

● Greenkeepers angry at non-golfing industry's plan for BTME spoiler

● BIGGA president

'disturbed' at attempts to establish unnecessary London rival

The English Golf Union stunned and angered greenkeepers on the eve of BTME by announcing its support for P&O Events' rival show next year.

In a press release read out to a hushed gathering of greenkeepers at the National Education Conference, P&O confirmed that the EGU is to become a partner in Landscape & Turf Professional 96. This London-based show will take place a week before the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and education programme, which will again be held in Harrogate. The agreement between P&O and the EGU makes the EGU responsible for the golf education and training seminars at Olympia.

EGU secretary Paul Baxter said: "We are delighted to become part of the event and recognise the platform that a London-based exhibition will give the industry throughout Europe. Our responsibilities will involve the development and organisation of the education and training seminars. These will be an important and integral part of the show."

After failing to buy BIGGA's goodwill and expertise, P&O secured the support of the EGU by not only offering to pay their expenses in London and pay expenses of speakers, but also give them a stand at the show and an entertainment lounge free of charge.

"It's an offer we've never had before and it's a wonderful opportunity to continue the education work we've been doing for chairmen of green and greenkeepers since 1988," said Baxter.

But the announcement shocked many at the packed BTME.

Among the most surprised was PO Ljung, chairman of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association (SGA), which was there in force. He said: "It is sad that the EGU prefers to co-operate with the non-golfing industry instead of BIGGA, which is a very able and professional organisation that has taken the training of greenkeepers to its heart. We in the SGA and, I venture to say, all the greenkeeper organisations in Scandinavia do hope our sister organisation, BIGGA, will continue with its arrangements in Harrogate as the exhibition, national conference and the seminars are much appreciated by



Viscount Whitelaw, speaking at the Chairman's luncheon, told guests why Harrogate was right for the BTME. Among those pictured above are BIGGA's Neil Thomas, Len Breakwell, of ET Breakwell Ltd, Peter Wilson, of Ransomes, Sims and Jeffries, Steve Mona of the GCSAA, and BIGGA Board of Management member Gordon Moir

Outrage as EGU joins rival show

both greenkeepers and exhibitors.

"It is sad that the EGU does not recognise the professionalism that BIGGA represents. In Sweden, the Swedish Golf Federation with its 360,000 members has recognised that SGA stands for a sound development of golf courses and their maintenance and the co-operation between SGA and the Swedish Golf Federation is very close as regards training programmes and research/experiments.

"I do hope that the EGU will have second thoughts as regards the London exhibition, as it would probably be a disadvantage both to BIGGA and the EGU if P&O chooses to go ahead with their exhibition."

It wasn't just greenkeepers who were surprised by the EGU's move. Brian Carnie, managing secretary at the Broadway Golf Club, said: "It's a shame. It'd be so sad to have two conferences run so close to each other in opposition."

David Golding of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, which is partly funded by the EGU, said the first he'd heard about the EGU/P&O partnership was when conference delegates told him about the press release read out by BIGGA chairman John

Millen. "We have not been contacted about it," he said two days after the announcement. "John Millen told us via 200 greenkeepers." But he added he expects to be at BTME in '96 - as do the vast majority of greenkeepers.

Asked at the BIGGA annual general meeting if they wanted to go to London, the greenkeepers voted unanimously to stay in Harrogate.

Most of the leading turfcare companies are also choosing Harrogate.

Andrew Sunaway, the new sales and marketing director at Ransomes, told us: "We will be in Harrogate supporting BIGGA and we are taking more space next year." In fact they want to double the size of their stand, as do Hardi Sprayers and Lely UK. Other leading companies, including Hayter, Zeneca, Rolawn and Farmura have also promised to be in Harrogate next year.

Viscount Whitelaw, president of BIGGA, summed up the feelings of many greenkeepers and exhibitors during his visit to the show: "I do so enjoy coming to Harrogate and this

show, which has been an enormous success over the years. I spend a lot of time in London and I can tell you Harrogate is much better for greenkeepers than London. I want to see this development continue and expand. I want it to expand further because it's been a great advantage for greenkeepers in Britain and I hope it will become so for greenkeepers all over Europe."

● Letter received from Viscount Whitelaw:

From: The Rt. Hon. The Viscount Whitelaw, K.T., C.H., M.C.

As President of BIGGA, I had the pleasure to attend last month's BTME in Harrogate. It is a tremendous show, professionally organised by BIGGA's staff and loyally backed by companies within the turf industry. BIGGA's programmes are of a high standard and well supported. As such, they do much to advance the greenkeeping profession. I am disturbed to hear of attempts by P&O Events to establish a rival show in London next January, when BIGGA's members have overwhelmingly indicated their commitment to the BTME in Harrogate. I do not believe greenkeepers want a show in London, when the special atmosphere of Harrogate will be lost and expenses will invariably increase both for exhibitors and BIGGA's members. I do hope that this show at Harrogate will continue as at present, because it is valuable and educational for greenkeepers and many others. I have every confidence in the ongoing success of the BTME, which as President of BIGGA has my unqualified support.

Whitelaw

Zeneca set to become a Miracle for £37m

Zeneca has sold its Garden and Professional Products business to newly-formed Miracle Garden Care Ltd for approximately £37 million.

The new owners will be taking over all existing staff and the full range of professional products which includes Longlife and Ultra-Green fertilisers, Daconil-turf, Greenshield and Casoron.

The chief executive of the new company is John Wilson who is leaving Zeneca (formerly part of ICI) after 26 years. John was both general manager of Zeneca Crop Protection (the UK arm of Zeneca Agrochemicals) and Zeneca Garden and Professional Products.

He confirmed that the new company will continue to supply the same products with the same brand names using the same people.

Miracle Garden Care Ltd's principal shareholders are Advent International Plc and Charterhouse Development Capital, who led the purchase, and Stern's Nurseries, proprietors of the Miracle Gro brand of garden products.

Production facilities at Howden, North Humberside, will continue to be part of the new business.

More tragedy at Welsh club

A third tragedy has hit Southerndown Golf Club, near Bridgend, South Wales. Assistant greenkeeper Christopher Thomas, 20, was struck by an Inter City train on a railway line close to his home. Earlier in the week the club heard that former head greenkeeper John Walsh, 36, who had retired due to ill health five years ago, had died. "He fought a long and hard battle against cancer, was well known locally and well respected," according to Peter Lacey of BIGGA's South Wales section.

These tragedies follow the suicide last year of head greenkeeper Stuart Lindsey.

NEWS



For the second year running, managing director Graham Dale picks up the 'Mr Toro International' award on behalf of Lely UK. American manufacturer Toro gives the award annually to the distributor who shows the most outstanding achievement in all aspects of its service to Toro commercial customers. Presenting the award is Bob Buckingham, left, sales manager Toro Commercial Products (Europe).

Avoncrop joins our development fund

Avoncrop Amenity Products is the latest company to back BIGGA's Education and Development Fund. This brings to five the number of new companies already in Golden or Silver Key membership for 1995.

In welcoming Avoncrop Amenity Products as a Silver Key supporter BIGGA's executive director, Neil Thomas commented, "It is significant that such a well-respected regionally based company should choose to support the Education and Development Fund at a time when the Association is about to utilise the resources of the fund on a regional basis through the planned localised management training courses. The backing of regional companies such as Avoncrop Amenity Products can only strengthen the regional resources and support for our members".

Avoncrop Amenity Product's membership brings to 16 the number of companies in either Golden or Silver Key membership.

On credit

BIGGA now accepts plastic. You can use your VISA and Access cards to pay your membership fee and buy BIGGA goods, such as blazers, ties and jumpers.

Zeneca and Terralift

The January issue of Greenkeeper International carried a newsletter from Terralift Fertilizers. Terralift would like to make it clear that no slight was intended on ICI/Zeneca or its products. The use of the name ICI in the article relates only to the 'Greenkeeper of the Year' Award.

Terralift acknowledges that its fertilizers are one of several being considered by David Walden, the ICI Greenkeeper of the Year.

Any embarrassment caused to David or ICI/Zeneca was unintentional.

FLYING DIVOTS

Attention late subscribers

Has your 1995 BIGGA membership subscription been paid? If not, you ought to be aware that all membership benefits have, strictly speaking, lapsed. Of particular importance is the legal helpline and the personal accident insurance. If you have not renewed your subscription then you are not covered. Consequently, any accident arising after December 31 1994 will not be insured. Furthermore, those 1994 members who have not paid their subscription by February 28 will be taken off the Greenkeeper International magazine mailing list. Subsequent renewals will not be issued with back copies of the magazine free of charge. All benefits of membership will deem to commence from date of payment.



■ Martin Hucklesby, 28, is set to take over as course manager/head greenkeeper at Five Lakes Hotel, Golf and

Country Club (formerly Quietwaters) in Maldon, Essex. "It's going to go places now," he told us with a smile, "It's in excellent condition." Martin, whose father is head groundsman at London Scottish Rugby Club and whose brother works as a greenkeeper at the Burhill Club, Walton on Thames, takes up the new challenge on February 27. At the moment he is assistant course manager/head greenkeeper at Roehampton in Surrey.

■ Gary Cunningham is moving from Menorca to take over as head greenkeeper at Ufford Park in Suffolk. The 29-year-old 10-handicapper is currently head greenkeeper at Club De Golf Son Parc. He takes up his new job at the end of this month, replacing Peter Brooks.

■ Steven Grass, 27, has been appointed head greenkeeper at Brampton Heath Golf Centre, Northampton. He was previously deputy head greenkeeper at Calcot Park.

Education update

BY KEN RICHARDSON



Search begins for next year's speakers

It hardly seems possible that the National Education Conference and BTME are over for another year as last week passed so quickly.

We had a varied list of speakers who gave some very interesting and thought-provoking talks, with a little controversy thrown in as well.

I am already planning for next year and I would welcome thoughts and suggestions on topics for next year. I am also searching for greenkeepers and non-greenkeepers who would be willing to speak at the conference or seminar programme. Please contact me if you can help.

For anyone who missed the 1995 Conference or BTME Seminars, tapes of both events are available from BIGGA headquarters. Prices are £25 for the whole of the Conference and £5 for each seminar.

Zeneca Premier Greenkeeper

As reported in the last issue of *Greenkeeper International*, entries for the 1995 Zeneca Premier Greenkeeper of the Year can now be submitted to BIGGA headquarters. Entries can be from individual greenkeepers, greenkeeping teams or golf clubs and can be made by returning the card facing Page 62 in this issue or by writing to HQ.

The first prize is an all expenses paid trip to Florida for the 1996 GCSAA Exhibition and Conference plus £500 to the winner's team. Runners up prizes include a weekend in London with tickets for a top West End show and a weekend for two at Aldwark Manor. Remember, the competition is to find the greenkeeper who gets the best from his course with the facilities that he has available and aims to recognise services to the greenkeeping industry.

TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year

Entries are invited for the Toro/Lely/European Tour Student of the Year competition 1995 from colleges in the United Kingdom and southern Ireland. Full details of entry criteria are given in a leaflet, obtainable from BIGGA HQ and nomination forms must be returned to Aldwark Manor by 31 May 1995.

Regional finals will take place during September and the national final will take place at Aldwark Manor on 8/9 October.

Master Greenkeeper Certificate

The latest recipient of the coveted title of Master Greenkeeper is Richard McNabb. Richard, who is the Course Superintendent at Palmetto Golf Club, South Carolina, received his award at the National Education Conference. The next MGC examination will take place on Friday 21 April and a pre-examination day will be held at Aldwark Manor on 27 February.

Management Training Courses

Planning has started for the 1995 Supervisory and Management Courses which will be held over five weeks during October and November.

Course content will be similar to last year's courses, ie. covering the underpinning knowledge requirements of the GTC Training Manual level 3 but will also include one week at level 4.

Additionally, we are planning a series of Health and Safety and Management courses for autumn 1995/spring 1996, to be presented at locations around the UK and Ireland and we are working with the GTC to set up county based one day training course for autumn/winter 1995.



Michael Hunter, 27, has joined the board of his dad's business, Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd. Eric's wife Shielia and daughter Michelle also work for the company which produces the well-known Jupiter and Juno grinding machines.

'Open' invitation to join the BIGGA support team

Applications are invited from members to join BIGGA's greenkeeping support team for the 1995 Open Championship at St Andrews. Members wishing to be considered must be working greenkeepers and should be available from Wednesday evening, July 19, to Sunday evening, July 23. The opportunity to take part in this prestigious event is open to both team members from previous years and also those members who are wishing to participate for the first time.

Duties will be allocated on a rota basis over the four days of play and include early morning course preparation, bunker raking whilst matches are in play and evening course maintenance. All members of the support team will be expected to remain on the course throughout the day, to be available in the event of any unforeseen circumstances arising.

Accommodation, all meals and transport will be provided by the

Association, but successful applicants will be expected to pay their own travelling expenses from home to the event and return.

The team consists of a small organising committee and 50 greenkeepers. Those members wishing to be involved should put their name forward in writing to John Pemberton, administration manager, at BIGGA's HQ, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, to be received no later than March 6 1995. All candidates' names will then be placed into a draw to select the successful applicants. If you have not been to this event before in this capacity and wish to learn more about what will be expected before putting your name forward, then please do not hesitate to contact either John (tel: 01347 838581), Elliott Small (tel: 01259 731445) or Bert Cross (tel: 0151 7245412).

Ransomes appointment

Andrew Sunaway has been appointed sales and marketing director of Ransomes, Sims and Jelferies Ltd. Formerly international sales manager and customer service manager, Andrew's new responsibilities cover the planning, development and co-ordination of Ransomes' commercial grass machinery sales, marketing and promotional strategies and functions in the UK, Europe and all other parts of the world outside North America. His principal objectives are to consolidate and extend the use of Ransomes' equipment on a global scale.





Ultimate test for drainage scheme

Eleven holes at Aldwark Manor, the Yorkshire course surrounding BIGGA's rented offices, were flooded following a week of heavy snow and rain. This is the view of the 4th and 14th fairways from the 4th tee. The footbridge in the distance shows the normal width of the River Ouse. About £14,000 worth of drainage has been put in over the past three years. Once the level of the river goes down, the greenstaff will be able to see how efficiently it works.



■ **Rochford Garden Machinery of Wincanton, Somerset, is the newest addition to John Deere's dealer network. The business area covers Devon (east of Plymouth), Somerset and West Dorset. Tel: 01963 33713.**

■ **C&P Soilcare Ltd of Nedging, Ipswich, has asked us to point out that its Terralift machine – which places a probe 1m into the soil, blasts it with compressed air simultaneously injecting nutrients – has nothing to do with Terralift Fertilizers. C&P Soilcare can be contacted on 01449 741012.**



Effingham GC first assistant Euan Grant, winner of the Toro/PGA Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, receives another accolade at the Plump-ton College part-time awards ceremony. He was named as top student on the phase 2/level 2 course.

FLYING DIVOTS



Brian O'Hara has been appointed to the new post of business development manager with Tip Top Turf. Based at

Newton Longville turf nursery, he will be responsible for developing stronger links with existing and potential customers as the company expands into supplying sand, soil, turf dressing and complementary products from Bailey's of Norfolk. Tel: 0908 270701.

■ **Buyers of Rite Feed organic fertiliser could win a trip to Florida. With every drum bought, the purchaser's name will be entered into a draw with the winner going to the GCSAA show in Orlando in February '96. Derek Ganning of The Belfry will make the draw on October 5.**

■ **Writtle College in Chelmsford has been granted university status. It is only the second college serving land-based industries in the country to be granted the status.**

■ **The Welsh College of Horticulture has been named Horticultural College of the Year for the UK by the National Farmers' Union and The Grower magazine.**

■ **Brian D Pierson (Contractors) Ltd has secured two new contracts: a new 27-hole project, Forest Pines Golf Course, near Scunthrope, and the redevelopment of Chestfield GC in Kent following road improvements in the area.**

■ **Collier Turf Care (Dist) Ltd will be holding an open day in Norwich on February 23. Tel: 0603 870944.**

■ **Ransomes has sent £250,000 worth of turf machinery to the first all-grass golf course to be built in the Gulf state of Qatar, the recently completed Dana Golf Club near Doha.**

■ **A local builder has bought 110-acre 18-hole Libbaton Golf Club at Barnstaple, North Devon, for close to £1 million.**

FLYING DIVOTS

■ The head greenkeeper at Shirley Golf Club, Solihull, was found dead in his car on the course. 44-year-old Trevor Stone, who had been at the club for about 19 years, was discovered by a fellow worker at 8am. The car's engine was still running and police believe he had been in the car all night.



Scottish Grass Machinery Ltd has appointed John Pollitt (left) to the new post of general manager of the Perth

operation. His previous jobs include executive appointments with Arthur Bell & Sons, United Distillers and Motorola.

■ Independent irrigation consultant Philip York has been elected chairman of the British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association. He succeeds Paul de Rham, who completed his term in office last month. Philip says: "My objective will be to ensure not only that standards are maintained but that end-users, our customers, will receive even better help, advice and value for their money. This can be achieved by broadening the base of the Association. This means encouraging individuals interested in the technological advances, agronomic implications, the application and use of irrigation to join the BTLIA".

■ East Anglia-based brewing and pubs giant Greene King Plc is reputed to have paid £1.75 million for the 210-acre Langdon Hills' 25-bed Hotel and Golf Club at Basildon, Essex. Plans include refurbishing the site to provide a pay-and-play facility and adapt the existing clubhouse.

■ Essex-based Eastern Tractors has moved to better equipped premises in Chelmsford. Bought out by management last year, Eastern Tractors is now planning to expand and has become Hayter's agent in Essex and north London.



Plum placements for students

These three turf science students from Myerscough College have landed placements at major American courses.

The students, all on the three-year BTEC National Diploma course in Turf Science and Sportsground Management, have secured 12-month work placements that many experienced greenkeepers would die for.

Following last year's successful

placement at the Pinehurst Resort and Country Club in North Carolina, 21-year-old Carl Horrax's placement supervisor recommended him to staff at Augusta National. He's going there shortly to help prepare the course for the US Masters.

As a result of Carl's success at Pinehurst, two other students – Julian Jackson, 20, and John Stevenson, 21 – are following in

his footsteps and heading for Pinehurst Resort.

Not pictured but also heading west are Robin Jackson, 25, who is going to Fiddlesticks Country Club in Florida and Chris Knowles, 21, who is going to the Double Eagle Club in Ohio. Chris could not ask for better conditions in which to further his training, working alongside Master Greenkeeper Terry Buchan.

Apart from broken ankle, Robert's cup floweth over

One of the golden rules of golf is 'keep your eye on the ball'. But for 600 greenkeepers that rule has changed.

For them it has become a case of keeping an eye on the hole. Doing that has just paid off for Royal Dornoch course manager Robert Paterson.



He has just become the first winner in Britain of a set of Regal golf clubs presented by Golf Media, which sells advertising inside golf holes, with each golf club in the scheme getting 20% of the advertising revenue.

Golf Media claim 25% of all golf clubs in Britain have signed up for the scheme. Robert, 31, centre, is pictured being presented with the £500 set of clubs by Golf Media director James Horlick, left. Also pictured is Robert's colleague, John Duncan.

Robert hasn't been able to try out his new clubs yet. The day after the presentation he broke his ankle playing squash.



■ Recently retired course manager Gerwyn Price is being sent packing by BIGGA. As the winner of our draw for members who recommended two other people to join, he has been sent a £600 holiday voucher. When we told him of his success, far-flung places were furthest from his mind. The former Maesteg GC man hinted he'd be going places in this country. "I've never stayed in a four-star hotel," he said. "I might do that for a week with my wife."

● Viscount Whitelaw is pictured with Barry Heaney, making the draw at BTME.