

## LETTERS

### Sensible way to tackle winter greens

In reply to September issue's article on winter greens I write in support of Richard Barker's views on the subject.

My experience of heavy land and annual meadow grass greens is to protect them for as long as possible in winter. Theoretically in January, February and March you should play winter greens but a very wet autumn can force greenkeepers onto winter greens earlier. A mild spell can allow full greens back in play but in winter drying out is slow.

Our programme is to go on to winter greens when forced to in December and stay on until mid-March. Any faults must be agreed on at the February green committee meeting and acted on in the last two weeks in March. This is to help plan for next winter.

I agree with the large hole cups and also on the good tee mats. Golfers never agree on anything and have to be led through skilled leadership to winter greens. When the decision is between closure and winter greens they prefer winter greens. Richard is right. He is not too cautious and I fully support him. April can also be a wintry month while May can be cold and dry.

The aim must be for better surfaces in the spring when we return to main greens.

Richard's approach is correct and sensible. Well done and keep it up.

**Bruce Burnell**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Eaglescliffe GC, Co Durham.

### Open thanks

On behalf of St Andrews Links Trust I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all BIGGA members involved with the tournament for their invaluable assistance which was greatly appreciated. Their contribution combined with the efforts of our own greenkeeping staff played no small part in the resounding success of this major event.

**Ian A. Forbes**  
Links Manager  
St Andrews Links Trust

# Magnificent

**Eight finalists have been chosen for the final of the Toro/PGA European Tour Student of the year.**

The interview panel has returned from its far reaching travels and as Loyd Grossman says "deliberated, cogitated and consulted" – or I think that's what he says – and come up with eight finalists for the 1995 edition Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

Such was the standard discovered within the 33 entries interviewed over five arduous days that Pete Mansfield, General Manager of Toro Lely UK, Dean Cleaver, Chairman of BIGGA's education sub-committee and Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer decided to activate the three wild cards they had their disposal to bring the final total up to a maximum of eight.

The finalists will gather at Aldwark Manor on October 8 and 9 where they will again be put under the microscope with the aim of determining the man, for they are all men, who will succeed Euan Grant the 1994 winner.

As is usually the case with something which requires more than the conventional level of effort the rewards for the winner, and indeed the runners-up, more than compensate.

The 1995 Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year will win the Toro Scholarship which includes a six week residential turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts in January/February '96. There will also be visits to the Toro Company headquarters in Minneapolis and the Toro Irrigation Division in California and possibly a visit to the GCSAA Show in Orlando. All expenses will be met by the sponsors.

The two runners-up will join the PGA European Tour at two Volvo Tour venues just prior to and during a tournament and they will be invited to the PGA European Tour's Greenkeeping Conference, held every two years.

The overall winner's senior greenkeeping tutor will also be offered a place on the BIGGA trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida.



#### **MARTIN BOND**

**Representing: Scotland**  
**Age: 35 College: Elmwood.**

A major career change saw Martin move from the stock market to greenkeeping in 1993. When he became 1st assistant at the prestigious London Golf Club where he was involved from the construction, seeding and growing in period right through to the grand opening. It was while at the London Club that he first attended Elmwood when he completed a Scotvec National Certificate in Greenkeeping on block release. He has now decided to return to college full time to study the HND in Golf Course Management.

A keen interest in sport sees Martin, who is married with two children, playing off an impressive 7 handicap and enjoying such other pursuits as skiing, fishing and rugby.

#### **RICHARD MILLS**

**Representing: Northern**  
**Age: 23 College: Askham Bryan**

A 3 handicap golfer who has represented the East Riding of Yorkshire Richard is also a member at the club at which he is an assistant, Ganstead Park. At Ganstead Richard has been involved in the major work which has gone along with extending the course from 9 to 18 holes including planting

3,000 trees and building four large lakes.

Away from the golf course he is also a talented rugby league player playing for Skirlaugh ARLFC and representing Hull Schools.

#### **CHAS CAMPEN**

**Representing: Midland**  
**Age: 28 College: Cambridge**  
**College of Agriculture and Horticulture**

Chas has been learning at the feet of the master since he began greenkeeping three years ago as his boss, at Orton Meadows in Peterborough, David Walden, is the current Miracle (Zeneca) Greenkeeper of the Year. David is heavily involved in the training of greenkeepers and he can point to Chas as a star pupil.

Married with two children Chas also has national honours to his name as the 1980 National Junior Model Flying Radio Controlled Plane Champion.

Before entering greenkeeping he worked for a landscaping company for nine years reaching the position of foreman and experience from that career has helped him in his greenkeeping studies.

He also did a year's diesel fitting course at college and learned skills useful in the maintenance of greenkeeping machinery.