



President
The Rt Hon.
Viscount Whitelaw
K.T., C.H., M.C., D.L.

Bigga Board of Management
Chairman - Gordon Child
Vice Chairman - George Brown
Past Chairman - Patrick Murphy

Board Members
Richard Barker
George Barr
Robin Greaves
Ian Holoran
Jim Paton

Executive Director
Neil Thomas B.A.

Administration Manager
John Pemberton

Education Officer
Ken Richardson

Sales & Marketing Manager
James McEvoy

Membership Services Officer
Janet Adamson

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of
the British & International Golf
Greenkeepers Association

Editorial

Editor: Scott MacCallum

Advertising

Sales & Marketing Manager:
James McEvoy

Sales & Marketing Assistants:
Amanda Mayo, Jenny Panton

Tel: 01347 838581 Fax: 01347 838864
E-mail: general@bigga.demon.co.uk

Design

Design & Production Editor: David Emery
Fax: 01347 838402

Printing

Hi-Tec Print, Units 9-10, Houghton Road,
North Anston Trading Estate, North
Anston, Sheffield S25 4JJ
Tel: 01909 568533 Fax: 01909 568206

February 1998

Your next issue of
Greenkeeper International
will be with you by March 9



16

Smooth running

Reports and pictures from BTME98

Gordon Child **58**



Reader reply card

Use our post-paid reader
reply card to obtain further
information on the products
and services advertised in this
issue. Just state the company's
Ad Ref numbers, post the card
to us, and we'll arrange for fur-
ther information to be sent
direct to you.

Advertiser	Ad Ref	Page
Allen Power equip	126	9
Amenity Technology	431	30, 34, 60
Banks Amenity	168	34
British Seed Houses	577	55, 57
Cargills	566	2-3
Charterhouse	130	32-33
Cleveland Sitesafe	56	8
FAF Groundcare	197	53
Glen Hilton	557	42
Greensward	312	34
Hardi	25	29
Hi-Chem UK	510	31
John Deere	103	6
Kawasaki	544	34
Lely	61	40-41
Levington	102	15
Marlwood	501	12
Mommersteeg	171	20-21
North Staffs Irrig.	217	53
Ocmis	360	25
Pattisons	35	26
Pro Turf	575	53
Rhône-Poulenc	59	56
RiteFeed	212	7, 14, 19
RiteFeed	212	35, 38
Scotts/Miracle	54	27, 37
Service Chemicals	304	16, 18
STRI	580	11
SupaTurf	164	39
Symbio	510	28
TIS	475	17
TORO	79	59
Westurf	*	42

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the
future for greenkeeper, golf club and
game. Individuals and com-
panies can join the Golden
Key Circle and Silver Key
Circle. For details contact
BIGGA on
01347 838581



Golden Key Circle Company

Members

Amazone Ground Care, Barenburg,
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, Hayter Ltd,
Jacobsen E-Z-Go Textron, John Deere Ltd,
Kubota UK Ltd, Levington Horticulture Ltd,
Miracle Professional, Mommersteeg
International, Ocmis Irrigation UK Ltd, PGA
European Tour, Rainbird, Ransomes, Rhône-
Poulenc Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Ritefeed,
Supaturf Products Ltd, The Toro Company,
Watermaton

Silver Key Circle Company Members

Avoncrop Amenity Products, Fenchurch
Insurance Brokers Ltd, H Pattison & Co Ltd,

Got your breath back after BTME98?
Well, we're already taking orders for
exhibition space at BTME99!
To make your booking or for further
information call 01347 838581 now!



24

Wet, wet, wet

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

Features

- 12 The Learning Experience**
The path of leased resistance
A Guide to acquiring new equipment.
- 15 Thatch of the Day**
Jim McConnell, of Banbridge GC, addresses the problem of thatch.
- 16 BTME '98 - A very fine vintage**
All the news and reports from the Greatest Show on Earth... probably. Including the Executive Director's steamy diary of the week, the 'Buy a Brick' Campaign and some of the new products on display.
- 22 Sowing the Seeds**
John Hughes passes on some practical advice on overseeding
- 24 Wet, Wet Wet**
Hugh Tilley looks at the complexities of drainage.
- 40 The Identikit Chairman**
Scott MacCallum chats with Gordon Child, the man who has just donned the famous Red Blazer
- 43 Back in the Green**
Royal Mid Surrey has seen the colour return to its cheeks over the past year thanks to an overseeding programme and a new irrigation system. Scott MacCallum went to visit.

Regulars

News

Work begins on new HQ. Fancy working at The Open? Ransomes' sale goes through, Scott's Buy Levington's. Pages 7, 8, 9, 26, 28 & 31

10-11 Letters

10 Assistant's Profile.

Gordon McKie, St Andrews Links.

13 Health and Safety

14 Education

Ken Richardson give news on three competitions.

32-39 Around The Green

58 Features Listing

Helps you track down the features from old issues.

58 As I see it...

BIGGA National Chairman, Gordon Child, begins his new column.



43 Royal Mid Surrey

Stick with what we know

As the dust settles I hope you can all look back at your Harrogate experiences with equal doses of pleasure and satisfaction and join in the general belief that the week was another to mark down on the list of memorable occasions.

I must admit I do enjoy the whole experience the only downside having to constantly end conversations with the phrase - "It's been great talking with you but I should really have been somewhere else five minutes ago." It must be as wearing to hear as it is to say.

It is amazing, however, even when you are at your busiest your mind finds opportunities to wander and at one stage during the week I found myself thinking what a great job James McEvoy, our Sales and Marketing Manager, has.

It seems pretty simple to me. He calls up people in the industry asks if they are interested in advertising in the magazine or whether they would like to take up any of the many exciting sponsorship possibilities BIGGA has to offer.

They then answer in one of two ways. 1. "That's a great idea, thanks for offering me the chance to be associated with such a superb organisation. For how much shall I make out the cheque?" Or they say. 2. "I'm sorry, James, I'm afraid we've allocated our budget for this year in other areas. It's a shame because it really is a stonking good idea."

In the latter case he merely continues to make calls until someone gives him answer number 1. Easy!

I know he's been to college and read enough books to be able to spout forth about any marketing phenomena which has ever existed but I reckon I could probably do his job in the few spare moments I have when I'm not editing this magazine.

I know such things happen because one of the PGA Regions sent a letter to its members suggesting that they, the club professional, could also take on the additional role of Course Manager.

I've also seen a recruitment ad in another magazine for a "Golf Manager" - "combining the responsibilities of the Head Greenkeeper with the Club Professional". It's true.

Let's face it, I couldn't do James' job, just as he couldn't do mine. The same goes for golf club staff. Obviously at the turn of the century circumstances dictated that a club professional combined duties but making a case that the jobs then are the same as now would be as pointless as arguing black is white.

The roles are not interchangeable. In this highly advanced, fast changing, age you need to work hard just to keep up to date with the role that you know best. The thought of making a decent fist of a completely different job just because it happens to involve the same subject is plainly ludicrous.

Let's continue to produce the best possible Course Managers to work alongside the best possible Club Professionals.

PS. I hope you like your new style Greenkeeper International.

Editor: Scott MacCallum

