

## AROUND THE GREEN

entry forms for the competitions contact Dave Wells - 01702 522202. Dennis Smith is hoping to organise a coach to the Cromer meeting departing from Southend then moving up through the region. Anyone interested should contact Dennis (Parker Hart).

Finally if you are thinking of playing in a competition beyond the East Anglia section take note. Always make sure you have a national or a BIGGA handicap. A young greenkeeper from our section competed in the National Tournament at St Annes Old Links and produced a storming final round, including a hole-in-one, to win the major prize. Or he would have done had he had an official handicap. Unfortunately he was playing off an unofficial handicap given to him by one of his former bosses two years ago and the organisers had no option but to disqualify him. He did, however, win a prize and a bottle of whisky for his "Nearest the Pin" hole-in-one so he was able to drown his sorrows. The three cards, and excellent they were too, he completed were also sent on to our competition secretary so he will have a BIGGA handicap for next time.

Stephen Millard

**Kent**

I mentioned last month that the Birchwood Park golf day would be on September 25. This is wrong. The correct date is Wednesday September 27. We have the tee booked from 8.30am then again from 2.30pm with dinner being served from 7.30pm onwards. Steve Johnstone will have to confirm numbers two weeks prior to the day so it is important that you all return your booking slips along with all money as soon as possible. I have also been informed that Birchwood's Head Greenkeeper Neil Carter is moving on and that his number two Mark Drake is taking over. Congratulations and good luck to both of them.

Prompted by an inquiry from Tenterden GC the Kent section has decided to organise a one day First Aid Course. These have been very successful in the past so prompt booking will be advisable once all the details have been sorted out. We have also decided to try and organise a day trip to France which will include a round of golf, dinner and either ferry or rail crossing. If you are possibly interested please let me know.

Richard Page

# Removing barriers to help potential golfers

I have just read with interest your piece "Small is beautiful" and agree entirely with the content.

The article asks "So where can the young and, indeed, the old learn the game" and also quotes: "There is nowhere in this country where a beginner can feel comfortable and have all the facilities available to become handicapped golfers."

- Well now there is!

Since opening a 24 bay golf driving range in 1992, we became aware of a gap in the market that was not being catered for, and we have addressed this problem with our new nine hole Academy course which opened last month. Designed specifically as a short course by Martin Hawtree of golf course architects Hawtree, and with greens constructed to USGA specifications to allow play year round, it is, we believe, the first course of its kind in Britain - not necessarily in construction terms, but in concept.

We are committed to removing the barriers in front of prospective golfers, whether young, old, male or female. What we offer is Golf for All - somewhere for all the family to play, but this is not your average Pitch & Putt either as we attract many club golfers and professionals.

The site and indeed the course is small - built on only seven acres) but our investment in this development is not. Architect designed and supervised throughout construction by a reputable contractor, fully drained and with full greens irrigation all that is missing is yardage or fairway. We have two full time greens staff looking after the course and what we lose in quantity we aim to gain in quality.

This is a new and alternative concept in golf in the United Kingdom

**David Moss**  
Proprietor  
Adlington Golf Centre  
Macclesfield

## Feet on the ground

Regarding the article on "Ditching the relics of the past - say Americans" in the July issue you asked, do you feel the title "greenkeeper" is insufficient for today's responsibilities? To some extent this is true. But let's not get carried away with the notion that everything in the garden is rosy. A lot of this thinking comes from the colleges which fill students' heads with thoughts of big pays, fancy titles and big budgets. Well for most of us it is not like that. There are many greenkeepers in Britain - approximately 10,000 - and out of these how many earn more than the average wage? Not many.

Let me finish by saying that BIGGA has made big strides, as has greenkeeping. But let's not get carried away with ourselves. Golf clubs dictate to us what our wages and conditions are. So we can call ourselves Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers... whatever we like but in reality we have a long way to go before the word "greenkeeper" will be obscured from Britain's golf courses.

**Duncan Peddie**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Alloa GC

## Oz connections

I am working on Pinehurst No 2 course through a programme organised by Ohio University. I used to work as a demonstrator/sales rep for Andrews of Sunningdale, then Gibbs of Bedford, selling Ransomes and Kubota around the London area.

While working on the course a few weeks ago I met a group of Australian superintendents who were doing a tour of the States.

John P. Odell, Superintendent of Royal Sidney GC told me that Gary Miller, who used to work at

Stoke Poges GC in Bucks was killed in a boating accident at the beginning of 1995. John wondered if anyone knew him back in England.

He was also interested in organising an England/Australian Superintendent Exchange Holiday.

If you are interested or could help in any way contact the Australian equivalent of BIGGA or John P. Odell himself at Kent Rd, Rose Bay, NSW 2029. Fax: 02 371 5024.

**Peter Morrison**  
Pinehurst, North Carolina, USA

## Vote of thanks

On behalf of everybody at St Andrews Links, I would like to thank all the BIGGA members for their valuable contribution to the 1995 Open. Their presence provided confidence with the knowledge that support would be available in any circumstance.

On a personal note, I was very proud to be part of an association which has progressed in such a dramatic fashion over the years and is such a credit to the Board Members and staff.

**Walter Woods**  
St Andrews Links Supervisor

The **BEST** piece of **ADVICE** I ever received



**Duncan McGilvray,**  
Course Manager at  
Letchworth GC:  
"You can't  
succeed as a  
manager if you  
don't create an atmosphere  
in which people wish to  
motivate themselves."