

A BIGGA retrospective

Roger Robinson has been involved in BIGGA since its inception and is well placed to measure the Association's progress since then.

It has always been essential in an organisation to be looking and planning ahead. The world of golf gets larger and larger, entailing change so that skilful management with commitment is necessary to move with the times and succeed. I believe BIGGA has achieved much and is progressive in outlook.

Why am I writing this piece? I was asked by the R&A to represent them at the first official meetings held in York and participated actively in the events leading up to the formation of BIGGA. I was delighted to accept the invitation to be a Trustee which appointment I have held until the AGM this year. Despite my opening comments I feel this is an occasion especially for the benefit of more newly joined members, to reflect upon what has been achieved to date often under difficult circumstances.

Neil Thomas faced a daunting task when first appointed operating from one room courtesy of the STRI at Bingley. The early days were not at all easy but gradually the organisation was put together and the move to premises at Aldwark Manor was very significant.



At that time other golfing organisations offered to help accommodate BIGGA but I believe the right decision was taken to retain the independence of separate premises.

It has been encouraging to see the progress achieved though, as Neil would agree, there were at least a couple of hairy moments. However with the recent undoubted success of

BTME, the excellent Greenkeeper International magazine and, most of all, the large membership there is now a firm platform.

Attitudes within golf clubs are notoriously hard to change. In my belief the golf course is the main product, desirable though it is of course, to have all the other facilities at optimum level. Many golfers have travelled extensively to America, Spain and Portugal and all are aware of standards being set, albeit often with large budgets. Nevertheless I feel that it is coming home more and more to clubs that members and visitors expect high standards for their courses and all year play as far as possible. If my premise is correct this must make the case for the need for the professional skills of BIGGA members.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with BIGGA making many friends in the process. I speak for the R&A as well as personally in congratulating BIGGA on reaching its present position and wishing further success. I would say to the BIGGA membership, do please support your Chairman, Board of Management, Executive Director and Staff. They work long and hard for you.

May I also pay tribute to your President – Viscount Whitelaw – who has contributed so much to your cause since the inception.

Good luck and success to BIGGA.

Experience 'Reel' savings and make your course a 'Cut' above the rest

- Arkley Golf Club
- Ashbourne Golf Club
- Ashbury Golf Club
- Beadlow Manor Golf & Country Club
- Braintree Golf Club
- Bramley Golf Club
- Caldby Golf Club
- Carnoustie Golf Links
- Carvoeiro Golf SA (Algarve)
- Cavendish Golf Club
- Cawdor Golf Club
- Charleslands Leisure (Co. Wicklow)
- Clitheroe Golf Club
- Collingtree Leisure
- Cottesmore Golf & Country Club
- Crompton & Royton Golf Club

- Delapre Golf Complex
- Eaton Golf Club
- Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club
- Glenanglo Hotel
- Goring & Streetley Golf Club
- Harpenden Golf Club
- Harrow School Golf Club
- Hellidon Lakes Golf & Country Club
- Hirsell Golf Club
- Kinross (Green Hotel)
- Leasowe Golf Club
- Leek Golf Club
- Lingfield Park
- Lymm Golf Club
- Malone Golf Club
- Masserene Golf Club

- Mere Golf & Country Club
- Milltown Golf Club (Dublin)
- Mold Golf Club
- Mount Murray Golf Club (IOM)
- Muirfield (Gullane) Golf Club
- Nairn Golf Club
- Newbury & Crookham Golf Club
- Newcastle-under-Lyme Golf Club
- Omonde Fields Golf Club
- Pittdown Golf Club
- Pineridge Golf Club
- Ponteland Golf Club
- Preston Golf Club
- Ramsdale Hall Golf Club
- Rowlands Castle Golf Club
- Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club

- Royal Dornoch Golf Club
- Royal Liverpool Golf Club
- Royston Golf Club
- Rye Golf Club
- St Andrews Links Trust
- Sherborne Golf Club
- Staley Hall Golf & Country Club
- South Moor Golf Club
- Taunton & Pickering Golf Club
- Tehidy Park Golf Course
- Telford Golf Club
- Temple Golf Club
- The Berkshire Golf Club
- The Vale Golf & Country Club
- The Wymyard Club
- Torquay Golf Club

- Turnberry Hotel
 - Tyneside Golf Club
 - Wellingborough Golf Club
 - West Herts Golf Club
 - West Sussex Golf Club
 - Whitecraigs Golf Club
 - Worpleston Golf Club
 - Wanstead Golf Club
- NEW CUSTOMERS:
- Brookmans Park Golf Club
 - Inverurie Golf Club
 - Mannings Heath Golf Club
 - North Foreland Golf Club
 - Reykjavik Golf Club (Iceland)
 - Royal West Norfolk Golf Club
 - The Roxburgh Golf Course

Jupiter.
42" capacity
Mower
Cylinder and
Bottom
Blade
Grinding
Machine.
A truly
'precision'
grinder, built
to last half a
century.
Used and
preferred by
Professionals.



SATISFIED CUSTOMERS:

"Every forward thinking Golf Club should have a Juno in their workshop, a truly excellent machine." Mr. Mark Jones, Head Greenkeeper, Preston Golf Club.

"Hunter's relief grinding is far superior to anything I have ever seen, each blade cuts true, the savings are substantial and the cost is minimal." Mr. Roger Shaw, Course Manager, Ramsdale Hall Golf & CC, Co Durham.

"Our sole plates/bottom blades are now lasting between 2-3 times longer than when we were spin grinding." Mr. Philip Baldock, Head Greenkeeper, The Royal Portrush Golf Club, County Antrim.

"It is the best piece of machinery this course has ever invested in, a fine machine that I would recommend to anyone." Mr. John Bashford, Head Greenkeeper of the Green Hotel Golf Course, The Kinross Estate.

"A quality machine that gives a superb finish to our cylinders, and saves money." Mr. Derek Green, Head Greenkeeper of Royal Liverpool Golf Club.



Juno 36". Will accommodate every make and type of professional cutting cylinder and bedknife. Can 'in-situ' grind many greensmower reels. Water cooled (eliminates dust and heat), simple and fast to use, accurate 'relief angle' grinder.

YES! All these clubs are breathing a big sigh of 'Relief' – let us tell you why!

With our unique and accurate 'Relief angle' grinding method which: ● Reduces contact between cylinder and bedknife (blades can last up to four times longer) ● Reduces drag which means less friction, less fuel, less problems, less maintenance ● Makes cutting units easier to 'set' ● Blades cut cleaner and stay sharp longer.

But the biggest 'relief' is cutting service costs, reducing downtime and improving standards.



**ERIC HUNTER
GRINDERS LTD**

HOBSON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
BURNOPFIELD,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE16 6EB.
TEL: (01207) 270316 FAX: (01207) 270312