

NEWS



Cynthia's marketing challenge

Cynthia Larbey, pictured, has been appointed Group Marketing Manager of Ransomes plc taking on responsibility for the marketing functions of all Ransomes' group companies worldwide.

Based at Ransomes' headquarters at Ipswich Cynthia has marketing experience in both the consumer and industrial sectors.

"Working alongside Ransomes' existing sales and marketing teams worldwide I shall be ensuring that all our marketing aims and objectives are truly consumer led," said Cynthia.

Greenkeeper backed in public slur outrage

Dunfermline Golf Club Head Greenkeeper Ronnie Cunningham had a nasty shock when he picked up the local newspaper and discovered a public notice informing members that a special meeting would be held to discuss 1. The general condition of the golf course and 2. The performance of the greenkeeping staff.

The meeting, due to be held on June 2 has been called by a group of disillusioned members unhappy with the condition and general untidiness of the course and does not have the approval of the club. According to club secretary Bob De Rose, 49 year-old Ronnie has the full support of the club's council (committee) and green committee.

"This has come from 59 members out of a total membership of 600 and it's totally unwarranted," said Ronnie, adding that he had a great deal of support from among the other members.

"My team - there are four experienced men and two apprentices - have worked extremely hard in difficult circumstances and it is disgusting the way we have been treated.

"In the three years I've been here we have continually improved the course by making the tees bigger and redoing the bunkers. We put in new sand and before we did it we got samples for the members to look at and they approved of what we were doing.

"The new sand was white and

we have also used it to fill in divots around the course and I think this is why certain members have felt that the course has looked untidy. It's been so dry that there has been no growth and every course in the area has suffered. We also have to water by hand," said Ronnie.

"I have not even been invited to attend the meeting. Is it any wonder you hear of young greenkeepers having breakdowns and attempting suicide?" he added ruefully.

"The green committee and the council are not in agreement with those who have called the special meeting but it is in the constitution that a special meeting must be held if 50 names are put to a petition," said Mr De Rose.

"It is our view that Ronnie is doing a very fair job. I sit in on the green committee meetings which are always extremely thor-

ough and Ronnie always does what he says he is going to do."

With the special meeting approaching Steve Isaacs of the STRI was invited to make an inspection of the course.

"He thought it was a real emergency when he was asked to visit but said that the course is better this year than it was last year," said Ronnie.

This was backed up by Mr De Rose who also spoke with Steve Isaacs.

His view is that the course is the same or better than every other course in the area," he explained.

"I hope that his positive view of the course will mean some of the petitioners changing their minds and that there will not be enough names for the meeting to go ahead but it is very unfortunate that the greenkeeping staff's reputation can be called into question in such a public fashion. Mud sticks."

Club President Bill Kennedy had a slightly different view of the situation than the club Secretary. It was his view that some of the Club's council were not in full support of the greenkeeper and that the same was true of the green committee.

"Those who are complaining are not in a position to discuss the technicalities of greenkeeping but are unhappy about the general untidiness of the course. I would say that there is room for improvement."

■ Wareham Golf Club greenkeeper Steven Campbell was awarded damages after winning an unfair dismissal tribunal.

The club had made him redundant after a chemical reaction killed off 11 off the greens and the club had lost £10,000 in revenue.

The club said that it could not afford to keep him on but the tribunal found that Mr Campbell had not been consulted over his redundancy and awarded him £696.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ A young English trainee has earned the once-in-a-lifetime chance hone his skills at the feet of a master.

Chris Knowles (20) of Telford Shropshire will spend 12 months in the USA by studying under one of the nine Master Greenkeepers in the World, Terry Buchan.

Chris, who earned a diploma in Turf Science and Sports Ground Management at Myerscough College, Lancashire, will work under Terry at Double Eagle in Columbus Ohio.

■ Colin Montgomerie laid the final brick at Chobham Golf Club's new clubhouse less than two years after DC Leisure first began construction of the Surrey club's course.

The new clubhouse facilities include the 'Colin Montgomerie Suite' of function rooms, a bar and a la carte restaurant, pro shop and changing rooms.

Monty's ceremonial piece of brick laying represented the conclusion of the construction phase of DC Leisure Group's first golf club management project.

■ Hayter has appointed Tim Yardley as his new Marketing



Manager. Tim, pictured, arrives at Hayter from Hunter Plastics where he was Product Marketing Manager and

has also worked with Marley Excursions. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing. Says Kim Macfie, Hayter's Sales and Marketing Director, "This is a key appointment to the Spellbrook team and Tim brings with him a large variety of relevant experience."

■ Germinal Holdings Ltd, the wholesale seed merchants group which includes Samuel McCausland Ltd in Northern Ireland, David Bell Ltd in Scotland, Germinal Ireland in Ireland and British Seed Houses in England, has appointed three new directors to the Board of Directors.

Roger Saunders, Oliver Vaughan and Michael Shannon come from the English, Irish and Scottish arms of the group respectively.

Food for thought as plans hot up for BTME

The 1995 BTME at Harrogate is already guaranteed to be a huge success. A total of 131 exhibitors have confirmed their attendance at the Exhibition on January 24-26 and they, and the visitors, will enjoy facilities, including catering, which have been substantially improved on previous years as a result of the introduction of dedicated restaurant areas.

In addition for the first time all four home Unions are being invited to attend and will be provided with stand accommodation at no cost. Hopefully they will be able to take up the offer and in doing so further enhance the growing stature of the Exhibition as an event not to be missed.

The comprehensive education programme featured in the week at Harrogate includes the National Education Conference on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23, the Educational Seminar Programme on Wednesday 24 to Friday 26 which runs concurrently with the Exhibition. New to '96 will be practical workshops allowing smaller groups to work together on specific topics

Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer said: "The programme is almost complete and will be the most exciting ever seen at Harrogate and certainly the most comprehensive anywhere in Europe in 1996."

Last year 16 companies left it too late with their applications for exhibition space and were disappointed and this year already there is only 15% of the expanded square metreage remaining.

Bill Lynch, Sales and Marketing Manager, said: "Despite introducing a new hall and increasing the size of the exhibition by 25% only 15% remains with eight months to go. In '95, 16 companies unfortunately couldn't be accommodated. If any company is thinking about exhibiting in '96 they really should contact Louise Lunn on 01347 838581 now."



Slaley Hall looks to John Deere kit

Slaley Hall has brought a range of nine John Deere machines to boost the maintenance programme on its championship course.

The equipment was supplied by local John Deere grounds care dealer Greenlay Ltd of Choppington which will be providing a full after sales and parts back-up service.

The new range includes: A

3235 lightweight fairways mower; two 2243D diesel greens-mowers; two Gator 6 x 4 utility vehicles; a 2653 utility tees mower; a 755 20hp compact tractor with 60in mid-mounted mower and two E35 lawn edgers.

"Slaley Hall is already recognised as a leading course in the north of England and the purchase of the new John Deere equipment will enhance the

course, ensuring that it remains at the top of the premier league of the golf world," said Stuart Brown, Director of Golf.

Dan Sexton, Marketing Coordinator for Britain & Europe flew to Slaley Hall from Deere and Company's Head Office in to USA to hand over the machines.

Slaley Hall is host to a number of important events this year and its Hotel will open on August 1.



It's looking good: Mike Sheehan and John Souter

As part of a £4 million development programme at Mere Golf & Country Club near Knutsford, Cheshire, a new 700 square metre putting green has been laid in front of the clubhouse.

The excellence of the new green is a tribute to the work of Mere's Course Manager Mike Sheehan and John Souter, a turfgrass consultant acting for Hepworth's Minerals & Chemicals.

Hepworth's products were supplied for the contract by distributors Moneystone Ltd and John's consultation was part of the ser-

vice Hepworth's now offer to its customers.

The green was constructed using Hepworth's Chelford root zone which is produced to USGA specification.

"We have seen over three inches of root growth in only three weeks in early Spring while the weather is still cold," said Mike. "Hepworth's service has been tremendous, especially with the assistance of John Souter, and the product itself is first class, very consistent with each delivery. I'm looking forward to creating a great surface."

Architects sign Council agreement

The recent British Institute of Golf Course Architects 1995 Conference at Wentworth saw the signing of an agreement between British, French and European Society of Architects' Groups to establish a Council of European Golf Course Architects.

The new Council which will meet initially in England in June will discuss ways of collaboration and co-operation between all bodies in golf course design in Europe, particularly in areas of education, ecology, the environment and safety.

Canada date

The 47th Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show at Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia, next year will be held on Saturday March 2 to Tuesday March 5, 1996.

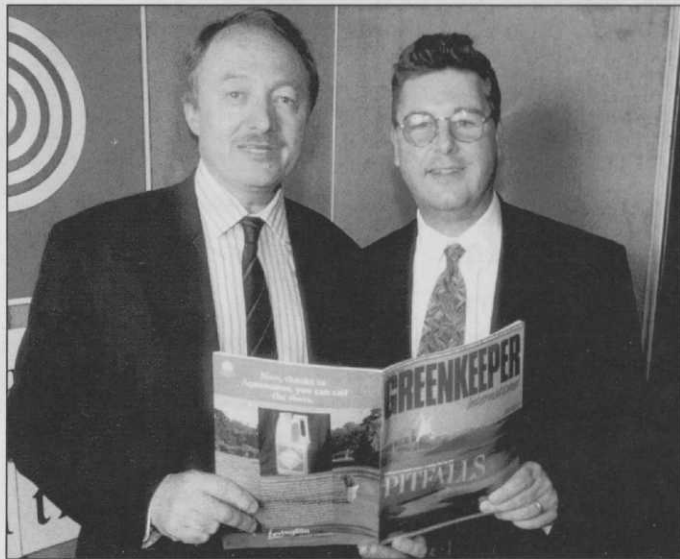
Magazine collects its second 'Oscar'

Greenkeeper International again showed what a well respected magazine it is in the publishing world by being honoured at the Editing for Industry Awards for the second year in succession.

The magazine received a Certificate of Merit at the dinner held in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, and it was presented to new editor Scott MacCallum, pictured right, by Labour MP Ken Livingstone.

"The Award is a tribute to the work of Tim Moat the design and production editor and my predecessor Chris Boiling and I was delighted to collect it on their behalf," said Scott.

"I will be working hard to ensure that the magazine continues to win awards," he added.



It could be us: BIGGA applies to Lottery Fund

BIGGA has applied to the National Lottery Fund for a grant to boost the Association's recently-launched Building Fund aimed at securing new office premises.

"The Building Fund was created as a separate fund for the purposes of attracting money to be used to either buy suitable office accommodation with or without additional land or, alternatively, converting or improving leased accommodation if it is ultimately seen that this is the best option," said John Pemberton, BIGGA's Administration Manager.

The Association's needs have grown steadily since its inception in 1987 when it was based in one

small room in the STRI offices in Bingley and since it moved to the present premises at Aldwark Manor in May '89.

"Aldwark Manor suited the Association's purposes extremely well until the last 12 months when expanding activities highlighted the acute shortage of space and a need to look to the future," said John.

The Building Fund was launched with a transfer of £5,000 out of general BIGGA funds and has an initial target of £250,000.

"The Association is in the process of applying for financial support through the National Lottery Fund and is exploring other

avenues of potential grant aid. We also hope to attract donations and grants from other bodies or individuals associated with the industry," explained John.

The search for potential new premises is on-going with the ultimate purchase price dependent very much on the type and location of suitable property. It is envisaged that this will be within the current locality to avoid staff relocation problems.

The existing lease on Aldwark Manor is due for renewal in December 1997 by which time it is hoped that the Association will be in a strong position to look for alternative accommodation.

Viscount Whitelaw attends new cup competition

The inaugural Course Care Cumbria Cup got off to a wonderful start when it was honoured with a visit from BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw.

The competition, held at the beautiful Penrith Golf Club, of which Viscount Whitelaw is a member, was the brainchild of Northern Chairman Ian Holoran who knowing that there was a long established Cleveland Cup sponsored by Course Care approached the company about the possibility of sponsoring a Cumbria Cup.

"The nature of our region is



Viscount Whitelaw flanked by Philip Arundel, left, John Wood and Ian Holoran

such that it is difficult for some members to get to some tournament venues so I thought it would be a good idea to launch a Cumbria Cup. Course Care agreed and their sponsorship was a wonderful boost to the event," said Ian.

It was also Ian's initiative which

saw Viscount Whitelaw fit a visit to Penrith into his busy schedule.

"I know the Viscount's detective and that encouraged me to write and ask if he would attend. I was delighted when he agreed," explained Ian.

Course Care Managing Director Philip Arundel and John Wood, the Marketing and Development Director both attended the day and Philip presented the prizes.

Such was the excellent response to the day that it looks certain to become a permanent fixture on the golfing calendar.

The overall winner was local man Marshall Monkhouse who raked every bunker before playing in the afternoon.

Results: Cat 1. 1. B. Storey 36 pts; 2. J. Irvine 33; B. Hovarth 32. Cat 2. 1. M. Monkhouse 37; 2. J. Thompson 34; 3. G. Messenger 28. Cat 3. 1. G. Forbes 21 (on count-back); 2. A. Turnbull 21; T. Stevens 18.

Hot pot, Bill Beaumont, a folk group and golf at BIGGA's National Tournament

BIGGA's National Tournament is set to be one of the best yet with 27 prizes up for grabs over the three days as well as some excellent post golf entertainment.

With St Annes Old Links, at Lytham the venue, the occasion will have a true Lancashire flavour.

"As well as prizes for the best 36 and 54 hole scores we will have separate competitions each day so if you have an off day you can still bounce back the next day and win an excellent price," said Bert Cross, the North-West secretary who is organising the event.

Timetable

Sunday July 30: Registration.
Monday July 31: The Fison's Bowl - 18 hole medal.
Evening: Miracle Amenity Care Evening - Lancashire theme open to all the family with Lancashire buffet (hotpot, black pudding and scouse) and a Lancashire folk group.
Tuesday August 1: Standard Golf Trophy - 18 hole medal. 36 hole prize - 0-14 handicap - David Royle Cup, 15-28 handicap - Paterson Trophy. Best Gross 36 hole score - Toro Trophy. The Vitax Putting Cup - 18 hole putting competition.
Evening: Tournament Dinner with speaker Bill Beaumont.
Wednesday: William Hargreaves Trophy (Sisis) - 18 hole medal. 54 hole best Gross Hardi Amenity Sprayers' Trophy. 54 hole best Nett Miracle Amenity Care Trophy.
Wednesday afternoon: Prize giving and departure (around 5-6pm).

Anyone seeking further information regarding the event should contact Bert Cross on 0151 724 5412. Accommodation information can be obtained from Samantha Flint at Headquarters, 01347 838581.



Kubota prize for Hornsea

Hornsea Golf Club, winner of the '95 Golf Foundation Prize draw, has taken delivery of its brand new Kubota ride-on mower from the sponsor of the draw Kubota. In the 10 years that Hornsea GC has been taking part in the Golf Foundation Charity Prize Draw, the club has raised almost £10,000 for the Foundation in a series of special events. Kubota (UK) Ltd has been sponsoring the annual draw by donating a ride-on mower worth over £8,000 as a prize for the last eight years.

STRI get a new man at the top

Dr Mike Canaway will take over as Chief Executive of the Sports Turf Research Institute on the retirement of the present Director, Dr Peter Hayes at the beginning of June (see Page 50).

A graduate in Plant Biology from the University College of North Wales, Bangor Dr Canaway arrived at the STRI in 1974 after working in agricultural grassland research in Aberdeen. He worked initially as a Research Officer before being promoted first to Senior Research Officer in 1983 and to Assistant Director in 1988.

He has conducted research into wear tolerance of turf grasses

developing a machine widely used for trials; grass mixtures, fertilisers, construction, playing quality, mechanical equipment, establishment, rootzone amendments and reinforcement systems.

He also submitted a doctoral thesis by part-time study to the University of Liverpool as a culmination of his research work and was awarded a PhD in December last year.

He is a Chartered Biologist, Member of the Institute of Biology, member of the Institute of Horticulture and UK Director of the International Turfgrass Society.

The far eastern connection

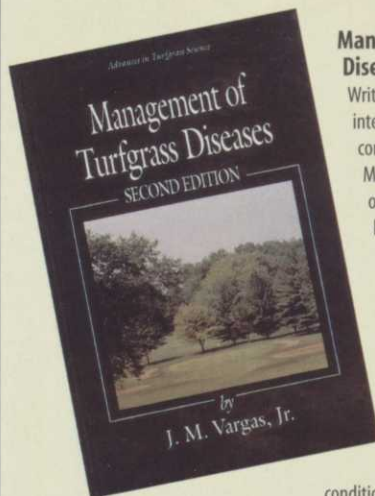


Staff from Ransomes in the UK spread their wings recently in a bid to attract new customers.

They travelled to the Singapore Island Country Club to demonstrate a range of equipment to more than 40 managers and greenkeepers from throughout Australasia. The

effort and travelling proved worthwhile with a range of machinery being sold to a new club being built in China while other demonstrations were arranged for specific machines for clubs in Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Taiwan.

THE BEST PRICES for BRILLIANT BOOKS for readers of GREENKEEPER *International*



Management of Turfgrass Diseases

Written by one of the leading international lecturers on turfgrasses and completely revised and updated. Management of Turfgrass Diseases offers information on maintaining a healthy turf and identifying turf diseases and discusses many different approaches to turf management. Packed with practical solutions to everyday problems and with valuable tips on irrigation and fertilisation. There's also plenty of information on fungal, bacterial and viral diseases, cool and warm season grasses, growing conditions, symptoms and identification.

With 72 colour photo and over 100 illustrations, this is an essential handbook for all sportsturf managers, including golf greenkeepers.

Hardback, 336pp: usual price £49,

SPECIAL PRICE to Greenkeeper International readers: £36

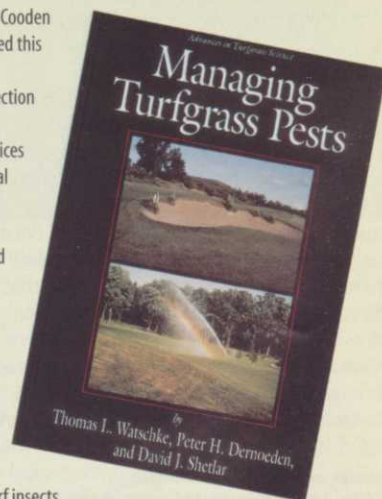
Managing Turfgrass Pests

Stefan Antolik, head greenkeeper at Cooden Beach Golf Club, East Sussex, reviewed this book in February's Greenkeeper International, saying: "I found the section on Turfgrass Diseases to be of much interest, especially the cultural practices and the environmental and biological control methods... As a result of all the recent concern about the environment, it seems that more and more greenkeepers will need to revert back to cultural practices..."

Contents include: ● Monitoring disease and establishing thresholds ● Diseases categorised by season ● Seeding diseases and damping off ● Factors associated with fungicide use ● Turf insects and mite management ● Vertebrate animal pests of turf.

Hardback, 400pp: usual price £57.50,

SPECIAL PRICE to Greenkeeper International readers: £43



Other titles also available at rock bottom prices for Greenkeeper International readers and BIGGA members - call Samantha Flint at BIGGA HQ for details on 01347 838581

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