

Presenting a definitive A-Z of our industry...

I don't get much free time but occasionally, when I do, I doodle and compile lists and play with words. What am I doing... I'm revealing to all you readers what a sad anorak I am! Let's start again.

I don't get much free time in my hectic devil may care lifestyle but occasionally, between rock climbing, hitting the clubs and mixing with celebrities, I unwind by compiling the odd list. The latest is an A-Z of greenkeeping. See what you think and if you can do better, and I'm sure you can, I'd be delighted to publish it.

A: Armchair. From where most members pick up their appreciation of US golf courses and demand that all British courses should look the same.

B: Bar. The informal information exchange which works best for many greenkeepers.

C: Committees. The guiding light for so many greenkeepers.

D: Divots. Always there, or soon to be there, to scar the most perfect of fairway.

E: Experts. The world is full of them and a rare few are the genuine article.

F: Fusarium. Life would become boring without it.

G: Greenkeeping. Says it all.

H: Harrogate. A Mecca for greenkeepers.

I: Irrigation. Is there any club still out there without some form of irrigation?

J: January. It must be BTME!

K: Ken Richardson. Your beloved Education Officer.

L: Learning. Greenkeepers never stop - see above.

M: Machinery. Where huge advances have been made.

N: National Tournament.

Highlight of the year for many.

O: Open Championship.

Highlight of the year for many.

P: Poa Annua. A regular and unwelcome visitor.

Q: Queue. Often seen at the bar at BTME.

R: Richard Barker. He would be upset if he didn't get a mention.

S: Sections. 26 of them, in five regions, make up BIGGA.

T: Turfgrass. For good foundations.

U: Uranium. Makes you light up at night.

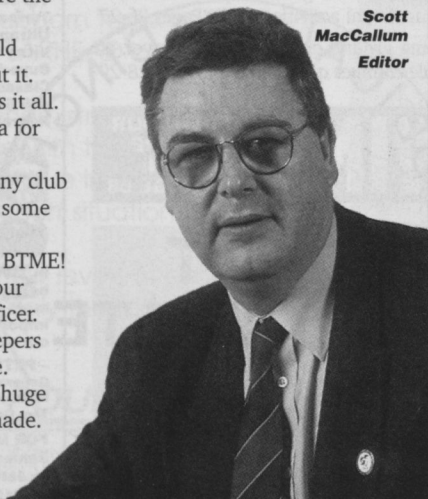
V: Valderamma. The stunning venue for next month's Ryder Cup.

W: Water. Wettest June on record but still not enough of the stuff.

X: Xylophone. A musical instrument and one of only six words in the Pocket Oxford Dictionary beginning with "X".

Y: Yard. Imperial measure most UK courses are currently measured in until the EC get hold of the subject.

Z: Zigzag. The intricate pattern which can be woven into the green particularly after a particularly late night - see "Bar".



Scott
MacCallum
Editor

As I see it...

BY PAT MURPHY
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

Moving into July my schedule was as hectic, but no less enjoyable, as ever. In fact, some of my experiences this month I'll treasure for the rest of my life.

After a productive board meeting at Aldwark Manor I headed to The Belfry as a guest of RiteFeed, one of the Association's Golden Key sponsors. It gave me the opportunity of seeing the excellent new PGA National course and meet up with Derek Ganning and his team. The greens on the new course were absolutely brilliant.

I'd like to thank John Walker and Richard Lawrence for their hospitality, part of which I was able to repay by acting as a courier and taking soil samples from The Belfry back to the STRI on my way home.

The final Hayter Regional Final at Matten Hall ended the jinx Kim Macfie and I had endured at the two previous finals which had to be restricted to nine holes because of the rain. I played another 10 holes and can say that my golf is improving and will continue to so long as Kim keeps providing the golf balls.

I travelled to The Open on the Tuesday and was privileged, along with Kim Macfie, to be a guest of the Editor at the Golf Writers' Dinner. It was a superb occasion attended by, among others, Ernie Els, Tom Lehman and Tom Kite, with speeches by five times Open Champion Peter Thomson and Colin Montgomerie. I was honoured to meet Colin and his wife before the dinner as they are friends of Kim's, while I also bumped into Jaime Ortiz-Patino, owner of Valderrama whom I'd met at the GCSAA Show in February.

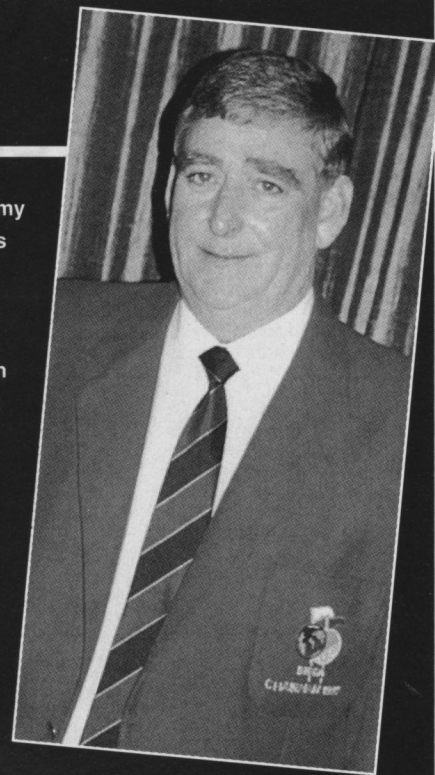
It was a superb week. The highlights were meeting Viscount Whitelaw and his wife in the BIGGA marquee where Bob Lupton, Gordon Child and Elliott Small were presented with watches to mark their retirements from the role of Regional Administrator. I also met members and non-members from as far afield as Sweden, America and Australia, while I certainly impressed Scottish Chairman, Sam Morrison, with the news that I'd given up smoking.

My big moment came, however, when I had a picture taken, with the Support team, crouching next to Justin Leonard, the new Open Champion. I congratulated him on his victory and he held up the famous claret jug and said to me, "Get your hands on that."

I'd like to thank all the staff and members of the Association who made The Open the success that it was.

I got back to the work on the Monday afternoon and had all Tuesday at the club before travelling to Cornwall for a meeting. It involved getting up at 4.30am to catch a train in Leeds and not getting home before 10.35pm.

All in a month's work.



Pat Murphy