

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.