

# Bill voted personality of the year by BTLIA

At the recent AGM of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association the incoming Chairman, Gerry Wilkins, presented Bill Hawthorn with the Association's "Personality of the Year" award for 1996. The annual award was established in 1995 and is made on the basis of members' nominations.

In congratulating him on being only the second recipient, the Chairman said that the honour

recognised Bill Hawthorn's outstanding contribution to the turf irrigation industry over a period of more than 30 years and his work in developing the BTLIA since its formation in 1978.

Bill was part of the founding committee of the Association and served as its first Secretary/Treasurer during the early years. He is also a past Chairman and is currently a member of the committee. He was a major contributor to the

Association's highly regarded "Guide", now in its fourth edition, which defines a code of ethics and minimum standards of system design and contract implementation to which members bind themselves. He also helped to establish the Diploma Course in Turf and Landscape Irrigation run jointly by Myerscough College and the Association.

Bill is Chairman of Watermation Sprinkler and Controls Ltd.

## A BIGGA welcome to Jenny



Visitors to BTME may have already met BIGGA's latest recruit, Jenny Panton, as she spent a couple of

days at the show prior to joining the staff on a full time basis, replacing Louise Lunn.

Jenny joins the Sales and Marketing Department as Sales and Marketing Assistant.

Before joining BIGGA 27 year-old Jenny worked for the York and County Press alongside Amanda Freeman whom she joins up with again at Aldwark Manor.

Coincidentally, Tony Cocker, BIGGA's part time Accounts Assistant, also worked for the same company.

As well as working in the advertisement department Jenny spent time in the promotions department organising wedding fayres and other similar events.

Prior to that she spent five years working for Thomas Cook in the Harrogate and York offices where she worked in the flight centre and was also ski coordinator.

Jenny lists photography among her hobbies.



Tony Mears has been appointed Service Manager for Allen Power Equipment. A Chartered

Mechanical Engineer, Tony, 59, will be responsible for all technical aspects of both the Allen and Echo range of products.



Alex Wright has been appointed Amenity Technology's new Office Sales Manager. Alex, who

graduated from Reading University in '94, will be overseeing and developing office sales and customer support.



Wiedenmann UK has appointed David Bate as Sales Manager for England and Wales.

## Scottish Region's worthy winners



The recipients of the Scottish Region 1996 Patron's Awards were presented with their awards at a recent luncheon.

Pictured are, from left, Stephen Sullivan, Craigie Hill; Alan Russell, Torphin Hill; Sam Morrison, Scottish Regional Chairman; Martin

Kohler, Swanston; Bryan Cocker, Alyth; Scott Ballantyne, Cowglen; Drew McKechnie, Douglas Park and in front, Andy O'Hare, Leven Links.

Three others, Jimmy Johnstone, Turnberry; Lee Blackburn, Southerness, and Gordon McRae, Ratho Park, were unavailable.

## Greenkeeper turns taps on sneaky golfer

Hero of the month is Mike Osley, Course Superintendent at a municipal course in Tallahassee, Florida, who took action when the town Mayor consistently sneaked onto the course for a few practice shots before the official opening time despite being warned.

As reported in Michael McDonnell's Golf Diary in the *Daily Mail*,

Mike switched on all the sprinklers and soaked Mayor, Ron Weaver. Mike was suspended for a week without pay but the locals were so incensed with the way he was treated that they raised money to make up for his lost wages.

The point got through to the Mayor who said, "I'm embarrassed that I broke the rules. I won't ever do it again."

## Turf grower has plans for the new millennium

Inturf has announced plans to produce Millennium Turf which will go on sale from 1 January 2000.

Millennium Turf will be mature cultivated turfgrass grown using ten different grasses and the main feature of this new turf is that it can be used in a multitude of situations.

While some of the species present in Millennium Turf will flourish, some may diminish in vigour, so all the time adapting to conditions in which the turf is placed.

Inturf plans to market Millennium Turf in the first instance for landscape and lawn applications but there will also be uses for sport and special projects.

The first batches of Millennium Turf will be sown during the autumn of 1997 to allow good time for all grasses to establish and to be ready for sale early in 2000. No artificial reinforcement will be used (ie free from plastic netting) and it will be available in conventional square yard, square metre rolls, Big Rolls for TIM machine laying and Lay 'n' Play Turf Tiles.

Millennium Turf will conform to the new TGA (Turfgrass Producers Association) Standards for turf and the company is registered for ISO 9002.

# John Deere achieves certification to ISO standards

John Deere Ltd, the UK arm of the world's largest manufacturer of agricultural and amenity equipment, has achieved certification to ISO 9002:1994, the quality management system assessed by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance.

Both the company's headquar-

ters at Langar, Nottingham and the John Deere Training Centre at Bingham have received separate LROA certificates of approval.

Certification to ISO 9002 demonstrates that both sites operate formal procedures which lead to improved quality, not only of

the products sold, but also in John Deere's relations with its customers, dealers and suppliers.

"While ISO 9002 certification is an important criterion in customers' purchasing decisions, especially in bids for governmental and institutional sales, our

main purpose in wanting to achieve certification is that it forms part of our overall plan to continuously improve our services to meet or exceed our customers changing needs," said Alec McKee, Managing Director of John Deere in the UK and Ireland.

## Dealers are recognised with bubbly at BTME

At BTME Jacobsen acknowledged the sales and service achievements of a number of their dealers.

The following dealers were awarded with plaques and bottles of champagne by Peter Bell, General Manager, Jacobsen E-Z-GO UK.

Steve George, BS Mowers, received their award for Outstanding Parts Performance in 1996 Steve Williment, Scats, received their award for Outstanding After Sales Service Care in 1996 Steve Pullman, Sharrocks received their award for Outstanding Sales in 1996 Ian Bridges, Jacobsen Business Manager, accepted the award on behalf of GreenCare who were given an award for top dealer in 1996. Mick Shaw, Abbey Mowers, received their award for Outstanding Sales Performance in 1996.

At the presentation ceremony, Peter Bell commented, "I am pleased to present a number of dealers with these awards and I feel it not only shows the high calibre of our dealers but also their commitment to providing their customers with not only a range of excellent machinery but also with first class after sales service and support. Customer Care is of paramount importance to us."



Peter Bell, seated, and winners



Ready for some night-time action: MG Wildlife

## Night working keeps rabbits under control

A Home Counties-based company is making a name for itself in the field of conservation and the control of wildlife.

MG Wildlife, 15 years old and based in Hayes, Middlesex, specialises in work on golf courses, council parks and open land.

As these areas tend to be populated during daylight hours the company works at night using its own silenced all-terrain vehicle adapted for night work and silenced rifles to control animals such as rabbits and foxes.

"We expect to be able to cover a radius of 50 miles in a single three to four hours session during which they can go round the golf course three times and a by-product of our work is an ability to

survey the ground and monitor nocturnal wildlife including badgers, which are protected by law, and deer," said company Director, Max Gizzi.

"Grey squirrels are also a problem and we use feeder hoppers to poison the boisterous males who tend to be the ones which cause most of the problems by gnawing bark."

Special emphasis is placed on the conservation aspect of MG Wildlife's work as it wishes to maintain a natural balance of wildlife which means it is necessary to thin a particular species.

The company is fully licensed and insured to undertake conservation and control duties both day and night. For further information Tel: 01895 824395.

**Jim Paton, Head Greenkeeper at West Kilbride GC, has uncovered a new talent at his club in the shape of 93 year-old Peter McNab, who drew this cartoon.**

Peter, who was the Club Captain during West Kilbride's 50th anniversary and was also around for the club's centenary three years ago, is a retired banker but could easily have enjoyed a successful career with pencil and sketch pad.



## HAYTER CHALLENGE

### You could be playing in America

With the golfing season now virtually upon us the annual Hayter Challenge gets under way in earnest. This year there is a huge incentive to spend a few extra hours pounding balls on the practice range or honing your skills on the putting green as there are places on offer to represent the Rest of the World team to play against the Americas in the Hayter International Cup to be played in the USA next year.

The player with a handicap of 12 or better, who represents and resides in each of the home countries and who performs best in this year's Hayter Challenge Final, will be selected for the Rest of the World team in the second Hayter International match, to be held at the Cherokee Town and Country Club, Atlanta, Georgia, in October 1998.

A rare opportunity indeed, particularly as the team will have the chance to avenge the narrow defeat inflicted on the Rest of the World by the Americas at West Lancashire Golf Club last year.

As ever some excellent golf clubs are hosting Sectional Qualifiers while the venues for the Regional Qualifiers form a group of clubs which it would be hard to better.

- South West and South Wales - Burnham and Berrow GC, June 11.
- Midland - Warwickshire GC, June 26.
- South East - Ham Manor GC, June 27.
- Northern - Matten Hall GC, July 9.
- Scottish - Loch Green GC, Troon, May 27.

## Outstanding performance applauded in dealer award

Four dealers have picked up special awards from Toro in the firm's annual dealer awards scheme. Top award for "Best Dealer Overall" went to AT Oliver & Sons Limited of Kings Langley in Hertfordshire. The award is made in recognition of outstanding performance in all aspects of customer sales and after sales.

Three other dealers in the national network also receiving awards were A M Russell Limited of Edinburgh, and County Mowers Limited, Leeds, for 'Outstand-



ing After sales', and Ian Kerry (Machinery) Limited of Godalming in Surrey, whose John Colebrook won the 'Best Dealer Salesman of the Year' award.

The picture shows Toro Turf

Products general manager Peter Mansfield (right) presenting the 'Best Dealer' award to AT Oliver & Sons' sales manager John Cockburn (seated) and salesman Tony Martin.

# Diploma course is a first for architecture

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects broke new ground at the beginning of January when 12 students commenced their professional Diploma in Golf Course Architecture at Merrist Wood, Surrey.

The nine week course at the

College, supplemented by project and practical work will see the 12 work throughout the year towards graduation in December.

It is the first time in the world, it is believed that a specialist course in golf course architecture has been organised and the

BIGCA Diploma will be the first formal accreditation in the profession.

Martin Hawtree, President, BIGCA, said, "I am delighted that, after five years of our own student programme, we have, with Merrist Wood, put on the Diploma course. In this way the Institute is able to ensure professional education for those wishing to join the field and continue to ensure that proper and correct standards are met".



## Elmwood graduation

Elmwood College, in Cupar, held a graduation ceremony for students who achieved awards of the Higher National Certificate or Higher National Diploma of the Scottish Vocational Education Council.

Photo taken at the recent College Awards Ceremony shows, from left:

Carol Borthwick, Head of Greenkeeping Section, Elmwood College; Fintan Brennan, Student of the Year and winner

of the Barenbrug & Toro/PGA Greenkeeping Awards; Graeme Taylor with the Gleneagles Trophy for Golf Course Management; Graeme Simmers OBE, Chairman of the Scottish Sports Council and Principal Guest; Robert Kane, BIGGA Award for 1st Year Golf Greenkeepers; John Myles, BIGGA Award for 2nd Year Golf Greenkeeper and Steven Ewing, winner of the St. Andrews Links Trust Award.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ Banks Horticultural Products Ltd (founded 1961) and its Associate Company Fen Turf Dressings Ltd (founded 1980) have been supplying construction and top dressing materials to the golf course industry during that time. The two companies have now merged to form a new company, Banks Amenity Products Ltd and will trade under this name.



■ Barenbrug has appointed Ben Petitjean as new Area Manager to cover East Anglia,

Midlands and West Midlands.

■ Blackley GC has appointed Hugh Gavin Jones as Course Manager. He was previously Head Greenkeeper at Disley GC, Stockport.

■ Pleasington GC, Blackburn, has appointed First Assistant Gary Thomlinson as Head Greenkeeper.

■ North Manchester GC has appointed Martin Finney as Head Greenkeeper. He was previously Head Greenkeeper at Crompton and Royton GC.

■ Upton by Chester has gone overseas to appoint its new Head Greenkeeper in the shape of Robert Gee, previously of Faith Legg GC.

### (mis)adventures of Gordon the Greenkeeper



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