

## Toro quality recognised at highest level

Toro has been awarded the prestigious ISO 9000 certification for international quality consistency at its US manufacturing plant in Wisconsin. It is the first commercial turfcare equipment manufacturer to receive the designation.

"It's long been Toro's practice to provide our customers with innovative quality turf products that provide superior long-term value," said Graham Dale, Managing Director of Toro distributors, Lely UK.

"This accomplishment is further evidence of Toro's commitment to market leadership, continuous product improvement and meeting our customers' needs."

A company whose processes meet the rigorous ISO standards is considered more capable of manufacturing products to a level of consistency and quality respected around the world.

# NEWS

## New man joins IOG at 'crucial time'

The Institute of Groundsmanship has appointed Patrick Gosset as its new Chief Executive.

Mr Gosset, 50, joins the IOG from portable accommodation hire company Premier Transline where he was Managing Director.

"I am joining the Institute of Groundsmanship at a crucial time in its development across a broad spectrum of sport and leisure activities," said Mr Gosset.

"I recognise that as a member organisation we must provide - and continue to develop



- a package of really worthwhile benefits and to market ourselves professionally so that those involved in our ever widening range of interests will recognise the value of membership."

Patrick Gosset lives in Oxfordshire and lists cricket and rowing among his sporting interests.

## Does BIGGA need an Essex Section?

Over recent months there has been a great deal of debate about the need for an Essex Section of BIGGA.

It has been proposed that an Essex Section be formed as part of the South East Region and that the revised East Anglia Section be transferred from the South East to the Midlands Region. The proposal has been made purely on the number of current and potential members within geographical boundaries and the benefits of ease of access to Section events that the changes would produce.

A general meeting of interested members has been arranged for Thursday, June 27 at 7pm at Ravenwood Hall, Hotel, Rougham, approximately four miles east of Bury St Edmunds, off the A14.

The proposal is only viable with sufficient support and members interested in learning more or in having their opinions heard are urged to attend. If the proposal is adopted then there may be vacancies for Section Committee members for both East Anglia and Essex.

Think about the proposed change and talk to your colleagues.

How will it affect you?

Come to the meeting and have a say in how your Association is organised.

# Lord Whitelaw opens complex

The new Eden Greenkeeping Centre at St Andrews was opened officially by BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw.

A former Captain of the R&A, Viscount Whitelaw said how pleased he was to see this investment in first class greenkeeping facilities and that the high standards set by the Eden complex reflected the growing professionalism of greenkeeping. He then unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion.

The Centre provides accommodation for greenkeepers, machinery and materials required for the Eden, Straththyrum and Balgove Courses and the Golf Practice Centre. It also houses the Course Rangers and orderlies and their equipment. It has an overall floor area of 12,220 square feet and cost around £500,000 to complete.

Links Trust Chairman, John



Lindesay-Bethune, said that the new complex was the first physical sign of the Trust's heavy investment in its greenkeeping operations.

"The good condition of the courses is vital to providing golfers with enjoyable experiences and this facility will help

our greenkeepers to achieve that aim," he said.

Mr Lindesay-Bethune singled out the R&A for special praise for its contribution of a £1 million loan towards the construction costs of both the Eden Centre and the Jubilee Sheds, on which construction is about to start.

### THE ONE JOB I DO WHICH GIVES ME MOST SATISFACTION IS:



"Walking down the 18th fairway at the end of the Volvo PGA Championship after the last putt has gone down thinking, 'Thank God it's over.'"

Graham Matheson,  
The Wentworth Club

# THE NEW ECHO ARC™ MULTI-ANGLED HEDGE CUTTER HEAD TURNING PERFORMANCE

**NOTHING COMPARES OR COMPETES WITH THE NEW ECHO ARC™ HCA-2400 LONG REACH MULTI-ANGLED HEDGE CUTTER.**

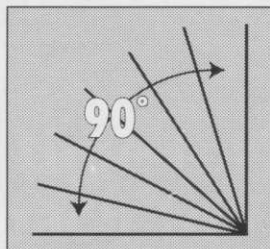
With its 51-inch shaft, even high or wide neatly shaped bushes are always within your reach - without you having to wade into the bed.

The real secret of the HCA-2400, however, lies in its 90-degree articulating gearbox. Adjustable in 15-degree increments, this unique feature makes shaping, trimming and topping so easy.

The result of a long pedigree of Echo expertise - and field tested in the demanding U.S.A. professional market - the HCA-2400 offers unrivalled performance, reliability and all these quality features:

- 20-inch double sided blades
- 23.6cc dual piston ring engine
- Vibration reducing engine mounts and handles
- See-through fuel tank.

So why not talk to your dealer today about the unique new Echo ARC™ HCA-2400?



**CALL 01235 813936**  
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ADDRESS .....

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## Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

# Get your name down now for some top titles

This month sees the deadlines for entry to two of BIGGA's major competitions, ie the Miracle Premier Greenkeeper of the Year and the Toro/Lely/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year, so make sure that your entry has been submitted by the closing date.

### Miracle Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

The race to find the 1996 Miracle Premier Greenkeeper of the Year is hotting up. You still have time to nominate your choice, however, as entries need to be at HQ by 31 May, you need to make sure that your nomination is in the post. Does your Head Greenkeeper deserve to be recognised for his efforts? Does your greenkeeping team want to win £500? Do you want to visit the GCSAA show in Las Vegas in February 1997 for free? If the answer to any of the above is yes then get your nomination in TODAY by filling in the pre-paid card in the magazine, filling in an official entry form or by telephoning me on 01347 838581. Course visits, by a BIGGA regional representative and by a previous Master Greenkeeper finalist will take place throughout the Summer and the National Final will take place at Aldwark Manor on 1/2 December.

agers but are for all greenkeepers looking to improve their supervisory skills and become the course managers of tomorrow. Plans are well advanced for the next series of courses to take place in the Autumn of 1996 and Spring of 1997, in all five BIGGA regions and in Eire. By popular request, further Essential Management Skills courses will be held in each region and new for this year will be two day courses in Budgeting and Finance for Greenkeepers and Golf Course Health and Safety Management. All courses will, again, be heavily subsidised by the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, allowing the cost of courses to be kept to a minimum. Further details and an application form will appear in June's edition of Greenkeeper International. Make sure that you join the two hundred greenkeepers already trained this year by applying early.

### Health and Safety Training

BIGGA can arrange Pesticide Training Courses and First Aid Training Courses in your region or even at your golf club. If you or any of your staff need to be trained or need refresher training then contact me at HQ. Minimum course numbers need to be six.

### TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year

Entries for this competition need to be at Aldwark Manor by 31 May 1996. Regional judging will take place during the week commencing 2 September with the National Final taking place on 13/14 October at Aldwark Manor.

### Regional Supervisory Management Training

These courses are not just for head greenkeepers/course man-

THE ONE JOB I DO WHICH GIVES ME MOST SATISFACTION IS:



"Hand cutting greens"  
Adrian Porter, Greatham Valley GC



# New man takes over the helm at Kubota

Kubota's new Director of Tractor and Grass Machinery, Rene Orban, highlighted the back-up customer care service as the area in which he hopes to make his mark.

Speaking at a briefing called to formally announce his appointment, Rene, previously Jacobsen's Managing Director European Operations, said: "Anyone who ever worked with me will tell you parts and service and the back-up customer care service are things which are very dear to my heart. This is where I will start."

"This is no criticism of the current situation but the management team and I will be looking at new ways of making Kubota even more efficient in this area," said Rene.

He also outlined the strengths his new employer had in the industry.

"As well as our dominant position in the UK market we have in Kubota Corporation at our fingertips the resources of a truly global player with 18 factories in Japan

and five factories overseas employing over 20,000 people worldwide.

"Kubota is one of the world's biggest and most innovative manufacturers of diesel engines and it is this which gives us our cutting edge."

He also paid tribute to the man he is replacing.

"Behind Kubota's success is a team which was led by Brian Hurlley. Under his leadership Kubota has achieved its brand leadership. Brian will, I am sure, be remembered with great admiration and considerable fondness. He has worked hard and with great dedication to make Kubota a formidable force to reckon with. He has always been a person respected and liked by all his competitors."

Brian Hurlley, who was also at the briefing and who retires in June, explained that it was Rene's proven ability to work closely with Japanese colleagues which was one reason Rene was singled out as the man for the job.



Rene Orban, right, Kubota's new Director of Tractor & Grass Machinery takes over his new role from Brian Hurlley who is retiring

## Anniversary conference

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects will mark its 25th anniversary by holding its 1996 International Conference at The Wentworth Club on October 2-4.

Entitled "A Celebration of Golf Course Design" the Conference will feature contributions from America, the Continent as well as from British Architects during the day long proceedings on October 3.

A workshop on golf green design and construction will be held on the morning of October 4 and the conference will be preceded by the Barenbrug Golf Architects' Trophy and the Silver Jubilee Dinner.

## Dealer support

Sports Ground Irrigation Co has appointed Michael Riley as dealer support representative to cover the North of England. He will promote the company's range of sprinklers, valves pH system and controllers through the dealer network.

■ Iain Richardson has rejoined Patissons and will be covering the South West part of the country. He met up with many of his old friends at Westurf at the beginning of May.



■ Etesia has appointed Spencer Southall as After Sales Manager based at the company's

headquarters in Warwick.

Spencer has worked as Etesia's Demonstrator for two years and has a full working knowledge of the product range.

"We appreciate the importance of providing dealers and their customers with full after sales support in the field."

"It is vital that technical queries are dealt with speedily and efficiently, especially in the height of the grass cutting season," said Robin Taylor, Sales Manager.

## Expansion sees Tony in Singapore



Tony Doe has been appointed Technical Sales Manager - Pacific Rim, by Ransomes. Previously Area Manager for the south of England, Tony will be supporting Ian Mitchell, Ransomes' Area Manager - Pacific Rim, and the company's distributors located throughout the Pacific Rim and Australasia region.

Working from the Ransomes office in Singapore, Tony's brief is to provide technical, service and operational support to distributors and end-users of Ransome, Cushman and Ryan equipment being used to maintain golf courses, recreation and leisure facilities, landscaped grounds and other fine turf areas.

"This appointment is part of a planned expansion programme, building on the successes we have

had already in this important part of the world," commented John Wilson, Ransomes International Sales Manager.

"Tony's presence in the region will provide additional support for Ian Mitchell and strengthen Ransomes technical back-up service to our distributors and customers."

THE ONE JOB I DO WHICH GIVES ME MOST SATISFACTION IS:



"Cutting difficult pin positions for the weekend medal"  
Kevin Green, Filton GC

does not entitle the member to seek courtesy of the course. Student membership will also not have access to the legal or stress helplines or be covered by the accident insurance policy. They shall also have no voting rights and shall not be eligible for appointment in any official capacity within the Association.

Regarding Retired Membership there are now two levels. Full membership will be offered to those members who have given long and active service to the Association. Subscription will be £25 and will enable them to have full membership status. They will receive a monthly copy of the magazine, be eligible to vote at the AGM, be covered by the accident insurance policy and have access to the legal and stress helplines.

Restricted membership will be offered to those members who may not have been a member for long or have not been particularly active within the Section. They will take the same benefits as Student Members, ie ability to take part in BIGGA events at Section, Regional and National level and have access to the library etc. They will not, however, receive a copy of the magazine; be covered by accident insurance; have access to the legal and stress helplines; be able to seek courtesy golf; have voting rights or be eligible for appointment in any official capacity within the Association. Restricted membership will also be given to those who are eligible for full retired membership but who do not wish to pay, or cannot afford to pay, the £25 subscription.

If you are interested in playing in any of the team matches this year then please return the slip on the recent circular letter and your name will be passed on for consideration for selection by Team Captain Terry Humphrey.

A reminder that nominations for the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year competition need to be at Headquarters by May 31.

Finally, the Summer Tournament this year takes place at Mendip GC on July 25.

Kevin Green

### South Coast

Thirty members attended our last winter meeting on March 6. A lecture was given by Tony Gadd, the Course Manager of Barton-on-Sea on "The Transformation of the 18 hole Course into a 27 hole course".

Tony told us about the many problems encountered during the construction, the main one being the erosion of the cliffs on which the course is built. Judging by his talk he had more than his fair share of problems.

As only 30 members attended this meeting and considering the number of members we have this is not a very good effort and the committee would like some feedback on how we can improve this situation. Some questions we ask. Is the

## Around the Green



venue wrong? Is the time wrong? Do we get the right speakers? Your answers to these would be appreciated. As an aside I can remember when we had 75 members plus at our meetings and I would like to see this situation return.

The South Coast Seminar which was held at Sparsholt College proved to be very successful. The speakers were of a high calibre and kept the audience riveted to their seats. Alan Mitchell, our Section Chairman, welcomed everybody and thanked all the sponsors for their support. These included Huxleys Grass Machinery, Winchester Garden Machinery and Driving Force Leisure.

Our first speaker was David Winterton, Course Manager of Donnington Grove GC. He gave a talk on the club's development including some excellent slides on the estate and gardens. The Japanese Gardens were like something from another world. David then talked about the construction of the golf course and how he had to lay 11 acres of turf six weeks before opening day.

Billy McMillan, Course Manager from Wildwood GC, was next and his talk was "Changes in Greenkeeping - Are you keeping up?" He touched upon a variety of subjects such as how golf courses have to be cost effective, seeking help when required, working with committees and training. He then showed some slides of his golf course.

Our Chairman summed up his presentation by stating that it was one of the best talks he had ever heard.

After coffee our Education Officer, Ken Richardson, spoke to us about the structure of BIGGA. He then went on to tell us about the function of each member of the staff at Aldwark Manor. Ken then gave us a presentation on the courses that were available at Aldwark, this was followed by NVQ's. This caused a lively debate at Question Time. The BIGGA Reference Library was explained and how you can borrow books free for six weeks - only the cost of postage is required. Ken was thanked for his update on HQ.

After the lunch break it was the turn of Bob Taylor, from STRI. Bob gave a presentation on "Golf Course Construction and Management. An Ecological Perspective". Other topics that Bob spoke about and illustrated with slides were, "Thinning out of Trees and Interplanting", "Planting to make the Trees look Natural", "Encouraging Wild Flowers in the Rough". Again, this was a very well presented lecture.

To end the day Peter Jones, of Peter Jones Associates, gave a lecture on "How to take control of a Reconstruction Project". This included "Spur of the moment projects which lead to Disasters", and how to avoid them by calling in an Independent Advisor. Other topics included were "Making the project look natural within the golf course", "Getting rid of the Problem that caused the need for reconstruction in the first place" and "Using the Correct Trees". This presentation was again well illustrated with slides of Woburn and Collingtree Park courses.

Ken Lodge, Chairman of the afternoon Session thanked all the speakers for their presentations and giving up their time to attend. Thanks were also extended to Sparsholt College for allowing the use of the College and the Education Committee for organising such a wonderful and successful day.

By now Mark Webb should have the South Coast team for the Hayter Regional Tournament at Salisbury and South Wilts GC sorted out. This is to be held on Wednesday June 12 and anyone wishing to play please contact Mark ASAP as there is a good chance he will require last minute replacements.

Now back to our own Section Tournaments. We are always looking for new venues to hold our golf meetings. If you would like us to play at your course and your committee is agreeable please let Mark know as he can then make the necessary arrangements.

Ken Lodge

### Devon and Cornwall

A memorable day was had at Churston GC on Wednesday March 27 as 80 members and trade friends gathered to wish Gordon Child an enjoyable retirement.

As usual the day started with our golfing members competing in the morning for the Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers and trade, Rhone Poulenc Trophy for Assistants and the chance to represent the section at the Region Hayter qualifier which will be held at Salisbury & South Wilts on June 12.

For non golfing members the usual course walk proved to be as always very interesting with the old maestro informing members on a method to prevent bird damage caused by leather jackets during the winter months.

After lunch Peter Bridgewater of Supaturf and Paul Clifton, of Rhone Poulenc, presented the prizes to the following members.

Supaturf Trophy: 1. T. Blackburn, Crediton, 38pts; 2. R. Minton, Miracle, 35pts; 3. T. Farkins, Dartmouth, 34pts.

Rhone Poulenc Trophy: 1. A. James, Tehidy, 35pts; 2. J. Mitchell, Perranporth, 32pts (on countback); 3. S. Getson, St Mellion, 32 pts.

Qualifiers for the Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge to be held at Salisbury GC on Wednesday

June 12 are:

0-9. G. Tamblin, J. Mitchell, A. Parker, T. Gooch, C. Rawlings.

10-18. T. Farkins, M. Child, E. Barber, M. Parrish, W. Potter.

19-28. T. Blackburn, A. James, S. Getson, Miss L. Breyley, C. Pine.

The winners in each category were presented with a silver salver by Mike Lincoln-Smith of Hayter. Our Congratulations and good luck to all who qualified.

Also our thanks to Peter Bridgewater, Paul Clifton and Mike Lincoln-Smith for presenting the prizes.

We couldn't let Gordon off too lightly at his last meeting before he retires so we invited him to present our afternoon educational talk on "Greenkeeping past, present and future" which he did, as always, very professionally. During question time Gordon was asked what was one of his most frightening experiences. After a few moments Gordon recalled the day a jet fighter flew so low that when it had to climb to miss some trees it blew him off his feet and burnt his eyebrows with the heat of the engines.

After his talk the Chairman Bill Mitchell presented him with a 14" portable teletext TV on behalf of the Section members and our trade friends, namely: Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden Machinery, B.J. Flegg, Levingtons, Miracle, M.S.T, P & M A Services, Rhone Poulenc, Rigby Taylor, Roffeys and Sisis.

Gordon's surprise and delight was seen by all, he was even lost for words for a few minutes! Gordon's lovely wife Marion was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

My thanks to our President John Palfrey for organising the support of the trade companies above.

For this summer it was decided to extend our evening summer meetings to courses in Devon as well as Cornwall with the first being held at Yelverton GC on May 22. Members will meet in the car park at 6.15pm before walking the course with Head Greenkeeper Steve Peters, returning to the clubhouse at around 8pm for a drink and a bite to eat. By now you should all have received the fixture card for these events which have been sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery. For more details and dates of venues please phone Steve Evans on 01208 863647.

Richard Whyman

**THE ONE JOB I DO WHICH GIVES ME MOST SATISFACTION IS:**



"Cutting fairways"  
Dave Neale, Henbury GC



# Furniture and fittings



The Links Leisure course markers can be produced in either a standard or tailor-made range of styles and designs

use. Several stock ink colours are available, or you can specify any Pantone (PMS) colour.

Standard Golf also produces solid bronze signage in a variety of designs which can be customised to your needs. They can be used as distance markers, as tee signs, or for commemorative purposes or as memorials.

Encompassing the need to be both informative and, at the same time, add to the aesthetics

of the golf course, a new range of **PRO-TEE** course markers can be produced in either a standard or tailor-made range of styles and designs.

Produced by the Shropshire-based golf equipment specialist, Links Leisure, the new markers are manufactured from weather-proof glass reinforced cement, they are said to be durable and maintenance-free, and they can be finished in a choice of colours.

Apart from offering a standard range of attractive marker styles and shapes into which club names, motifs, and other details, and sponsor plates can be incorporated Links Leisure can also recreate tailor-made designs to suit individual club requirements.

Both the standard or individual markers can be either permanently installed on metal posts shaped GRC bases.

Full details on the new course marker range can be obtained direct from Links Leisure Limited, Unit 22, Civic Industrial Park, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1TT Tel; 01948 663002 Fax: 01948 666381.

**Pattissons** is acknowledged as the one-stop-shop for all course furnishings. From the tee area Pattissons range starts with the simple Trio Tee Marker to its ever popular resin tee markers, available in Deluxe Golf ball, Standard Golf ball, Pearshaped (pictured left) and Cone Shaped styles. As an alternative, Chichester or Newbury Tee Consoles come complete with a sign that can show all the hole information and layout, D-shaped litter bins, shoe brushes and scrapers, ball washers, ball towels, sponsorship plates, in fact nearly any specialist requirements can be met. As with the consoles, many Pattissons products can be made

to the courses unique specification to maintain a consistency of style.

Another attractive tee accessory is the Deluxe Info Panel, this is a multi panel sign made from extruded aluminium and polyester powder coated in the colour of your choice, once again it can be made to the courses specification and can include, course logo, sponsor plates, yardage information and hole layout. This unit can also be removed for grass cutting and ground maintenance.

Pattisson can supply virtually any accessory a course will need from the tee to the green. The 1996 centenary catalogue containing all of the new and improved course products is available by phoning 01582-597262.

**Indian Ocean Trading Company** has launched several new designs for the '96 seasons.

Included among these are a selection of dining tables and chairs which would enhance any clubhouse patio and a series of attractive outdoor lighting made out of solid teak and coming in two different heights.

Bulbs are prefitted and standard and all the metal fittings are solid brass for durability.

The standard lights can be surface mounted or supplied with a separate spike for use on a lawn.

Further information can be obtained from Indian Ocean Trading Company, 155-163 Balham Hill, London, SW12 9DJ Tel: 0181 675 4808 Fax: 0181 675 4652.



THE ONE JOB I DO WHICH GIVES ME MOST SATISFACTION IS:



"Cutting greens on a dewy morning"

Iain MacLeod, Tain GC