

# Environment winners score double success in major competitions

Having been announced winner of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône Poulenc Amenity, last month Hankley Common Golf Club received its award at a function hosted by the Surrey Club this month.

The occasion was a personal triumph for Course Manager, Ian McMillan, for whom it was the conclusion of an amazing double, having been named winner of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping only a short time earlier – see Pages 38-42.

The day was an opportunity for Hankley to be presented with its magnificent piece of glassware and show what it had done to achieve the award. Among the guests were representatives for three of the four Regional winners – Linlithgow GC, Temple GC, Burnham and Berrow GC. The only absentee being Royal Birkdale, who sent their apologies.

Unfortunately the weather was not kind and the planned course walk had to be abandoned but the excellent clubhouse facilities were ideal for the presentations and question and answer session which replaced the walk.

Club Captain, Mike Hunt, welcomed the assembled gathering and expressed his pride in what the golf club had achieved in Hankley Common's centenary year. He was followed by BIGGA's National Chairman, Pat Murphy, who said how delighted the Association was with the response to the competition and the enthusiasm of all

Disciples of Hankley Common may have been wracking their brains working out which hole provided the cover shot for last month's magazine. The fact is that it is the 18th... but in reverse. Unfortunately during the printing process the excellent Bob Taylor slide was flipped over and slipped through the various checks and balances which are in place. We would like to apologise to Course Manager, Ian McMillan, and the members and officials of Hankley Common Golf Club for any embarrassment caused by the error.



Top: Members of Hankley Common with Ian McMillan, winners of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, held in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône Poulenc Amenity. Above, four of the winners with the sponsors

those who had taken part.

The two main judges, Bob Taylor from the STRI and Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist for English Nature, then gave talks on the rich seams of flora and fauna they had discovered on Britain's golf courses as well as the quality of conservation work which was being carried out.

Dr Duff explained that he was an extremely rare species – a nature conservationist who was also a golfer.

"Golf clubs should be applauded for doing so much on their courses. It is great for golf and great for the environment as well. I also applaud what BIGGA has done with this competition.

Following the judges Rod Baker, of Amazone Ground Care, whose had originally launched the competition in 1995 talked of his delight at how it had progressed over three years.

"If I had thought when I dreamt up this competition that by 1997 English Nature would be on board I would have been thrilled to bits... and I'm thrilled to bits," he said.

"I know Ian McMillan was dis-

appointed at being runner-up in the first year but they have come back and won this year and the club deserves it.

"We are committed to supporting this competition in '98 and committed to helping BIGGA in any way we can to make it grow."

Jonathan Hill, of Rhône Poulenc Amenity, said that he hoped the competition would continue to grow.

He then explained the rationale about a chemical company being involved in the competition.

"Careful use of our products goes hand in hand with conservation and protecting the environment. Pesticides can be plant medicine," he said.

Ian McMillan then gave a slide presentation showing the work that had been done at Hankley since his arrival and illustrated the extent of loss of heathland in the Surrey area.

Ian was presented with the crystal bowl and a cheque for £5000 to assist the club in its environmental endeavours.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ A new Internet site catering for everyone in the fine turf industry has been launched by Golfex.

The site has four main sections. 1. A Virtual Exhibition in which suppliers of products, services and educational courses have stands, each with a profile page, a page setting out products, services etc and an enquiry page for visitors to the site to send mail. 2. A Virtual Conference Hall in which it is possible to hold the on-line equivalent of a full-scale conference with papers, speakers, delegates. 3. A Library which will become a prime source of information for professionals and students. 4. A Catch-all area called the clubhouse which contains various rooms and notice boards.

Golfex will be on stand G18 at BTME to demonstrate the site and further information can be obtained from Charles Ollerenshaw. Tel: 01565 633667 e-mail: golfex@golfex.com

■ All STRI Training Courses are now BASIS approved and qualify for Continuing Professional Development Points (CPD) under the BASIS Professional Register. Fifteen points are available for both STRI five day residential courses – The General Turf Culture Course and the Turf Culture Course for Golf.

■ Ross Wilson, formerly Deputy at Newbury & Crookham Golf Club, has taken over as Course Manager at Donnington Grove Golf Club. He replaces Master Greenkeeper, David Winterton, who has moved to Maidenhead Golf Club.

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