

GREENKEEPER

International

BLOOD, SWEAT AND CHEERS

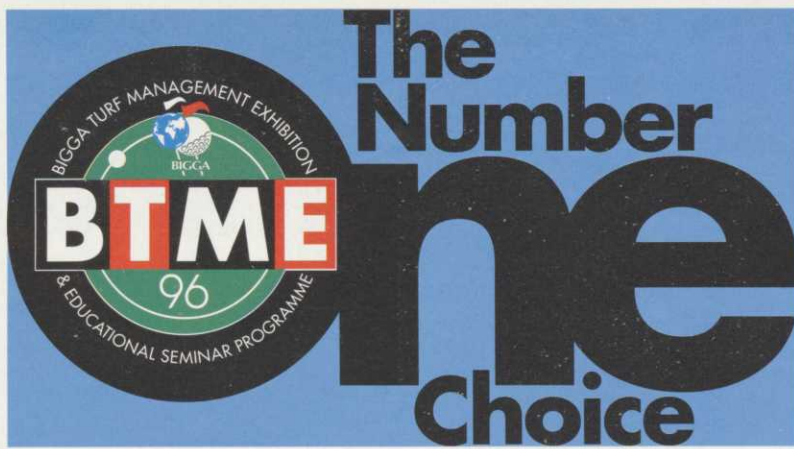
Hard work pays off for James Braithwaite, Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year

KUBOTA CHALLENGE
The big event in pictures

Could YOU be BIGGA's 6000th member?

MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL





Working for the good of the fine turf industry

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It's bigger, it's more comprehensive and it's better than ever before – the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Educational Seminar Programme, January 24–26, 1996.

Believe The Meaningful Experience With 158 exhibitors, the BTME is the biggest yet. Large and small companies, well known names and not so well known names combine to bring an exciting mix of all that's happening in the buzzing world of golf course design, construction and maintenance.

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Being There Means Everything The BTME is for YOU if you're involved in any way with the fine turf industry – greenkeepers, golf club officials, groundsmen, local authority specifiers, landscape and maintenance contractors, golf course constructors, golf course architects, agronomists and turf grass consultants... If YOU'RE reading THIS, then BTME is for YOU!

USE THE FREE PRE-REGISTRATION CARD IN THIS MAGAZINE TO STAKE YOUR PLACE AT BTME 96*

BIGGA National Education Conference: January 22–23, 1996

BIGGA Educational Workshops: January 22–23, 1996

Educational Seminar Programme: January 24–26, 1996

BIGGA International Symposium: January 25, 1996

Sports Turf Research Institute/BIGGA Chairmen of Green/Secretaries' Course: January 23–24, 1996



**Complete and return the pre-registration card facing Page 50 and you'll beat the queues and you could WIN £100-worth of BIGGA merchandise in our prize draw!*

BTME and the Educational Seminar Programme is organised by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. For more details, or for a copy of "The Learning Experience", call Ken Richardson, BIGGA's education officer, on 01347 838581.



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GREENKEEPER

International



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NOVEMBER 1995

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BIGGA: It's about YOU

Just some of the reasons why you should renew or take up membership of BIGGA, in a four page special which highlights existing and new benefits for 1996. **Pages 13-16**

Student greenkeeper in a State

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James Braithwaite, the new Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year. Picture: Scott MacCallum

WIN £50 CASH IN OUR BUYER'S GUIDE COMPETITION: TURN TO PAGE 41

FREE READER REPLY SERVICE

Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 2 for further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the companies' Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us and we'll arrange for further information to be sent to you direct.



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BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

BTME
96
& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 01347 838581.

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 - Massey Ferguson • Miracle Professional • Ransomes
 - Rhône Poulenc • Rigby Taylor • Toro Irrigation

- SILVER KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS:**
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– MIKE FRANKLIN,
National Sales Manager,
Boughton Loam/Turf Management Systems

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Louise Lunn at BIGGA HQ on
01347 838581.

Want to exhibit at next year's BTME? It's filling up fast: call Louise Lunn on 01347 838581 for an information pack

Warm welcome in land of the ice bears



BIGGA in focus
BY NEIL THOMAS

The Chairman and myself were recently invited to attend the Conference and Exhibition in Jonkoping, Sweden organised under the auspices of the Swedish Golf Federation and the Swedish Greenkeepers Association. Four years ago I had the opportunity to address a conference of the S.G.A and one could not fail to be impressed by the progress made in the intervening period. The S.G.A is a forward-looking organisation with a broad vision for the future of the profession and for its members working within it. With a large geographical area to cover the choice of Jonkoping was a good one being reasonably central and accessible. The exhibition was exceptionally well attended and the facilities were excellent. The Seminar Programme attracted a thousand delegates and Billy McMillan presented an excellent paper. The Swedish nation is renowned for its organisational and adminis-

trative skills and they were on display in abundance during our visit. It is not difficult therefore to see just why the S.G.A goes from strength to strength under the capable leadership of President, Per-Olof Ljung and Chief Executive, Tommy Lindelof. BIGGA and the S.G.A enjoy a close relationship and we currently have some 30

Swedish greenkeepers in membership of BIGGA. In meeting some of them in Sweden, their commitment to and enthusiasm for the profession shone through and we can look forward to welcoming a delegation from Sweden to the BTME in January. One interesting aspect is that the S.G.A boasts no fewer than six lady Head Greenkeepers and there is no doubt that the ladies are on the move in Sweden.

In Scandinavia as a whole greenkeeping is making purposeful strides forward and it was interesting to talk to a lady Golf Course Superintendent, Elise Jarvinen from Helsinki, who chairs the Finnish Greenkeepers Association. Finland currently has 83 golf courses while the Finnish Association includes members from each and every one of those golf courses. We still have some way to go in BIGGA! Talking with Tor Senstad from Norway, the impression again was of much development in that country with the Norwegian Greenkeepers Association gaining in strength. Returning from Sweden, the Chairman and myself had come firmly to the conclusion that the greenkeeping associations in Scandinavia are in capable hands, there is an eagerness for education and training programmes and an outward looking perspective which augurs well for future European cooperation. We were warmly welcomed and to our hosts Per-Olof, Tommy and his wife Helen, herself a Head Greenkeeper, a big thank you is due. We look forward to seeing them again at the BTME.

tional I hope each and every member will find good reason to renew his or her membership. BIGGA essentially remains an organisation in being to serve its members and if any member feels that his voice is not being heard, please let me know and we will ensure that the particular viewpoint is considered within the democratic structure of the Association. However, despite our progress as an Association and the year on year increase in membership, there remains a concern that a large number of greenkeepers have still to join BIGGA and enjoy the benefits of belonging. A good number of golf clubs are still without any BIGGA members. So much can be done at local level by existing members to enlist new members and I would venture to suggest that nearly every current member will know a fellow greenkeeper still to be convinced of the merits of joining our Association.

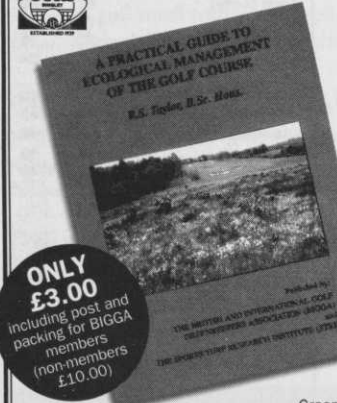
Apathy is, I believe, one of the fundamental problems facing both BIGGA and the profession. Within BIGGA we need to tackle it at all levels for in this day and age an insular, "laissez-faire" approach to greenkeeping simply will not do and indeed threatens the stature of the profession as the game of golf continues to develop on all fronts. Scepticism may be less of a problem but equally needs to be rooted out. It manifests itself in the "what can BIGGA do for me?" syndrome and a philosophy that feels comfortable with greenkeepers knowing their place. I would urge members, therefore, at a local level to make every effort in this membership "season" to convert the doubters and give us added strength. If we are not providing services which you need please tell us. Initiatives from members are welcomed. Let me give just one example. We are currently seeking worthwhile projects in 1996 on which to expend monies in the Education and Development Fund. If you can identify a worthwhile project or a need that is not being met, please let us know.

Greenkeepers need the backing of a strong, professional Association and please read on within this issue to find every reason for renewing your membership. There is also every reason to convince the as yet unconvinced and let's look forward to an ever stronger membership in 1996.

The Season and the Reason

As I write the season of "mists and mellow fruitfulness" is once again upon us and also the season when the great majority of our members will be asked to renew their membership of BIGGA for another year. BIGGA's membership has been on an upward curve since 1987 and we now fast approach another milestone of 6000 members. BIGGA is a buoyant organisation with a standing within the game of golf which would not have seemed possible ten years ago. As an organisation it is only as good as its members and the old adage remains true that there is strength in numbers. Within the pages of this issue of *Greenkeeper Interna-*

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OF THE GOLF COURSE



Written by RS Taylor, STRI ecologist and published by BIGGA and the STRI, this new book is an invaluable source of reference for greenkeepers.

Presented in compact A5 format with 103 pages and full colour illustrations, this practical guide was put together after BIGGA identified the need to assist greenkeepers, golf club officials, especially chairmen of green and anyone interested in the ecology of golf courses.

BIGGA's contribution in co-publishing this vital guide, is thanks to members of BIGGA's Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund.

ONLY £3.00 including post and packing for BIGGA members (non-members £10.00)

ORDER FORM

TO: BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF

Please send me copy/copies of A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course

I am a BIGGA member (membership no.) and enclose my cheque for £..... OR

I am not a BIGGA member. My cheque for £..... is enclosed.

You may pay by Access or Visa (please tick)

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Your cheque will not be cashed until your order is despatched. Transfer these details to a plain sheet of paper if you don't want to cut up your magazine.

BIGGA membership renewals brought into the spotlight

Renewal subscriptions for BIGGA membership will be due for payment on or before the first day of the month following expiry of current membership. Renewal notices will normally be forwarded at least one month before the expiry of current membership.

Members whose subscription has not been received by the due date will cease to be entitled to any of the benefits of membership. In particular, please note that all insurance cover associated with membership will be cancelled and you will not be entitled to participate, as a member, in Section, Region or National activities.

Subscriptions received during the month following the date of expiry will be renewed to expire on the next anniversary date of the original expiry date and benefits will commence from the date of payment.

Subscriptions received after the end of the month following expiry will be renewed for one year from the first of the month following payment and benefits will commence from that date.

● BIGGA: It's for you – Pages 13–16.

College wins first Shildrick Award

Elmwood and Reaseheath Colleges are the first recipients of John Shidrick Memorial Awards presented by the British Turf & Landscape Industry Association.

The awards, turf irrigation manuals written by American authority James Watkins, are, says the BTLIA, to be placed in the college's reference libraries for the benefit of students.

Presented by BTLIA Chairman Philip York, similar awards will be made on an annual basis in memory of John Shidrick, the Association's former secretary.

"The BTLIA intends to use the scheme to recognise landscape or greenkeeping colleges which, in our estimation, make significant contributions towards turf maintenance training," said Mr York.

NEWS



Peter Sproston putts on to the 10th green at Sutton Hall. Holding the flag is Maxwell Faulkner, owner of the new club

Peter's new challenges at new club

Another dream of a golf entrepreneur has finally been achieved in the centre of the rolling countryside of Cheshire.

Sutton Hall GC opened its 1st tee to a full membership of over 600 in mid-October five years after going to the local planners and just 12 months after getting the green light. The par 72 layout, which boasts 18 interesting holes with water hazards on no fewer than five of them, was built on 140 acres of prime Cheshire farm land which had been farmed by the owner Maxwell Faulkner – not the former Open Champion! – and two generations of his family before him.

A consultant was appointed in the form of Ace Golf and Leisure to find the members and to promote and advertise the course which was designed in conjunction with Steven Wunke, Managing Director of A.G Leisure and Maxwell Faulkner himself. M. Lowe and Associates were appointed to

do the initial construction work. Once this was completed Peter Sproston, formerly Head Greenkeeper at Chester GC having spent 17 and a half years at the club, was appointed Head Greenkeeper.

"It's what I always wanted, a new challenge," said Peter. "I know things are not how I want them but I know we can only improve on what we have. I was a bit dubious at first about a career change but thought it's now or never."

"The one thing which helped was the fact there were no committees and I wouldn't be dictated to by people who didn't know what they were doing."

"I've been given a free hand and I hope they're pleased with what I've achieved so far."

"I have a good staff behind me and know it can only go on to better things," said Peter.

"So here's looking to a mild winter and a good new year," he added.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Tim Allard, Head Greenkeeper at Chornwood Forest GC in Leicestershire, got a bit of a shock when he went into work on Sunday morning recently – someone had stolen four pop up sprinklers from the 3rd green.

"It must have taken around half an hour to remove them and whoever it was obviously knew what they were doing. I find it hard to understand who might do such a thing because I can't think of greenkeepers wanting second hand sprinklers," said Tim.

■ Etesia UK Ltd has appointed Colin Plumb as Area Manager for the East of England and Scotland. Colin is well known in the southern part of his new territory having previously worked with Home-lite, SKH and Greenland UK.

■ Clearwater Ltd of Portmarnock has been appointed distributor of Hunter, Hardie, Lasco, CIC and Air-O-Lator products by Sports Ground Irrigation Co.

■ GR Hales, of Penwortham GC has won the Martin Brothers UK Ltd prize draw for £200 worth of DeVere Hotel vouchers.

■ Tyneside Golf Club and its entire greenkeeping staff were in shock when their popular assistant Bill Jones collapsed and died on the 10th green.

Bill (58) who had been was a well known professional cricketer in the Tyneside area was collecting cores after hollow tining when he was struck down.

"He was a super bloke and extremely popular," said Head Greenkeeper Steve Pope.

"His death has really shaken the greenkeeping staff and everyone at the club."

Bill had originally worked for Vickers on Tyneside, then became a sales rep before being made redundant.

"He had taken up golf after he finished playing cricket, getting down to around 7 and I offered him some summer relief work when he couldn't get a job and was around the club. When one of my men left Bill was offered a full time job."

"He was great, you just had to say what you wanted and it would be done," said Steve.

Ransomes pledge support for 'Learning Experience'

The future and continued success of the BTME education programme has been assured thanks to a major agreement signed by BIGGA and equipment giants Ransomes.

The agreement, initially for three years with options which could take it beyond the year 2000, will strengthen the Learning Experience programme at BTME from next January and ensure that its status, as the finest of its type anywhere in Europe, is reaffirmed.

"We are delighted to have finalised the contract and feel that it demonstrates Ransomes commitment to the greenkeeping profession and reinforces our position as the leading supplier of golf equipment in Europe," said Peter Wilson, Group Chief Executive of Ransomes PLC.

"We have always been a supporter of BIGGA and Harrogate and last year, when the show was under threat, were among the first to step forward and say that whatever happened we would

in association with



the Learning Experience



Ransomes' Peter Wilson: BIGGA supporter

continue to attend BTME. We believe in what BIGGA is trying to achieve and this will give us an opportunity to get our message across to BIGGA members.

'Demonstrates Ransomes commitment to the greenkeeping profession'

"We have made an initial three year commitment and look forward, with our options, to extending our association long into the future."

The agreement has been warmly welcomed by Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA

"I was delighted to receive a recent approach from Peter Wilson to the effect that Ransomes wished to support the BIGGA Education Programme during the week of BTME," said Neil.

"The speed at which the negotiations were completed is indicative of the cementing of BIGGA's relationship with Ransomes since Peter took up office two years ago.

"Considerable opportunities are now opened up for the development of our Learning Experience over the next three years and, as Peter has said, ideally beyond that," said Neil.

"The agreement with Ransomes is another major step forward for the BTME and as such will be widely welcomed by BIGGA's members," he added.

In addition to support for the Learning Experience, Ransomes will also commission a series of independently focussed articles in *Greenkeeper International* on an on-going basis under the Learning Experience banner.

"Having Ransomes input and support on the production of educationally inspired articles will undoubtedly add to the quality of the magazine as a whole," said Editor Scott MacCallum.

Time marches on and it will not be long before the 1996 BTME in January.

Finishing touches are being put in place to make the exhibition the best yet.

In addition, with the terrific news on the Ransomes support - see above - this too can only go from strength to strength.

The momentum achieved by BTME 96 shows no signs of slowing.

The first pre-registration card has arrived - take a bow Philip Haigh, Head Greenkeeper of Crosland Heath GC in Huddersfield - and if you join Philip you too will beat the queues. You know it makes sense! Also please make sure you tick as many of the appropriate boxes on the card as it enables us to use the information to maximise the benefits you will derive from future shows.

With over 158 exhibitors already confirmed the last few spaces are being snapped up so hurry if you want to exhibit or you'll miss out on BTME 96.

Recent companies to book space include Turfland Profes-



Working for the good of the fine turf industry

sional, Roadphone Communications, Lawn-Boy, Fox Contracting (Owmbly), Eagle Promotions and ADAS.

The winners of the BTME competition, to win prizes worth £800, will be announced in the December magazine.

Learning Experience

Applications to attend the Learning Experience are arriving at BIGGA headquarters in every post, from all parts of the UK and from Europe.

"The unsurpassed range and quality of the National Education Conference, Workshops, joint BIGGA/STRI Chairmen of Green/Secretaries Course and BTME Seminars are having an encouraging impact on the numbers requesting further information and submitting applications," said BIGGA Education Officer, Ken Richardson.



The par-three course at the Gleneagles Hotel provided a superb setting for a demonstration of grass and turf machinery presented as part of Scottish Grass Machinery's turf care seminar. More than 200 visitors from golf courses, local authorities and contract organisations attended the two day event.

Seminar's big success

In attracting more than 200 representatives from golf courses and local authorities over two days, the fifth annual turf care seminar organised by Scottish Grass Machinery (SGM) in late September has been judged a resounding success.

The variety and content of the programme and the superb setting offered by the Gleneagles

Hotel combined to attract visitors to the seminars from the length and breadth of Scotland.

Anyone expecting a "hard sell" would have been disappointed. Instead, the event offered the invited guests plenty to think and talk about, with top priority being placed on giving the audience a valuable and informative day out.

Why it's never too late to learn



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

One of BIGGA's main aims is to encourage its members to gain nationally recognised education and training qualifications and to continue that education and training throughout their careers. Gaining recognised qualifications can improve your knowledge and skills, thereby improving your job performance, enhance your career prospects, help you to cope with change and improve the status of the greenkeeping profession.

For newcomers to the profession, college courses are usually the best option. Colleges offer Scottish and National Vocational courses on a block or day release basis and National Certificate/Diploma course on a full time basis. However, some colleges are now offering distance learning Higher National Certificate courses and the range of course and method of study seems set to diversify even more. This diversification means that all greenkeepers have the opportunity to study for a variety of qualifications. Moreover, the introduction of National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications, the training of industry competent assessors and advisors and the approval by City and Guilds and SCOTVEC of the GTC as an "Approved Centre" means that experienced greenkeepers can now work towards and gain N/SVQs without attending college.

Experienced greenkeepers wishing to use their skills and knowledge to gain an N/SVQ should first register their interest with the GTC. They will then be introduced to an industry assessor, who will have been trained to match the candidates skills and knowledge against the criteria for an N/SVQ. In some cases, a candidates prior learning may match all of the criteria but in other cases, some "top-up" training or further assessment

may be required. "Top-up" training could be in a college, on a golf course or at another suitable site. Once a candidate has reached the required standards, the assessor confirms that he/she is competent and the GTC arranges for the delegate to be awarded the appropriate certificate. BIGGA, as a member of the GTC, has been fully involved in the design and introduction of N/SVQs and, as a major provider of greenkeeper training courses, seminars, workshops and education conferences it is in a unique position to identify and run "top-up" training courses as and when they are required.

BIGGA believes that education and training should be continuous and will continue to arrange education and training courses that meet the needs of its members. Continuing education and training will help all greenkeepers to adapt to change and ensure that the high standards of greenkeeping and, therefore golf courses continues.

If your qualification is out of date or if you do not have a formal greenkeeping qualification then contact the GTC today on 01347 838640. Don't get left behind, it is never too old to learn as training should continue throughout your working life.

ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OF MAMMALS AND BIRDS COURSE

The first Ecological Management of Mammals and Birds Course was held at Walton Heath Golf Course on Monday 23 October 1995. To meet the demand for places, a second course has been arranged at Walton Heath, on Monday 27 November. For further details, or to reserve a place, contact Golf Training, Central Science Laboratory, Tanglely Place, Guildford, GU3 3LQ, on 01483 232581. Further courses are planned.

REGIONAL SUPERVISORY MANAGEMENT COURSES

Since last month's magazine was published, I have had to change the dates of some of the Regional Supervisory Management Courses which are due to be held in February/March next year. The full list of dates and venues is as follows:

Location	Venue	Date
York	Dean Court Hotel	7/8 February
Chester	Gladstone Centre	12/13 February
Birmingham	Westley Hotel	14/15 February
Kettering	Kettering Park Hotel	5/6 February
Killarney	TBD	7/8 March
Dover	County Hotel	5/6 February
Brighton	Old Ship Hotel	7/8 February
Bournemouth	Moat House	19/20 February
Bristol	Thornbury Golf Centre	12/13 February
Plymouth	Moat House	14/15 February

GCSAA Conference and Show, Orlando, February 5-11, 1996

BIGGA's trip of a lifetime!

As in previous years BIGGA is offering you the opportunity to travel with us to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show at the Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida from February 5-11, 1996.

The BIGGA party will assemble at Gatwick Airport on Sunday, February 4 for departure to Orlando at 12.30pm. BIGGA is able to offer accommodation at the Holiday Inn, Gatwick at a cost of £39 per person for any members wishing to stay over the night before departure.

The Clarion Plaza Hotel, chosen by BIGGA to accommodate our party, offers excellent amenities including a heated swimming pool and whirlpool, three in-house restaurants, live entertainment and a night club. The Clarion Plaza has the added convenience of being a co-exhibitor hotel and is based next to the Convention Centre.

The GCSAA Conference and Show takes place between February 5-11 with the trade show on February 9-11. You will have the opportunity to attend educational seminars, programmes and the trade show bringing you up-to-date information on golf course management, technology and the latest trends in turfgrass management.

ITINERARY

Sunday, February 4

All participants will assemble at Gatwick Airport, for the 12.30pm direct flight with Virgin Airlines to Orlando arriving at 16.40 local time. The group will then transfer to the Clarion Plaza Hotel for a nine night stay on a room only basis.

Tuesday, February 13

Transfer to the Orlando International Airport for the direct flight at 19.10 arriving at London Gatwick at 08.15am on Wednesday, February 14.



The trip to Orlando will also give you the chance to see the sights: but there's nothing Mickey Mouse about the GCSAA show - it's the best there is. Picture: Walt Disney Company

PRICES

£530 per person based on twin shares or £710 per person based on single room accommodation.

Plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration of £55. Included are: Return economy class flights Gatwick to Orlando, UK and US taxes, transfers to and from the airport to the Clarion Plaza Hotel, nine nights accommodation based on room only and US accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Pre Conference Seminars which run from February 5-8 and for the Education Programme which runs from February 8-11 are not included in the package and bookings need to be made direct with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £585 or £765 (unless travel insurance is not required), adding £39 if accommodation is required for the night of February 3, to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Airedale, York, YO6 2NF to arrive by Friday, November 17 at the latest, together with name, address and contact telephone number.



Scott MacCallum admits responsibility for the worst performance ever by the greenkeepers in the Kubota Challenge

First the good news. It was a magnificent performance, achieved against great odds and proving an ideal showcase for the talents of the Greenkeeper's Kubota Golf Challenge team.

Unfortunately the victory came in not the golf competition, which has been dominated by the greenkeepers in its 13 year history, but in the consolation Drive and Chip competition where, despite handicapped by having to manoeuvre by far the largest piece of machinery through the slalom course, the time of eight minutes 28 seconds was good enough to see off the English Golf Union, the Golf Foundation and the Golf Club Secretaries.

However it was only the secondary event. Our men were actually sent into battle to bring the Kubota Challenge Trophy back to its rightful home.

The Kubota has long been a greenkeepers benefit – eight times we have won the trophy, lending it out to the secretaries on three occasions and the Golf Foundation once last year and never have we failed to win a match.

Did I say "never have we"? I should have said "never had we" because, ignominy upon ignominy, this year we finished last. Bottom of the heap. Fourth. Out of the Medals. Also rans... It's awful however you describe it.

The inquests have already begun. How could the mighty greenkeepers have fallen so far? Have the rest of the world caught up? Was it a freak result? Have our old stars gone past their peak and gone one fight too many?

I, too, have thought about it and, however reluctantly, come up with the probable answer.



**Above: Ian Holoran recovers from his over hit wedge at the 4th
Left: Brian Hurttley receives his gift from Barry Heaney, Chairman of BIGGA**

It must have been my fault. It was my first Kubota Challenge and we'd done well every year

before I had arrived on the scene, coming close on the rare occasions we didn't win. This year we

had even enjoyed their Drive and Chip triumph before I showed up. I must have jinxed us.

Look at the evidence.

Our star man was Iain Macleod, the sweet swinging three handicapper from Tain. I stood at the side of the 1st tee as he skied one down the fairway. I next saw him on the 5th tee and, remarkably, he was two up only for him to carve his tee shot into the trees.

I stayed out of the way and Iain

Sorry guys



recovered to win comfortably.

Thomas Jones from Wales found sand on the long 4th and with me in close attendance he extricated himself only to three putt and lose the hole.

Chris Mardon had played beautifully and won in the semi-final defeat by the Golf Foundation the previous day only for my presence to act as an invitation for a gremlin to enter the workings of his swing.

It must have been me. What else could account for Mark Cutler missing from three feet to close out his match on the 16th, as Barry Heaney and I stood watching, forcing him to down the formidable 18th before winning; Ian Holoran finding the trees at the back of the 4th green after "airmailing" a wedge 140 yards before eventually clinching

the last of our three points; Roger Willars missing the famous 10th green by the widest margin imaginable; Bill Banks finding water at the self same hole, and Alan Gamble succumbing by quite a few holes to an inspired secretary. All happening before my damning gaze.

It couldn't have been Barry's fault, he's enjoyed success in the Kubota in previous years, so it must have been me. I was like a lead weight dragging our guys down when I was anywhere within jinxing distance only for them to battle back, ultimately in vain, when I was out of sight and, more importantly, out of mind.

We lost 4.5-3.5 to the Golf Foundation on the first day and 5-3 to the Golf Club Secretaries in the third and fourth place play-off. The eventual winner, making

their first appearance on the top of the rostrum, were the English Golf Union.

The 13th Kubota Challenge was notable not just for new champions but for the fact that it was the final event presided over by Brian Hurtley, Vice President & Director of Kubota (UK) Ltd, who retires next June. Brian, who is to enjoy a particularly active retirement with some business ventures of his own, was presented with a gift from BIGGA members by Barry Heaney at the end of event dinner, during which he was also the subject for a "This is Your Life" tribute by comedian Mal Rich.

It was an excellent dinner but I wasn't in a mood to enjoy it. The responsibility for our defeat was weighing far too heavily on my shoulders.

The greenkeeping team, from left, Bill Banks, Ian Holoran, Roger Willars, Alan Gamble, Mark Cutler, Iain MacLeod, Chris Mardon, Thomas Jones and non-playing observer Barry Heaney



RESULTS

1. The English Golf Union
2. The Golf Foundation
3. The Golf Club Secretaries
4. The Greenkeepers (Iain MacLeod, Chris Mardon, Ian Holoran, Mark Cutler, Bill Banks, Roger Willars, Alan Gamble, Thomas Jones)



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DRAIN

**Drainage Consultant Barry F Cooper
discusses some of the interesting projects
he is currently involved in and gives some
helpful advice on the subject**

When I was asked to write an article on golf course drainage I had to sit and think very hard on how to condense such a vast subject into approximately 1,000 words. I thought the most sensible approach was to relate the story behind the design of the drainage scheme on two of my current projects which are both very much out of the ordinary when it comes to drainage problems.

The first major project I was involved in this year was the drainage of the new National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa.

I knew the existing course fairly well because the club are clients of a drainage contracting company of which I am a Director. Having taken many soil samples from the existing course I thought the new project would be very similar and quite straight forward to drain, how wrong I was.

Half of the site was open farmland and the other half was planted with commercial conifers which were ready for harvesting.

I spoke to the outgoing farmer, and he informed me that at least four attempts had been made to drain the open land which was still extremely wet. My heart sank, but at the same time it made me realise that my investigations into this site had got to be even more thorough than usual, and two men with soil augers some 1.2 metres long proceeded to take up to 200 soil samples from all areas of the site, and the findings were remarkable.

The open farmland where previous drainage schemes had failed was found to have approximately 900mm of heavy clay soil overlying sand, and as none of the previous attempts at draining the land had laid pipes at a depth greater than 800mm it was clear to me that deep drains laid in the sand would be required and in fact this part of the contract is now complete. I am just keeping my fingers crossed now until the system has had a fair test.

In the woodland area before the trees were harvested you

would have thought that the whole area was as dry as dust, but once again the men with the soil augers came to my rescue, finding running sand overlying clay in some areas and pockets of very heavy boulder clay overlying sand in others.

After studying the results of the soil samples it was decided to design a system of lateral drains laid at 1.2 metres deep over the whole site at spacings of 15 metres in most areas and 10 metres in others where the running sand was found.

I relate this story to emphasise how important it is to examine the whole site properly rather than make dangerous assumptions.

The site in general is fairly flat and a comprehensive level survey had to be undertaken. This caused a few problems in the woodland and we were restricted to taking a series of levels along all the woodland rides. All pipes being laid on the site are filter wrapped to prevent ingress of sand and because of the amount of water present, even after this summer no pipe is smaller than 80mm diameter. This story also illustrates the folly of laying shallow drains on golf course sites.

The only time I would ever go along with shallow drains is on a land-fill site that has been turned into a golf course.

When assessing the drainage requirements on some golf courses investigations sometimes have to be carried out several hundreds of yards outside the golf course boundary to determine where the best possible outlet should be.

These courses are usually very flat or are links courses affected by tidal conditions I am, at the time of writing, designing a drainage scheme to alleviate problems being experienced on the 13th, 14th and 15th holes at West Lincs Golf Course, where areas of silt are causing problems. The outfall to all three fairways is a 900mm storm water pipe emptying into the Irish Sea.

GAME

A comprehensive level survey has been undertaken to determine the feasibility of draining these areas as at first sight it would appear that the 13th fairway is totally land locked by very large sand dunes. However, after studying the levels, it emerges that if a three metre wide swathe is cut through approximately 50 metres of dunes to a depth of the patch of silt and the area around an overflowing pond can be drained very easily, with the swathe through the dunes being reinstated afterwards.

These areas have been causing problems for some time now and I am sure Head Greenkeeper John Muir will be relieved the problems can be solved.

Recently I was involved with a feasibility study on some very flat land adjacent to the Somerset levels. Once again a comprehensive level survey was undertaken, but this time the outfall was into

a tidal river, which as you can imagine poses problems over and above the norm.

I now propose to try and help greenkeepers on inland courses identify probable causes of drainage problems on their own courses.

If your course has a heavy clay sub-soil don't despair, because this is the easiest type of land to drain, much easier than sand and clay mixed, as the Woodhall Spa experience is proving. Stand back and study your own golf course. There may be parts of one or two fairways that are very wet during the winter and other parts of the same fairways that are perfectly dry.

Picture in your own mind, could the fairways in question have been two different fields at some time in the distant past?

Is there a tell-tale line of mature trees across the course that could have originally been in



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DRAIN GAME

a hedgerow? If there was a hedgerow there, it is almost certain that at some time there would have been a drainage ditch there as well.

Was the ditch piped properly or was the golf course constructed during a dry time when the ditch was assumed to be dry? A very dangerous assumption as I am sure many Head Greenkeepers are finding out after these last two winters.

All fields, even in the same area have not all been drained at the same time, and the scheme that drained the field which contained the wet parts of the fairways has ceased to function, while the scheme that drained the field containing the dry part is still working. I mention this because it may help you to make logical assessments regarding drainage on your own course and also impress your Green's Chairman.

If you are fortunate enough to

be employed as Head Greenkeeper on a new course being constructed keep your eyes open to prevent the two main mistakes being made during construction which are as follows:

When a green is constructed the base of it sometimes comes from an area all around where it is sited. The top soil is stripped and then sufficient sub-soil is "borrowed" to build the base. As we all know the surrounds and approaches are a vitally important part of the golf course and sometimes the natural drainage of them is destroyed at the outset. It is much better to import all the green base materials from a "borrow pit" not in an area of general play.

The second major sin is to ignore existing drains during construction work. Broken drains cause absolute chaos during the winter months.

To all greenkeepers undertak-



Drainage work being carried out at BIGGA's HQ, Aldwark Manor

ing "in house" drainage work this winter, I wish you all the best, and should you need any advice I am only a phone call away.

■ Barry Cooper is a golf course drainage consultant based in Market Harborough, Leicestershire. Tel: 01858 46684.



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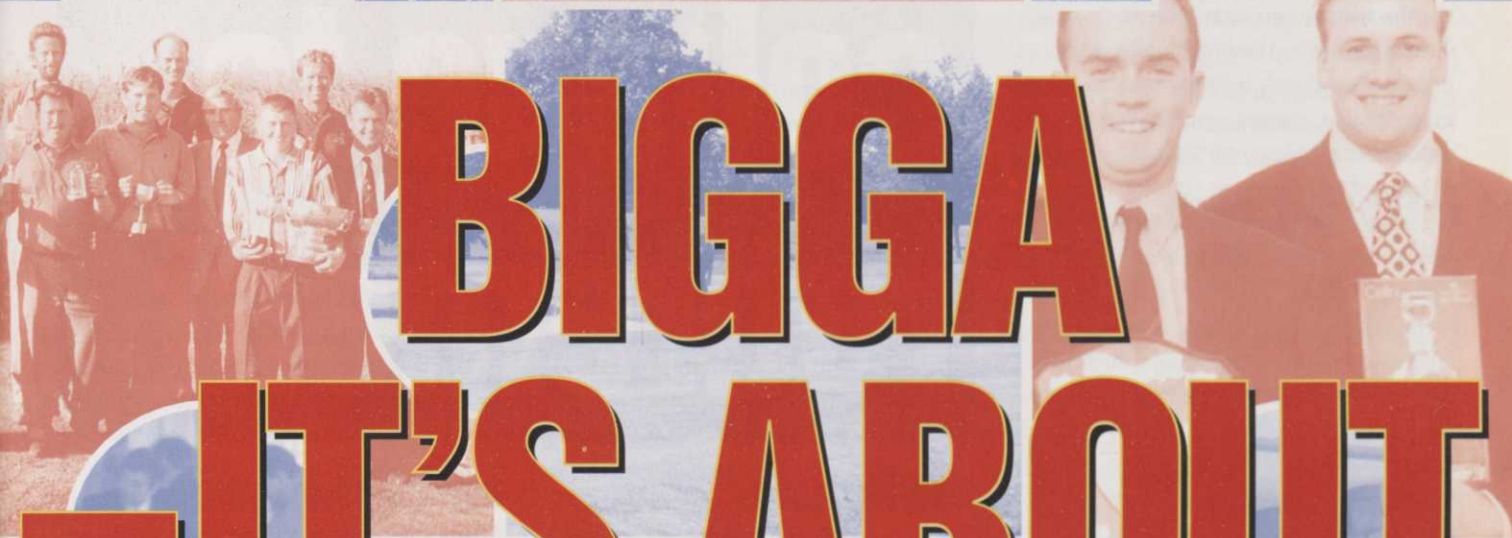
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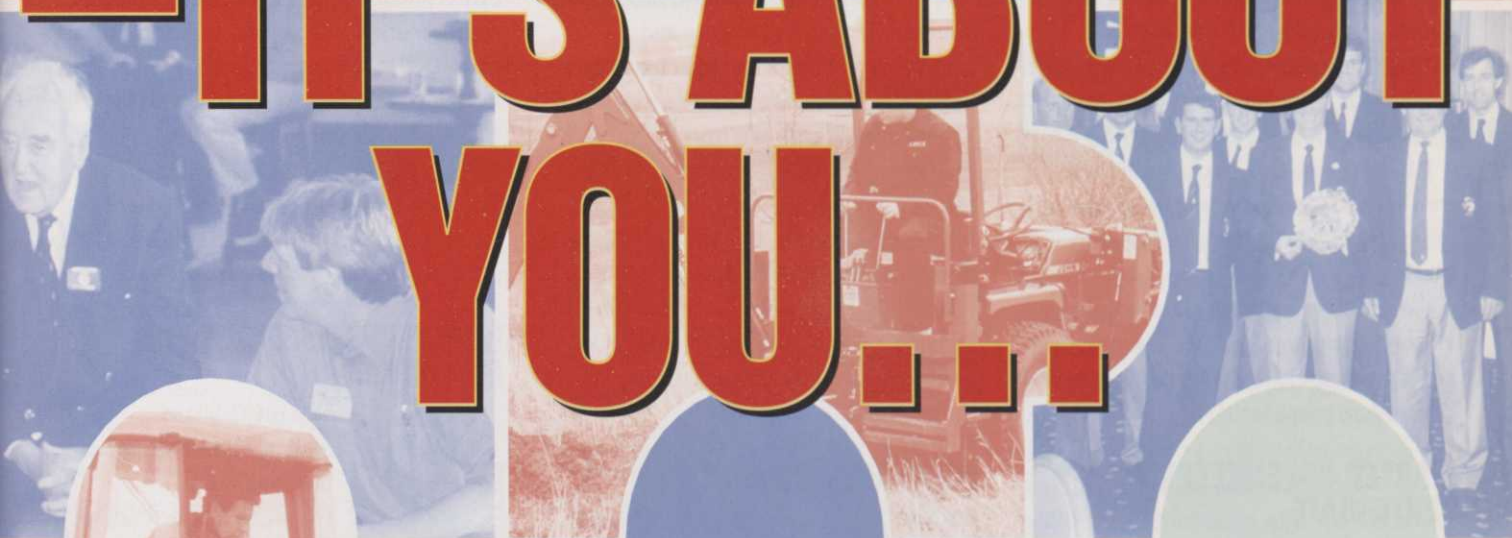
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BIGGA -IT'S ABOUT YOU...



If you're thinking about joining BIGGA for the first time or are wondering whether to rejoin in 1996, here are just a few of the benefits BIGGA membership offers you:

EDUCATION

We aim to keep you up to date of developments in a fast moving world by means of seminars, training courses, management courses, workshops, publications, videos etc. These are aimed at helping you carry out your job more effectively and develop your career. They are available to you as a member at reduced rates.

Supervisory and Management Courses aimed at generally improving your skills whilst providing the underpinning knowledge for NVQ Levels 3 and 4 are held annually at BIGGA HQ. With five modules to choose from you can apply to those courses most suited to your needs. Similar two day courses are held in each of BIGGA's regions. Attendance at these courses can gain you credits towards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

BIGGA Sections also organise their own seminars and training programmes for members during the Autumn and Winter.

We also have a library of books and videos for loan to members – the only cost is postage back to BIGGA (unless of course you wish to purchase!).

MASTER GREENKEEPER CERTIFICATE



We want to help you reach the highest standards of

excellence: those who gain all 300 credits required to receive this prestigious award prove not only that they are highly qualified and experienced greenkeepers but have reached the very pinnacle of their profession.

The scheme is designed to recognise through a combination of training, experience and by a formal examination those who are Masters of their profession. Credits are gradually built up through the three stages until you achieve the maximum 300.

...and your needs from college to retirement

LEGAL HELP LINE

The Help Line is there to provide you and your family with legal advice and assistance on any matter 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Last year alone the Help Line received nearly 600 calls from members regarding not only employment, but also matrimonial problems, disputes with neighbours etc, etc. BIGGA's insurers also paid out £98,000 in legal costs in the course of helping members pursue claims through the courts, claims they may not otherwise have been in a position to pursue.

INSURANCE COVER

It's a fact of life that accidents do happen. Our personal accident insurance policy offers peace of mind for you and your dependents.

Cover includes £5,000 for accidental death, loss of sight in one or both eyes or permanent loss of one or more limbs, £1,000 for permanent loss of one thumb, plus £35.00 per week (up to a maximum of 104 weeks) should you become temporarily or totally disabled as a result of an accident.

Since 1988 BIGGA's insurers have dealt with 158 claims on behalf of members including payment of £3,495 to a member involved in a road traffic accident and £8,668 to a member who suffered a back injury.

NEW FOR 1996 – STRESS LINE

Stress is something that affects all of us at some time, not just at work but also in our everyday lives. That's why this year we've introduced a Stress Help Line. Staffed by trained counsellors, like the Legal Help Line it's there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to help you cope with any matter that could potentially be or is actually a cause of stress.

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION



The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition held annually in Harrogate is the premier exhibition for the fine

turf industry in Europe and as a member you are eligible to discounted rates at the extensive educational events linked to the exhibition.

Where else will you find comprehensive educational seminars, the major manufacturers, producers and distributors for the greenkeeping profession all under one roof? The BTME provides you with the ideal opportunity to discuss new developments, view the latest equipment and machinery and get expert advice as well as exchanging ideas and experiences, meeting old friends and, of course, making new ones.

NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Linked to the BTME, BIGGA's annual two day educational event is the largest, most varied education and training programme in Europe.

Make sure you are aware of the latest developments, new technology and advances in greenkeeping by attending. As a member you are entitled to a discounted rate. Attendance at this event and the BTME seminars or workshops can gain you credits towards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

Younger members can enter the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition for which the winner wins a 10 week expenses paid trip to the United States including an 8 week residential turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts. Why not join the BIGGA greenkeepers at the Open Championship. Demonstrate that your skills lie not just in keeping the fairway but in playing the fairway by taking part in the Hayter Challenge Golf Tournament or the BIGGA National

Tournament. There are a whole host of other opportunities as well – but only if you're a member.

REPRESENTATION

As the leading representative body in the greenkeeping profession, BIGGA has been instrumental in earning greenkeeping the recognition it deserves as a highly skilled and technical job. More and more clubs are adopting BIGGA's recommended salary scale.

RETIREMENT

Retirement does not mean severing all connections with the greenkeeping profession. Upon retirement you can apply to become a retired member and keep in touch by receiving your monthly copy of BIGGA's magazine, "Greenkeeper International", and joining in all section events.

INTERNATIONAL

If you're a greenkeeper employed overseas, you can continue to receive all the benefits of BIGGA membership by applying as an international member (the Legal Help Line applies to UK Law only).

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

As a member you can participate in your local section events such as golf days, visits, educational lectures etc and also have the opportunity to meet with other greenkeepers. Independent research has shown that this social networking plays an important role in the exchange of ideas, views and tips.

EVEN BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY

If you pay your own membership subscription, you can claim tax relief on the amount, saving 25% for a standard rate tax payer, making membership even more beneficial. Clubs can normally also claim tax relief on the amount.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES from 1 January 1996

Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£67
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£54
All other greens staff and students aged 21 years and over	£47
Greens staff and students aged 20 years and under	£30
International	£54
Associate/Company with magazine	£54
Associate/Company without magazine	£28

BIGGA RECOMMENDED MINIMUM SALARY SCALE, 1996

The Association has updated its recommended minimum salary scale in line with the latest Retail Prices Index Figure available which is 3.5% for 1995. The quoted rates apply from 1 January 1996 but any variance from the above RPI figure at the time of implementation should be taken into account. The figures in brackets are 1995 rates.

	18 Holes	27 Holes	36 Holes
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£19,850 (£19,144)	£21,600 (£20,867)	£24,200 (£23,354)
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£14,300 (£13,818)	£15,600 (£15,057)	£17,450 (£16,842)
First Assistant	£12,376 (£230pw)	£12,376 (£230pw)	£12,376 (£230pw)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 21 and over	£11,648 (£216.30pw)	£11,648 (£216.30pw)	£11,648 (£216.30pw)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 20	£9,880 (£189.27pw)	£9,880 (£189.27pw)	£9,880 (£189.27pw)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 19	£8,736 (£162.23pw)	£8,736 (£162.23pw)	£8,736 (£162.23pw)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 18	£7,280 (£135.20pw)	£7,280 (£135.20pw)	£7,280 (£135.20pw)
Assistant Greenkeeper: aged 16/17	£5,824 (£108.15pw)	£5,824 (£108.15pw)	£5,824 (£108.15pw)

NB: Where appropriate these rates should be increased to reflect Regional variations.

The First Assistant post is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where relevant to the size of the Club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper salary scale should apply.

Staff in possession of recognised qualifications should have this reflected in an addition to basic salary.

Basic conditions of employment should include:

1. Overtime where appropriate, to be paid at time and a half, with double time on Sundays and bank holidays.
2. Retirement Pension Scheme.
3. Time off to attend training courses, demonstrations, BIGGA functions and tournaments.
4. Appropriate professional training – fully funded.
5. Mileage allowance in respect of club business.

MAGAZINE

GREENKEEPER
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Last but not least you will receive your personal

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Can you really afford not to be a member?

Company/Associate Member

If you're not employed as a greenkeeper in Fine Turf, why not become an Associate or Company member?

■ **Associate** membership is for those people involved in the golf industry but not employed as greenkeepers eg Golf Club Secretaries, Members of Greens Committees etc.

■ **Company** membership is available to those persons employed by a business connected with greenkeeping or fine turf management.

So what are the benefits? As well as receiving a monthly copy of "Greenkeeper International", Company and Associate members also have the opportunity to take part in BIGGA events at national, region and section levels. This provides Company members with a regular opportunity to get to know the people they provide with a service in an informal surrounding and enables Associate members to mix with their peers. All members will benefit from the educational aspects section events provide.

Company and Associate members also benefit from reduced delegate fees at BTME, the National Education

Conference and all BIGGA educational seminars and courses.

EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND



BIGGA membership can be linked to the Education and Development Fund. The fund was established to further advance the status of the greenkeeping profession and standards of golf course management by providing specialist training videos, publishing books on greenkeeping, running educational seminars and management courses.

By becoming a golden or silver key circle member, you can help secure the very future of greenkeeper, golf club and game.

During 1995, money from the Education and Development Fund has been used for:

- 12 regional management training courses commencing October 1995
- Practical Ecology Management book
- Course Preparation video
- Green Reconstruction video (completion Winter 1995)

Future projects include:

- Grass Identification booklet
- Videos, books and booklets
- Presentation skills course
- Educational grants

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS OF GOLDEN KEY CIRCLE

Individuals

- Special Tie – BIGGA/Golden Key Circle design
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- 15% discount on all BIGGA Educational Programmes

Contribution: Donations of over £150 annually

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS OF SILVER KEY CIRCLE

Individuals

- Special Tie – BIGGA/Silver Key Circle design
- Association Membership – to include monthly copies of "Greenkeeper International" magazine
- 7.5% discount on all BIGGA Educational Programmes

Contribution: Donations of £100-£150 annually

For more information on BIGGA membership, contact Janet Adamson at the address below

BIGGA
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Tel: 01904 838581

If you are already a member, do nothing for the time being, we will send you advance notification of your renewal.

If you are not currently a member but are now thinking of joining the Association, please complete and return the membership application card in this magazine.

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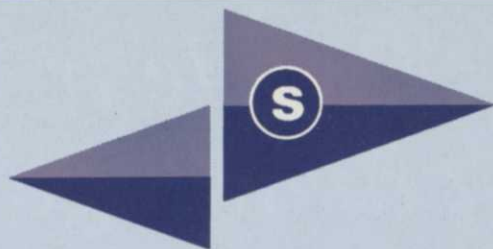
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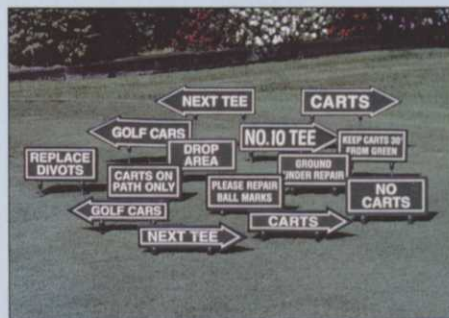
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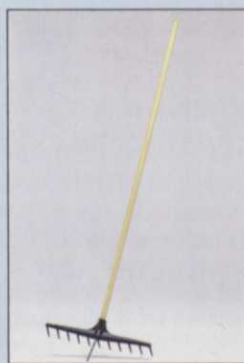
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Search begins for cream of the crop

The 1995 Miracle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year will be drawn from an excellent shortlist which comprised one from each of the five BIGGA regions when the final is held on December 3 & 4 at Aldwark Manor.

Candidates for the award were originally nominated by golf clubs, greenkeepers and their teams, sections and regions and were whittled down to three from each region. A member of BIGGA's Board of Management and a Miracle Professional manager then visited each of the golf clubs before nominating the finalists for the seventh Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

The winner and the man who will follow in the illustrious footsteps of Laurence Pithie, Anthony Davies, David Whitaker, Ian Harrison, Gordon Irvine and, last year's winner David Walden will receive an all expenses paid trip to the GCSAA Show in Florida while his team will receive £500 to reflect the belief that behind every top greenkeeper is a top team. The runner-up will win an all expenses paid trip to London including tickets to a top West End Show while third place will receive an all expenses paid weekend at Aldwark Manor.

Prior to coming to Aldwark each of the finalists – whose details are below – will again be visited at his club by Pat Murphy, from the BIGGA Board of Management and Education Sub-Committee and Richard Minton of Miracle Professional for another inspection.



**James Devlin,
Scotland**
Age: 39
Club: Golf Course
Superintendent at
Troon Golf Courses

James began his career under BIGGA Board of Management member Harry Diamond at Ayr Belleisle in 1982.

He was promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Seafield in Ayr five years later and, in 1991, promoted to Contracts Supervisor in charge of three golf courses and the championship bowling greens at Northfield in Ayr.

He took up his present position in charge of two Championship courses and one group two course, five bowling green contracts and various other contracts, including work on football pitches and numerous lawn areas around South Ayrshire in 1994.

His staff at Troon consists of seven full time, four seasonal and four skill

seeker trainees.

James completed a three year SVQ course at Ayr College and was the top student in the 1988 session. He also holds his D32 assessor certificate and his PA1 and PA2 certificates.

Married to Nancy they have two children, Mark (15) and Kerry (12).

He enjoys golf, loves fishing and, by his own admission, likes a pint.



**Don Wilson,
South East**
Age: 29
Club: Course Manager
Dyrham Park CC

Don joined the profession at the age of 16 as a YTS trainee greenkeeper at Shotts GC between Glasgow and Edinburgh. Six months later he was offered an apprenticeship which allowed him to attend Woodburn House College on day release for three years obtaining his Scotvec greenkeeping qualifications.

He then followed several of his Shotts colleagues south as an assistant at Burnham Beeches in Slough and three years later moved to become Deputy Course Manager at Dyrham Park CC becoming Course Manager two years later.

He is married to Lorraine with children Stephanie (9) and Ryan (4). He plays to a handicap of 14 is an avid Glasgow Rangers fan and is a member of the London BIGGA section committee organising golf events and controlling the handicap system.



**Ed McCabe,
South West**
Age: 37
Club: Course Manager
Brokenhurst Manor
GC

Originally from Seaham in County Durham, where he began greenkeeping, he now has 20 years experience, five as a Head Greenkeeper and the last 10 as Course Manager. He is well into his own improvement programme at Brokenhurst Manor, deep in the heart of the New Forest, which he has been implementing for the past eight years.

He originally attended Houghall Agricultural College in Durham where he achieved his City and Guilds Greenkeepers Certificate.

He presented a paper at the National Education Conference at Keele University on communication and also produced a two day work-

shop at the BTME on formulating a Golf Course Policy document. He is co-author of our Golf Course Policy Document which has been adopted by many clubs throughout the country and he sits on the South Coast section committee and the Education Committee.

He is married to Marion and they have two children Daryl (8) and Nathan (4). Ed is a 6 handicap golfer, a course angler, a fell walker while he also finds time to manage his son's under 9s football team.



**Chris Brook,
Midland**
Age: 32
Club: Course Manager
Chestfield Downs

Chris has been greenkeeping for 15 years and has been at his present club since, in his own words, he "arrived with the bulldozers in May '89". He saw the 27 hole complex with 27 bay driving range through to the present day and the courses success can be judged by the 550 members and 56,000 rounds on the 18 hole course and 42,000 rounds on the nine hole course per annum.

Married to Laura, they have two children Chloe (3) and Gemma (six months). He is Chairman of the Mid Anglia Section of BIGGA and he enjoys cricket, rugby and playing golf off a handicap of 10.



**Mike Goodhind,
Northern**
Age: 35
Club: Course Manager
Tytherington Club

Has over 19 years experience in greenkeeping and was Course Manager at Cavendish GC in Buxton, Derbyshire for nine years before taking up his current position.

The Tytherington Club is the headquarters for the Women Professional Golfers European Tour and in that regard Mike has prepared the course for two Ladies' English Opens, as well as for numerous National Corporate Events.

He has recently qualified as a GTC NVQ assessor. He is married with four children and is a keen all round sportsman interested in most sports but particularly cricket and golf.

■ The winner of the 1995 Miracle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year will be announced in the January issue of *Greenkeeper International*.

Appeal launched as Tiller's Turf chief finds hi-tech help for ill son

Thanks to a unique appeal over the Internet the son of Tiller's Turf's Tim Fell has been given hope in the search for a cure for a horrific brain disorder.

However, having been put in touch with the Pittsburgh-based world's leading authority on Trigeminal Neuralgia the Fell family is faced with raising the £150,000 required to put 9 year-old Matthew through the intensive course of treatment.

Matthew was struck down with Trigeminal Neuralgia at the beginning of the year having previously been a normal, active fun loving youngster. The disorder is not uncommon in adults but is virtually unknown in children and Matthew is, in fact, the only child ever to have been diagnosed with his particular condition. Trigeminal Neuralgia sees a blood vessel getting wrapped around the Trigeminal nerve and causes intense and unremitting pain. Attacks can last for up to half an hour and can occur at intervals of less than five minutes.

Since May Matthew has not been able to sit, stand or read and for many weeks the agony is so great he can't eat or drink.

In May he underwent an operation to cure the problem but it was not a success and, with the British medical professional having done all it could, Tim and Lindsay Fell sent a message on the Internet asking for help and it arrived in the shape of Dr Janetta from Pittsburgh, the world's leading authority in dealing with the disorder.

The medical expenses extend to £150,000 with an exploratory operation and two remedial operations costing £30,000 each and hospital recuperation costing a further £60,000.

The Matthew Fell Appeal has therefore been set up to raise money to help free Matthew from his indescribable and near constant agony.

Anyone who would like to contribute should contact the Matthew Fell Appeal, Castlethorpe, Brigg, South Humberside DN20 9LG Tel: 01652 650555 Fax: 01652 650064.

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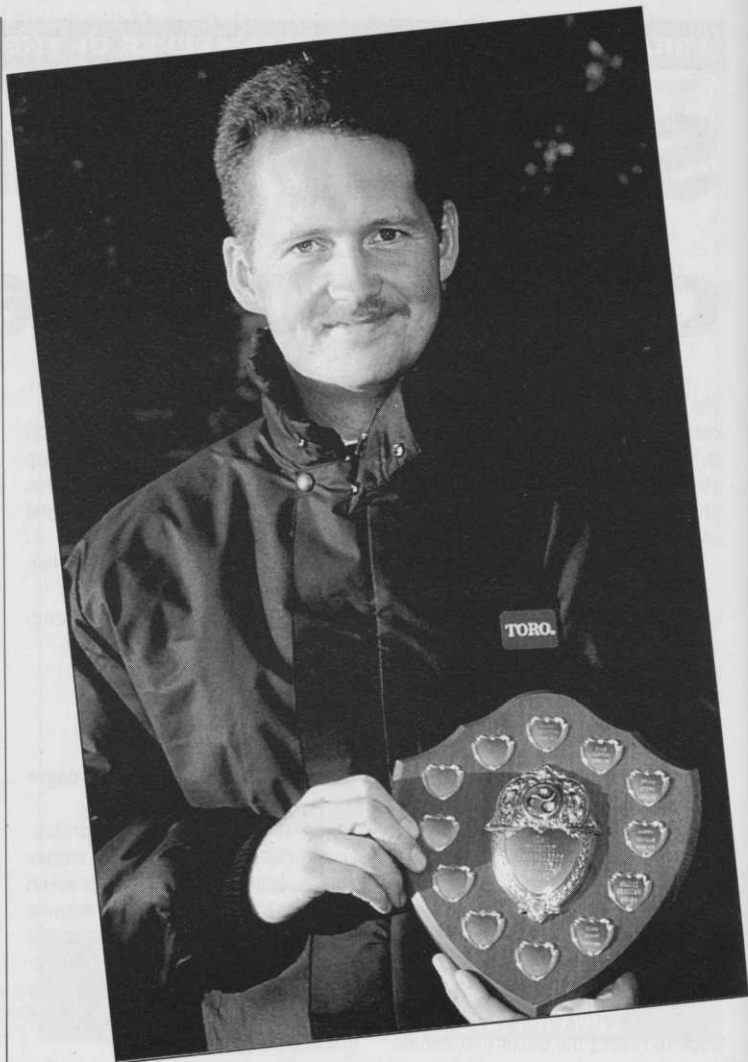
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New Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year James Braithwaite chats with Scott MacCallum about his hard earned triumph

Three years of effort paid off for James Braithwaite of Hallgarth Golf and Country Club Hotel when he was crowned the seventh Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year at Aldwark Manor last month.

James (29) only began greenkeeping in late '92 when the iron foundry, where he was Casting Department Superintendent, closed down but since then he has been instrumental in building a new course, been promoted to First Assistant, gained his Level 2 qualification at Askham Bryan College in York, increased the size of his family – and held down two other jobs to help make ends meet.

"I work as barman/waiter at a local hotel and as a gardener and it is not unknown for me to start on the golf course at 5.30am, finish at 9am get home at 9.30am, change, start at the hotel at 11am and work through to 1.30am, get home at 2am and back into work at 5.30am the next day. That's the worst scenario," he explains,

before casually dropping in that he also cycles the four miles to and from work.

It may have been that work ethic and will to succeed which convinced the judges – Graham Dale, Managing Director of Lely UK Ltd, Mark Gunter of Toro Irrigation, Edward Kitson of the PGA European Tour, Dean Cleaver, Vice Chairman of BIGGA and Chairman of the Education Sub Committee and Neil Thomas, BIGGA Executive Director – that he should take the honours and the winner's place on the eight week Turf Management Study Course at the University of Massachusetts in January/February. During his trip James will also visit the Toro Company Headquarters in Minneapolis and the Toro Irrigation Division in California and possibly visit the GCSAA Show in Orlando, Florida.

Asked what he hopes to achieve from his trip to the States James responds immediately. "I want education... and a chance to see a different way of life and culture. America is full of different ideas and everything is on a bigger scale.

"I'm excited about the prospect and can't really yet believe I'm going," he adds.

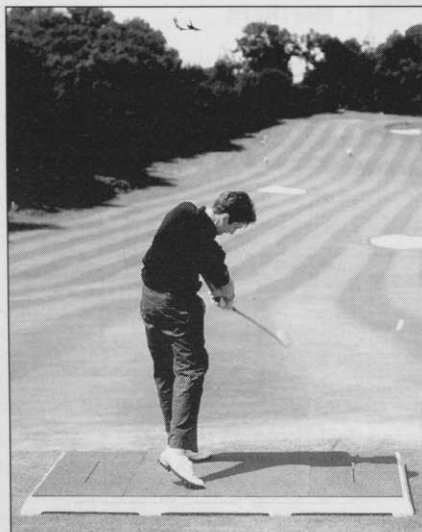
James talks of Hallgarth, a nine hole course near Darlington, with

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Blood, sweat and cheers

The winners and the people who put them there: from left, Barry Heaney, Gerard McCartney, Graham Dale, James Braithwaite, Edward Kitson, Stuart Adams and Mark Gunter



great affection and it is not without reason because it is a course upon which he has poured a lot of blood, sweat and tears.

"I began work as a labourer on January 3 1993 building the course. There was just the Head Greenkeeper, another labourer and myself with an architect overseeing the work. We did everything by hand, wheel barrowing, shovelling, and levelling with rakes. The greens are all USGA spec and we put in the drainage and the gravel carpet," explained James.

"It took us three months to complete and I lost nearly three stones in the time and suffered from wrist splints after damaging tendons. It was quite hard going," he adds with typical understatement.

The construction work complete James asked if he could go to college and was eventually given the go-ahead.

It was then that the need arose for the other two jobs to make ends meet and he began gardening and working in the nearby Walworth Castle Hotel.

"Getting to the finals of the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year has been great because I have learned a lot from fellow student greenkeepers and tutors who were

excellent. The competition has opened my eyes to what you can do," said James, who played age level county cricket for Derbyshire as a leg spinning opening bat.

"Even if I hadn't won being one of the eight who made it to the final would have been wonderful for my future career prospects but to have taken the top prize is superb.

"It is my ambition to go as far as I can as fast as I can. I do need a lot of experience after all I've only got three years in the industry and less than a year on a working golf course.

"In the shorter term I'm doing my level 3. I'd also like to do D32 and D33 and become an assessor.

"Further down the line I'd love to be working on a top championship golf course. It's got to be everyone's ambition... or to turn a new course into a championship course," said James, who

lists his major influences as his first Head Greenkeeper Jim Webster, current Head Greenkeeper Richard Creane, as well as his tutors at Askham Bryan.

"I'd love to see our course expand and would be one of the best in the area. It is a long nine holes and it might go to 18," explained James, whose wife, Wendy, together with kids Carla (four), and Adam (nine months), are right behind him.

The finalists had battled through college and regional qualifying to earn their place at Aldwark Manor and the huge strides in greenkeeper education have made could be measured by the quality of the eight who made it so difficult for the judges to pick a winner.

The runners-up were 19 year-old Stuart Adams of Hartpury College and Forest of Dean GC, who has already completed Level 3 and is a qualified assessor and

Gerard McCartney, (33) who works at the four – all different types – hole Greenmount College course in Belfast and still has had time to produce seven children in partnership with his wife.

They will join the PGA European Tour at two tournament venues – the English Open and the German Open to assist with the preparation of the course.

The other five finalists were Martin Bond, Richard Mills, Chas Campen, David Ray and Stephen Gransby.

But let's leave the last word to Dean Cleaver, Chairman of BIGGA's Education Sub Committee.

"I have been in greenkeeping for 22 years and have seen the improvement in the quality of the education, and the students it is producing, and it makes me proud to be associated with the industry."

● What's in store for James: see overleaf.

It was fascinating to see another world of greenkeeping at work

The previous Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year, Euan Grant gives James Braithwaite some insight as to what he might expect while in the United States.

It is only after being back a short while and having been firmly reintroduced to a 6am start that the significance of my experience in the USA has become evident.

Upon selection as the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year, I was very excited about being offered the opportunity to study turfgrass management in America on the eight week Winter School for Turf Managers at the University of Massachusetts.

The experience was invaluable, very educational and a great eye-opener. The depth of scientific detail offered required long hours

outside the classroom to become fluent with this information and to be able to convert theory into usable turf management practices.

There were 11 separate subjects including irrigation, plant physiology, design and architecture, turfgrass calculations, entomology (study of pests to me) which were all lectured very formally by specialists in their own field. I was certainly kept on my toes with seven exams and four reports to complete during this time.

The course taught me a great deal, and followed on very well from the craft level theory and knowledge that I gained from phase II City & Guilds Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management. I did however find that more emphasis was placed upon the importance of efficient irrigation, precise scientific theory and computerised organisation.

Bridie Redican and other female greenkeepers can also take heart from the fact that there were double the number of women on the course than in the previous year.

There is a fantastic career in American greenkeeping with very good wages and job opportunities and due to this a lot of highly educated men and women enter the profession at a fairly high level (deputy or superintendent) – rightly or wrongly, that is a separate argument – with turf related degree qualifications from various universities, but relatively little practical experience in time management, prioritising and dealing with golfers.

One aspect of greenkeeping I noticed in the States was the lack of craft level education offered to “junior” greenkeepers. There does not appear to be an equivalent to our S/NVQ or City & Guilds phase/level 1 or 2, also no

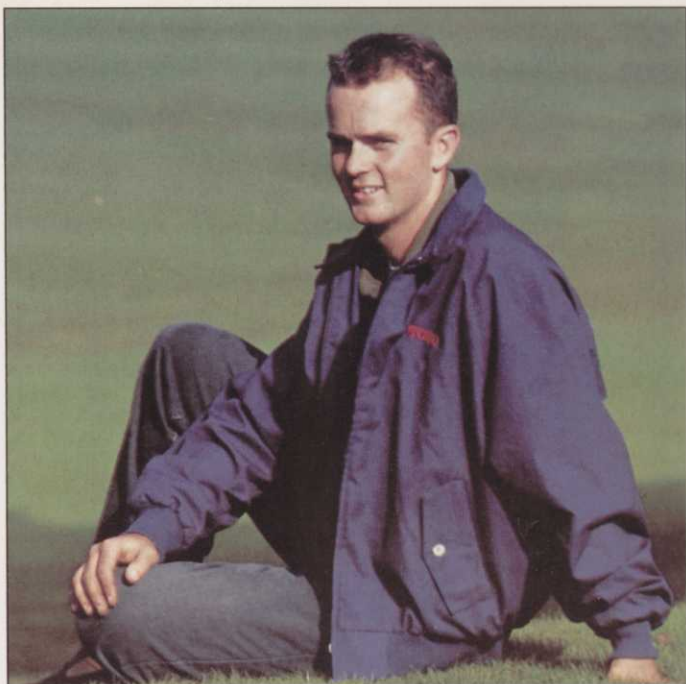
apprenticeships, or Government subsidised YTS schemes.

My belief is that, in general, British greenkeeping skills are improving rapidly with the necessary focus on education. In educating our whole workforce we are creating a base on which hands on experience can build. The S/NVQ qualifications are the means by which, either on one day a week part-time courses or block release courses, newcomers to the industry can incorporate both theory and practical, and importantly share their own work place gained experiences with others in the same situation. A business studies graduate would not expect a decent management position with British Gas, for example, without also having the necessary experience.

In educating our greenstaff we are climbing a great step to becoming a very professional career, in which people will take

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'The experience was invaluable, very educational and a great eye-opener'

SAYS LAST YEAR'S WINNER, EUAN GRANT (pictured)

interest and notice. Young people can now enter the profession identifying a career path with job satisfaction, increasing financial reward and, if worthy, job security. In return, golf clubs must recognise the importance of an entire educated greenstaff. Increasing the awareness of the whole greens team, is more essential nowadays given the latest health and safety legislation, European directives and the fact

that course managers are unavoidably spending less time on the golf course and more time in meetings, writing reports, analysing budgets and planning ahead.

It is imperative that all greenstaff, through college learning, seminars, information days and learning from our colleagues and superiors, have educated answers, holding educational evenings for the golfers, question

and answer sessions, machinery demonstrations and just talking on the golf course we can aim to constantly improve our image, let the golfing public know that golf courses do not look after themselves and that we do actually know what we are doing.

Britain is not such a long way behind the USA in the greenkeeping profession. They have some huge advantages, eg. budget, with which most of us cannot compete but our skills, knowledge and organisation right through the greens team is not inferior.

I must give a massive thank you to the Toro Company for sponsoring my chance to study and travel in the States, for giving me the opportunity to visit its machinery and irrigation factories and headquarters. Witnessing the research, manufacturing and testing facilities and procedures were fascinating, as was the San Francisco show.

Most of all, I made a lot of friends and contacts from all over North America and Canada. I have significantly increased my knowledge and have matured in my outlook to golf course management.

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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

London

The winter workshops have now been organised and the programme is as follows:

Wednesday November 8th starting at 7pm, the subject is "Risk Assessment - Responsibilities and Control", the speaker is Mr John Allbutt. Wednesday December 6th starting at 7pm, the subject is "Identifying and Controlling Diseases" and the speaker is Dr Neil Baldwin. Wednesday January 11th starting at 5pm and the subject is "Manual Handling Efficiency" and the speaker is Mr W. Greenfield.

The Manual Handling workshop will allow delegates to receive a certificate of attendance which will be issued by our section. There is no charge for the workshops and this has been made possible by the sponsorship of the Grass Roots Trading Company. I would like to thank Jamie Bennett for his help in the organisation of the workshops. He has also mentioned that he will buy everyone who attends the first drink at the bar! Further details will be sent out and if anyone would like to reserve their places now then you can contact me on 0181 959 5629 or 0378 663576. The workshops will all be held at Mill Hill GC and it is located on the south bound carriageway of the A1 between Stirling corner and Apex corner (100 Barnet Way, Mill Hill, London, NW7 3AL).
Tony Dunstan

North West

The Autumn Tournament was played this year at Didsbury GC and once again the weather was kind to us, at least until we finished playing. Didsbury GC, which is a parkland course, was in great condition, thanks to Alec Davies and his staff, and although everybody had been suffering from the effects of the long dry summer, it was not evident at Didsbury. Alec tells me that, due to the course being low lying, they are not affected by drought, and all through the dry spell fairways were cut twice weekly. As previously stated, the course was in beautiful condition and a credit to the staff. I would like to thank Didsbury GC for allowing us the courtesy of playing on their course, the caterers for a lovely meal, the members for making us so welcome and for their gifts to swell the prize table, the bar staff, and John Fleet the Club Steward for lending me his best shirt, although I fail to see how it fits John if it fits me (Ha ha). The major prize winners were: Lowest Gross - Paul Pearse. 68 (2 under par). Lowest Nett - Dave Berry. 74-6-68. Over 55's - Bert Cross. 83-13-70. Supaturf Agg - Paul Pearse. 213.

Our friends from the trade, and guests supplied so many prizes that apart from the four major prizes, we had five nearest the pins, longest drive, three guests prizes, and 11 nett prizes. I would like to thank: Sisis, Farmura, Strike Turf, Acorn Equipment, Trident, County Crops, G.E.M, Gary Worrall Grounds Care, Gary Cusack, British Seed Houses, Richard Campey, Cheshire Sand & Top Dressing, Burrows, Construct Golf, Didsbury Club Members, Fairway Lubricants, Bathgate Top Dressing.

The Hayter final was played at another North West venue this year, West Lancashire GC. This course is a true links course proving even in reasonably calm conditions to be a good test of golf. I visited the course three weeks before the tournament and apart from the greens and tees, the course had that golden brown look about it. On the day of the tournament and after one or two showers and heavy dews, the fairways had greened up, and with the rough still having that golden look, the course was a picture of perfection. John Muir, the Head Greenkeeper, and his staff, had obviously put in a great effort and produced a course to be proud of, which was reflected in the comments from his fellow greenkeepers. Many thanks to West Lancs GC for use of their course, and their facilities. Thanks also to the senior members of the club, for ball spotting and keeping the games moving, and the two members who did a great job controlling the scoreboard for us. The team prize of £500 was won by the Scottish Region much to the delight of Elliott Small. The North West had one member in the frame, Paul Harley picked up a prize in division two.

I have just returned from the machinery exhibition at

Haydock Park, and it was nice to see so many North West members. While chatting to greenkeepers I realised just how many said that they would be starting hollow tining and top dressing once this week was over. This means of course that they now have a battle against the weather, and if over seeding, hoping that the frost keeps away. Perhaps it may be an advantage to carry out this work in mid-August when conditions are better, the seed will germinate quicker, and less disruption takes place. I know golf club members would probably snarl at the idea, but they would gain in the end. Just a thought but maybe worth trying. That seems to be it, but any queries or news please ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

West of Scotland

Firstly, we must mention the disappointing result at the finals of the Hayter Challenge. The section representatives appear to have put aside all the traditions established over the years with regards to socialising. The Scottish representatives were, for a change, made up of people who could actually play the game. Only kidding folks, well done on a very successful trip south, the first ever win, may we have many more. Congratulations to our section members Sandy Brawley, David Mowatt and Martin Carey.

The Autumn meeting held at Helensburgh on the September 20 was a resounding success with over 50 competitors taking part. The course was set up in championship condition, fast greens and thoughtful pin positions. Well done Ronnie on producing the course in such good condition. Thank you to the Captain for presenting the prizes and the members for allowing our section members courtesy of the course. The catering staff should be congratulated on producing an excellent meal for all, matching the fine sunshine of the day. The results on the day were as follows: Scratch - S Hogg - Drumpellier - 72. 1st Class: 1st - S Taylor - Killermont 72-2-70, 2nd - D Johnston - 77-6-71, 3rd - G Bruen - E Kilbride - 81-7-74. 2nd Class: 1st - A McDowell - Torrance House - 84-16-68, 2nd - R Miles - Helensburgh - 83-13-70, 3rd - G Mowatt - Helensburgh - 85-11-74. 3rd Class - 1st - G Dingwall - Crowwood - 83-18-65, 2nd - J McCann - Gleddoch House - 96-24-72, 3rd - G Nisbet - Killermont - 100-24-76. Nearest the Pin at 16th - J Young, Apprentice trophy - G Bruen - East Kilbride, Visitor's prize - N Jenkins - Cawder - 86-11-75, Trade Prize - B Inglis - Souters - 73-1-72.

A couple of errors on my part in the last issue of the magazine, firstly the AGM date is December 7 at Renfrew instead of November 14, and secondly notification of events will be individual instead of booklet form.

Recently a challenge was received from the East section for an 11 a side football game, therefore a trial has to be arranged to select a team. A date will be chosen within November and members interested should contact a committee member to find the venue and date.

The five a side football tournament so far has had the following entries: Glasgow GC, Balmore GC, Douglas Park GC, Easter Moffat and Drumpellier, Pollock and Cowglen, Campsill, Renfrew and Gleddoch, and East Kilbride. The date set was Sunday 29th October from 10am -12pm although this may have changed dependent on availability of players and teams. The results will be included in the future issues.

Finally congratulations to Steven Hogg and wife Marie on the recent birth of a baby girl (Rebecca), I hope wife and child are in full health. If anybody has interesting information for publication please phone myself on 0141 942 5554 at any time.

Stuart Taylor

East Midlands

Our section had the privilege this year to play our Autumn Tournament at Kedleston Park. The course was in excellent condition which is a great credit to Dave Leatherland and his staff. Despite some awful weather forecasts we played on a lovely autumn day with the following members collecting the prizes:- Category 1: 0-9 - P Tatlow

(Kedleston Park) 75-6-69, R Barker (Kirby Muxloe) 76-4-72, P Forshaw (Ramsdale Park) 78-6-72, D Leatherland (Kedleston Park) 81-9-72. Category 2: P Billings (Cotgrave Place) 78-10-68, A Bindley (Kirby Muxloe) 84-15-69, J Dickinson (Hucknall) 89-10-79, S Goode (Scraftoft) 89-10-79. Category 3: T Foster (Cotgrave Place) 90-19-71, M Johnson (Hinckley) 92-21-71, G Robson (Lingdale) 95-24-71, M Bindley (Kirby Muxloe) 93-21-72. Nearest the Pin - R Barker, Longest Drive - P Forshaw.

Our thanks go the Kedleston Park GC for their courtesy and hospitality on the day, also to our sponsors for the day Charnwood and Highmeres Lawnmower Services for presenting us with such a fine prize table. This year's winners of the doubles K/O cup were D. Leatherland and P. Tatlow. Please try to attend this year's AGM at Kirby Muxloe as it is important that members bring forward their views and ideas for next year's committee.

Congratulations go to Ian Dunmore on winning the longest drive at the Hayter Challenge final.

Moving on to The Longcliffe Men's invitation and again section members fared well with Richard Barker and Richard Minton (of Miracle Professional) winning the Best Gross score of the day with 72, and Roger Barker and myself winning in the 2s competition.
Antony Bindley

North of Scotland

Remember what I said last month about the weather evening itself out, well I don't think it has stopped raining since. Some parts of our section had the entire September rainfall in 24 hours. Unfortunately our autumn outing fell on one of these days and had to be postponed and rearranged. We hope to visit Grantown for our Autumn outing next year. Meanwhile this year's outing was combined with our AGM in October at Peterhead, details of which will appear next magazine. The four 200 Club winners were, £30 no.55 Geddes - Ellon, £30 no.161 D Marnoch - Peterculter, £40 no.135 D Morrison - Alloa and £100 no.83 A Macrae - Dornoch.

Three more new members have joined the Section, Martin Smith a trainee at Torvean, Inverness; Garry MacLennan, a Trainee at Strathpeffer, and Angus Macrae, from Carnoustie, who is a student at Elmwood College. We welcome back to the Section Alick Mackay.

Congratulations to the Scottish lads on winning the Hayter Challenge, especially Section members Kevin Peace, Inverurie; Sandy Reid, Letham Grange and Patrick Wood, Newmacher. Sandy also won two individual prizes as well as the sweep that was organised by the Scots and Irish lads. Good and bad news from young Brian Cocker, the good news was his new job as Assistant Greenkeeper at Drunog GC in Fife, but unfortunately his first week there coincided with the Hayter final and when he got a call asking him to play as someone had pulled out he was unable to do so! Next year's Scottish final will be at Royal Aberdeen giving North members a great chance to make the team.

The two Patron's award recipients for this year are Gordon Mckie, Tain, and Hughie Mclatchie, Peterhead. Well done to these two and thank you for supporting your section so much over the past year. Spare a thought for Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill, and Stuart Hogg, Fortrose, who actually tied with Hughie but lost out in the draw for the one prize, your turn will come if you keep attending events next year.

Thanks to Eddie Adams, St Andrews for the first donation to my Augusta Fund, a similar amount from every BIGGA member should just be enough!
Iain Macleod

Scottish Region

"We are the Champions!" At last after eight years we found the winning formula and the Scottish Region won the team event in the Hayter Challenge Final. Played over the testing West Lancashire course the lads scored a convincing 10 shots victory over the nearest challengers. After the practice round it was obvious (to the manager anyway) that patience, not bravado was required to score over

this difficult true links course. Nett scores in the 70s were asked for and seven out of nine delivered. This on top of a marvellous 68 nett from Sandy Reid (four shots better than anyone else) was enough to put us in among the leaders after the morning 18. The manager was scenting a possible victory and a walk around the course to encourage the team gave him even more hope. However I couldn't seem too confident back at the clubhouse – in reply to a "Your team is looking good" a nonchalant "Aye, no too bad".

Our first two low handicap men followed up their steady morning rounds with two consistent nine holes and then from the man who had suffered (in more ways than one in the morning) and who had been asked for a 33 afternoon nine, that's what we got. Knew you wouldn't let us down George. Now we were looking good and when our fourth man returned a 37.5 we were now 12 shots ahead.

The manager needed a drink, who better to buy it than the Managing Director of our sponsors. Wait a minute though our next man in wasn't having a good day, the gap has closed to seven shots. But not to worry our last four "kept the heid" and closed out the opposition with great panache (well it sounds good). WHAT A TEAM! Every one a hero. And that team was:- Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride; George Brown, Turnberry; Martin Carey, Balmore; David Mowatt, Glasgow; Keith McCartney, Dumfries and Galloway; Kevin Peace, Inverurie; Sandy Reid, Letham Grange; Alan Russell, Torphin Hill; Patrick Wood, Newmachar. As well as winning the team event the following won individual prizes: Sandy Reid, Under 21's plus 1st in the first class, George Brown, Veterans, plus 3rd in the first class and David Mowatt 3rd in the third class. Well done lads you were brilliant. Every one of you. Elliott – Bernard Gallacher – Small

Devon and Cornwall

My report this month starts with your legal help card which you receive as part of your membership package. During the summer I needed the advice of the legal help line regarding my consumer rights after a problem in a shop. The advice enabled me to return to the shop armed with the legal facts regarding my rights, with this I was able to gain a satisfactory outcome. Speaking to many colleagues since the event it has become evident that many members do not realise that the legal help line can be used for any legal matter. So don't just put the card away and forget about it, use it if you have any legal problems you require advice on however small, it's your privilege as a member.

Our Christmas meeting will once again be held at Okehampton GC on Wednesday December 13.

As last year, numbers will be limited to the first 80 members who reply by the closing date. The day will commence with a greensome Stableford competition for the P J Flegg Trophy, as usual our non golfing members will have the now customary tour of the course before returning to the club house for some festive spirit! After Christmas lunch members can sit back and enjoy comedian Jasper who comes highly recommended by Tank Sherman.

Only a few places remain on the region's WESTURF-subsidised trip to BTME 1996 which is held in the splendid town of Harrogate. If you intend to take advantage of the package which includes return coach travel, three nights accommodation, entry to the exhibition and all seminars for only £99 contact Gordon Child at once on 01803 844056 to avoid disappointment.

Richard Whyman

Around the Green



Cleveland

Welcome to new members: Gary Carmichael, Billingham GC; Roger Douglas, Billingham GC; Andrew Hall, Middlesbrough GC; Paul Keyworth, Whitby GC; Stuart Cook, Saltburn GC; Roger Everson, Hallgarth GC.

Welcome also to section sponsor Dick Lawson Ltd, Kubota main dealer.

Future events include January 18 1996 Chris Peel ADAS, on "Annual Meadow Grass", February 15 Dave Stephenson of D & E Turf – Toro main dealer, March 21 British Seed Houses, Bob Tweddle on "New Cultivars".

Head Greenkeepers meet first Monday in the month at 1pm.

Our section sponsors are:- Dick Lawson, Brian Skeen, Liam Galloway, Turf Care and Bowes & Raine. Bruce Burnell

East of Scotland

Well not a lot to report this month so here we go. In October we had our Autumn Tournament at Prestonfield GC with kind courtesy of the course from Captain and Council. Thanks to them. It was a good day I have been told, as I was not able to attend due to other commitments so there will be a full report in next month's issue when I get a report of all the scores. Tickets for the dance on December 2nd are going fast with only a few left so get booking them now or you will be too late. The section AGM will be held at Swanston GC on Thursday November 23. The day will be sponsored by Stewarts & Co this year so let's see a big turnout for the morning seminar and the afternoon AGM, as the turnout has been poor in years gone by. Remember it is your chance to air your views about your section, so lets see you there. By the time you read this you will have entertained the North East of England greenkeepers in our annual Stewarts & Co match so we will let you know the result next month. Letters concerning the AGM and winter lectures will be with you soon. So if you have anything to let us know about drop me a line and I will put it in a future report. That's it till next time. Chris Yeaman

Surrey

On Tuesday September 5 the Parker Salver was held at Tyrells Wood GC, it was a better ball competition and 13 pairs played. The weather was dry for most part of the day but the last few pairings got caught in a heavy shower of rain but this did not deter the winners with an incredible score of 49 points obtained by Alex Bradshaw and I. Lambert of Malden GC, a right pair of "Bandits"! 2nd. Ronnie Christie and L Dennis-Smith with 46 points 3rd. the Box-all pairing with 45 points. All I can say about the scoring is that due to the long dry summer the ball goes a long way, but you still have to get the points. Some greenkeepers obviously pick guests with dodgy handicaps.

I should like to thank Tyrells Wood GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course. The caterers for an excellent meal and my staff for helping me through a hot dry summer and producing a course of which I am proud.

Bert Watson, Head Greenkeeper, Tyrells Wood GC.

My thanks go to Bert for taking the time to produce this piece.

Dinner Dance tickets are still available November 10th Reigate Manor Hotel price £18.00.

Congratulations to Mick and Simon Kirkham upon achieving distinction in Phase IV Business Management at Plumpton College and Simon of Milford GC for also achieving Distinctions for practical, course work, written exam on NVQ Level 2 at Merrist Wood College.

A mention of the proposed visit to Ransomes at Ipswich. Any greenkeepers who would be interested should register their names with the Section Secretary. Obviously the more the merrier.

Committee vacancies are on offer, anybody interested in the running of the Surrey Section and would like to be more involved again please contact the committee members listed on the front of your '95 fixture list.

Venues are still required for 1996 so if you are interested in hosting a BIGGA event in the coming year, telephone Derek Walder on 01737 246088. The second winter lecture has been organised for February. The lecture is to be given by British Seed Houses. Date and venue to be announced.

Forthcoming events include 1st winter lecture by Gordon Jaaback at Kingswood GC on November 13, also the Turkey Trot at Effingham GC on December 6.

David Gibbs

Northern

By the time you read this the heatwave and drought will be a distant memory and no doubt hollow tining and top dressing will be complete and your efforts will be directed towards winter construction work.

Section plans for the winter programme will include a lecture on Golf Course Design and Construction to be given by ADAS at West Bowling GC in November and a talk on Irrigation by Par 4 of Ripon in March also at West Bowling GC. The Christmas golf competition is in the process of being arranged and it is hoped this will be held early in December followed by the AGM. A mailshot giving further details will be circulated to all members as soon as possible.

A two day Northern Region Management Course will be held at the Dean Court Hotel in York, February 7 and 8. The Course will be £50 per person and includes one night's accommodation and meals. Anybody interested should contact Bob Lupton, Regional Administrator on 01782 750539 as soon as possible as places are limited.

Our good wishes to Brian Carr who has left Howley Hall GC and taken a post with Chapel Allerton Tennis Club. Brian was unhappy with the structure of the golf club committee at Howley.

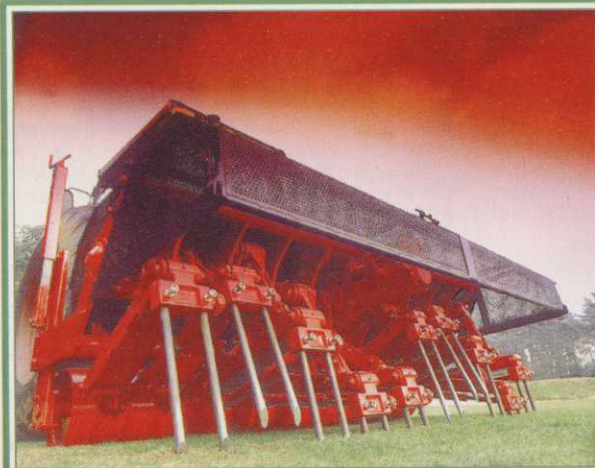
Norman Seddon, sales representative for Aitkens, retired at the end of August and his many friends in the Northern Section wish him a long and happy retirement.

If you have any news or information which would be of interest to Northern Section members please contact me on 01423 889058.

Alan Gamble

Ayrshire

The section's autumn outing was held on the 16th September over Kilmarnock Barassie. It was a welcome relief from a summer spent mostly holding hoses at all.



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hours of the day and night. Apart from a couple of showers and a fair coastal breeze the day was excellent for golf, although many of the scores would have you believing the aforementioned hoses were being used instead of clubs. The prize winners were as follows:- Scratch - I McNab, 1st Class - 1st G Brown, 2nd - K Hills, 3rd K Haddow. 2nd Class - 1st - G Haughey, 2nd - D Gray, 3rd - G Morrison. 3rd Class - 1st J Johnstone, 2nd - M Lothian, 3rd - D Nelson. The guest prize was won by E Small and the trade prize by B Ingles. The morning scramble was won by S McKay, R Bruce, K Hills and K Haddow, with runners up P Rae, R Blackburn, D Nelson and A Lee.

A good turnout of over 40 certainly enjoyed the day, and our thanks must go to the Captain, Mr J Morrison, and the Kilmarnock Barassie members for the courtesy of the course, also to Ruby and her staff for a memorable meal (with accompaniments) and lastly to Brian Finlayson and his staff for the excellent condition of the course. My new phone number for any news is 01387 710389. Till next month.
Duncan Gray

East of England

The autumn East of England section tournament was held at Spalding GC. Sponsoring the day was Lambs Lawnmowers of Peterborough, with other prizes donated by Aitkins, Oliver Bro Seeds, Fieldcare, Rigby Taylor and Lubrication Engineers. The course was in superb condition thanks to Head Greenkeeper Tony Ward and his staff. The course has four new holes which matched in well with the existing course and was a stiff test especially off the white tees. The winners coming through a tough challenge were as follows: 1st - G A Macdonald - Eyebury - 32 points, 2nd - S Piggot - Belton Woods - 29 points, 3rd - R Owen - Boston West - 27 points, 4th T Scotney - Sleaford - 26 points. Nearest the pin - S Dunthorne - Elton Furze.

The next event is on the 12th October at Sleaford GC when the Greenkeepers take on the Association of Golf Club Secretaries.

The AGM is in November when we hope to organise nine holes before the meeting. A winter lecture will be run in February following on from last year's successful seminar, hopefully at Kenwick Park (more details will follow).
Graeme MacDonald

South Wales

Congratulations to Neil Smith and his wife Meryl on their recent wedding celebrations, I hope the hangovers have subsided and the mower lines are back on course.

My personal thanks to all of those who gave up their holidays and free time to be a member of the Greenkeeper Support Team at the recent Walker Cup. There are too many to mention personally, but you will all know who you are! A sincere congratulations to David Ward and his committed young team of staff who worked tirelessly to bring the course to perfection only to see it attacked mercilessly by the dreaded Take All Patch Fungi. I'm sure that I speak on behalf of everyone that was present when I say that an enjoyable time was had by all, it was an experience and a pleasure to be involved. Our thanks also to the Royal Porthcawl GC for their invitation to be involved and for their hospitality during the event.

Fabulous weather, a glorious location, the autumn competition at the Langland Bay GC for the Jacobsen Cup. A sincere thank you to Keith Morgan for his continued support and sponsorship of this event. As always the prize table that was on offer was superb, our thanks also to Martin and Jonathan Morgan who represented Keith Mor-

Around the Green



gan Mowers in Keith's absence. The attendance could have been better, but as they say "it's the quality that counts".

Results:- Winner of the Jacobsen Cup, with a Nett 66, winning a golf bag was Andrew Hatcher of the Creigiau GC. Second best nett with a 70 was P Lacey (yours truly) winning a "Hippo" sweater. Winner of the Presidents Cup, with a Gross of 76 and winning a windcheater was Inco's Mike Jones. Winner of the Waycott Cup with a 72 was Caerphilly's Julian Bartlett Jones. Our thanks to all at the Langland Bay GC for their hospitality, to the caterers for an excellent meal and to Ken Payne and his staff for their hard work in preparing the course, (who would have thought that they had Verti-Drained the Greens one week prior to our arrival), that's what you call living dangerously.

My sincere apologies go to Kevin Green and his team organisers for the Annual Match between the sections that didn't take place. For those who don't know, the match that should of taken place at the Cotswold Hills GC, Cheltenham had to be called off through lack of support. Again apologies to the South West Section and also to Cotswold Hill for wasting their valuable time.

Dates for the diary: November 22nd - STRI Seminar, The Celtic Manor GC. November 29th - the Regional Seminar, Cannington. December 13th - Xmas Competition, Pyle and Kenfig GC. January 22-26th 1996 - The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition.
Peter Lacey

Midland

Having spoken to several Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers in the area, we all seem to have the same problem. Members, with short memories of the very dry summer, who wonder why we have bare patches on the fairways etc.

The Autumn Tournament was played at Maxstoke Park GC on September 25th. The weather held good for the whole day, which we all expected as it was the Reverend's (Traford's) retirement day with his BIGGA colleagues. Results:

1. (Gross) P. Woodham 111; 1. (Nett) D. Fellows 106; 2. P. Loffman 107; 3. V. Lee 109 (Countback); 4. P. Holtman 109; 5. A. Roberts 110.5; 6. J. Palmer 112; 7. M. Cutler 112; 8. M. Hughes 113.5; 9. M. Jones; 10. R. Thomas 114.5; 11. P. Richmond 115.

Longest drive sponsored by TACIT - P. Woodham; Nearest the Pin sponsored by TACIT - P. Woodham.

The trade prize was won by Ivan Toon (ALS) with an amazing score of 102. Unfortunately the video cameraman put off another good contender for the prize when a case of camera shyness got the better of him.

Thank you to Maxstoke Park GC, the Captain Mr Walker, Andrew Ross and his staff and finally to the clubhouse and catering staff for their warm welcome.

Many thanks also to Sunderland for the prize, all companies for their support and R. Jones (Motrac) and John

Mullins (Supaturf).

The section presented R. Stonebridge with a Whisky Decanter and four glasses with a plaque from the Midland Section.

The Christmas Tournament at Worfield GC will be followed by the AGM at 5.30pm - as mentioned in the October issue.

New members into the section are - Peter Wooldridge, Andrew Lane, Reginald Ilsley, David Richardson and David Shortridge.

Finally to end on a sad note may all the members of Midland Section send sincere condolences to the families of Mr Peter Dodds and Mr Bill Boyce who died recently
Kim Blake

South West

With Winter now upon us and colleagues having enrolled students for full and part time courses in Greenkeeping Management so the opportunity for education at section level becomes available in several respects.

Firstly, as briefly mentioned in last month's report, Education Officer Ken Richardson has now confirmed that a management course will take place at Thornbury Golf Centre near Bristol on February 12 and 13, 1996. Frank Newbury is the instructor for a course entitled "Essentials for Busy Supervisors". There are vacancies for a maximum of 12 people at a greatly subsidised figure of £50 per head which includes accommodation and meals. Anyone interested should contact Ken at Headquarters sending a cheque for £10 as a deposit to secure a place.

By now everyone will have received an application form for BTME 1996 with prices kept at £99 for members. Many people have already shown interest so an early return of the booking form would be advisable.

Another date for the diary as stated last month is this year's Regional Educational Seminar to be held once again at Cannington College on November 29.

Finally to conclude the education theme a First Aid course has been arranged for November 21 at Filton GC, Bristol, to be run by Medical Training Services. This worthwhile course covers emergency treatment from the small cut or sprain to giving life-saving heart massage. If interested please contact me as soon as possible on 0117 9793127 to book a place. The cost of day to include lunch will be determined dependent on numbers.

Our winning run in team matches came to an end on September 21 when we played the South Coast Section at Lee-on-Solent GC and were beaten convincingly. Those who went thoroughly enjoyed the day which culminated in an excellent evening meal and late return home! Thanks to the South Coast lads for organising the day and for their hospitality.

The match against the South Wales Section unfortunately had to be cancelled due to unavailability of members from the South Wales team.

A belated welcome to Janet Adamson who has taken on the position of Membership Services Officer for the Association. Janet has already made several changes which should improve communication when dealing with new and existing members. The Section membership can play its part by informing her and myself as soon as possible of any change of address and/or particularly any new telephone number. On behalf of the Section we wish her every success in her new position.

Finally this year's Christmas Tournament is to be held at Puckrup Hall Hotel and GC on December 14. Morning golf and Christmas lunch followed once again by a comedian who hopefully will create more laughs than last year.
Kevin Green

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*Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor*

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

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Sheffield

On September 25 we held our Autumn Tournament at Coxmoor GC. Our thanks go to the committee of Coxmoor GC for allowing us the courtesy of their beautiful golf course. Also thanks go to Kevin Atherton and his staff for having the course in such excellent condition and the stewardess for providing us with a very good evening meal. Results:

1. Barry Kilcline 38pts; 2. Steven Currie 37pts; 3. N. Maltby, K. Kirkham, M Coultas and P. Neve 36pts.

Our thanks for the prize table go to John Price of Yorkshire Mowers, main sponsor for this tournament, A Dyson-Gem; S. Burrows, Amenity Sports Turf; B. Booth, Rigby Taylors; P. Fell, Aitkens Sport Turf and L. Purdy, Purdy's.

On October 5 we held our first winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to John Hughes of British Seed Houses and Mike Robinson, President of Seed Research of Oregon, USA. Our AGM was held after this lecture and the following members were elected on to the committee for 1995/96. President, Mr K. Arnold, Secretary, R. Ullathorne; Chairman, N. Maltby; Treasurer, D. Milbourne; Committee S. Hird, E. Mone, J. Lax and S. Currie.

Dates to remember - Christmas golf competition, November 29, Wortley GC and December 14, Nick Bissett, Askham Bryan College.

R. Ullathorne

South Coast

Our next meeting is on December 5 at The Royal Winchester GC and is a Turkey Trot competition followed by our AGM. The day's format is an 18 hole Stableford teeing off at 10am with the AGM at 4pm followed by an evening meal at 5.30pm. Any members wishing to play should send their handicap and a fee of £13.50 to Mark Webb, 12 Lime Rd, Alesford, Hants, SO2 49LD. Cheques to be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section. All golf entries must be in 10 days before the competition.

Any nominations for committee members or items for the agenda should be sent to Alan Mitchell, 45 Constable Close, Sholing, Southampton, Hants, SO2 8EN, three weeks before the AGM.

The South Coast v South West team match took place on September 21 at Lee on Solent GC. Congratulations to our team on a resounding 4-1 victory, the first I understand for quite a few years. It's a pity our Captain didn't do better.

The Autumn Tournament took place on October 3 at Ferndown GC. Results:

Jacobsen Trophy. 1. John York 40pts (on countback); 2. Shaun White 40pts; 3. Jason Moody 39pts; 4. Andy McDonald 38pts; 5. Paul Jackson 37pts. Nearest the Pin Roger Williams.

Thanks go to Ferndown GC for its hospitality, the catering staff for a great meal and to all the sponsors. Also a special thanks to Head Greenkeeper Phil Longman and his staff for producing an excellent golf course.

Jeff Drake

Mid Anglia Section

All Section members should have, by now received a fixture list for 95-96. As you can see, the committee have endeavoured to book some excellent golf courses for next years events. The only event not listed is the Texas Scramble for 1996, which will probably be at Dunstable Downs, another top course in the area. This will be confirmed at a later date.

The regional seminar will be held on November 29 at the Sketchley Grange Country Hotel and Conference Centre. Further details of speakers etc will be forwarded to all members by Roger Willars, the Regional Administrator, by mid-November. I know that it involves a long journey for some members, and attempts have been made to bring the event closer to home, but suitable venues have been hard to find. Last year there were only four members from the Mid Anglia section in attendance, so I hope we can improve on that this year.

A Health and Safety update has been arranged on January 9 with John Allbutt. This will take place at the Family Golf Centre, and is an all day event. Also arranged is a "Course Visit" to Ashridge GC on the March 6 with Jim Cassidy. If for any reason you have not received a fixture card please contact Gerald Bruce, our Section Secretary. An entry form for our Christmas Texas Scramble Competition on December 1st should also have been received. This event takes place at Ashridge GC, with a £20 cost for members and £30 for guests. List your team on the form and enter combined handicaps. If you do not have four people to complete a team, and still wish to play, send the form off and Richard will try to put you with other members in the same situation to make up a team.

Around the Green



The final of the Lodgeway Fourball Competition was held on Friday 6 October at Woburn Golf and Country Club.

It was played over 36 holes, 18 on the Duke's Course and 18 on the Duchess. The finalists were Rupert Lawrence and Eddie Thompson from Berkhamsted Golf Club, against Jon Moorhouse and John Wells of Brocket Hall GC. I joined the match at the start of the afternoon round on the Duchess Course with the two Johns two up. The match ebbed and flowed and was all square on the 16th. The 17th was won by Jon Moorhouse with an up and down from a bunker, for a par 3. By this time the weather had deteriorated to torrential rain and I did not envy the four players as they prepared for their tee shots at the 18th and final hole, with the match poised as it was. Anyway, Jon and John managed to win the 18th as well to win 2 up. Congratulations to them both for winning and to Eddie and Rupert, congratulations as well for making such a hotly contested final in such appalling conditions. Although I wasn't playing, it was quite clear to see that the greens were in top condition for the event. Many thanks to Neil and his staff, and to Woburn for allowing us to stage the final there. Also thanks to Chas Ayres once again for organising the competition and to his company Lodgeway Tractors for its committed support of the event. I'm sure we will all be looking forward to next years event.

Paul Lockett

Sussex

The Sussex Section had a very well attended Autumn Meeting at Worthing GC with 57 players. Congratulations to Rob Short and his team for preparing both courses to an excellent standard with no signs of damage from the drought. Parker Hart sponsored the day with magnificent prizes, as usual, and we had further pin and raffle prizes from Avoncrop, Vitax, Bourne & Co, Pattisons, Kings, Rigby Taylor, Farmura and CMW. Our sincere thanks to you all for your ongoing support.

The free entries to the Turkey Trot on 8th December at Littlehampton go to Ray Day for the best three Medal scores, and to Chris Allen for the best 3 Stableford scores this season. Congratulations. We will run this same scheme again next year and, if you play in all three meetings, who knows... it could be you!

Congratulations also to Rob Short on his marriage to Sarah on October 28, Andy Ford to Sue on September 23, and Mike McQueen to Janine on June 23. We hope this is not going to affect your golf in any way!

We have had a very good year and have gained more and more playing members as the year has gone on. Next year we start at East Sussex National in the Spring and look forward to a record turnout from you all. In the meantime, warm wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Stefan Antolik

North Wales

I can say without any hesitation that a great day was had by all at our Autumn Meeting held at Chirk GC on 11th October 1995. George and his staff looked after us very well with regard to the course, which I felt was a credit to them all. The food and service by all the staff within the clubhouse was second to none and once again on behalf of the Association I would like to thank you all.

85 entrants proved to be a good turnout as many Greenkeepers were still busy on their course. Alan Lewis of Llanymynech GC took the best gross with 38pts just beating Terry Adamson of Gem Professional on the back nine. The following prize winners were:- Kevin Jones, Abergele; Edward Ainsworth, Caldyl; Andrew Jarvis, Chirk; George Whitty, Chirk; Chris Davies, Abergele; John Humphreys, Oswestry; Phil Davies, Mommersteeg; Alan Kift, Northop; Les Parry, Arrowpark; Andy Campbell, Carden Park; Pat Valentine, Abergele; Haydon Jones, Chirk; Mrs E Barlow, Nine of Clubs; Andy Peel, Bull Bay. Nearest the pin was won by Mr M Harbour and the ball sweep by T Marriot and G Timmis each received 12 balls. My congratulations to you all for being amongst the prizes and better luck to the rest of us next time. My thanks to all the spon-

sors we are all grateful for your kind donations:- Gem Professional, Mommersteeg International, Major Owen, Acorn Equipment, Ki Chem, John Osman, Pro Turf, Rigby Taylor, R D Jones Golf Construction. We hope to see you all again in December.

My thanks to all who took part in the raffle for Kids for Kids, Julie Hargroves did a great job for me making an even £100 which I have delivered to the charity and I am sure a letter of thanks will follow.

Can I beg forgiveness from Dave Proctor after reporting wrongly his move from Baron Hill, he has moved to Storws-Wen Golf Club, Brynteg, Benllech and once again wish him luck for the future.

"OK, what's coming up next?", we have our Christmas meeting at Prestatyn Golf Club on the 13th December, you should receive your forms at the beginning of November. Prompt replies please. There is also a trip to Holland on the 15/16 of March 1996 I am sure this outing will be popular so if you feel you are up to it see either Terry Adamson or Phil Davies. I hope I have not missed anybody out. See you all at Prestatyn.

Terry Evans

North East

Thursday September 28 saw us playing the Autumn Competition at Garesfield for the first time.

Congratulations to Derek Cruddas and his staff for the excellent condition of the course especially the greens a bit too fast for the most of us, but everyone enjoyed the day. Our thanks to the following donors:- Ryton Gravel Co, Shorts, Rickerbys, Fewsters, Greenlay, Stewarts, Aitkens, Sport Turf Services, Border Turf Services and to the following Golf Clubs:- L. Tyneside, Arcot Hall, Whitburn, Whitley Bay, Stocksfield, Warkworth, Consett, Prudhoe Bolden, winners of trophies as follows: Best Gross, A McSure - 75 - Whickham GC, Best nett, Ransomes Cup, R Black - 70 nett - Westerhope GC, Greenlay Cup, D Street - 73 nett - Bolden GC, Feusters Shield, T Mooney - 79 nett - Bolden GC.

On October 5 the annual match against the East Lothian section took place at Hirsell GC, Coldstream. Again it was a hard fought match with only a 10 man team for the N.E against a full strength 12 man team for the Lothian. However the North East managed to retain the trophy by drawing 3-3; thanks to Stewarts of Edinburgh again for sponsoring the day and providing the prizes. Results as follows: R Black & D Dally beat T Murray & A Holmes 3/2, K Rutherford & A Dally halved G Thompson & T Shepherd, D Street & B Wilson beat R Hogarth & S Crawford 3/2, T Mooney & G Atkinson lost to G Wood & A Forrest 6/5, J Johnson lost to C Noble & J Neilson 4/3, J Richardson halved S Dixon & C Yeaman. On behalf of the North East Section we would like to thank the Scottish lads for their nice gesture of giving us a moonies on departing from the golf club.

If anyone has a vermin problem on their course they can contact David Reid of the Hobson Golf Club between 12noon and 12.30pm, phone number is 01207 270790 he tells me he's doing work for a couple of courses in the area.

Congratulations to Paul Robison of Ryton GC who recently got married. Also I hear that Barry Wilson of Stocksfield GC is also tying the knot in November.

Jimmy Richardson

B, B & O

Although you are reading this article some four weeks after the last golfing event the results will not be posted until the December edition.

This is due to the deadline date for publication - I'm sure the suspense is killing you.

Due to lack of entries the Rigby Taylor Fourball is postponed until the spring. This is thought to be a better time to play the event - longer days, better weather etc. All the people who did send their entries should be informed of the situation and cheques returned.

Events taking place in the near future are the Regional Seminar at Sketchley Grange on November 29 and the Turkey Trot at Frilford Heath on December 4. Good luck to Locky Morrison on his move to Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Gc. Locky is well known throughout the section having worked at Mapledurham GC for the past three years.

Lastly because of the poor turnouts at golfing events this year all golf days will be subsidised to keep the cost of the day down. This will take effect from the spring tournament 1996. Hopefully this will encourage more people to play.

If you have any comments with regards to this decision then please come along to the AGM in December. This takes place after the Turkey Trot at Frilford Heath.

Lindsay T. Anderson



The rise of the CLUB MECHANIC

The Club Mechanic is becoming an increasingly important member of a staff at golf clubs

How many clubs rely on a mechanically minded greenkeeper to get a machine back on the fairway when it falters? As often happens, the result of his efforts is your man covered from head to foot in axle grease and the machine still immobile. The dealer would then be called and "a man who can" despatched to administer whatever assistance was required.

All this time the stricken machine would lie idle, an unsightly reminder of an important job not completed.

Nowadays many clubs are "insuring" themselves against such a scenario by employing their own mechanics and it is a policy which looks to pay dividends.

One such course is Greetham Valley, near Oakham in Rutland, where Steve Randall has recently taken up the post of Club Mechanic in charge of the club's £200,000 worth of equipment.

"It is brilliant. Having a mechanic gives you so much peace of mind. You can relax knowing that when you turn the key it will start. It's



STEVE RANDALL:
'I'm a big believer in preventative maintenance'

great having Steve about," said Adrian Porter, Head Greenkeeper.

"We have such a lot of machinery it is easier to have an on site mechanic to keep it maintained so that it all runs smoothly. It keeps cost to a minimum because you don't have the yearly expenditure of expensive mechanics.

"Normally if something broke down on the course you just had to leave it, ring up and get mechanics out. It wasn't always the case that the mechanic could come out that day.

"There have been cases that they could come out in an hour or bring you another machine but it could be a day or even two days to come out."

Steve (46) worked for a main Toro dealer in

Leicester before taking the job at Greetham Valley.

"I had been with them for nine years as a mechanic working on all Toro greens machines. I gave it a lot of thought before joining a golf club but decided I would like to get out there in the field," explained Steve.

"I was the other side of the story, going out to golf clubs to repair machinery. I found the clubs were getting young chaps to learn mechanics on these golf courses which is a slow process so we were losing work with clubs doing their own."

It could be an expensive business for a golf club which tries to take short cuts instead of using qualified people.

"On numerous occasions we would find that people had tried to do the jobs themselves. I remember one particular time where it cost the club nearly £2,000 to put it right because someone had put something together incorrectly. If that happened on two or three different jobs over the year it would be very costly."

Like all good mechanics Steve doesn't just sit in his workshop waiting for a machine to start playing up.

"I'm a big believer in preventative maintenance. If a bearing is even thinking about



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The rise of the CLUB MECHANIC

wearing out I'll order a new one, run the original until it is nearly ready to give in then replace it right away," explained Steve who is also not averse to helping out the greenkeeping staff if they are pushed and he has some free time.

"I work with the operators so they will let me know if there are any problems. Machines are serviced for oil and filter change after 100 hours usage. But if we have had a really dusty season, like the last one, I'd try to do it every 50 hours. I don't mind putting oil in them.

He is quick to stress the importance of good operators and how that can prolong the life of machines.

"Steve has come in and told operators certain way to leave the machines when they are not being used and that is helping prevent any damage in future. When starting up don't have it on high revs for too long drop lit straight back down to tick over. Basic things that generally you'd probably forget," said Adrian (26).

"He can do the servicing on a day when the machine is not being used and you don't really notice it," he added.

There are other benefits to a golf club and its members to having a club mechanic.

"Hopefully in the future we shall be able to take business from another golf course if they want machines regrinding and we have the facilities to do it or even assist members who want mowers repairing – it can be done for a set fee. We've got 800 members and they've all got lawns to cut. It will help to finance the building up of the workshop. That is what is in the pipeline," said Adrian.

The cost of fitting out that workshop is not quite as expensive as you might imagine.

"I did a rough price check for kitting out the workshop by ringing round different places for machines. We have kept it down as much as we could on prices etc and I don't think we've done too badly. We shall obviously add to it as we go on.

"It has cost around £7,000 to equip the workshop to a state of usability which when you compare it to a triplex or fairway mower, which can cost around £30,000, you can see how reasonable it is," said Steve, who has also brought much of his own equipment with him.

"I have a lot of my own hydraulic testing equipment and electric testing equipment. If a situation arose where we didn't have the piece of kit required to do the job I think we would



The Greatham Valley team with Robert Hinch (third left) who, together with his father Frank, own the club. Steve Randall is pictured extreme left and Adrian Porter, Head Greenkeeper, is extreme right

probably buy the kit because we wouldn't want to be in the position of sending the machinery out and if we were to need it once chances are we would need it again some time."

The growth of the Club Mechanic will perhaps need a change of thinking by some manufacturers as Steve has discovered.

"If you are a main dealer you can tap on to available information but the manufacturers are a bit loath to give information to a golf club mechanic.

If you go on a training course as a main dealer you get the full training course right through but if you go as a golf course mechanic you just get the basics on how to change the oil and grease it. That is basically it at the end of the day. With the advent of the golf course mechanic this is bound to change though. It has got to," commented Steve.

Another situation which will require clarification is that of manufacture warranties on equipment and whether main dealers would be required to service them to maintain the warranty's validity.

"It's a situation we've not come across but we would have to make sure that the warranty wasn't affected," said Adrian.

Overall, however, the benefits of the Club Mechanic are there to be seen and ensure that

machinery is kept performing at its optimum level.

"Anything that is due to break down tend to get seen to before it does break down so you get rid of all these problems. Greenkeepers with mechanical skills I would imagine would just be trained to fix it when it does break-down. You're not a trouble shooter whereas Steve can find out all problems," explained Adrian.

■ So what do the major companies do by way of training for use in their equipment? Greenkeeper International surveyed what's available...

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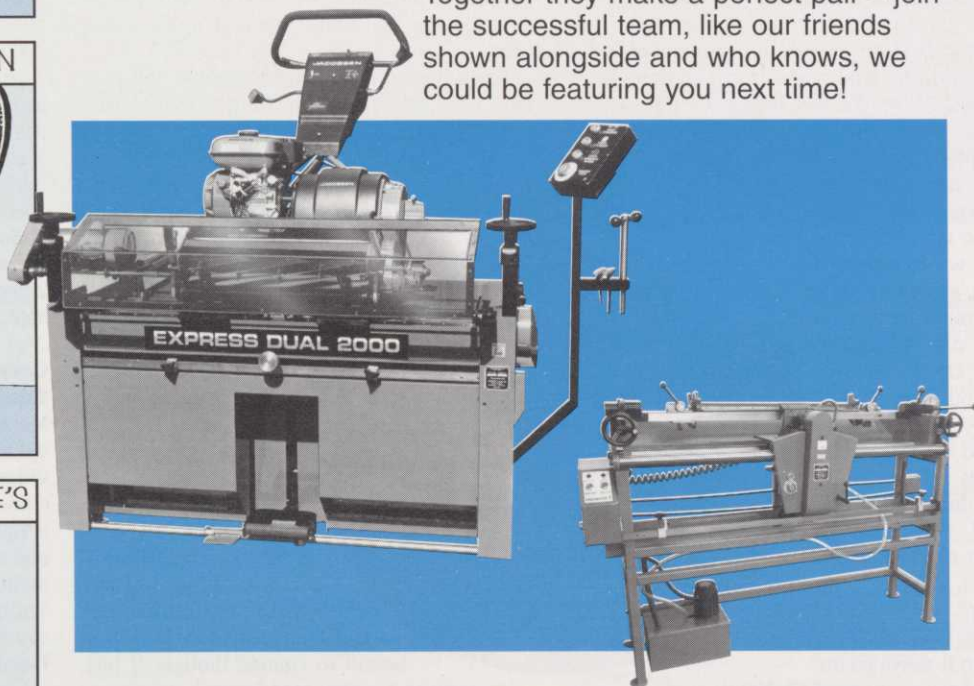
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The rise of the CLUB MECHANIC



John Deere Ltd

Manuals: Operator and technical manuals.
Videos: F1145 Operator Safety Video.
Training Courses: Available at the golf course or at their training facility at Langar. They include installation and safe operation, cutting units and adjustments and a two day course for golf course mechanics/greenkeepers.
Helpline Number: 01949 863204 or 863244.
Richard Charleton or Ivan Miller.

Hardi Ltd

Manuals: Sent out with each machine.
Videos: Available on machine operation.
Training Courses: In association with the dealer network or special training with BIGGA sections on request.
Helpline Number: 01455 233811 or 0831 430025 R.W. Oliver (Amenity Manager).

Kubota UK Ltd

Manuals: WSM available by ordering from dealer.
Videos: Can be loaned on request.
Training Courses: Can be arranged on request to regional sales manager or dealer staff.
Helpline Number: 0184421 4500 Ext 229.

Hayter Ltd

Manuals: Operator and workshop manuals, coloured maintenance charts, maintenance check list and maintenance schedules.
Videos: Just started producing safety and operator videos.
Training Courses: Four day Dealer mechanic courses, End user mechanic courses, basic maintenance courses, operator courses, safety courses.
Helpline Number: 01279 723444.

Charterhouse Turf Machinery

Manuals: Complete manuals available for all products.
Training Courses: Can be arranged for suitable parties.
Helpline Number: 01428 661222.

Ransomes Sims and Jefferies Ltd

Manuals: Operator, Parts and Service manuals.
Videos: Product Presentation Videos.
Training Courses: Service training courses held annually at the Ipswich factory for all professional equipment users.
Helpline Number: 01473 276443 Mike Prentice for service training or 01473 276286 Nigel Church for sales information.

New Holland UK Ltd

Manuals: Operator, Service/Repair and Parts manuals for all models available through New Holland dealers.
Training Courses: Operation and daily maintenance procedures.
Helpline Number: 01268 292573 - Peter Bray.

Huxley's Grass Machinery Ltd

Manuals: Operator and Parts manuals supplied with all new machines.
Training Courses: An in-house Training Centre for regular customer and dealer training.
Helpline Number: 01962 733222 - Ray Chant, Service Manager.

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Massey Ferguson

Manuals: Operator instruction books.
Training Courses: BIGGA training courses covering safety and critical tractor maintenance at key greenkeeper training colleges. Customer training on site and at in house company training centre.
Helpline Number: 01203 851243.

The job I'm always glad to see the back of is...



"Clearing leaves from ditches"

- Kevin Peace, Inverurie GC

IRRIGATION SYSTEM'S Toughest test

In March 1994 we reported on Head Greenkeeper Alistair Cale's route to installing a new irrigation system. How did he and Ifield GC cope with this summer's drought conditions?

This year's severe drought has tested irrigation systems at every club in the country to the full and, coupled with the general lack of water, has seen many greenkeepers faced with severe problems in preventing their courses from burning up.

With that in mind we returned to Ifield GC, where in March of

last year we published an article with Head Greenkeeper Alastair Cale on the installation of a new irrigation system, to find out how they had coped with the harshest of examinations.

"I said in the article at the time that only time would tell if I'd made the right decision," said Head Greenkeeper Alastair Cale, who had purchased a Heron (also known as HHI Electronics) controller with Hunter pop-ups installed by local Sussex company Flanderblade.

"All I can say is that I'm absolutely delighted with the irrigation system we have," said 31

year-old Alastair.

"Over the summer I heard some horror stories from some clubs which had far more expensive systems than ours but we didn't have any problems."

"I know that I took a gamble going with Heron because I didn't know them but I visited the factory and got references from others who had a system – mainly horticultural people – and went with them. The object was to get value for money and I feel that we achieved that while at the same time not losing out on efficiency."

The system was installed in the

winter of last year and the weather did cause a few problems.

"The cable laying took place in late February and March but the pipe laying around the greens didn't begin until early April and it was held up because it still hadn't stopped raining," recalled Alastair.

The original article explained how Alastair had gone about preparing a report for his committee outlining what could be achieved by way of a new irrigation system on a limited budget.

"To compile the report we got a couple of the leading irrigation

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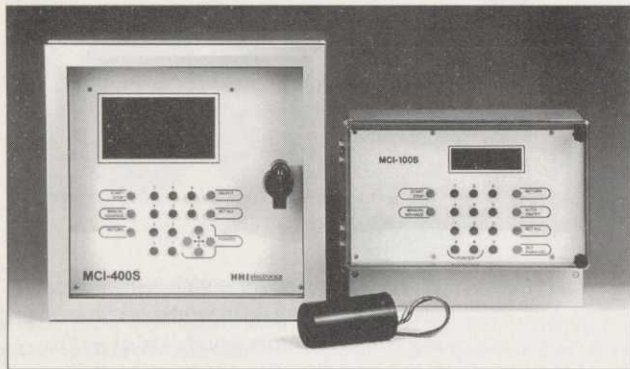
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Ifield also saved water and

IRRIGATION SYSTEM'S Toughest test

companies to come and give us their opinions of our watering system and to brief the committee members about irrigation systems in general. We also went down to Ham Manor (where Alistair had been an assistant) so I could show a committee member what we'd done and he talked to the secretary. I also asked a lot of greenkeepers I knew in the area who had parkland courses what sort of pop-ups they were using impact or gear driven. I got demonstrations of different types of pop-ups and over a period of about three months we began to

form the basis of a report." explained Alastair in the original piece.

The Heron MCI 100S controller, that was eventually agreed upon has been a roaring success.

"It has proved to be reliable, simple to use and very versatile – apart from a lightning strike in the first two months.

"David Carter from Heron came to replace the controller and they have since up-graded the lightning protection for all their controllers."

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cut down on their water charges by high spot watering

Alistair Cale in his 'pump room'



Alastair doesn't feel he has lost out.

"The only thing I would say is that the diagnostics are not quite as good as you would get on a more expensive model – but if they go wrong you still have to call out an electrician," he commented.

"The biggest problem you can get with a system is that the decoders are not reliable but I have not had a de-coder go down in all the time I have had the system.

He has also been impressed by the versatility of the de-coder.

"I can make a complete change in the order of pop-ups in a couple of minutes while I can water sections of the course in parallel and didn't need originally to wire up a zones on the course."

In the original piece Alastair described how they presented a 10 page report to the committee.

"It was decided we would do 12 greens this year, the remain-

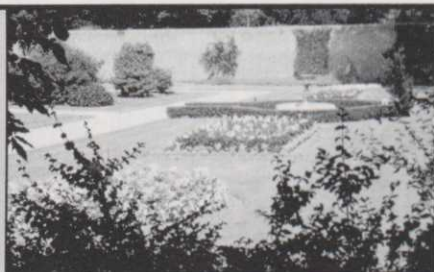
der and a few tees next year and the following year we'd finish off the tees and do the approaches. We'd do the cabling this year; we've already put our pump in so we've got the pressure and the flow rate to cope with the extra sprinklers on the greens."

"When we did the other six greens we changed the Hunter I 41s we had originally put on the greens and put them on the tees while we put I43s on the greens – the reason being that the I43s turn a lot faster.

The fact that the club got such

a good deal on its system allowed them to move further down their phased installation than they had originally hoped.

"We have already done all the greens, including the practice putting green, 12 tees, had a new controller, up-graded the pump-



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ing system and re-wired the course for well under £30,000," explained Alastair.

Ifield also saved water and cut down on their water charges by high spot watering with a hose and with wetting agents.

"We used a spray to spot treat dry patch with non burning wet-

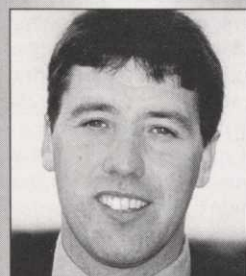
ting agent which was put on by a hand lance from our Cushman sprayer," said Alastair.

"We also verti drained the greens with half inch tines to a depth of three inches which left no surface damage or heave from the verti drain. This helped cut down the use of wetting agent.

We did this four times in the height of the drought."

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"Divotting"

- Gerry Byrne, Luttrellstown Castle G&CC

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Duncan McGilvray concludes his series on the role of the Course Manager by looking at the hoary subject of communication

Many if not all the problems we come up against in our jobs as greenkeepers can be blamed fairly and squarely on the distinct lack of communication of information.

As a teenage Apprentice Greenkeeper I remember top dressing greens which took six men three days to complete!

I knew something was wrong because at a time when we were working our hardest the golfers seemed to complain the most about what we were doing!

Why? The simple answer was that in the golfer's eyes we were making putting surfaces much worse than they were before we started (in the short term anyway) so who can blame them.

They did not know why we were doing this job because it had not been communicated to them.

Now, some 25 years later, I have to say that the situation has changed very little – all the effort has gone into getting the job done as quickly and as efficiently as possible so that the golfer is inconvenienced as little as possible which is commendable but little or no effective advance has been made in explaining the very necessary work of the greenkeeper which I believe is vital in securing the future of our profession.

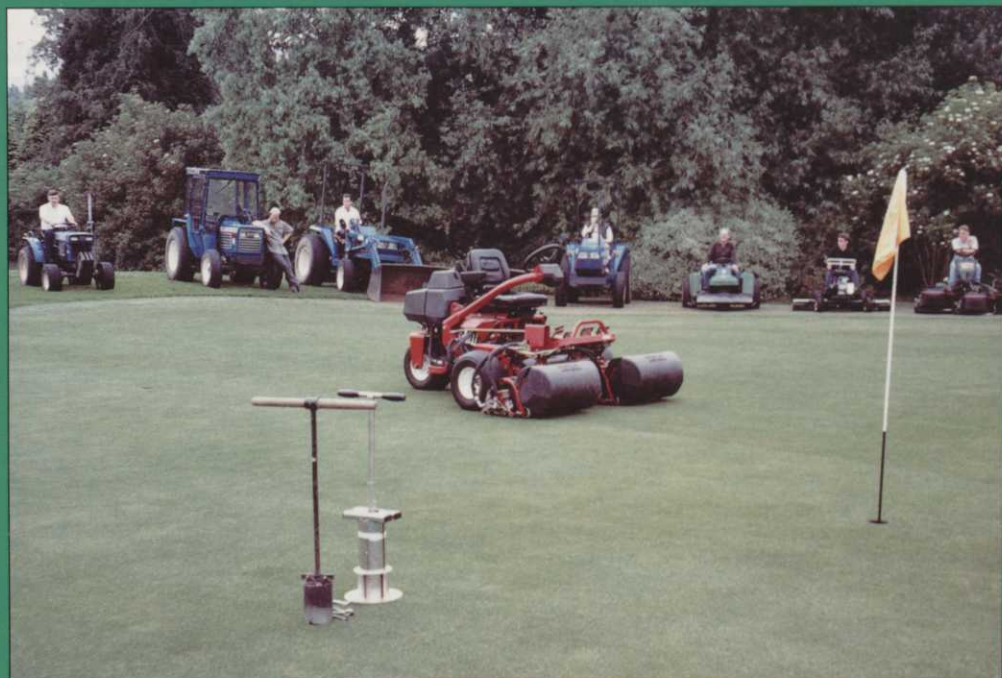
I use the top dressing scenario as an instance – all the tasks on the golf course require explanation from the most general question, e.g. "How often do you cut greens?" to the more detailed analogy "Why do you dig the greens up just when you've got them right?"

The days of hiding away in some distant corner of the golf course when questions are being asked are long gone. Today's Course Managers are required to be excellent communicators and must communicate effectively at all levels.

I fervently believe that it makes our job easier in the long term if we continue to try to "get the message across".

ENDEAVOURING AT ALL TIMES TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

The average private members' golf club probably has around 500 – 1000 members, is controlled by an elected General/ Management Committee of say 10 – 15 people, has various Sub-Committees of which one will be for the course, e.g. Course/Liaison/Green Committee of say three – seven people.



Ready for the off: Greenstaff and equipment prepare for course information evening, for members' information

KEEPING EVERYONE INFORMED

The club will have a Ladies' Section, a Seniors' Section, a Juniors' Section and in some instances an Artisans' Section.

But only one golf course! So how can you possibly communicate with all those people? With extreme difficulty is the answer but we have to if we are to be in any way effective in maintaining and improving upon present golf course conditions.

One thing I have learned over my years as a greenkeeper is that anything worthwhile is not achieved easily and that is certainly the case with effective communication. The subject must be tackled from many different directions with a common goal in mind – accurate information to the member.

Not only that but the whole system has to be monitored and reviewed periodically to assess if it is actually achieving the objectives set. If it is not we must be

prepared to change and improve the system – it is no good proclaiming that "the members never read the noticeboard". That is accepting that you have failed to communicate.

I have come across five main areas of communication and these are as follows:

Official Communication

The Course Manager's presence at appropriate Committee meetings to convey all aspects of the maintenance work involved, present schedules and programmes, etc. for approval, and be able to answer questions. The development and publishing of a Golf Course Management Policy Document to ensure continuity on all golf course matters. Appropriate regular management meetings with the overall Head of Staff (usually the Secretary) to assist in his/her role as a channel of information to Committee and members.

Direct Written Communication

Monthly Course Reports by the Course Manager on detailed observations, progress, expectations on all areas of the golf course as well as general information on staff, etc. which are presented to the relevant Committee and once approved are posted for member information. Winter/Spring Renovation/ Autumn Renovation Programmes once approved should also be posted. Internal magazines and newsletters as well as simple A4 large print notices of impending work on the course can be distributed on tables throughout the bar.

Direct General Communication

Presentations by the Course Manager to the members on subjects ranging from "What's wrong with the golf course and what we are going to do to put it right" to "How much it costs to maintain Augusta National in comparison

KEEPING EVERYONE INFORMED

to our own golf course" followed by question and answer sessions.

Smaller presentations by the Course Manager to sections of the Club (25 - 30 people maximum) on various subjects. This is a better way to develop two-way communication because the emphasis is placed on discussion and not lecture and much is learned by all concerned (and that includes the Course Manager).

General Communication

A large area must be made available in a prominent area of the Clubhouse for Course Information to post reports, programmes and schedules and any other relevant information.

It is important that this area is up-dated regularly and kept "fresh" to keep interest. Illustrated drawings and photographs are an excellent way of attracting attention and should be used as often as possible.

Videos both professionally produced, e.g. the BIGGA career video and home-made on subjects such as course etiquette, can also keep the subjects interesting.

Public Relations/Semi-Social Communication

Staff golf matches against different sections of the club and even the Committee. Visits to the workshops by Committee and members to look behind the scenes. These two measures bring the rest of the greenstaff into the equation as well as the Course Manager which is important.

Having lunch in the Clubhouse periodically and playing golf with members to a small degree help us to understand and get over individual views in an amicable way.

Using all these different ways of communicating will "get the message across" better than previously and the membership will begin to understand what we are trying to achieve on the golf course. After all, we all want the same thing - a well maintained, well presented golf course of which we we can all be proud.

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE STAFF AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The last and vitally important responsibility of every Course Manager is basic safety. With the assistance of the Health & Safety

Executive, the local Authorities and the many competent safety consultants working within the industry, this area is not so frightening as once it was.

The one piece of advice which I can pass on is to contact the relevant authority first and request assistance in setting safe systems in place and not waiting until they come knocking on your door.

In this way you are demonstrating your commitment to ensuring safe standards of work in your workplace and also ensuring a good future working relationship with the relevant authority.

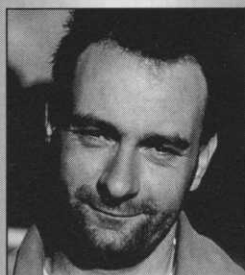
■ *During the course of this series of articles I have had some feedback regarding content. Some destructive but mostly constructive.*

One point which has been made is "It's okay for these big money 36/54 hole complexes and golf clubs which can afford these highly trained Course Managers but we are just a 9/18 hole private member's club - we can't afford a Course Manager" or even "We don't need a Course Manager".

My answer to that is - you cannot afford not to employ a fully trained Course Manager. It is he/she who will analyse/assess what you have and devise efficient systems which will ensure that money is not wasted.

I would guarantee in the long term you will enjoy a better maintained and presented golf course and therefore a more contented membership for the money available - that is after all what efficient management is all about.

The job I'm always glad to see the back of is...



"Putting in drainage ditches"

- Richard Gamble
Aldwark Manor

A big thank you

May I take this opportunity to thank all those BIGGA members who formed the Walker Cup Support Team for their help in the preparation of the course.

Your efforts were much appreciated by both Royal Porthcawl and myself.

David Ward
Course Manager
Royal Porthcawl GC

In search of age record

I am writing to you to see if you can find out how old the youngest Head Greenkeeper in Britain is.

I am 18 years-old and a Head Greenkeeper on an 18 hole private course - Sandilands GC in Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire. I have just finished my National Certificate at Elmwood College and have been greenkeeping since I was 12.

If you could do this for me I would be very grateful indeed.

James North
Sandilands GC

■ *Editor's Note: Our investigations suggest that as you were born on December 18, 1976 you are the youngest Head Greenkeeper in BIGGA. However if we are wrong we'd be delighted to hear from anyone younger.*

The job I'm always glad to see the back of is...



"Hollow coring"

- Glenn Millar
Ullesthorpe GC

Send letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF or fax them on 01347 838864

Tournament magic

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody at BIGGA Headquarters for the marvellous two days I enjoyed at the West Lancashire GC competing in the Hayter Challenge. I thought that the tournament was extremely well organised and it was a great honour to take part.

The kindness and hospitality shown by the golf club was also of a very high standard, as was the setting and the condition of the golf course - which was a credit to the greenstaff.

I would also like to thank our sponsor Hayter for making everything possible and I am most grateful to them for such a fine competition. I'm sure everybody who took part would agree with these comments and will look forward to next year's tournament, hoping they are fortunate to qualify again.

Antony Bindley
Kirby Muxloe GC

Peter Alliss' explanation appreciated

The following was first published in Golf Weekly magazine:

May I publicly thank Peter Alliss on behalf of greenkeepers, Chairmen of green committees and Club Secretaries for his invaluable assistance while commenting on the Walker Cup. For many weeks we have been trying to explain to members why the grass is being lost on the greens only to be met with disbelief and accusations of poor greenkeeping practices.

Alliss' explanation of Take All Disease will hopefully make the many doubters realise that this problem is totally outside the control of greenstaff and is a direct result of weather conditions.

Mike Penny
Secretary
Worlebury GC, Avon

■ *Editor's Note: Peter Alliss was provided with information regarding the disease of the Royal Porthcawl greens by BIGGA.*

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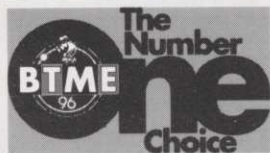
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Write down the names of the three ads where the £50 notes are located and send your entries on a postcard to: Note the Notes Competition, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF, to be received by first post Friday November 17, 1995. The first correct entry drawn after that date will win £50. It could be YOU! Enter today – and Note the Notes!

Judges' decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff.

★ Many congratulations go to Roy Freeman, First Assistant at Tadmarton Heath Golf Club – he's the lucky £50 winner of last month's competition. Get searching straight away and who knows, it could be YOU getting the big money next month!

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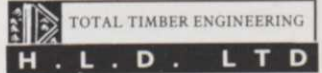
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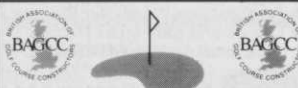
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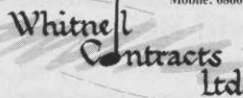


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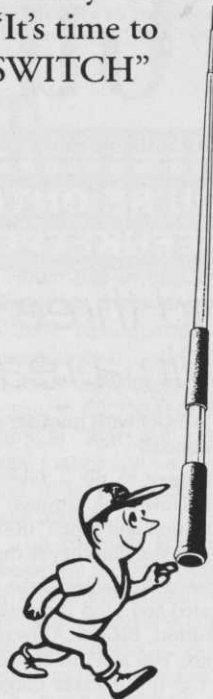
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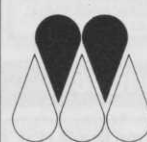
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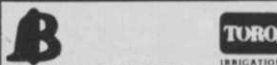


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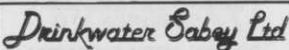


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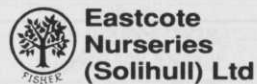
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The position requires calling on Golf Courses, Football/Cricket Clubs where grass is used for sport, and selling fertilisers, pesticides, grass seeds etc. Full product training will be given. Salary is commensurate with experience. A company car will be provided.

Apply in writing to:

**Mr David Atkinson, Director, County Crops Limited,
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Oxley Park Golf Club

Invite applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

for an 18 hole parkland course

The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of course management and preparation.

He/she must have appropriate greenkeeping qualifications and possess the necessary management and supervisory skills to enthusiastically lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes, work within budgetary controls and maintain Health & Safety requirements.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

All applications will be treated in strictest confidence and should be made to:

**The Secretary
Oxley Park Golf Club Limited
Bushbury, Wolverhampton WV16 6DE**



EFFINGHAM GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of:

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have suitable experience in all aspects of course management, machinery maintenance and irrigation systems.

Accommodation available. Applications in writing to:

**Peter Broadbent (Course Manager), Effingham Golf Club,
Guildford Road, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5PZ**



Chorley Wood Golf Club

Require

YOUNG SEMI/QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Capable of taking full responsibility in Head Greenkeeper's absence.

Apply in writing with CV to:

**G. P. Giles, Secretary, Chorley Wood Golf Club, Common Road,
Chorley Wood, Herts WD3 5LN**

Chalfont Park Golf Club

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants to have at least two years practical experience
- BIGGA rates plus.

No accommodation available.

Write or telephone to:

**Chalfont Park Golf Club, Threehouseholds, Chalfont St Giles,
Bucks HP8 4LW. Tel: 01494 871277.**



**The North Shore
Golf Club**
Skegness, Lincs
requires a

QUALIFIED HEAD GREENKEEPER

for its 18 hole long established very popular course.

The successful candidate will have a working knowledge of maintenance of links as well as parkland, and be experienced in personnel leadership, motivation, irrigation, turf maintenance and machine maintenance.

Applications in writing with full CV including current salary to:

**The Company Secretary, Mitchell Leisure Inv. Ltd., Skegness Pier,
Grand Parade, Skegness, Lincs PE25 2UE**

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Elsham Golf Club

(Est 1901)

Invite applications from Head Greenkeepers for the position of:

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be suitably qualified, experienced and self motivated with proven ability in organising and carrying out work programmes, preparing and working to budgets and working to Health and Safety requirements.

A sound and practical knowledge of automatic irrigation systems and the use of greenkeeping machinery is also required. The ability to enthusiastically lead, motivate and organise an established team of greenstaff is essential.

Accommodation may be available and salary by negotiation.

Applications in own handwriting with full CV to:

B. P. Nazer, Manager
Elsham Golf Club, Elsham
Nr. Brigg, South Humberside DN20 0LS



ASSISTANT COURSE MANAGER

The Duke of Roxburghe has commissioned an 18 hole championship standard golf course at Sunlaws House Hotel near Kelso designed by Dave Thomas to USGA Specification and due to open in 1997.

An Assistant Course Manager is required in February 1996. Applicants must hold suitable qualifications and have had direct experience in bringing a new golf course into play.

Attractive remuneration package offered including modernised house.

Please apply in writing enclosing CV to:
RE Jackson FRICS, Roxburghe Estates Office, Kelso,
Roxburghshire TD5 7SF

Muswell Hill Golf Club

requires a

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should possess relevant qualifications, and have at least 3-4 years experience of Turf Management and the use and maintenance of modern golf course machinery.

Applications with CV and current salary by 23rd November 1995 to:

The Secretary
Muswell Hill Golf Club, Rhodes Avenue, London N22 4UT

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Golf Compact Service (GCS)
Jacqueline Mitchell, Am Weinberg 30
D-14547 Stuecken, Germany. Fax: 0049-33204-42432



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Gem Professional is the leading manufacturer of turf dressings and fertilisers in the UK and an attractive package will apply.

Please apply in writing to:

AW Hardie, Sales Director, Gem Professional, Brookside Lane, Oswaldtwistle, Accrington BB5 3NY

Sudbury Golf Club

wish to appoint a

COURSE MANAGER

Applications are invited from persons of proven ability with appropriate qualifications and experience who possess the necessary management and supervisory skills to lead and motivate an enthusiastic team, prepare and monitor budgets and work programmes and maintain health and safety requirements. A knowledge in the use and maintenance of modern machinery and irrigation systems will also be required.

A first class salary and package is available for exceptional candidates.

Apply in writing with full details of qualifications and experience to:

**The General Manager
Sudury Golf Club, Bridgewater Road,
Wembley, Middlesex HA0 1AL**

Aberdour Golf Club

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

for its popular and picturesque 18-hole course on the shore of the River Forth and celebrating its Centenary in 1996.

Applicants must have:

- Recognised qualifications
- Sound practical experience
- Leadership skills and the ability to manage and motivate staff
- Ambition to succeed.

The Club has:

- three other qualified greenkeepers plus a trainee
- an extensive range of modern machinery and irrigation systems
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Applications marked "Confidential" to:

**J J Train, Secretary, Aberdour Golf Club,
Seaside Place, Aberdour, Fife KY3 0TX**

Telephone: 01383 860080

Closing date: 4 December 1995

Golf Club Darmstadt Traisa/Germany

requires

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Picturesque 9 hole course 20 miles south of Frankfurt in Central Germany.

We require a qualified greenkeeper experienced in all aspects of turf and machinery maintenance with the ability to manage, control and motivate staff.

Salary and conditions negotiable.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary
Golf-Club Darmstadt Traisa
Am Dippelshof 1 A
64367 Mühlthal/Germany**

Fax: 01049 6151 148521



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If you have relevant experience and would enjoy working alongside our students in maintenance tasks, please contact Mrs Rosemary Todd (Personnel) for further details and an application form at Merrist Wood College, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE, telephone 01483 232424.

Closing date for application forms: Friday, 10th November 1995.

Merrist Wood College is an exempt charity providing further and higher education.

Rule by Committee or Too many chiefs...

Once upon a time in the long long ago far away to the West where the ocean meets the land, God made a links course. Down through the ages it lay disturbed only by the cries of the sea birds and the bite of the ocean gales until at last man found it and marked out its tees, fairways, greens and bunkers. Golf was played on its open spaces and in time a castle was built beside it. In that country a castle was known as a Clubhouse and there a King ruled for one year at a time. The courtiers too could change each year and so it went on year after year, with the well-meaning but ignorant courtiers instructing the well-meaning but ignorant peasants in the care of the course.

All went well for many years as the Kings, their courtiers and the local townspeople enjoyed playing golf but gradually as the course was discovered by others and time went by problems began to appear – compaction, disease and dry patch. Some years the weather and the feet of Man took their toll, some years the weather was kind and the course seemed fair, but hidden problems still remained!

At last the courtiers decided to do something about it. They had heard that there were Wise Men who went to College to study such problems and after visits by several of them they asked one Wise Man to come and care for their course. They assured him that the Treasury held gold and jewels enough

to do whatsoever should be needed to put things right.

At first all went well. The Wise Man took some of the gold and jewels and bought tools to help him work. Another peasant was engaged to work on the course and he sent one of the peasants to the College so that, in time, he too could become a Wise Man.

Then one day the courtiers announced that the Castle Ballroom needed refurbishing and great was the excitement. Carpenters, painters and decorators were engaged and the great work was undertaken. Opinions varied as to the end result but all agreed that the new Ballroom made the Banqueting Hall look shabby. Perhaps it too could be refurbished?

'No, no, he was told, there is no treasure left...'

Meanwhile on the course the Wise Man needed more of the gold and jewels to care for his charge. No, no, he was told, there is no treasure left! You must wait until there is more in the Treasury. But growth and the weather will not wait said the Wise Man and tried again to remind the courtiers that he had been promised gold and jewels to spend on the Course. Well, well, one said, perhaps you should not have been told that!

Sadly the Wise Man tried to do his best for the

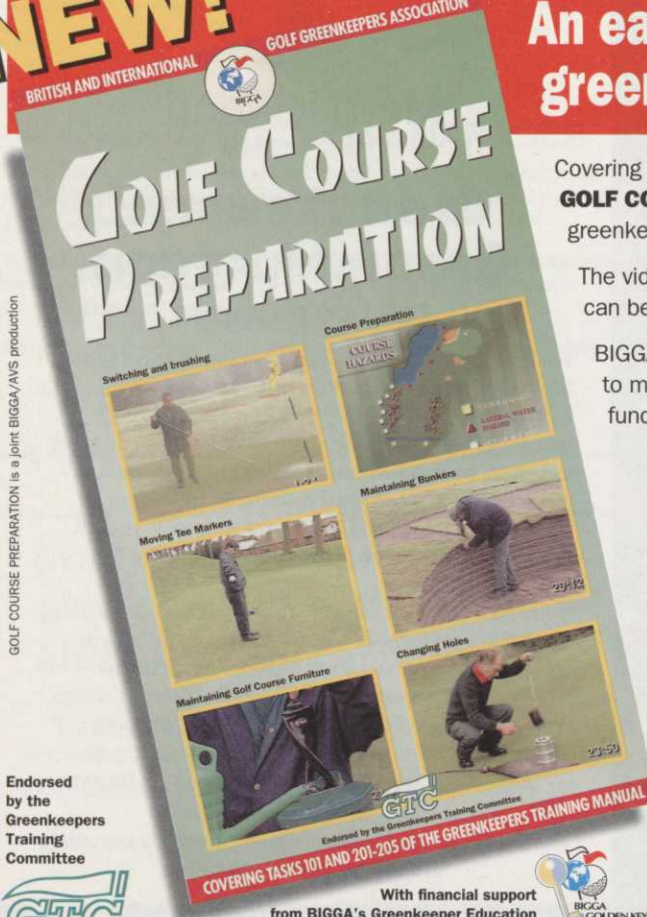
Course without the gold and jewels but it was an uphill struggle. The weather too seemed to have turned against him and even the peasants who were sympathetic told him it was no use to fret as the courtiers had always done things their own way and always would. They had even paid the other Wise Men to visit in the past and these learned fellows had written long reports telling the courtiers what should be done, but their wise words had been ignored.

The courtiers did not want the Wise Man to think that they did not care for their Course so one after the other they told him their own ideas as to what they thought should be done. Sometimes the ideas were reasonable and sometimes they were not. When they were not the Wise Man told them so and this made him very unpopular as the courtiers had always before been able to tell the peasants what to do. At last they could stand it no longer and they went to the Wise Man and told him that he could either mount his horse and ride into the sunset or they would banish him from the kingdom. Being a Wise Man (and not having been in the Kingdom for two years!) the Wise Man sadly and angrily rode away. He looked back at the beautiful natural course left to the mercy of ignorance and backwardness and wondered what its fate would be.

"Giving a Wise Man to that Kingdom was like giving a computer to Grandma Moses," he thought.

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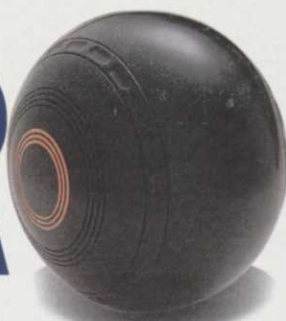


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