

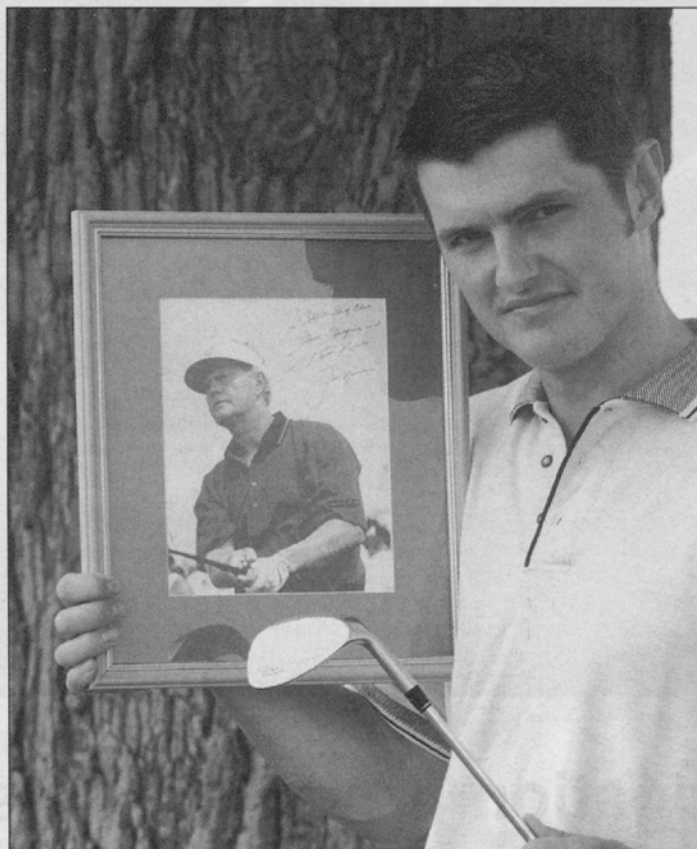
Famous connections bring benefit to club

Tim Lower from Eastbourne was glued to the television during the Open Championship at Royal Troon. The 29 year-old Head Greenkeeper at Battle Golf Club in East Sussex had a special interest in three times Open Champion Jack Nicklaus.

Tim's family connections led to Battle Golf Club receiving a signed photograph of one of the greatest golfers of all time when the new nine-hole golf course opened for play at Netherfield Hill, just two miles from the historic town of Battle.

"It was my mother's idea. She was so chuffed when she heard that I had been appointed the greenkeeper at Battle that she organised the picture with a personal message from Jack Nicklaus through my step-father," says Tim proudly about his mother Marjorie.

His mother's first husband was Ken Bowden who lives in America and has a long association with Jack Nicklaus having worked with him for more than 30 years writing teaching books with the player.



Barking up the right tree

Eamonn Wall & Co is co-promoting a one-day seminar on "Trees in a Golfing Landscape" with the Mersey and Red Rose Community Forests.

The seminar will take place on September 10 at Blundells Hill GC, St Helens. Topics covered will include constraints on planting on a golf course, golf strategy and the roles trees can play, principles of golf course design and the benefits of trees, successful tree establishment, the need to manage woodlands and the grants available for new planting.

For further details contact Paul Nolan, The Mersey Forest. Tel: 01925 816217.

A similar event is being held at Addington Palace GC on September 29. Further information on this seminar can be obtained from Lawrence Dennis-Smith Tel: 0181 654 3061.

Toro relocates an international site to Bournemouth

The Toro Company has relocated its international commercial department – previously based in Oevel, Belgium – to its UK office in Bournemouth, in a move which sees the UK become Toro's European headquarters for sales and marketing of professional turf maintenance equipment and irrigation systems, as well as consumer division products sold under the Wheel Horse banner.

Toro's European Sales Manager Bob Buckingham, with colleagues Christian Grisard Van Roey and Charles Gregory, have transferred to the UK office.

Bob Buckingham said: "Toro has relocated its European Sales HQ to the UK office in recognition of the demand here for our products in both the golf and non-golf industries. This office is now the centre of our sales operations in Europe for all three

aspects of our business – turf equipment, irrigation systems and Toro, Wheel Horse and Lawn-Boy consumer-products.

"We strongly believe in having our own personnel based locally in the markets we serve," he added, "therefore we will retain sub-offices in Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Belgium and Holland."

Details of the office are The Toro Company, Homelife House, 26-32 Oxford Road, Bournemouth BH8 8EZ. Tel: 01202 209281, Fax: 01202 291918.

Appointment for Martin Brothers

Martin Brothers (UK) has appointed Tim Edwards, formerly of Tarmac Top Sport, as Regional Sales Manager for South Wales and the Midlands.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Douglas Bell joins BIGGA next month as the part time Regional Administrator for the Northern Region.



A face known to a number of members as Douglas joins the Association direct from his post as Secretary/Manager at West Lancashire Golf Club which hosted the final of the Hayter Challenge in '95 and the inaugural Hayter International Cup between the Rest of the World and the Americas last year.

Douglas has been at West Lincs for 13 years having previously spent six years at Secretary/Manager at Woolton GC in south Liverpool.

Prior to that he worked in the finance department of Runcorn Development Corporation and the City Treasury in Liverpool.

A Liverpool man, and fan, he was born in West Derby and among his interests is football. As well as formerly being a referee at local level he has been the Honorary Financial Secretary to the Liverpool County Football Association for the last 24 years.

"I have a great many friends in golf and in my new role I am looking forward to meeting up with them and making new friends through BIGGA," said Douglas.

He takes over the reigns in the Northern Region from Bob Lupton.

■ Amenity Land Services Ltd, is hosting two open days this month. Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 of August will be Open House for the Telford based company. All aspects of turf production and maintenance will be on display including ALS' own Contracts Division which will be demonstrating spraying, vertidrain and overseeding on the turf fields. Also in attendance will be Rhone Poulenc, Sharpes International, Chemlock Environmental, Scotts UK Ltd, Vitax, Bathgate Sand and Top Dressing, Hall Market Harvesters and Amenity Technology. To book your place contact Duncan Burton Tel: 01952 641949.

Students sample the European dimension

The demand for a greater knowledge of the European dimension, as part of the national diploma course, was met recently when students from Reaseheath College visited Holland, courtesy of Mommersteeg International.

The five-day study tour was led by Phil Davies, Mommersteeg's Amenity Product Manager. The visit provided students with a comprehensive insight into the demands on Dutch grass breeders, turf producers, local authority and parks groundsmen, football stadium groundsmen and golf greenkeepers.

First stop on the tour was a visit to Mommersteeg International's headquarters at Vlijmen to learn, from John Verhoeven, Product Manager and Jos Deckers, Area Manager for Europe and South America, about the breeding, trialling and testing of



Students at the Efteling Golf Park at Kaatsheuvel

grasses and seed production for the European market. Students had the opportunity to take a close look at a specially-constructed par three golf hole, which has been sown with a variety of Mommersteeg mixtures as part of

its comprehensive trials work.

For Jos Deckers the students were an impressive group. "The professionalism shown by the students from Reaseheath is very encouraging for the future of greenkeeping."

Go-ahead for centre

A new training centre and extra office accommodation is to be built for John Deere Limited's UK headquarters in Langar, near Nottingham, at a total cost of £2.5 million.

The training centre will replace the company's existing facilities at nearby Bingham, which were established 16 years ago. John Deere Limited is the UK and Irish arm of the world's largest manufacturer of agricultural and groundscape machinery, and commenced trading at Langar in 1966.

The first sod at the new site was turned, and a commemorative tree planted, by Doug Walker at a special ceremony held at Langar in June.

Doug was closely involved with the establishment of John Deere Limited in the UK in the mid-1960s, becoming Managing Director in 1968. He



was succeeded on his retirement by the current managing director, Alec McKee, in February 1993.

Success in Scottish Championships

Over 70 players took part in this year's Scottish Championships on another beautiful day at Craigmillar Park in Edinburgh.

We had an excellent day, the course was in excellent condition thanks to Stephen Sinclair and his merry men, the catering and bar staff were most solicitous in looking after the inner man and the club were most welcoming. What more could we ask for? Well the Vice Captain Ronnie Galbraith kindly presented the prizes and Tom Lawson, the Secretary, could not have been more helpful and even found time to play as one of our guests. So all we needed was some good golf and we certainly got that. I think the prize list speaks

for itself, suffice to say the handicap secretaries need to have their pencils sharpened after this lot.

Best Scratch – Scottish Champion; S. Taylor, Killermont, 64; Best Nett – G. Shearer, Balmore, 76-20-56; Best Head Greenkeeper – S. Sinclair, Craigmillar Park, 79-12-67; Best Assistant – G. Tough, Carnoustie, 67-scr-67; Best Apprentice – S. Farish, Powfoot, 75-6-69; Best Veteran – E. Small, Tulliallan, 76-8-68. 1st Class – 1. R. Hensby, Tulliallan, 72-9-63; 2. S. Greenwood, North Berwick, 76-8-68; 3. J. Urquhart, Tain, 71-2-69. 2nd Class – 1. R. Thompson, Peebles, 80-13-67; 2. C. Wallace, Wishaw, 83-15-68; 3. D. Roy, Linlithgow, 82-13-69. 3rd

Class 1. M. Carey, Balmore, 82-22-60; 2. A. Russell, Torphin Hill, 87-18-69; 3. J. Nisbet, Peebles, 90-21-69. Patrons' Prize – R. Auld, Scottish Grass Machinery, 90-22-68; Guests Prize – T. Lawson, Secretary-Craigmillar, 75-6-69. Team Prize – West Section.

I must finish with a word of thanks once again to the patrons of the Scottish Region for all their marvellous support both for this tournament and all the other events held each year in the Region and Sections. Elliott Small

Heathland plants and wildlife on forum's agenda

Heathland conservation on golf courses is one of the topics to be examined in the Annual Heathland Forum this year, organised by the Staffordshire and West Midlands Heathland Partnership.

A number of courses in this area either have, or have the potential to support, a variety of heathland plants and associated wildlife. Modern course management recognises the value in incorporating the needs of wildlife into the maintenance programme for golf.

The Annual Heathland Forum will be held on Wednesday 13 August, 1997 at Beau Desert Cannock, Staffordshire, starting at 9.30am. Numbers are restricted, so interested parties should contact Sue Sheppard on (01785) 277256 at the earliest opportunity.

Promotion

Robert Brewer, Course Manager at St Mellion since September 1995, has been promoted to Course Manager/Director of Golf. Robert, who previously worked at Sunningdale under Jack McMillan and spent five years at Dukes Dene, will be in charge of a pro shop, four professionals and shop assistants. He will continue to look after 18 greenstaff, two courses, four tennis courts and a bowling green.

THE FACTS: NOT THE HYPE

Chris Pearson
Head Greenkeeper
Murcar Golf Club

“By using Primer 604 now for the second year, I feel the whole course has benefited from it. We have not had any dry patch problems here since we started on our Primer 604 programme.”

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Primer 604 is manufactured in England by Superturf Products Ltd under license from the Aquatrols Corporation of America.
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Big-hearted golf club rewarded with mower

Swansea-based golf club, Pennard, was the 1996 prize winner in the annual Golf Foundation/Kubota Prize Draw which took place at Wentworth earlier this year.

The prize, an 18hp Kubota front mounted ride-on mower worth over £8000, was presented to the Club's Captain and Vice-Captain on Wednesday 22 April at Kubota's dealership Celtic Mowers.

Pennard was one of 129 golf clubs which qualified for the Kubota prize draw by donating £250 or more to the Golf Foundation's annual fund raising appeal.

Pledging support again for the 1997 draw which will take place in early 1998, Kubota's Marketing Manager, Stuart Ellis said: "Kubota has been supporting the valuable work of the Golf Foundation now for many years and is delighted sponsorship of the event continues to help raise funds for the charity."



From left: David Rees, Vice Captain, Pennard GC; Dr Philip Dixon, Golf Foundation & Welsh Golf Union representative; Kim Davis, owner, Celtic Mowers; Colin Hennah, Kubota Regional Sales Manager; Beverley House, Golf Foundation and Ladies Welsh Golf Union representative and Peter H Jones, Captain, Pennard GC (seated on mower)

On track to raise cash for charity

British Seed Houses Sales Manager, Simon Taylor is set to go 'state side' running this year's New York Marathon in a bid to raise £2,000 for Help the Aged.

Simon, 34, who is based at British Seed Houses amenity division in Warrington, has just started a six month training programme for the 26 mile race, which will take place on November 2 with a field of more than 35,000 competitors. He hopes to finish in around three hours.

No stranger to gruelling events, Simon last year took part in the London marathon, raising over £1,600 for a local hospice.

"Running in New York will be a great experience, even though in November it can get very cold!" said Simon. "I'm working hard to get as many sponsors as I can before I go, but of course I could always do with more. I'm hoping companies within the amenity grass industry will be kind enough to support me."

Anyone wishing to sponsor Simon should contact him at British Seed Houses: telephone 01925 654411.

Principal thanks great teamwork

Anthony Fox OBE, Myerscough College's Principal, retires at the end of August.

His time at the College has included periods as a student, lecturer, Farms Director and Vice Principal, until the appointment as Principal in 1985. Under his leadership the College has grown to become one of the nation's leading centres of excellence in agricultural and horticultural education.

One of Mr Fox's major successes has been in co-ordinating the planned development of the College onto a single site at Bilsborrow.

This will be fulfilled during 1998, giving students access to a comprehensive range of educational resources covering 14 subject areas. He states: "I am proud of my achievements and I am proud of the staff that have helped make this happen. It has been great teamwork."

Although retiring, Mr Fox is not leaving the area. He will continue to be involved in the local community and the wider sphere of land-based education.

Myerscough College's new Principal is Professor John Moverley, Head of the School of Agriculture and Horticulture at De Montfort University since 1988.

Professor Moverley, like Mr Fox, is a well respected figure in the land-based industries.

He commented, "I see terrific potential here at Myerscough. The College has an excellent reputation already and I am looking forward to getting myself established in the county."

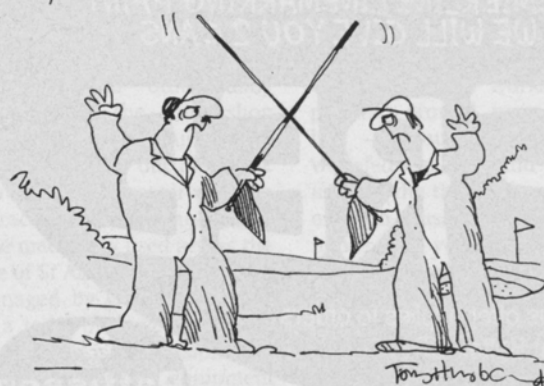
Impressive line-up for seminar

This year's Midland Region seminar will be held at Northampton Rugby Club on Wednesday November 19.

Speakers are Jack McMillan – Golf Course Management Consultant: "Progressive Greenkeeping"; George Brown – Golf Course & Estate Manager Turnberry Hotel; Andrew Laurence – BIGGA Insurance Broker: "Members Insurance Cover Explained"; Peter Jones – Golf Course Consultant: "Budgeting for Greenkeeping"; Noel Green – Runner-up Toro Student of Year 1996: "My Last Year's Experiences"; Mike Wadley – Sec. Northamptonshire County Golf Club: "Communication – Between Committee and Green Staff"; Danny Godfrey – Boughton Loam Ltd: "Breeding, Production and Selection of Grass Seed"; David Powell – Head Groundsman Northampton RFC "Development of The Saints Rugby Ground"; Roland Taylor – Grassblades Marketing: "The Merits of a Mechanic on the Greenkeeping Staff".

Application forms will be sent out to Midland Region Members this month. If you don't receive an application form contact Peter Larter Tel No/Fax: 01480 437507.

(mis)adventures of Gordon the Greenkeeper



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