

As I see it...

BY DEAN CLEAVER
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

My travels this month make Alan Whicker seem like a bit of a home bird! It all started with the Saltex Show at Windsor which was a great success for BIGGA. Not only did we have a large number of membership enquiries but our stand won a prize as well!

Almost as soon as that was over I was hot footing it to Sweden to talk at the Swedish Greenkeepers Association's Conference. I was originally asked to deliver one 50 minute paper but by the time I arrived it had risen to three. They certainly make you work! There was time to relax a little though and I played in the SGA's National Championship as a guest, visited six golf courses and also fitted in some site seeing in Stockholm where I stayed with Tommy Lindelof and his wife Helen.

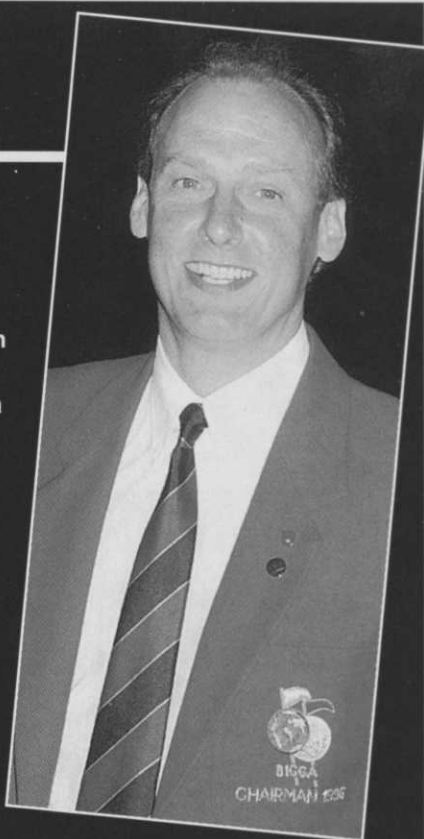
No sooner was I back than it was off to West Lancashire Golf Club and the inaugural Hayter International Cup. Despite the fact that as Captain I didn't lift the Cup it was a superb event and a lot of lasting friendships were forged between the individual players and the 13 greenkeeper associations which were present. It certainly was a unique occasion.

It also gave us an opportunity to hold the second Federation of European Golf Greenkeeper Associations (FEGGA) meeting and, as Chairman, I can say I'm delighted at the progress that is being made with solid foundations being laid for the future.

From there it was off to Lytham for the Hayter Challenge Final at Fairhaven. I would like to congratulate both John Muir at West Lincs and Peter Simpson at Fairhaven for the magnificent condition of their golf courses. They certainly were worthy venues for two such marvellous events. The Challenge Final, as ever, produced some excellent golf in some extremely trying conditions and the Northern Region deserved its victory.

I would like to pay particular thanks to Tony Bourke and Kim Macfie of Hayters and their excellent team for their sponsorship and hands on assistance in the running of the event.

It really has been one of the busiest months I've had as Chairman but I can say I've enjoyed every minute of it.



NEWS



At the big event, from left, Ian Duncan, Douglas Hayter and Fred Stratton

Hayter celebrates 50 years in style

A galaxy of the grass machinery industry's well known names and faces gathered recently in the Ironmongers Hall in the Barbican, London, to celebrate Hayter's 50th year. Amongst the guests were the company's founder, Douglas Hayter and his wife Susan, Chairman and C.E.O. of Briggs and Stratton Corporation, Fred Stratton and his wife Anne and Vice Chairman of Hayter's parent company, Tomkins plc, Ian Duncan and his wife Carole. Also joining in the celebrations was local MP, Bowen Wells, and a host of long standing and loyal customers who have supported Hayter since its inception.

Hayter Managing Director, Tony Bourke, commenced the formal proceedings by proposing the loyal toast and was followed by Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director, who toasted the guests and the company's continued success. As the "Star turn", Douglas Hayter, now in his 80s, regaled the assembled dignitaries with an amusing trip down memory lane, recalling his early experiences when starting the company. The opinion of his first bank manager was particularly pointed and his comments went down especially well with the audience. He was right and the bank manager wrong. In the first year, starting with capital of only £250, a profit of £1000 was achieved.

Jeff Randall of *The Sunday Times* rounded off the evening

with insights into the newspaper industry.

The proceedings were much enjoyed by all and marked a fitting tribute to the milestone achieved by a company in the forefront of the industry it serves.



Hayter's Sales and Marketing Director Kim Macfie works for a very understanding company. When he hit the big 50 during Saltex his bosses ensured that, despite his advancing years he should still be encouraged to get out and about.

With that in mind they produced especially for him the very latest in powered zimmer frames which was put on display along with the rest of the Hayter range on the company's stand.