

As I see it...

BY DEAN CLEAVER
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

Since becoming Chairman in January I've travelled up and down the length of the country and I've often been asked by members why don't I have a regular piece in the magazine.

Well, in response to that I will now have a regular column in *Greenkeeper International* and I am looking forward to sharing with you a few of the experiences I have during my year in office and my thoughts on some of the matters which concern us all as greenkeepers.

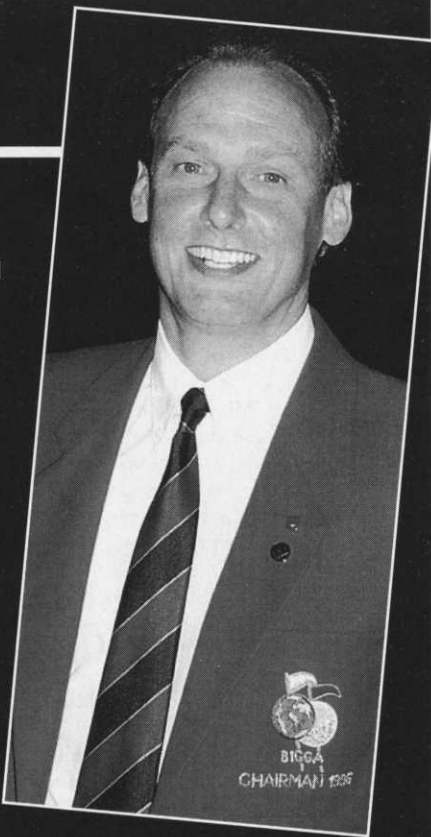
In the past month I've had the pleasure of attending two Hayter Regional Finals. My visit to Royal Aberdeen, where Sam Morrison and his team do a wonderful job, was my fourth visit north of the border since January and as ever the hospitality was second to none. Benton Hall, which unfortunately I was unable to play but which looked superb, was my first visit to the South East Region.

It was also the first chance I had to meet our new Sales and Marketing Manager James McEvoy. I am sure he is going to be a superb addition to the staff and I hope that you will support him in the many new ideas he will bring to the Association.

The June Board Meeting was further proof of the success of the new Constitution with the reduced board working well. It also marked the first meeting for new Board member David Milbourne – another good signing!

It's hard to believe that we are already in June. Looking at my first six months, a high point has been the success of FEGGA – the Federation of European Golf Greenkeeper Associations – and I was honoured to be elected Chairman. FEGGA's success will be a major step forward for the industry.

This month I am looking forward to The Open at Royal Lytham and St Annes and I would like to take this opportunity to wish Jimmy MacDonald and his team every success for the week.



NEWS



Peter Bell rings the Jacobsen changes

Jacobsen E-Z-GO's new General Manager has not taken long to get up to speed in his new role.

In the few weeks since taking over the chair in the company's Kettering office vacated by Rene Orban, who moved to Kubota, Peter Bell, pictured, has already initiated a number of new marketing activities including the "you won't have to pay 'Whole in One'" scheme, based on Ford Motor Company's Options plan, which gives flexible finance options on the LF 3810 fairway mower.

"I have joined Jacobsen at a

very exciting time as our new European operation takes shape. I am one of a team of people committed to confirming Jacobsen's position as a global player in the market place," said Peter, who joined Jacobsen from his previous position as Sales Director of Karcher.

"Our traditional market sector has become exceedingly competitive and I think it is important to look to new opportunities that exist for our product range across a wide variety of market sectors."

Greenkeeper wins Duke's top award

Warren Jones, assistant at Northenden GC in Manchester, has just achieved his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Among the activities 25 year-old Warren did to achieve the prestigious award were abseiling, working at a local hospital, working backstage with a drama group, undertaking an expedition to Snowdonia and attending a three week outward bound

course in the Lake District.

He also won a competition to build a raft which was then used to win a race against another group.

Warren received his award from the Duke of Edinburgh at St James's Palace.



Fatigue is a terrible thing... Particularly on the golf course. Colin Montgomerie blamed it on his final hole slumps in the English Open and no doubt the US Open. Had he been fresh he might have had both these titles in his locker and his bank balance would have swelled by another half a million. But he was overgolferd.

Now spare a thought for Kim Macfie. If anyone has a right to feel overgolferd it's Kim, and it happens at the same time every year. Come the Hayter Regional Finals Kim dusts off his Pings, climbs into his spikes and he's off, like Mel Gibson in Braveheart, into battle.

Last month he was there, partnering Harry Diamond against Dean Cleaver and son Hamish – just before his wedding – at



Prize winners at Benton Hall

Royal Aberdeen. Days later he carried the Editor to a historic Scottish victory at Benton Hall in South East Region over the two "new boys" James McEvoy and David Briggs, of BIGGA and Hayter respectively. A win

avenged two weeks later at Wembley. The fact that it was David's first ever full round of golf had no bearing on the result, particularly as it was only poor putting which prevented him from winning the opening hole.

With barely a moments rest Kim was on to Salisbury & South Wilts for another match this time in the company of John Pemberton of BIGGA. By now tiredness was kicking in and Kim just couldn't carry his aching body beyond the 9th green and had to seek sanctuary in the bar.

● The Macfie tartan was in evidence at the wedding of Hamish Macfie and Dawn in Hertfordshire at the beginning of June. No doubt they're just back from their honeymoon. In Barbados! Lucky pair. Congratulations from all at BIGGA Headquarters.



Topic for everyone on Greens day

Around 150 attended the Greens day of the Sisis Grounds and Greens 1996 Seminar at Murrayfield last month.

They were treated to a well balanced programme of speakers who covered subjects as varied as course construction in southern Europe, the name game, ecology, aeration and work on the Old Course.

The morning session was kicked off by Bill Elwood, Grounds Manager at Murrayfield Stadium who described the changes which have turned Scotland's national rugby stadium from good to one of the foremost and most magnificent sports arenas in Britain.

David Lucas, Golf Course Consultant, talked on "Building and Growing on Courses in Southern Europe" based on his experiences in a number of countries, including Greece.

The advantages of such work are the weather but the down side was that there was limited machinery, staff were not golfing orientated and materials were hard to come by.

Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager at Letchworth Golf Club, spoke on "Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager – What's in a Name". He said that the public perception of a Head Greenkeeper was a man in overalls holding a rake while a Course Manager was seen as wearing a blazer and tie. The Course Manager is seen to be a supervisor, planner, delegator, trainer and decision maker while the Head Greenkeeper was seen as someone who cuts grass or someone who supervises others to cut grass.

Anthony Davies, Head Greenkeeper at Prestbury Golf Club and one of the country's Master Greenkeepers, talked on "Golf Course

Ecology" and talked of how, as part of the club's ecology programme he had felled trees on the course which had not originally been on the course but grown up over the years and how natural plants had returned, including broom and bluebells. He explained how he stockpiled decaying trees rather than removed them because they provided food for woodland creatures.

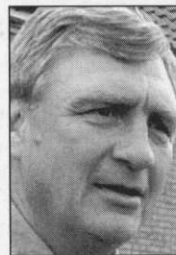
After lunch during which delegates had time to visit the exhibition stands outside the stadium, Steve Isaac, Scottish Regional Agronomist for the STRI, spoke on "Aeration – The Foundation of Turf Management" and outlined the problems which developed from not instigating a policy of regular aeration including hollow tining and slitting.

Eddie Adam, Head Greenkeeper on the Old Course St Andrews, gave a highly amusing and informative talk on "Keeping the Old Course Up to Scratch". He explained that for the 99 holes at St Andrews there were 42 greenstaff and on the Old Course itself there were nine full time staff including himself and 12 OAP divot fillers.

He said that it took two years to prepare for an Open Championship and two years to recover fully from it and described the work done on revetting some of the 112 bunkers on the course one of which, Shell Bunker, took 6,000 turfs and a month to complete.

Exhibitors included Richard Aitken, Alletts, Barenbrug, Briggs & Stratton, Ifor Williams, Jacobsen, Kubota, Levington, Lloyds, Miracle Professional, Mommersteeg, Prime Watermen, Rhône Poulenc, Rigby Taylor, Ruffords, Sisis, Souters, Stewarts, STS and Tildenet.

Rugby fame of new man



The second employed Regional Administrator, who will take up his position in the Midland Region next month, is a man who may be known to rugby union followers up and down the country.

Peter Larter, who comes to the Regional Administrator post having served in the RAF for over 34 years achieving the rank of Squadron Leader, played for England for six years and was a member of the British Lions touring party to South Africa in 1968.

On the golf front, he has played representative golf within the RAF and been a single figure player since 1971. He was also responsible for the construction and development of the RAF Henlow Golf Club.

His rugby administration experience is vast and includes membership of the English Rugby Football Union Full Committee while he is currently Chairman of the Laws Advisory Panel and a member of the National Playing sub-committee, a Midlands Division selector and on the General Committee of Northampton, who have just returned to Courage League Division One after winning every match on their brief visit to Division 2.

"I am looking forward to working for BIGGA and getting to know, and helping whenever possible, the greenkeepers within the Midland Region," said Peter, who lives near Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire.



Scottish National Tournament winners – and their silverware

Tournament an example of links golf at its very best

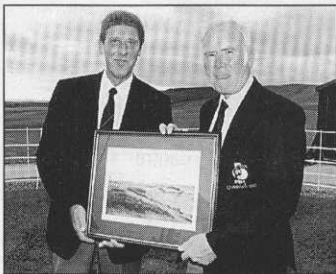
Golf Club House, Elie, was the venue for a wonderful Scottish National Tournament last month and was an opportunity to play links golf at its absolute best.

The course was in magnificent condition thanks to Head Greenkeeper Brian Lawrie and his team and the weather meant that, with no wind, the main problem for the competitors was coping with the hard, lightning fast greens – slippery as an Elie, I suppose you could say.

An excellent turnout of around 80, including many members of the trade, took to the 1st tee – which is notable because of the huge periscope which enables the starter to see when the fairway is clear – and were faced by many excellent and memorable holes including some right down by the water's edge.

Scottish Region Chairman Sam Morrison presented Walter Woods with a picture...of Turnberry, in recognition of all the work Walter had done for Scottish greenkeeping. (Elliott Small was quick to point out that the Turnberry picture was to complete Walter's set).

On a sour note the day was



Sam Morrison presents Walter Woods with a picture of Turnberry

marred for two of the competitors, James Manuel and Michael Lindsay, who had their clubs stolen from the front of the clubhouse. It is a common problem in the area at the moment, apparently.

"I would like to pay special thanks to our patrons. Not only do they support us but they even come along and suffer with us. We appreciate all their support all through the year," said Elliott Small, Scottish Regional Administrator.

Sam Morrison paid tribute to the quality of the golf course as well as the magnificent food and the excellent service provided by Chef Brian McCusker and his wife, the Club Mistress Frances.

The prizes were presented by

the Club secretary Sandy Sneddon.

Results

- SGGA Challenge Cup (Best Scratch). Gary Tough, Carnoustie, 73.
- Friendship Trophy (Best Nett). Sean Jaffray, Strathmore, 68.
- BIGGA Challenge Bowl (Best Head Greenkeeper) Stuart Taylor, Glasgow, 74-4-71.
- M&M Trophy (Best Assistant) James Sievwright, Auchterarder, 76-5-71.
- Souter Trophy (Best Apprentice) Sharon Lawrie, Elie, 93-19-74.
- SIGGA Trophy (Best Veteran) Walter Woods, St Andrews, 78-5-73.
- Ransomes Trophy (Cat 1) 1. Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 74-4-70, 2. Iain MacLeod, Tain, 75-4-71, 3. Gordon Kerr, Gleddoch, 81-8-73.
- Pattison Trophy (Cat 2) 1. Gordon McKie, St Andrews, 83-11-72, 2. Barry Cameron, Inverurie, 84-10-74, 3. Kenneth Smith, Scotsraig, 87-13-74.
- STRI Trophy (Cat 3) 1. Robert Hogarth, Innerleithen, 89-19-70, 2. Colin Scott, Glasgow, 92-19-73, Wilson Morrison, Alford, 91-18-73.
- Trade Prize. Stewart Aird, Souters, 89-23-66
- St Mungo Trophy. North Section A new trophy was presented in memory of Norrie Whytock, formerly Scottish Region Sales Manager for Rhone Poulenc.
- Norrie Whytock Memorial Trophy. 1. North Section Team 212, Kevin Peace, Barry Cameron and Sean Jaffray. 2. Central Section Team, 223, Brian Lawrie, Archie Dunn and Stuart Smith.

FLYING DIVOTS



■ IPU has appointed of Sue Hadden, pictured above, to co-ordinate areas of the company's development programme. This new position has been created as a result of the addition to IPU's product range of Hoaf and Weed Wand chemical free-weed control equipment, plus the SubAir underground aeration system.

Commenting on the appointment, Managing Director, Robert Beebee said, "In the present trading conditions, our customer base is very important to us. We have to ensure that all the lines of communication run smoothly and this will be part of Sue's role."

■ The English Golf Union has relocated to its new headquarters at the National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire and can be contacted at: The National Golf Centre, The Broadway, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, LN10 6PU Tel: 01526 354500 Fax: 01526 354020.

■ Carol Dutton, Senior Advertising Executive on *Greenkeeper International*, and one of the longest serving members of the BIGGA staff, is leaving the Association.

Carol, who has been with BIGGA for five years, is to take up a position with the Yorkshire Post group of newspapers and magazines.

"I will miss all the friends I have made within the greenkeeping industry but felt that this new opportunity was one not to be passed over," said Carol.

"Carol's drive, enthusiasm, and selling ability has been a major factor in the success of *Greenkeeper International* over the years and she will be sadly missed," said Executive Director, Neil Thomas. "I join everyone at Aldwark Manor in wishing her every success for the future."

Accolade for Hayter mower

After being nominated by readers of a trade magazine, for inclusion in its annual product awards, the Hayter Double 3 mower won "Best of the Pedestrian Category" and went on to be judged "Best Product of 1996".

The Double 3 machine impressed the judges with its ability to either mow, with side discharge, collect in 88 litre grassbag and mulch extremely effectively. Coupled with its robustness, finish of cut, ease of use and its attractive price of £529 made the machine a clear winner.

Primarily designed for the domestic market the Double 3 has a very firm following in the contractor/local authority market.

Portuguese greenkeeper scoops NVQ award

Cannington College Student Francisco Bello has recently become the first Portuguese Greenkeeper to achieved NVQ Level 2 in Greenkeeping and PA1 and PA2A FEPA Spraying certification after completing a two year block release course at Cannington.

Francisco, a National Portuguese Rugby Player, whose promising career was curtailed due to a car accident had to find a new vocational career. He opted to take a course in Golf Greenkeeping but was unable to find a course at a Portuguese College.

Cannington was the only College to responded positively to his enquiries. The excellent greenkeeping resources developed at Cannington enabled the college to provide practical experience and the theoretical elements required of the NVQ, at the same time support was

provided to help Francisco overcome the language barriers.

Francisco has now returned to Portugal and is employed on a short term contract with a golf course irrigation company while seeking permanent employment within the Portuguese Golf industry.

Students take steps in the right direction

A total of 13 First Assistants, Deputies and one Head Greenkeeper are easing their way towards NVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Supervisory Course at a series of classes at Oaklands College at St Albans.

The group, with Duncan McGilvray as tutor/mentor, learn to understand the language of NVQs, build and develop a portfolio of evidence to achieve the Level 3 award and understand the other factors which have an influence on managing a golf course.

To assist, guest speakers including other Course Managers, Secretaries, Architects, Agronomists, the Trade, BIGGA, EGU and the GTC give talks.

Among the other activities have been mock Green Committee meetings, comprising other Course Managers, at which appeals for more staff and more machinery are made.

The course was designed with the help of two university professors and is aimed at greenkeepers who already have the experience to achieve level 3 but require the portfolio of evidence.



The Oakland College students, with Duncan McGilvray, front row, second left

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