

Rescue mission for golf lady and a lake

A tale from the lakeside by Roy Hudson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Lambourne GC.

It was on a freezing day of January that a regular playing member had the misfortune of losing grip on her trusty 7-iron only to see it flying towards the middle of the 4th and 10th lake.

To her surprise the club had, somehow, landed vertically and was visible just below the surface of the water but out of reach.

"Who do you call?!..."

Without a single Ghostbuster in sight, one of Lambourne's greenkeepers was soon at the scene and was briefed on the situation.

After assessing the situation Justin Winslade soon realised that he had only one option. Tossing his trousers lakeside he entered the cold, murky, trout infested depths of the lake.

It has since been rumoured by colleagues that Mr Winslade has been approached to appear in a new TV drama based on the American TV series 'Baywatch'. A spokesman for the new show said that "Lakewatch" has already been attracting interest from teenagers and greenkeepers alike.

We are now proud to announce that, after recent first aid training, the 7-iron was successfully resuscitated and was recently seen back in play!

Well done Just!

No. 1 seed

Keith Galley, the new head of Force Limagrain, will take responsibility for all UK developers and business based at the company's UK Headquarters at Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire.

The company trades exclusively as a supplier of quality seeds to the agricultural, amenity and allied industries. The UK operation now forms part of Force Limagrain West, the division also includes France, Southern Ireland, Luxembourg, Belgium and Switzerland.

"As Europe's largest plant breeding company we see the UK as one of our key markets," commented Keith. "We aim to be the number one supplier of seed for all crops in which we specialise."

NEWS



■ Winchester Garden Machinery marked its 25th year in the domestic and professional grass machinery business in January, by signing with John Deere Limited as a Roberine dealer.

The Hampshire-based company was started by dealer principal Robin Nettle and partner Andrew John Hoskings, primarily selling domestic equipment, and moved into the specialist golf and turf market 10 years ago. Coincidentally, John Deere celebrates the 10th anniversary of its grounds care equipment business in the UK and Ireland this year. Our picture shows the Roberine dealer signing.

■ Deere and Company has reported record first quarter net income of \$166.2 million or \$0.63 per share for the quarter ended January 31, an increase of 20 per cent compared with 1995 first quarter net income of \$138.4 million or \$0.53 per share.

Results of both the equipment and financial services operations improved compared with a year ago, reflecting the continued strong retail demand in most of the company's major markets.

Wentworth in £41,000 theft

Thieves have pounced on one of the country's top golf courses and made off with £35,000 worth of computerised weather station equipment and a set of two way radios

Ironically the equipment, taken from The Wentworth Club in Surrey, will be of no use to the thieves.

"It was specially made for Wentworth four years ago and the information on it will be useless to anyone else,"

explained Course Manager Chris Kennedy.

A replacement computer is currently being built by IBM for Toro in America and although it is fortunate that it is not as important in the winter it is depriving Chris and his staff of weather information which assists with the maintenance of the three Wentworth courses.

"Fortunately we still have all the master disks required for the computer," added Chris.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ John Merriman, formerly Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Bridgedown GC, has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Batchworth Park GC in Herts.

■ Dartmouth Golf and Country Club which hosted the 1994 National Tournament, has been bought by Vine Developments. The Club had been in receivership for a time prior to the sale and Head Greenkeeper Terry Farkins had a positive reaction from the new owners. "They see the golf course as their biggest asset," he explained.

■ Alan Walton, for four years Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Sennelager GC in Germany, has been appointed head Greenkeeper at Golf Club Hechingen-Hohenzollern between Stuttgart and the Swiss border.

■ Dr Jim Beard will be in the country in May and he is keen to acquire any old Sutton/Carter books. Could anyone who can help please contact Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ.

■ Weed Free Bracknell have changed their contact address to Unit 12, Lindenhill Road, Bracknell, Berks, RG42 1UT Tel: 07000 481011 Fax: 07000 481022.

■ Mist Irrigation System Controls Ltd has incorporated Macpenny-Cameron into the company. The acquisition provides a manufacturing facility enabling the company to produce control systems to suit customer requirements, and ensures a full back up, after sales and service by highly trained engineers. Anyone needing help or advice with Cameron or other irrigation equipment should call Mist Irrigation Tel: 01425 474614.

■ Margaret Beckett, Shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Chy Chuanheng of the Chinese National Parks Association, will open Horticulture Industries 1996 at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, in June.

Tribute to Richard Aitken Senior

It is with a sad heart that I write this obituary to Richard Aitken Senior. Dick, as he was known throughout Scotland, started his long career as a representative for Austin and McAuslans. I first remember him in 1947 when he did his calls by bus, train and walking. None of the reps in these days had cars. Dick though he was lucky if he made more than two calls a day then. He served throughout the war in the Army and saw action in France and Belgium. On returning he again took up with Austin and McAuslan.

It was always a pleasure to get a quarterly visit from Dick. We never considered that he was there to sell, it was more like a visit from an old friend who brought with him the news from the other golf clubs. I never remember him pressing for an

order and whether or not he got one he never seemed upset. I used to make remarks about his car. He would look aghast and say the price it cost, as if it belonged to someone else. He was never presumptuous. Dick Aitken never changed. He was the same quite man I knew 50 years ago.

In 1963 Dick went into business for himself opening up a place in Waterloo Street in Glasgow. From there he never looked back. He took his son Richard into partnership and they moved to more roomy premises in Stockwell Place. Finally they moved to new purpose-built premises in Harmony Row, Govan, where anyone could see Dick in his office anytime they called – he had time for everyone. His Seeds and Fertilisers and golf course supplies business expanded to the whole of

Scotland and the North of England.

I am sure in his latter years he was a very proud man although he never showed it. It was a sad day for Dick when he lost his wife after a long illness five years ago. He retired about three years ago, living a quiet life at home until he was hospitalised, where he died on Friday, February 2, aged 84.

I am sure greenkeepers all over Scotland and England will feel that with Dick Aitken's passing another era in greenkeeping has passed. At this time in his family's grief our sincere condolences go to all his family especially to his son Richard, his daughter Grace and their families. I know I speak for many when I say "Goodbye old friend, until we meet on that big golf course in the sky".

Cecil George

Fundraising efforts pay off for Matthew

Matthew Fell, the son of Tiller's Turf's Tim Fell, who was the victim of a horrific brain disorder, is now well on the way to recovery thanks to the success of the £150,000 appeal to send him to Pittsburg for treatment.

Nine year-old Matthew was struck down with Trigeminal Neuralgia – previously virtually unknown in children – and went from being a normal fun loving boy to one unable to sit, stand, read and often eat or drink.

"We spent five weeks in Pittsburg and Matthew had two more operations to go with the one he had in the UK," explained his mum Lindsay.

"He is now doing really well. He's completely upright and is even playing tennis. He is also now going to school about half the time," she explained.

Matthew still can't touch his head without pain but there are high hopes that he will make a full recovery.

"Our target was £150,000 but thanks to the wonderful response of everyone including a great deal from the greenkeeping industry we raised £180,000," explained Lindsay. "We shall keep some of the money back until Matthew is fully recovered but the extra will go to Great Ormond Street Hospital to help children with the same condition.

"We have had many calls of support from greenkeepers and thank everyone for their support."

An eastern promise of floodlit golf



The current popular trend in the Far East would probably cause most greenkeepers to have nightmares – the potential for 24 hours play with wall-to-wall floodlighting!

Pictured here are golfers on the Gary Player-designed Sand River Golf Course in Shenzhen, southern China. The course was visited recently by British golf course consultant David Hemstock while he was carrying out a consultancy visit on another new floodlit course nearby, the Shenzhen Noble Merchant Golf Club.

The area is a buffer zone between inland China and the

soon to be incorporated Hong Kong, and demand for golf is almost ferocious as the economy booms. The area is a strange mixture of high-tech new buildings and coolie workers, the Noble Merchant course having been almost hand-built apart from an ancient bulldozer.

Mission Hills Golf Course, scene of the recent inaugural Chinese international tournament, is a short drive away. Play was interrupted during the event by curious crowds wandering over fairways, and noisily snorting during shot-taking (a socially accepted Chinese trait).

HAYTER CHALLENGE

'Rest of World' team is named

The four home nation players who will represent the Rest of the World in the inaugural Hayter International Cup at West Lancashire Golf Club in September have been named.

They were selected on the strength of their performances in the Hayter Challenge Final, also at West Lincs, last year. They are Derek McJannet, of Sherwood Forest GC, a scratch man who will represent England; Alexander Reid, of Letham Grange GC, for Scotland, and Ian Buckley of Northop Country Park, for Wales, who both play off 7 and Brian Mulholland, of Lisburn GC, a 5 handicapper, who will represent Ireland.

They will join representatives from Sweden, Spain, Germany and Australia to compete as The Rest of the World against The Americas comprising the United States, Canada and Argentina. Everyone has confirmed their participation and the event looks certain to become a fixture on the international greenkeeping calendar. The event will be played every two years alternating between the United Kingdom and the United States.

The first Hayter International Cup will be played at West Lincs on September 16.

One the domestic front preparations are well advanced for the Hayter Challenge Final to be played at Fairhaven GC on September 18.

Much deliberation and debate within BIGGA Headquarters has seen a fine array of trophies chosen to present to the victors which should adorn mantelpieces for many years to come.

Hi-tech parts service begins

Ransomes has invested £600,000 in its new hi-tech parts operation in Ipswich.

Carried out over the last year, each Ransomes dealer is now linked by computer to the parts operation with overseas dealers following on fast. Replacing the fax-based method of parts ordering the Powercom-2000 computer software uses the telephone network to provide a direct connection between each dealer and the parts stores.

Another major step forward for the company has been the separation of the replacement parts from those needed for the manufacturer of new machines. This will prevent occasions when the parts depart-

ment are unable to provide parts when the production department is meeting the demand for a specific machine. It will free the parts department to look after



dealers and customers.

The parts department is now housed in one 20,000 sq ft building – half the size of the multi-based department before with the

savings being achieved through the use of computerised parts storage and retrieval systems.

"In addition to concentrating all of the parts into a single building, we've housed around 2,000 of the fastest-moving items within a line of computer-controlled storage shuttles and carousels," explained International Parts Sales Manager, Phil Naunton.

Every part which leaves the site now carries the distinctive "Ransomes Real Parts"

branding and to encourage users to specify an item Ransomes is running a series of special offers on a range of selected parts from its range during 1996.

European agreement signed

At the recent launch of Greenor, the latest DowElanco fine turf selective weed-killer to be added to the Rigby Taylor "Advanced Technology Products" range, a European Co-operation Agreement was signed for the development and marketing of fine turf products throughout Europe.

George Skylakakis, Director, New Products DowElanco Europe, reminded the Rigby Taylor team of the success of the recent introductions, Rimidin, Bastion T and Lorsban T in the UK and was confident that the launch of Rimidin in France would mirror



the results in this country.

"We are pleased to be associated with such a reputable research based chemical com-

pany," said Bernard Hedley, Chairman of Rigby Taylor, "and we are sure that the continued development of products tuned to the requirements of the sports turf industry will maintain the success of this fruitful partnership."

A joint European development team has been established to ensure the continued focus on the development of products most suited to the requirements of greenkeepers and groundsmen.

■ Picture shows Bernard Hedley, left, and George Skylakakis at the signing of the agreement.

New Board member



Rod Mayes has been appointed a director of Atterton & Ellis Limited, the Haverhill based designers and manufacturers of lawn mower grinding machinery.

"Rod's experience within the industry, technical and production knowledge, will strengthen the company's management team" said David Smith, Managing Director.

Rod, 46, is married with two children, lives in Haverhill, Suffolk.

Guidelines published

The Health and Safety Executive has published RIDDOR '95, the revised and simplified Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. The Regulations cover all work activities and come into force on April 1 this year.

RIDDOR '95 will require all deaths, certain injuries resulting for accidents, instances of specified diseases and specified dangerous occurrences, which arise out of or in connection with work activities to be reported.

The leaflet contains all the information employers need.

Taking training out to the greenkeepers

This year seems to be flying by. I am still waiting for the "quiet spell", post BTME, but I am still very busy putting the education and training program together for 96/97.

The 1995/96 series of Regional Supervisory Management Courses draws to a close, this month with courses in Killarney and Hemel Hempstead. From the vast amount of positive feedback relieved so far, it is obvious that we have made a successful start in taking training out to greenkeepers. We are planning to expand the number of courses for Autumn 96 and Spring 97 and, thanks once again to contributions to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, we should be able to keep costs reasonable. Watch out for further details in future magazines. Courses will



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

take place, once again, at Aldwark Manor in October/November '96 and details will be published in the April magazine.

Massey Ferguson Tractor Appreciation Workshop

The first Massey Ferguson tractor appreciation workshop for selected college students took place at Warwickshire College from February 19 to 23 and was a great success. Further workshops will be held at Oaklands College from March 11 to 15 and at Elmwood College from April 1

to 4. Nominated students will shortly receive joining instructions for each workshop.

Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

Keep those nominations coming in. Remember, a trip to Las Vegas is only part of prize for winning the competition. See Pages 30-31 for details of previous winners and what they have achieved.

BIGGA Lending Library

The number of titles now exceeds 200 with more books on order. Remember, it costs nothing to borrow books for up to six weeks except the return postage. For more information or for a copy of the book list, contact me at HQ.

National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME

The search for speakers and subjects for the 1997 National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME Seminars has already begun.

If you wish to speak, know of a good speaker or have a subject that you would like to see discussed then please let me know. Video tapes of the 1996 Conference and Seminars have been produced and are available from HQ. Since the last magazine was published, I have negotiated a reduced price for videos ie 40 minute session £7.50 inc VAT, 60 minute session £8.50 inc VAT, 90-120 minutes £10 and 180 minutes or more, £15.

Written transcriptions of each session of the Conference are now available from HQ priced at £2.90 per session +£1.50 postage.