



The place, the time, the event...

It's almost here – BTME 97, January 22-24. The biggest, the most comprehensive, the most exciting event for 1997! Have you pre-registered yet? See the back of this issue for your pre-registration card.

Fancy a night out?

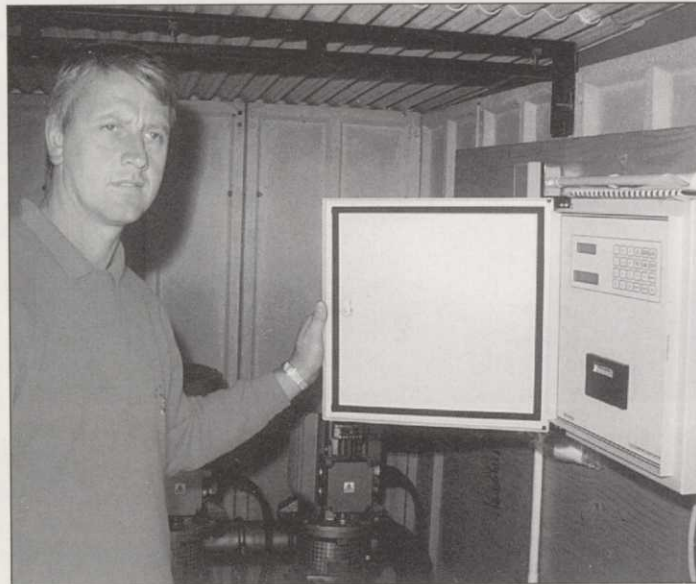
Have you booked your banquet ticket? It's the hottest ticket around for those in the know! Contact Sami Collins at BIGGA HQ on 01347 838581 if you haven't already reserved your ticket to see top comic Bobby Davro and experience the delights of Laine Kennedy's cabaret – all together, a night not to be missed!

Four halls to visit

All 154 companies large and small are primed and ready to talk to you about all that is new in your industry. So what are you waiting for? It couldn't be easier – send your completed registration card back to BIGGA HQ and avoid the queues.

Especially for you...

Are you a Chairman of Green or Golf Course Secretary? If so, register for the course presented by the STRI. The course aims to introduce Chairmen of Green and Secretaries to the practicalities of golf course construction and management. It also includes a visit to the STRI trial grounds and laboratories. Call Sami Collins at BIGGA HQ to book your place.



Andrew Hall of St George's Hill

successful and easy to get out for maintenance, as has all maintenance and draining down.

The TW2/4 controllers have been found to be particularly user friendly and have a good level of diagnostic ability built-in. Programming is very easy and Ian insisted that all important documentation, i.e. user manual and maps, were encapsulated in plastic making them durable even if used with wet or dirty hands. As far as Ian was concerned user manuals are extremely easy to understand. He relies on traditional greenkeeping principles to judge when and how much water to apply and this includes a regular use of probes.

St George's Hill in Weybridge, Surrey

Superseding the original 1970s installation the club's latest system by British Overhead Irrigation Limited has three variable speed pumps, a Photron CIC4 controller, three zones covering the 27 holes and allows for the use of (three) self-travelling sprinklers – with a 200m cable. The heathland courses are extremely free draining however Head Greenkeeper, Andy Hall, uses wetting agent and Toro Hydroject aeration to ensure optimum use of water. This is particularly pertinent as all water is bought from the local water company and stored in a 21,000 gallon butyl lined above ground tank. A key-

stone policy is to keep the system simple, and Andy said this applies to programming the system. Nevertheless the CIC4 which superseded a CIC1 model is extremely flexible. Mr Gerry Wilkins of BOIL suggested perhaps more flexible than any greenkeeper is likely to need. CIC controllers are produced by a 'sister' company. The previous irrigation system only had a single zone and single phase pumps of limited output which meant that it was taking over 14 hours of watering "just to keep the course alive". While the original system was only designed to irrigate 18 greens the addition of 9 holes plus watering of tees (and some banks) called for a radical re-think. The new system has just completed its first season. The system is a constant pressure system, however a time clock maintains a lower pressure during the day and this is increased at night for irrigation. The design pressure is 9.23 kg/cm² – at the lowest point – at St George's Hill there is a variation of about 30m between top and bottom points in the system.

Typically each green has four heads, controlled in pairs, while approaches have three or four, and the tees have from four to six each. All are pop-up gear driven Hunter G600 or G650 heads, full or adjustable part circle. Fairways are covered by three BOIL travelling sprinklers each with an output of 1600 gallons per hour,

these take water from hydrants through 1in. flexible pipes. However, consideration is being given to about putting in a permanent pop-up system for some or all of the fairways. Virtually no hand watering is carried out.

The sophisticated pump control system allows any of the three Grundfos pumps to be set as the duty pump which maintains line pressure – and this can be operated at very low revolutions little more than tick-over so minimising electricity consumption. It is only when demand exceeds this pump's capacity that the other pumps are called in. The variable speed motor controller means that each motor soft starts, avoiding starting under full load and considerably reducing the sudden pressure stresses placed on the whole system but in particular on pipework.

A notable feature of the CIC4 controller is the "duration percentage" function which allows an overall percentage increase or decrease to be made to all watering times, without the need to alter individual settings. Pipework is uPVC solvent welded in sizes suitable to location, some 8 miles of it, and most was mole ploughed in. Ample flush out and drainage points were installed and any section is easy to isolate says Andy.

There were a few small teething problems, but no more than Andy was expecting and these were readily rectified by the supplier. Once the system was set up, fine tuning and operating proved to be quick and simple. Andy said that knowledge with the previous system made using the new one simple.

THE ONE QUESTION I WOULD LIKE TO ASK OTHER GREENKEEPERS IS:



"How much do you earn?"
Terry Crawford, Clandeboye

design, the resulting air circulation movement is said to give five complete air changes an hour within the building.

Because all of the washings go to soakaways, proper separation of grass, oil, fuel and silt is essential to prevent soil contamination and waste pipe blockage.

Oil and fuel is handled by three filtering chambers and there is also twin silt traps. Collection of grass clippings was considered a major problem and paid special attention by Fraser Smart. The solution was found in a specially-designed three-stage tumbling filter comprising three chambers of gradually increasing depth through which washings passed, depositing stray grass on the way.

The end result is clean water flowing to the soakaways, leaving grass behind in the regularly-emptied traps.

"In the Eden Greenkeeping Centre, we have a facility which has helped raise the all-round standards and efficiency of links maintenance," commented Ian



The main doors are set into the roof dormer-fashion to maintain a low eaves and building height in keeping with local architecture

Forbes. "From a greenfield site, it was up and running within the three months originally scheduled

and was delivered within the planned budget of £525,000. At £400,000 for the building and

£120,000 for the associated services and roads, St Andrews has a cost-effective unit providing one of the best greenkeeping facilities in Europe."

● Next month, the Learning Experience considers the design, management and operation of St Andrews' Eden Greenkeeping Centre from the greenkeepers' point of view.

THE ONE QUESTION I WOULD LIKE TO ASK OTHER GREENKEEPERS IS:



"How would you go about getting an annual invitation to the Kubota Challenge?"

Scott Ballantyne, Cowglen

how hard is your bunker?

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SERVICE CHEMICALS

KUBOTA CHALLENGE

team as a last minute reserve and give him yet another picture in the magazine. Unfortunately he too, despite having an excellent season, lost both of his matches. He did, though, go down the last in both of them.

■ **Scott Ballantyne.** Came from two down with two to play to grab the half point in the final and at least by the man to avoid the whitewash as we were already four nil down at the time.

■ **Roger Willars.** The only survivor from last year's humiliation. Won his first game but was the victim of a strange virus which affected his co-ordination the night before the final. At 2.30am he totally missed his mouth with a bacardi and coke, splashed it all over the bar and had to fork out £1.90 for a replacement. Remarkably his co-ordination returned sufficiently to make it to the first tee on the final but his brave fight came to an unsatisfactory conclusion on the 16th green.

■ **Neil Maltby.** Showed his team mates what conscientious professionalism can do by staying on soft drinks and being in bed by 10 the night before the final. He was rewarded by a 100% record and being the first greenkeeper to record a win in the final. He was also a star at the dinner because being from Doncaster he was able to translate the jokes of the excellent Duggie Brown, also from "Donnie", for the rest of the team.



Above: Neil Maltby, the first greenkeeper to record a win in the final. Below: At least we won the drive and chip!

■ **Steven Heap.** Carried on the form he showed in winning individual honours in the Hayter National Final at Fairhaven to also record full points. His 5&4 victory in the semi final along with Ray Day's similar victory margin helped

ensure that the countback went in our favour.

It was a marked improvement on last year's showing when we came last but bearing in mind it required a countback to reach the final there is improvement required to reach again the giddy heights when we won it five years in a row to '89 and three times in a row to '93. It is now three years since the cup has resided at Aldwark Manor the longest barren patch we have suffered in the event's 14 year history.

The one saving grace continues to be the drive and pitch where despite a severe handicap with regards to equipment we won convincingly. Behind the wheel of a Kubota our men are as at home as Chopin at the piano or Gazza in an early bath and, complimented by skill with the wedge that they hadn't displayed earlier, they

romped home with time to spare. The Kubota Challenge is a firm feature on the calendar and although there was a change this year with Brian Hurtley now enjoying his well earned retirement, Rene Orban took up the reins and immediately displayed a genuine feel for an event which should ensure it continues well into the next millenium.

All those, greenkeepers, secretaries English Golf Union and Golf Foundation representatives who have played since 1983 will certainly hope so.

THE ONE QUESTION I WOULD LIKE TO ASK OTHER GREENKEEPERS IS:



"How do you combat disease?"
Steven Heaps, Rothey Park

