

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.

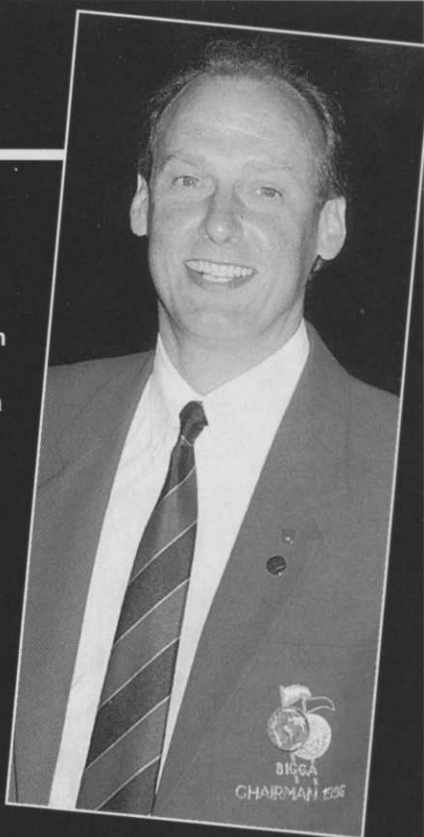
No sooner was I back than it was off to West Lancashire Golf Club and the inaugural Hayter International Cup. Despite the fact that as Captain I didn't lift the Cup it was a superb event and a lot of lasting friendships were forged between the individual players and the 13 greenkeeper associations which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

Final part
of BTME
quiz: get
your entry
in today!



Jimmy Neilsen: Excellent work

Murrayfield welcomes BIGGA

As part of the club's centenary celebrations the first ever East Section event to be played at Murrayfield Golf Club was held last month.

The day was blessed with wonderful sunshine and the 40 players were able to enjoy the magnificent views over Edinburgh and beyond that the club enjoys while seeing the excellent work of Head Greenkeeper Jimmy Neilsen and his team at its best.

Customer service

Richard Aitken (Seedsmen) Ltd has appointed Richard F. Aitken to develop the company's long standing relationship with customers in the sports turf industry. Richard has completed an HND in Amenity Horticulture specialising in the sports turf industry and then went on to gain a B.Sc (Hons) in Land Management and Technology in conjunction with the University of Leeds.

WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK I LIKE TO:

"Play football"
Ian Bell, Glencorse GC

STARS ARE SET TO SHINE IN HARROGATE FOR BTME 97

★ Over 150 exhibitors are booked into BTME 97. As of 17 September 1996, only THREE spaces remain for sale – so if your company is thinking of exhibiting at the industry's premier event, contact Louise Lunn NOW on 01347 838581, or you could be too late.

As well as the many well established companies on show in Harrogate in January, we are delighted to welcome new businesses, including Flowtronex PSI, Anchor Industries and Tarmac quarry products, to the unique atmosphere of BTME.

Superb entertainment has been confirmed for the BTME 97 Gala Dinner. Delegates will be entertained by top comedian Bobby Davro and singer Laine Kennedy. See the booking form within the Learning Experience programme in this magazine to book your place.

This could be YOUR big chance

It's the greenkeeper's dream holiday – an expenses paid trip to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. If you're a winner, we'll pay your rail fare, put you up in one of the best hotels in Harrogate and give you a free pass to Europe's most comprehensive educational seminar programme.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of the three superb prizes is answer these six questions – two appeared in August's magazine, two last month and the final two are detailed below. Complete the form and return it to us by October 31, 1996.

■ August questions

In which famous conference town is the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition held?

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In which month is the BTME held?

.....

■ September questions

Name BIGGA's Education Officer

.....

What date does the National Education Conference start?

.....

■ October questions

Which comedian is appearing at the Gala Dinner?

.....

To date, how many exhibitors are booked in at Harrogate?

.....

FIRST PRIZE: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights' accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry to all the education seminar sessions. **SECOND PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus two nights' accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all the education seminar sessions. **THIRD PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus one night's accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education seminar sessions.

Name:

Address:

Send your completed entry form to BTME Competition, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, to be received by October 31, 1996. The first three correct entries opened after the closing date will win the prizes. Judges' decision is final.



First Scottish greenkeepers register for qualifications

The first Scottish SVQ candidates to be registered with the GTC centre are pictured outside the R&A clubhouse.

The candidates Kevin Muir, Kenneth Mitchell and John Campbell are all greenkeepers employed by the St Andrews Links Trust and it is the employers who are investing in training with the full co-operation of all the staff including the Head Greenkeepers who will be assess-

ing the candidates.

The reception held at St Andrews brought together representatives from all sectors of the golf industry including: Scottish Golf Union Secretary, Ian Hume; GTC Chairman, Bob McLaren; St Andrew Links Trust General Manager, Nicky James; GTC staff Sue Gudgeon and David Golding, SVQ Adviser, verifier and assessors and College representative Carol Borthwick from Elmwood.



GCSAA Conference and Show, Las Vegas, February 6-12, 1997



GCSAA '97: Strike it rich with BIGGA in Las Vegas

It is now becoming tradition for BIGGA to host a trip to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Conference and Show and this year is no exception with the 68th Show being held at the Las Vegas Convention Centre February 6-12.

The BIGGA party will meet at London Heathrow Airport on Wednesday, February 5 for departure to Las Vegas, via Los Angeles at 12 noon. BIGGA will be able to arrange accommodation for any members wishing to stay overnight before the flight at competitive rates.

The Las Vegas Hilton has been selected as the hotel to accommodate our party. It is one of Las Vegas' leading hotels offering outstanding facilities for visitors. It is adjacent to the Convention Centre and only one block from the famous Las Vegas Strip.

The GCSAA Conference and Show runs from February 6-12 with the trade show taking place between February 10-12. You will be able to attend the conference seminars and education programmes as well as take in the latest golf course equipment, products and services at the trade show.

ITINERARY

Wednesday, February 5

All members will assemble at London Heathrow Airport and will take the 1200 noon Virgin Airlines flight to Los Angeles. The group will then catch the 1745 flight into Las Vegas arriving at 1840 local time. The group will then transfer to the Las Vegas Hilton for a eight night stay on a room only basis.

Thursday, February 13

Transfer to Las Vegas airport for the 1210 flight into Los Angeles followed by 1730 flight to London Heathrow arriving at 1145 on February 14.

PRICES

£720.00 per person based on a twin share
£960.00 per person based on single occupancy
Plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration of £30.00. Included are: Return Economy class flights London Heathrow/Las Vegas, UK and US taxes, transfers to and from the airport to the Las Vegas Hilton, eight nights accommodation on a room only basis and US accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Pre-Conference Seminars which run from February 6-9 and the Educational Programmes which run from February 9-12 are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £750 or £990 (unless travel insurance is not required) to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York, YO6 2NF to arrive no later than Friday, November 29 at the latest, together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of February 4 please let us know in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking-out of the hotel.

American cousins move forward


BIGGA's sister association in the United States has announced a series of promotions and new appointments.

"Our responsibility as a staff is to provide the highest quality service to GCSAA members and the promotions recognise those individuals who have performed at an exemplary level, while our new team members bring skills that will enhance the services and programmes we provide," said Chief Executive Officer Stephen Mona,

Among those promoted were: Teri Harris, former GCSAA Marketing and Creative Services Manager, elevated to Director of Communications, and Rebecca Spriggs, who has been named Senior Manager of Corporate Marketing and Sales. She is in her second year at GCSAA, having previously served as a Senior Account Manager.

Among those newly appointed were: Jack Schwartz, appointed Director of Development in the Corporate Marketing & Sales/Conference & Show Department. Chris Charlton, hired as Senior Manager of Publications, Marketing and Creative Services. Ed Hiscock, appointed Managing Editor of the association's monthly magazine *Golf Course Management*. Jeff Bollig, hired as Manager of Media/Public Relations. Hannes Combest, appointed Education Manager and John Verniffe appointed Curriculum Manager.

WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK I LIKE TO:



"Get a telephone call asking me in for a bit of overtime"
Brian Mulholland, Lisburn GC

Hung, drawn and quartered

Alistair Connall, Course Manager at Collingtree Park Golf Club explains the background to the well documented problems experienced in the lead up to and during the recent British Masters.

I think I now know how people felt before being hung, drawn and quartered or being found guilty without a trial.

In over 30 years of greenkeeping I have experienced many highs and lows but never anything as bad as during this year's British Masters.

It has been said in some papers that the greens were vandalised, burned by over application of fertiliser, that the plant was killed by the use of chemical trying to control annual meadow and other means that defy description.

I would like, in this article, to give my view and then let others form their own opinion.

Collingtree is still a fairly new golf course, constructed on a pure sand base and sown out with Penn cross. Unfortunately the predominant grass species in the sward is now annual meadow which seeds almost continually.

During the past 14 months we have been implementing a soil exchange programme in conjunction with overseeding to try and create both a healthier root zone along with a more manageable grass sward.

Until the beginning of August there were no problems with the putting surfaces except for the annual meadow grass continuing to flower.

A highly successful professional Seniors event was held during the last week of June and all the comments were very favourable from the players regarding the conditions of greens, tees, fairways and roughs. From the completion of that event through the month of July cutting heights were slightly raised and a regular maintenance programme of top dressing and feeding, using both granular and liquid materials followed.

The grass plant only started to show some signs of stress in early August and symptoms seemed to indicate leaf spot. An application of fungicide was applied to all the greens.

At this time not all the greens were showing signs of decline, however, within a week, all greens were going the same way.

Temperatures for that ten day period in mid August were extremely high, although the surfaces and the root zone were never allowed to dry out and the sand almost seemed to bake. To try to help the plant grass clippings were never boxed in the build up to the tournament.

A further application of fungicide was applied ten days after the first sign of the problems showing themselves.

By this stage all greens had

areas of discoloured patches, brown in colour as if the plant was going further into decline and it seemed a Catch 22 situation. We either kept the height of cut up or continued with the programme that had been successful for the Seniors event with more light top dressing to keep a true surface. We chose the latter.

The previous year for the British Masters the height of cut

'...not all the greens were showing signs of decline, however, within a week all were going the same way'

was slightly higher and the greens were turf ironed for speed. Then the seed heads were a problem and green tended to spike and when it rained that was another worry. This year the decision was taken to go the other way.

The course was closed for one week prior to the tournament and during that time an autumn and winter fertiliser was applied. The Sunday of tournament week all greens were sprayed with a colouring dye.

Used on a trial area this proved quite satisfactory however hindsight proved that the greens may have looked better with the discoloured areas left showing. With the grass plant thin and heavy rain on the first day of the tournament the top dressings which had been used to keep surfaces smooth looked even worse.

Unfortunately it doesn't seem to matter how good the rest of the course is - tees, fairways, roughs etc are never mentioned.

It would appear that the climatic conditions during August ie. very warm weather plus the pure sand root zone and the tight mowing caused the Poa to complete its life cycle. The results were well documented.

Laboratory diagnosis proved that there was no disease present to cause such a rapid deterioration and it would appear to have been a straight physiological problem.

I'm sure that there are people who, either saw the course on television, read about it in the press or in reading this article, have experienced similar conditions with sand constructions perhaps not to the extent of Collingtree. I would certainly look forward to hearing their views.

Finally it is pleasing to know that the grass plant is now recovering perhaps quicker than this writer, but it does prove rightly or wrongly annual meadow grass can survive.

Yorkshire course scoops top UK honours

Rudding Park Golf, on the outskirts of Harrogate, has beaten 300 clubs from around the country to the coveted £5,000 Best Environmentally Designed and Managed Course Award in a competition organised by ground care specialist Amazone.

The £1.5 million 18 hole course, set in the Rudding Park resort's spectacular 18th century grounds, is no stranger to awards. It reached the finals of the same competition last year, but won only the North of England category.

This year entries came in from the four corners of the UK and were of an 'unprecedented standard', say the event's judges, who visited all the short listed courses.

Rudding Park Golf was designed by leading course architect Dr Martin Hawtree, and its four miles of fairways, including flower meadows and woodland, are already recognised as a haven for flora and wildlife.

Environmental information boards detail points of interest, and its meticulously designed

woods and lakes now prove as irresistible to many of Britain's native species as they do to hapless golfers.

Managing Director Mark Mackaness said, "Being the best at anything is always a tremendous achievement, and when it involves an area of the business which competes against the challenges of nature, it's all the more rewarding.

"There is so much more work to be done to build on the solid environmental foundations stones we have laid

during the first year, and we are eagerly looking forward to putting the prize money to valuable use."

The course is part of a golf complex which also has an 18 bay floodlit driving range and a PGA teaching academy equipped with state of the art video swing analysis.

Rudding Park's 2,000 acres also play host to Rudding House; one of the north's leading conference and banqueting venues which, from next Spring, will include a 50 room four star hotel.