

## As I see it...

BY DEAN CLEAVER  
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

It doesn't seem any time at all that I was talking about our time in Lytham at The Open and now here I am looking back at the National Tournament at Seacroft Golf Club in Skegness.

I must say it was nice to see so many families there and I am sure everyone, of all ages, enjoyed themselves. It was also good to see an international

flavour to the event with Thorbjorn Raun and Alan Brebion of Denmark and France respectively playing. It was particularly pleasing to hear how much they got out of their BIGGA membership.

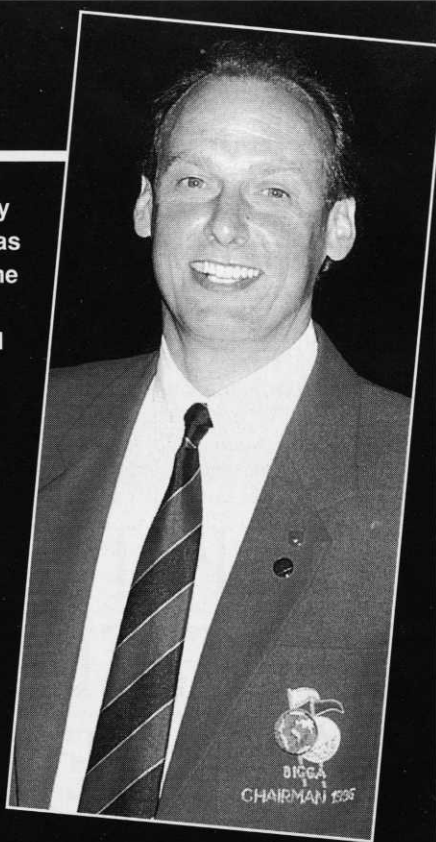
I would like to thank the Seacroft for the excellent hospitality afforded to us and, in particular, Head Greenkeeper Richard Hardie and his team who had the course in first class condition. Bearing in mind the weather we have all had to contend with over the last 18 months it was absolutely superb.

Congratulations to all the winners and I would personally like to thank all the sponsors and, in particular, Miracle Professional for their support, without whom the prize table would not have been the superb spectacle it was.

September is going to be a busy month for me. It begins with Saltex, then I'm off to Sweden to deliver a talk at the Swedish Greenkeepers Association Conference. I get back on the Friday and then on the Saturday we have the Hayter International and Hayter Challenge tournaments at West Lancs and Fairhaven golf clubs.

The Hayter International is a unique event and I am looking forward to meeting everyone involved. I am Captain of the Rest of the World team and I've already contacted Bernard Gallacher for some tips on captancy.

I am sure the events will be a great success and immense credit must go to Kim Macfie and Hayters who have been instrumental in ensuring their success.



# NEWS



## Paul takes the cup

Paul Rennie from Andover, who has just successfully completed his studies on the National Certificate Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sportsground Management

Course at Sparsholt College, Hampshire has been awarded the Kings Worthy Parish Council Prize given to the student who has produced the Best Major Course Project.

## Sod growers to stage demonstration days

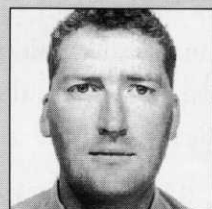
On October 10 and 11, especially for sod growers, demonstration days will be organised by the French Sod Growers Association in cooperation with Nannings v Loen BV, the Netherlands.

The demonstration will take place in the northern part of Holland. Latest developments and appliances will be demonstrated like "De Hy Tek" machine with automatic stacking system and the "Brouwer Rollmax" sod harvester.

Manifold manufacturers and suppliers will demonstrate all the essential devices required for an efficient sod cultivation.

This unique occasion provides you with the opportunity to become fully apprised of the latest European advancements in sod cultivation.

Further detailed information will be readily provided by Nannings v Loen BV, the Netherlands. Telephone: 00 31 33 4564 550, Fax: 00 31 33 4564 433.



Stuart Ashworth has joined the staff of Amenity Technology as the company's Technical Sales Manager for the UK and Europe.

Previously Stuart worked in the North East of England for Rickerby Ltd as Technical Sales Representative and following his appointment will be moving to the South West of England.

Following Saltex he will commence an intensive training course on all products available from Amenity Technology.



## Differences... and similarities

**Brad Owen, pictured, of the Augusta National Greenkeeping Staff, made his first visit to the UK to work as a member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team. He gives his impressions of his visit...**

Tom Lehman said it best with a single word, "Wow". Although he probably said it with a good bit more emotion, the same word can describe my trip and impressions. It was quite an experience to see up close and be part of "The Open" for the first time. To be inside the ropes and walk with the players gives you a better understanding of how the player attacks the course and how the course can fight back. It also was unique to walk the course from the player's perspective in the early part of the day and then to see behind the scenes maintenance in the late evening. The maintenance that so many people take for granted, or are not even aware of, is very interesting and I was surprised that it was not discussed more by the media.

There are many differences in philosophies concerning the maintenance of turf for a major golf tournament between England and the US but the most important philosophy is very similar to any other major tournament. That is, to pro-

vide a fast, firm and difficult challenge for the golfer that puts a premium on a well played shot and anything less is a take away shot. Other similarities include some of the goals of BIGGA and our Superintendents' Association and those include: projecting a professional image and furthering the education of its members along with educating the public on just what the superintendent's job is all about. During our stay in Blackpool, BIGGA proved to be a very good host as did many of the people we met along the way. I would strongly recommend this experience to anyone who appreciates golf and turf grass management. A big thanks goes out to BIGGA for making this trip a reality.

Finally, I found it interesting to see a course such as Royal Lytham St Anne's that was obviously a model for so many American courses that try to imitate the links style course (even if it is inland just a little bit!). You can read all you like and look at pictures all day but you really need to see it up close for the best impression. The very first course I worked on was designed by Jack Nicklaus and he incorporated many features such as the mounding, small bunkers and elevated tees along with penalising rough in his design.

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION



**PART TWO OF THE 1997 BTME QUIZ!**

# Come to the show FREE!

★ Here's part two in our competition where you as a Greenkeeper can go to BTME 97 ABSOLUTELY FREE! Together with the BTME, the Learning Experience 1997 will provide a varied and informative education programme. The workshops have been so successful they have been expanded to four in the programme. These hands-on training opportunities cover golf course design and construction, surveying and levelling, communication with golf course committees and the magic of greenkeeping. The National Education Conference starts on Monday January 20.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of the three superb prizes is to answer six questions – there were two last month, two in this issue, below, and the final two plus the entry form appear in October's issue.

### SEPTEMBER QUESTIONS

1. Name BIGGA's Education Officer?
2. What date does the National Education Conference start?

*Don't miss your chance to attend the largest indoor turf management exhibition in Europe.*

**FIRST PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three night's 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 night's 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.



For more information about BTME 97 contact James McEvoy or Louise Lunn on 01347 838581

# Architects celebrate big event in style

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects will mark its 25th anniversary with the staging of the Silver Jubilee Conference at the Wentworth Club, Surrey, in October 2-4.

Day one is the Barenbrug Golf Day. The evening sees the Conference Dinner, when around 100 golf course architects and their invited guests will celebrate the anniversary. Specially struck silver medals will be presented to the Institute's surviving founder members - Fred Hawtree, Hamilton Stutt, Donald Harradine - and to the Institute's oldest member Eddie Hackett and to its honorary member, Geoffrey Cornish.

Principal guests at the dinner will be Viscount Whitelaw, President of BIGGA and Michael Bonallack, Secretary of the R&A

Day Two will be taken up with the Silver Jubilee Conference itself, featuring a series of presentations on golf course design and related topics by architects and experts.

The President of the Institute, Martin Hawtree, will lead the Conference, with Donald Steel, Geoffrey Cornish and Colin Hegarty among the speakers.

The afternoon session will begin with the announcement of the formation of the Federation of European Golf Course Architects, the coming together of the British, French and European groups to cooperate and collaborate as a single voice in the European Market.

Day Three sees the staging of the Conference Workshop, a morning discussion forum on golf green design and construction.

Registration for the Silver Jubilee Conference is now open.

The whole conference package (dinner, conference, workshop) costs £240+VAT. Golf and accommodation are separately bookable and each element of the package is also available separately.

Throughout the three day event, an exhibition is being staged. The exhibition is already fully subscribed with 31 stands taken up by contractors, irrigation companies, seedsmen, fertiliser and turf producers.



The award winning students with representatives of Gleneagles, Ransomes, Scottish Grass Machinery and the Greenkeepers Training Committee

## In search of excellence

Eight Higher National Diploma golf management students from nine associate UK colleges and one international student received The Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award certificates and bursary awards following their one year placement at the Perthshire golfing resort.

Most students develop within a structured course and this is true in the case of the recently established Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme. Sponsored by Ransomes and Scottish Grass Machinery, and benefiting from Gleneagles modern approach to training, the award scheme has also flourished.

George Graham, Gleneagles' Operations Director, and Andrew Sunaway, Sales and Marketing Director of Ransomes, presented the awards in the company of David McInroy, Scottish Grass Machinery.

Ransomes and Scottish Grass Machinery are committed to a three year bursary award and financing a research library at Gleneagles for the benefit of students and existing golf course operational staff.

Marc Westenhorg, Cannington College, was top student following practical, theoretical and pro-

ject assessments by a panel consisting of James Kidd, Gleneagles Golf Developments, Carol Borthwick, Elmwood College, Nick Rigden, Cannington College, and Hugh Stewart, Head Greenkeeper on the Queen's course.

Marc received a cheque to include a trip to the Golf Course Superintendents Association conference and show in Las Vegas next year.

Other recipients of Certificates of Excellence and bursary awards were Leo Cahalan, Kenneth Harper, Mark Higgs, Steve Johnson, Trevor Norris, David Stevens and Niall Quinn.

Niall, through his involvement in the scheme, has been offered an exciting opportunity by Ransomes. He has been invited to visit their manufacturing plants across America and also to visit the golf courses where Ransomes prototype machinery is tested. He is funding this with a percentage of his 2nd Prize bursary award.

Stuart Green, a previous winner of the scheme in its inaugural year, recently completed an HND in Golf Course Management at Reaseheath College and has now signed a full-time contract with Gleneagles Golf Developments and the resort's golf team.

■ Peter Hawkes, the Sales Administration Manager for Massey Ferguson, has died suddenly. He was 52.

Peter had become both a friend and a colleague since joining the company in 1990 and he was highly regarded as an invaluable member of the Grass Equipment team.

As a mark of respect the Grass Equipment office was closed on the day of the funeral.

He is survived by his wife Val and their two children Rebecca and Simon.

■ Peter Simpson, formerly of T. Parker and Sons has died.

His career with Parkers spanned 38 years during which time he rose from junior rep to Sales Director,

He is survived by his wife and children.

■ *Greenkeeper International* would like to apologise unreservedly to Mr Ronnie Bunting and Kilmacollm Golf Club for comments which appeared in August's issue. Mr Bunting's professionalism and ability as a greenkeeper or the quality of the course at Kilmacollm Golf Club has never been in question.

## Hattrick for Graeme

Graeme MacDonald, Head Greenkeeper at Ryston Park near Peterborough is fast earning himself the title of the city's Mr Golf. He has just completed the hattrick of winning the club championship at three of the local clubs - Orton Meadows, which he won for the fifth year in a row and broke the course record with a 71 in the

process; Thorpe Wood, which he won for the second time; and Peterborough Milton which he won for the first time.

"It's never been done before, I think partly because no-one else plays in all three," joked Graeme, who plays off 3 and who also picked up prizes at the National Tournament at Seacroft.

### MY IDEAL HOLIDAY DESTINATION IS:



"The north east of Scotland"  
Graeme MacDonald,  
Ryston Park GC