

## Another 'Oscar' for BIGGA magazine

BIGGA's prestigious monthly magazine *Greenkeeper International* has again been praised in a trade journals competition, winning a Certificate of Merit award in the Magazine of the Year category against stiff competition.

It is the third year in a row that the magazine has collected an

accolade, this year at a regional awards ceremony in Manchester.

Judges were looking for editorial excellence and high standards of design, and with *Greenkeeper International* they were impressed with the direct way the magazine addressed its target audience. "Clearly it is giv-

ing readers what they want," said one judge. "Its pagination and paper quality give it a 'feel good' factor and a bright, lively cover adds to a favourable first impression. Any readership survey is likely to confirm that the magazine provides its specialist subscribers with a jolly good read."



# Space age arrives in Loch Lomond

Loch Lomond Golf Club has found a novel way to create a dry environment to drill greens when the Scottish weather is not being too cooperative.

A huge bubble, large enough to cover an entire green and inflated by a giant fan, arrived at the club at the beginning of February and has allowed Course Superintendent Ken Siems and his staff to work on greens in dry conditions.

At up to 10 feet high the bubble is large enough for a tractor to drive inside the bubble. Known as the Liquid Sod Growing Dome it is 500 metres square in size and was produced by Jesse Johnson, of Liquid Sod.

"It really has made a huge dif-

ference to what we have been able to do on the course," explained Ken, who is preparing for the Loch Lomond World Invitational on the PGA European Tour in September.

"We can take it down and erect it in three and a half hours so we are able to move it around quite easily."

The Loch Lomond bubble is the first to have been put into active, commercial, service although prototypes were tested at the London Golf Club, Stamford Bridge – home of Chelsea FC and one of the courts at the All England Tennis Club at Wimbledon.

"They were really tests to see if the air pressure could hold the

dome up and test the lightweight plastic."

The bubble is weighed down at the sides by water ballast and the whole structure is held together by powerful velcro, allowing it to be reduced or extended in size. It is also strong enough for a man to walk over.

As well as the ability to heat, the Dome can also be used in areas where the main aim is to keep an area cool by having a water mist going through the fan.

"The Dome will withstand up to 35 mile an hour winds and we can make them up to 30,000 square metres in size – about seven and a half acres," explained Jesse.

## HAYTER CHALLENGE

# Players continue to be named

Last month we announced that Derek McJannet, Alexander Reid, Ian Buckley and Brian Mulholland would be representing the four home countries in the inaugural Hayter International Cup at West Lincs Golf Club on September 16.

This month we can announce the names of the first international competitors to confirm their attendance.

The GCSAA element of the The Americas team will comprise: Paul McGinnis, GCSAA Vice President; George Renault III, GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer; Gary Grigg, GCSAA Immediate Past President; Randy Nichols, Cherokee Town and Country Club, Atlanta Georgia; Jim Dusch, Atlanta National GC, Alpharetta, Georgia and Sam Williamson, Ojai Valley Inn and Country Club, Ojai, California. The non-playing captain will be Bruce Williams, the GCSAA President, while Steve Mona, GCSAA Chief Executive Officer will also attend.

The Canadian element of the team will comprise Thom Charters, Robert Heron, Doug Meyer and Dean Morrison.

Other competitors will be announced as the event draws nearer.

With many bringing wives or partners to support their team a "Ryder Cup" atmosphere is guaranteed!

The first of the Section qualifiers for the Hayter Challenge are currently being played. Any newsworthy events should be sent to Scott MacCallum at Headquarters for inclusion in the Hayter column.

The final will be played at Fairhaven on September 18.