

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?

.....

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

making us so welcome. Thanks also to the bar staff and catering staff for their hard work and the Green staff. Thanks Andy for having the course in such good condition must be all the rain we have had?

Nice to see Derek Farrington the Regional Administrator in evidence. Thanks for the raffle prizes from Tuckwells, Avoncrop, Patissons, Turf Actant, Does, Kings, Grasshopper, Greenkeeping Supply company, Bourne Amenity.

Two more thanks to Steve Newton for doing the cards and Ian Willett for doing the raffle.

On with the prize winners: Longest drive, M. Virley; Nearest pin at 8th K. Titshall; Nearest pin 17 P Hurrell.

0-9 Handicap. 1. A Toomey 37 pts; 2. J. Cook 36 pts; 3. C. Crotcher 34 pts 10-18 Handicap. 1. R. Mitchell 38 pts countback; D. Wells 38 pts 3. D. Smith 36 pts 19-28 Handicap. 1. K. Titshall 34 pts; 2. C. Steggalls 34 pts; 3. T. Huddleston 33 pts

Guest Prizes. 1. R Clark 34 pts; 2. M Stopps 33 pts

Thanks to Dave Parsons, the Bentley Captain, for presenting the prizes.

The overall prize goes to R. Mitchell and will be presented at the AGM on December 12 at Alderburgh GC this is a very important date for the New Sections so make sure you have the date noted.

Two more dates for your diary September 24 Writtle College same time same place with two more interesting speakers.

October 9 for 18 holes at Stapleford Golf Club.  
David Wells

## SOUTH EAST

### London

Our autumn tournament was held in August at Finchley Golf Club. The afternoon event was well supported and the course was prepared to a high standard. I would like to thank the Course Manager, David Montgomery, for preparing the course.

I would also like to thank the Finchley Golf Club for their hospitality and for the use of their facilities. The evening meal was excellent and I would like to thank the catering manager for providing such excellent service. The results for the day were as follows. The winner was David Montgomery with 40 points and the runner up was Peter Creeber with 37 points. In third place was John Jackson with 36 points. The guest prize was won by the club captain, Mr Budgeon, with 41 points. The nearest the pin prize was won by David Montgomery and the longest drive was

## Around the Green



won by John Jackson. I would like to thank all the trade for their support and especially, Johnny Beck for providing the refreshments at the half way point.

## SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES

### South Coast

Our summer golf meeting was held at Stoneham Golf Club. The man above looked down and supplied us with a lovely dry summer's day. The course was in superb condition. Our thanks must go to Peter Marsh and his staff for all the hard work they put in for us.

First prize went to B. Emberley (Bernard and not Barry as appeared in September's magazine. Apologies Bernard.) and P. Hecton with 47 points, 2. A. Doolan and A. Doolan Snr also with 47 points. (Decided on the back 9) 3. C Sturges and F Flood with 46 points.

Congratulations to all the prize winners. Our thanks must also go to the Captain and Committee for granting us the courtesy of the course to M H. Mulligans, the caterers who provided us with a very tasty meal. Our tournament organiser, Mark Webb, was on holiday during the run up to the competition his place was taken by Tony Gadd who did a great job. Thank you Tony. Last but not least a big thank you to our sponsors for the day, Parker Hart and Roffey Brothers who supplied the prizes.

Once again after continuous reminders about returning the trophies the Parker Shield was conspicuously absent. This trophy is given to the section by Parker Hart. It is in very bad taste that it was not at the prize table this is the sort of thing that gives the section a bad name. By the time this report is printed in the magazine your committee will have decided what action to be taken.

Our first winter lecture will be held at Bramshaw Golf Club at 2pm November 7. The speaker will be our Executive Director Neil Thomas. Neil will be updating us on what is going on at Headquarters. He will also be answering your questions. So come on gents make a big effort to be there. Let's have a record attendance this time the venue is as central as we can get, in fact,

it is the central point of our section.

Just another reminder that our regional seminar will be held at Cannington on Wednesday November 27. All applications and any other queries to Gordon Child. Previous seminars at Cannington have had some very good speakers. This year should prove no exception. Among the speakers will be George Brown the course manager at Turnberry. The cost of the day is £12.50 this includes lunch, if there is enough support a coach will be provided.

Seats for the regions BTME coach are going fast so get your bookings in now or it might be too late.

The 1996/1997 programme of Section and Regional events is at present being processed you should be receiving them very shortly if you haven't already.

Ken Lodge

### Devon and Cornwall

Roserrow Golf Club was the venue for our August Summer Meeting on Wednesday August 21. The venue gave our Cornish members a chance to look around the newest club in Cornwall which at present is growing in, our thanks to Richard Smith and his staff for showing us around their new course and for providing the refreshments.

Our November Meeting will be usual be the section's AGM and will be held at Launceston Golf Club on Wednesday November 6, the morning's foursome golf competition will be for the Toro Trophy with prizes kindly being donated by Devon Garden Machinery.

The Region's annual seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 27, by know you should have received details of the seminar programme, if you haven't you would like to book your place or wish to know more about the programme please contact Gordon or Marion Child on 01803 844056.

Finally a reminder that bookings for the Region's package of transport, accommodation and entry to the BTME show and seminars are now being taken and are going fast. To avoid disappointment you are advised to return your booking form as soon as possible. That's it for this month I'm going on holiday.  
Richard Whyman

### South West

This year's match against the secretaries was held at Holsworthy GC in Devon Where two teams of 12 competitors each played six football games on a matchplay basis. After a light lunch the

matches commenced at 1.45 pm with a showery afternoon in store for those taking part. In a change to the previous two years it was this time the turn of the Secretaries to win back the Shield after a convincing victory by five matches to one. The day was concluded with an evening meal provided by the steward and stewardess of Holsworthy which was highly complemented for its quality. Prize giving followed the meal with thanks being given to Avoncrop Amenity Products for their generous continued sponsorship in providing both a prize for each member of the winning team and for putting wine onto the dinner table. Thanks also to Martin Townsend of Avoncrop for his help and organisation in the event, to Barry Megson Secretary of Holsworthy for allowing us course courtesy, and Derek Holloway and his team for their hospitality. Last but not least to the Greenkeeping Staff of Holsworthy who presented the course in such good condition.

Paul Jenkins, from Lilleybrook GC, will be this year's representative for the Region in the Premier Greenkeeper of the year competition sponsored by Miracle Professional. We wish Paul the best of luck as one of five in the final to be held at Aldwark Manor later in the year.


The regional seminar for 1996 will take place at Cannington College on November 27. As previously mentioned George Brown from Turnberry will be speaking as will Paul Clifton from Rhone Poulenc and Bill Lawson. Please register early for this popular event.

Another reminder to book BTME in January 1997 at Harrogate as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. If a booking form is not available to your self then please contact Gordon or Marion Child on 01803 844056

Finally I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this year's AGM at Bristol and Clifton Golf Club on Thursday November 14.

Kevin Green

**WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK I LIKE TO:**



"Try to play golf"  
**Huw Morgan, Wilderness GC**

# 'Some people say there shouldn't be any trees on a heathland golf course but I disagree'

difficult logistical problems to overcome.

"You can have 10-15,000 people watching just two matches and all hitting the tented village and clubhouse at the same time.

"We have a very good irrigation scheme and can now virtually control the bounce of the ball from the tee. Graham now has the facility to wet down the fairways, so provided the players hit the fairway, the ball reacts in the desired fashion. For example, making it spring forward to stop it in the landing area, particularly on a hole like the 17th with the big left to right slope. Seven years ago you couldn't have stopped a wedge on the 17th fairway."

A new irrigation system was recently completed on the Edinburgh, installation took place during the 1995-96 winter, while a new scheme is also planned for the East. The aim is that all three 18 hole courses should be brought up to the same standard as the West. Other areas of development include the re-design of

the driving range. Re landscaping will encompass total irrigation, while more bays will be added and the teaching facilities improved.

Over the years, nature has played its part in the re-design of the course.

"Some people say there shouldn't be any trees on a heathland golf course but I disagree. I think when Mother Nature does something you should try and work with her instead of having a constant tree felling programme. If you go out onto the Chobam Common end of the course - holes 8, 9 and 10 - there wasn't a single tree 40 years ago. Those that are there now weren't planted, they just appeared of their own accord. I think the course looks better for it.

Despite the vast experience of Chris and Graham like every other greenkeeper they are well aware that they never stop learning.

Chris said, "We're very lucky that we're part of a friendly industry and we can go and see

how other people tackle problems, how they present the golf course and people will pass on pieces of information. I've been going to The Open since I was 14 years of age and I've always asked questions of greenkeepers. At the open Championship every year, BIGGA greenkeepers get a chance to see the examination paper in the front line by doing bunker raking, divoting and any other task which they are asked to do. Guys who have never been involved in a golf tournament in their life are now in the front line and see exactly how things happen. Then they go away and use what they have seen at the Open championship on their own golf course. That can only be good for their members. This is an education process which happens annually and I'm very pleased to say that along with Walter Woods, I was one of the people who started that off many years ago. It's great to see it going from strength to strength on an annual basis and presentation at small 18

hole courses is now better than it's ever been because they see how it's done at golf tournaments."

"The last six years at the Club have been very interesting and with more plans on the drawing board, the future is going to be every bit as exciting."

Things just never stop at Wentworth.

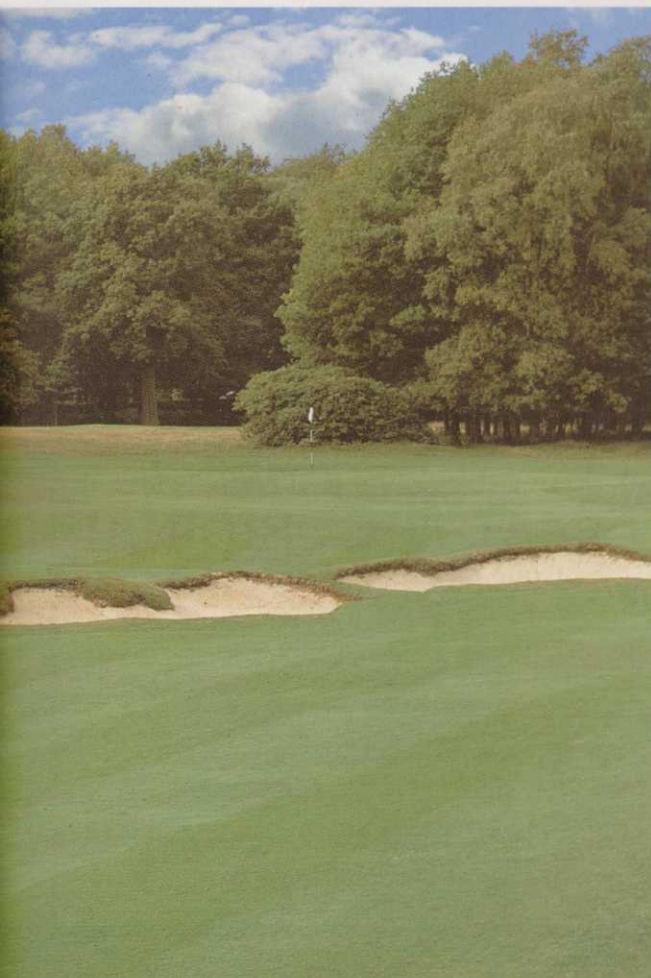
## WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK I LIKE TO:



"Play in the Hayter Challenge Final and avoid a 9 on my card." (Robert missed winning by two shots after a 9 at the 15th).

Robert Washbrook, Porters Park GC

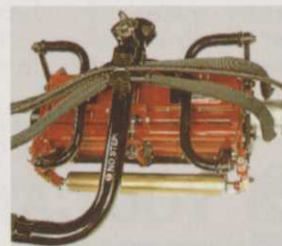
## SO DEDICATED, THEY EARN THEIR STRIPES EVERYTIME.



Whatever the season, whatever the weather, this greenkeeper cuts a fine swathe through thick, uneven turf to produce the perfect fairway.

For the new Reelmaster fairway mowers boast many new, innovative features resulting in a cut like never before.

Rugged, powerful and durable, they have the lightest of touches. Their new L-I-N-K-S™ system of floating linkage and individual lift arm dampers hug the turf to get into dips and hollows for a close, all-over cut with no "bobbing", even at speeds in excess of 7mph.



The new L-I-N-K-S™ system

Quiet in operation thanks to Toro's advanced noise reduction, the powerful 38hp and 42hp diesel engines will help these machines reach inclines other mowers can't.

To win your stripes, give us a call and we'll walk your course with you and recommend the best machine for your needs.

You too can trust Toro expertise and quality. Simply telephone 01480 476971 and we'll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.



The Reelmaster 6500D, with its 5-gang mower, and the 6700D, a 7-gang mower, both offer impressive cutting technology with all-interchangeable variable speed, automatically controlled reels to handle fast-growing, tough seasonal grasses.



Bringing perfection to play.

# Student Greenkeeper of the Year

From an initial 400 students, the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition has been whittled down to eight finalists.

Selection from the 17 participating colleges produced 39 for the regional finals at Edinburgh, Bradford, Hemel Hempstead and Cheltenham and these were interviewed by Pat Murphy, BIGGA Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Education Committee, Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer and either Peter Mansfield, David Cole or Bob Bevan of Lely.

The final will be held at Aldwark Manor on October 27-28.



**Alasdair McLean**

**Alasdair McLean**

Representing Scotland Age: 21.

College: Oatridge

Alasdair has worked at Machrihanish Golf Club, by Campbeltown on the west coast of Scotland for two and a half years and is currently studying for the SVQ Level II on block release at Oatridge where he has been best student in both the first and second years.

A keen golfer, footballer and rugby man his ambition is to become a Head Greenkeeper on one of the country's top courses.



**Karl Weston**

**Karl Weston**

Representing: Northern. Age: 28.

College: Askham Bryan.

Employed by CJ Collins Construction at the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa, Karl is the Greens/Tees Drainage Foreman and has just completed his NVQ Level II.

He worked at Hanbury Manor before moving to Woodhall Spa where he hopes to remain after the construction has finished.

Keen to see all aspects of the golfing industry he feels fortunate to have worked at two such excellent courses.

Out of work he is a keen swimmer, gardener and hill walker.

**John Donnelly**

Representing: South East. Age: 28.

College: Oaklands.

Zimbabwe born John is an assistant at The Buckinghamshire GC, studying NVQ Level II. Another man who has come to greenkeep-



**John Donnelly**

ing from other areas having worked in a golf shop and caddied on the South African Tour. He has also undertaken his National Service, was the Workshop Manager in a small factory and was a security guard.

His interests include golf, running, swimming, diving and shooting.



**Stephen Privett**

**Stephen Privett**

Representing: South West and South Wales. Age: 31 College: Sparsholt.

Stephen is First Assistant at Hamptworth Golf Club, Landford, studying NVQ Level II, having initially come into the golf industry as a seasonal labourer at South Winchester. Previously a car mechanic and landscape gardener Stephen, who is married with two children, has set himself the target of being a Head Greenkeeper within five years and having reached First Assistant in two is well on course. His ultimate ambition is to become a Master Greenkeeper.

Not one to let the grass grow under his feet he is a keen golfer, judo player, snooker and pool player and rebuilt his own Escort MKI.

**Fintan Brennan**

Representing: Scotland. Age 32.

College: Elmwood.

A Metal Fabricator for 14 years an interest in golf encouraged a career change and he has risen to be Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Portmarnock in his native Ireland.

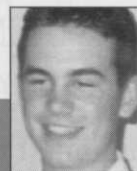


**Fintan Brennan**

Studying for his SVQ Level II, Fintan won the class prize and the BIGGA Scottish Region Award in his first year and the Barenbrug Student of the Year Award in his second.

Aims to complete his HNC and HND and take his golf club through a major professional or amateur tournament as Head Greenkeeper.

Outside interests include golf where he has a handicap of 6, photography and motor racing.



**John Bachelor**

**John Bachelor**

Representing: South West and South Wales. Age: 20 College: Cannington.

An assistant at Mendip Spring Golf Club John is another studying for his NVQ Level II.

He is currently on a five year apprenticeship run by the golf club.

A keen cricketer he holds six records for batting for Failand and Portbury Cricket Club while he is also interested in golf and horse racing.

**Noel Greene**

Representing: Midlands Age: 20

College: Warwickshire.

Noel is an assistant at Gay Hill Golf Club and is studying for his NVQ Level II. His Course Tutor at Warwickshire College described him as having the potential to become an ambassador for the profession.. A man with a thirst for travel he has ambitions to work in America and Sweden. He has also visited many European



**Noel Greene**

countries but would like to add India and Africa to the list.

He is currently learning to drive and is a keen supporter of Birmingham City FC and Warwickshire CCC.



**Michael Hartney**

**Michael Hartney**

Representing: Ireland. Age: 26.

College: Stiofain Naofa.

An assistant at Ballybunion GC and currently studying for his NVQ Level III and C&G Phase 2, he has previously been a Course Ranger and a caddie, where he worked alongside the likes of Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson.

He has ambitions to build his own home in Ballybunion, a course he describes as "phenomenal".

Off the golf course he plays traditional Irish music on the accordion and breeds canaries.

**WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK I LIKE TO:**



"Be in the pub"

**Dave Leatherland, Kedleston GC**