

## YOU SAY

Send your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF or fax them on 01347 838864. E-mail: general@bigga.co.uk

# First class competition is a credit to us all

Through *Greenkeeper International* I would like to thank Miracle Professional Products for sponsoring the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award. I had a very enjoyable time at the finals at Aldwark Manor where Miracle men Richard Minton and Roger Mossop, with the help of Pat Murphy, looked after us really well.

I would also like to congratulate Cedric on becoming the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year. After meeting him and discussing views with him it is a title he thoroughly deserves. It was also great to meet the other finalists and discuss greenkeeping over a beer (Hugh and Pat. Hope you recovered OK).

I also took the opportunity to look round the BIGGA offices to meet the hard working girls, discuss the magazine with Scott MacCallum and see first hand the problems they are having with the lack of space. Hopefully they will manage to sort something out in the near future.

Once again sincere thanks to all and it is a competition which I would recommend to anyone out there to take part in, and if you know a greenkeeper doing a first class job then put their name forward to your Section Committee.

Finally I would like to thank my chargehand Robbie Allan and all the rest of my hard working staff and also Area Officer, Sandy Scott and Client Officer David Grant. Without their support I would never have been able to progress so far in the competition.

**Stewart McBain - Second in Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year.**  
**Hazlehead and Balnagask GCs**

## Professionals are spoiled

In reply to Alistair Connall's "Hung Drawn and Quartered" in the October issue.

From my own opinion, and having visited these so called PGA European Tour courses - most have not even achieved one year's growth, it becomes apparent that the European Tour seems only interested in money.

To put it another way, they are damaging the image of the greenkeeper and at the same time giving club golfers sub-standard courses.

The professional of today is spoilt from having played too many manicured American type courses and is waited on hand and foot from the time he arrives at the tournament until such time that he picks up his prize money. In between that he has destroyed the course with criticism.

It seems to me that the old ruling "Play the course as you see it" is dead and gone.

As for Mr Connall, I would not worry too much about what has been said with regards to the course by the pros, I only hope those in authority stand behind you.

Have a look at some of the courses built by golf professionals. They seem to forget that we are in a European climate with European soil conditions and that we do not have the man power we would dearly like. Perhaps if they were more aware of these things they would appreciate our position a bit better.

**Ronald Kennedy**  
**Course Manager**  
**Bayreuth GC**  
**Germany**

## On course

The Ohio State University International Golf Course Turfgrass Short Course, held in Florida, saw 27 international turfgrass students from Australia, England, Ireland, Portugal, Scotland and Wales attending the two day workshop on turfgrass management. After completing a one year internship on golf courses in the United States, the students will return to their home countries to finish their college education. Sponsors of the short course included the Ohio State University International Agricultural Intern Program, CIBA, Finelawn Research, Inc., ISK Bioscience, Rhône-Poulenc, Terra International, Zeneca, and the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America (GCSAA).

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