job by St Mellion's owners, Hermon and Martin Bond, prior to the opening of the Old Course at St Mellion.

"It has been tremendous being part of the Bond brothers' dream to make St Mellion International one of the world's top golf complexes and I feel very proud of their achievements," said Roy.

Roy began his association with the course by landscaping bunkers, greens and tees and took over as Head Greenkeeper when Jim Rowland retired.



Roy Battishill, left, welcomes Robert Brewer to St Mellion

He went on to look after the Nicklaus Course which hosted the Benson and Hedges International Open until earlier this year. As part of his training he

spent a year in the United States with the Nicklaus Organisation.

Robert also has extensive tournament experience having prepared Sunningdale for two European Opens and two PGA European Tour Seniors Championships.

He is a keen golfer playing off a 12 handicap and holds a private pilot's licence.

General Manager Ken Hunt said, "Robert is one of the country's top course managers with a wealth of experience and we're delighted he has agreed to come to St Mellion International."

Austin Davies has been appointed to the post of Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products Business Manager. Austin moves to the position from Product Stewardship, he previously had worked in Environmental Products as Account Manager and as a Product Manager.

Jonathan Hill has taken up the

newly created post of Market Development Manager for Environmental Products within the Rhône-Poulenc Agriculture Ltd organisation.

The network of Regional Managers and office staff remain unchanged and continue Rhône-Poulenc's commitment to high standards of customer service.

## FLYING DIVOTS

### Service helps take it easy

As of January 1 BIGGA will be providing members with a stress counselling helpline which will provide a range of practical help and advice for relieving stress related symptoms, as well as offering a friendly ear.

There is no such thing as a "pressure free job", every job has its demands and some pressures can be beneficial – the challenges which keep us motivated – but when demands become excessive this can have a potential for causing stress related problems. These may take the form of physical and emotional symptoms affecting work and home life, for example, an increase in alcohol consumption and smoking or feeling more irritable or tense.

The stress counselling helpline will help clarify and define areas of stress and advise on ways on ways of dealing with these problems. The service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year and is staffed by qualified nurses offering a caring professional service.

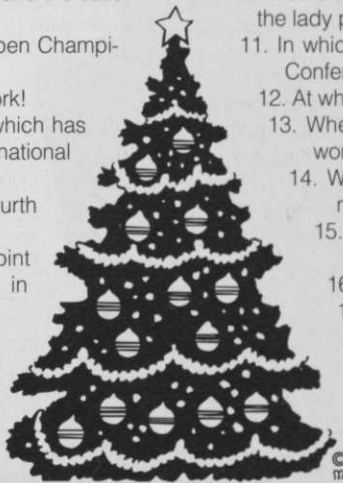
The number – which will be open from January 1 – is 01206 871614.

## Greenkeepers' Christmas Quiz

Test your knowledge in our fun competition!

You all work on golf courses but how much do you know about the great game of golf? Like some of the greatest golf events in the world – the Ryder Cup, the Amateur Championship, the Walker and Curtis Cups – there is nothing to win but pride and the satisfaction of competing to the best of your ability!

1. Who was the last man to win back to back Open Championships?
2. MAD LANK ROAR – A famous building near York!
3. Who designed the famous St Mellion course which has played host to the Benson and Hedges International Open for several years?
4. Name the greenkeeper who produced his fourth Open Championship course this year.
5. Who was the Irishman whose winning point sealed Europe's famous Ryder Cup victory in September?
6. Name the two players who had holes-in-one in the Ryder Cup this year.
7. How many bunkers did the BIGGA Green-keeping Support Team rake at St Andrews this year? To the nearest 50.
8. Who was the first British player to win the US



Masters?

9. Colin Montgomerie's father is the secretary of which Open Championship course?
10. What is the name of the cup played for every other year by the lady professionals of Europe and the United States?
11. In which US city is next year's GCSAA Trade Show and Conference being held?
12. At which course will the 1997 Ryder Cup be held?
13. Where was this year's Walker Cup played and who won.
14. Who will become the new Chairman of BIGGA at next year's AGM?
15. Who did Ernie Els defeat in a play-off to win the 1994 US Open?
16. Over which course was it played?
17. Which golf course was the most recent to be added to the Open Championship rota?
18. Who is Course Manager at that course?
19. From which county does BIGGA Chairman Barry Heaney come?
20. Where is next year's Open Championship to be played? *Answers on Page 50*