

Pat starts work on new headquarters

As soon as the bells to welcome in the new year had died down work began on BIGGA's new Headquarters and training facility and it was on Monday January the 5th that Chairman, Pat Murphy, arrived at Aldwark Manor to perform one of his last official duties before BTME.

The cutting of the first turf on the ground which will house the new Headquarters marked the culmination of months and years of negotiation and planning.

The new building will be adjacent to the 16th hole of Aldwark Manor Hotel Golf and Country Club, just north of York, and only 100 yards from the Association's existing rented accommodation. Once complete - the projected completed date being September of this year - it will offer superb facilities for Headquarter's-based training courses as well as accommodating 14 staff members.

"Today is a moment many of us have dreamed about for several years and I am extremely proud and fortunate to be the man to start off the building work," said Pat Murphy.

"The fact that we are in a position to build our own Headquarters is a measure of the success the



Left to Right: Pat Murphy; Project Manager, Stewart Broadhurst; Quantity Surveyor, Bridget Pearson; BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas, and Contract Manager James Moody, of RBA Moody Brothers (Contractors Ltd).

Association has enjoyed to date, and with the excellent facilities the new building will provide, BIGGA is sure to go from strength to strength," he added.

Within hours of the first turf

being turned site preparation work began in earnest and a matter of days later the site was virtually unrecognisable as it had been fenced off and heavy machinery had been moved in.

Patron's receive their just desserts at Award dinner



The Scottish Region Patron's Award Dinner at the Terrace Hotel, in Stirling, saw an excellent attendance of Patron's, Regional Board and Section representatives.

The Region and Patrons congratulated all winners of the awards each of whom was presented with a scroll, books and given a three day trip to BTME.

The awards went to members who had devoted a great deal of

time to Section business.

Picture shows award winners L-R. Stuart Sime, Leven Links GC; George Morrison, West Kilbride GC; Kenny Duncan, Dunfermline GC; Gordon Trotter, Glencorse GC; Dale Robertson, Newmarcher GC; Stuart Taylor, Killermont GC; John Morton, Alford GC, Robert Thomson, Peebles GC and John Scott, Kirkhill GC with Scottish Regional Chairman Sam Morrison.

Abbott wins holy water for Sunningdale

M J Abbott Ltd has begun work on the installation of a new irrigation system to both the Old Course and New Course at Sunningdale Golf Club.

The contract incorporates the design, supply of equipment and installation of the irrigation system to 36 golf holes, putting greens, practice area and turf nursery.

Rain Bird Europe has designed the system which incorporates the Maxi Nimbus Control System, Maxi Weather Station, Eagle, Falcon and R50 series sprinklers and PEB pressure regulating solenoid valves.

All staff working on the site are directly employed by M J Abbott Ltd which owns and operates a fleet of specially adapted machinery for use on golf courses.

M J Abbott Ltd are no strangers to working at prestigious Clubs. Their portfolio includes The Belfry, Celtic Manor Hotel and Golf Club, and Killarney Golf and Fishing Club among many others.

Members get Open invitation

Applications are invited from members to join BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support team for the 1998 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale GC.

Those wishing to be considered must be Full Members of the Association and should be available from Wednesday evening July 15 to Sunday evening July 19. The opportunity to take part in the most important golf event of the year is open both to team members from previous years and also those members who are wishing to participate for the first time.

Duties will be allocated on a rota basis over the four days of play and include early morning course preparation, bunker raking while matches are in play and evening course maintenance.

Members may also be asked to co-operate with the gathering of information for distribution in the Press Centre which helps raise the profile of the Association at the Championship. All members of the Support Team will be expected to remain on the course throughout the day and be available in the event of any unforeseen circumstances arising.

Accommodation, all meals and transport will be provided by the Association but successful applicants will be expected to pay their own travelling expenses from home to the Championship and return.

Those members wishing to be involved should put their names forward in writing to John Pemberton, Administration Manager, at BIGGA's HQ, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO6 2NE, to be received no later than March 16.

All names will then be placed into a draw to select the successful applicants. If you have not been to this event before in this capacity and wish to learn more about what will be expected please do not hesitate to contact John. Tel: 01347 838581.

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It suits my course
Alastair Tough, Muckhart GC

CBE honour for Neville

British Seed Houses Managing Director Neville Bark was awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours List for his contribution to agriculture.

He has been Chairman of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany for the last two years and was instrumental in establishing a dedicated amenity grass seed division in 1976.

"I'm naturally delighted to receive this award but I regard it as recognition of NIAB's reputation and continuing value to the agricultural industry as much as an honour for myself," said Neville.

Matt moves up

Jacobsen Division of Textron Ltd has become increasingly involved in sales of golf course equipment to large Companies (conglomerates) owning more than one golf course. In recognition of the huge potential growth in this area Jacobsen has appointed Matt Gough to the position of Sales Support Executive reporting to David Withers, National Accounts Manager.

Matt, who has been with Jacobsen for five years, brings a wealth of both product knowledge and demonstration skills to this position.

Charity begins at home for Swanston

Swanston Golf Club, in Edinburgh, held a charity golf day in aid of the Sick Kids' Hospital, the Intensive Care Unit and Radio Lollipop.

They were chosen because of the care and help they gave to Swanston Course Manager, Chris Yeaman's, young son, Christopher, who was in hospital for six months after having a terrible accident on his father's golf course during the Christmas period two years ago, while out sledging with his friends.

After the golf there was a disco and presentation of prizes, and presentation of cheques to the various charities.

"We would like to thank East Section Scotland for the kind donation of £200 to Ward 4," said Andrew Forrest, Deputy Course Manager, at Swanston.

"A Swanston GC member, Ronnie Reid, also held a charity golf event at Dalmahoy Country Club. Thanks to Ronnie for the organisation of the event, and to those who played in the event which included some football celebrities.



John Macaulay, of Radio Lollipop with East Section Chairman, Jimmy Neilson, and Chris Yeaman.

"Our thanks go to the members of Swanston G.C. who took part in the days event. And to everybody at Dalmahoy Country Club," said Andrew.

The total raised from the two events was £2,200 this was then divided between the various charities.

Chris' son went in for his six monthly check up in December and while there he presented a cheque to Ward 4 for £625 and to Intensive Care Unit also for £625. His check up went well and everything looks promising for the future.

A BIGGA thank you to Tim



To mark the conclusion of seven years of unstinting work on Greenkeeper International and many of BIGGA's promotional material, Tim Moat, of Headline Communications, Design and Production Editor since the magazine's inception was presented with a token of the Association's appreciation.

The presentation was made at Tim's offices in York by Sales and Marketing Manager, James

McEvoy, and Editor, Scott MacCallum.

"Tim has been a big part of the development of Greenkeeper International and I know we all wish him well in the future," said James.


This issue of Greenkeeper International is the first to be designed by David Emery, who joined the Association as its first in-house Design and Production Editor late last year.


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Wisley experience for Declan

As part of his Master in Education Award, Declan Gallagher, Programme Manager in Golf Greenkeeping at Cannington College, spent 12 weeks working at the Wisley Golf Club in Surrey. Under the guidance of David Whitaker, Master Greenkeeper and former Greenkeeper of the Year, Declan was able to fully participate in the daily routine maintenance operations.

"I wanted to get my hands dirty and be an accepted part of the crew, three of whom were ex-Cannington

students, so I had to be on my toes," he said.

Declan was able to mow greens, tees and fairways, rake bunkers, flymo and hand pick Poa Annua from the greens, and was able to observe and ask questions about the tasks he couldn't participate in.



The primary purpose for working at the Wisley was to carry out field research into the importance of vocational updating for lecturing staff. Cannington College strives to ensure its lecturing staff are technically competent in their respected vocational subjects. Last summer Huw Parry, Senior Lecturer in Golf Course Management, worked on a golf construction project in Portugal and recently employed Brain Jones, Greenkeeping Instructor was Head Greenkeeper at East Dorset Golf Club.

New training role for Geoff

Geoff Porter, previously of Forest of Arden, Royal Antwerp and GolfClub Issum in Germany has taken up a project managing and training role in India with architects David Hemstock Associates.

He would like to keep in touch with the greenkeeping world while in India and can be contacted by e-mail through Geoff Porter@golf-design.demon.co.uk

Cheers, John!

The winner of the case of wine from the free prize draw at the Sisis Direct "Direct-to-Your-Door-Tour" was John Scotney, of Sleaford GC. He was presented with his prize by Area Representative Jason Briggs.

A free lunch...?

At a recent company day Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacolm GC, won a prize of lunch and a round of golf for four people over the Monarch's Course at Gleneagles... but he did not have to swing a club to do it.

Ronnie won the prize for his skill as an after dinner speaker and is now having to show similar skills as a diplomat in choosing which of his old, and many new, friends he is going to take with him.

Plumpton College in East Sussex has become the first college of its type to be awarded a Charter Mark for excellence in service to the public.

"The award is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of College staff who, despite cuts in funding, are providing a better service to the public each year," said Principal John Brookham.

Picture shows staff from the College with John Brookham on the right dispensing the drink.



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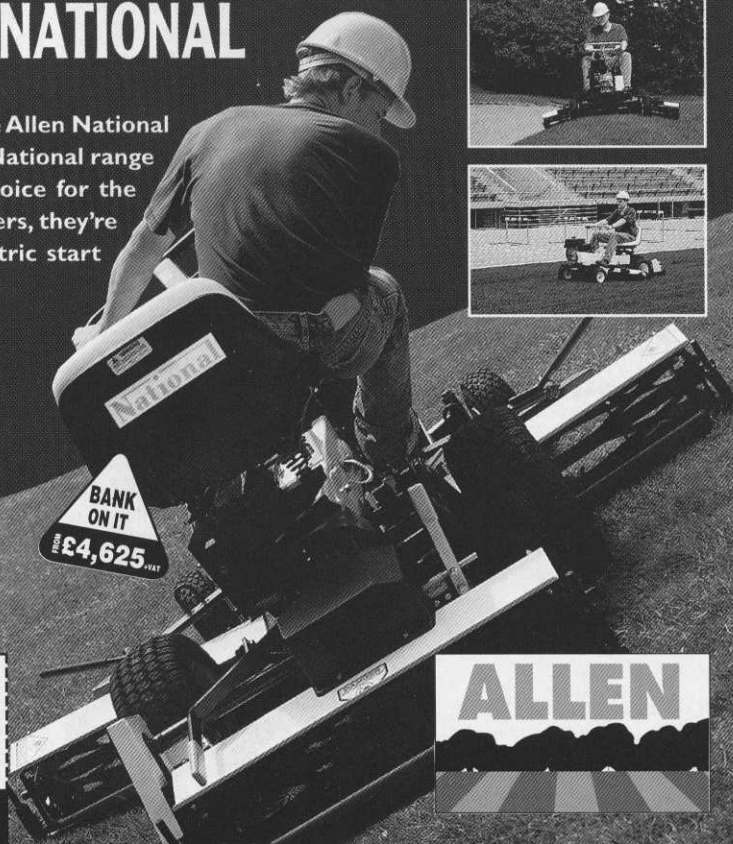
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ALLEN

AD REF 126

Ransomes deal goes through

Textron's proposed purchase of Ransomes plc, which was reported in December's magazine, was finally concluded on Monday, January 26.

In the lead up to the deadline day there was growing speculation that the required percentage of Ransomes' preferential share holders in favour of the deal would not be reached and that the deal would flounder but in the end sufficient numbers gave the thumbs up and the £137.1 million purchase was secured.

Textron currently owns Jacobsen and E-Z-GO as well as Cessna aircraft and Bell Helicopters.

The Scott's company purchases Levingtons

The Scotts Company has acquired Levington Horticulture and will integrate the company with its existing UK operations of Miracle Garden Care Ltd, which it purchased in '96, and Scotts Professional UK.

The new business will be part of Scotts International, headed by Robert Stohler, which operates in Europe, Asia, Australia and Latin America.

Levington Horticulture's Professional operations will be com-

binced with Scotts UK Horticulture and Scotts UK Turf/Amenity to form a new Professional Group and the existing sales and marketing agreement between Levington and Shamrock will be maintained.

"The Scotts Company is enthusiastic about the strategic opportunities presented by combining Levington with Scotts Europe Professional and Miracle Professional Care," said Robert Stohler.

"Levington's strength in peat-based growing media for the professional grower markets and its well known Greenmaster turf brand complement Miracle's product range in controlled release fertilisers and chemicals."

As Scotts Professional UK and Levington Horticulture are part way through a trading season they will continue to trade under existing company names and trading conditions.

THE RiteFeed CLASSIC

If every golfer in the country were to sit down and draw up a short list of potential venues for the final of a national golf event it is a sure bet that the venue eventually chosen to host the first National Final of the Ritefeed Classic would have figured high on most people's top fives.

The Gleneagles Hotel has a reputation for excellence both on and off the golf course and it is through being a slave to perfection which has seen it become regarded as one of the top resorts of its type - not just in Great Britain and Europe, but worldwide.

It is for a chance to represent your Region at this golfing Mecca that you will no doubt soon be playing in Section Qualifiers and further incentive to put in a bit of serious practice shouldn't be needed.

As was the case with the previous Hayter Challenges three qualifiers from each of the three handicap sections 0-9, 10-18 and 19-28 will win a place in the Regional Finals which are also being played at superb venues with the same three groups of three making up the team for the final.

June 11
Scottish Region - Royal Dornoch GC

June 29
Northern Region - Mere Golf & CC

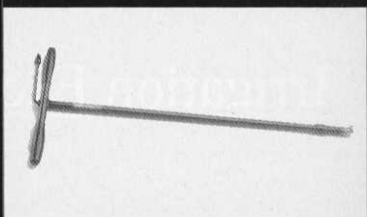
June 24
Midland Region - Stoke Poges GC

June 29
South East Region - Wildernesse GC

June 4
South West and South Wales Region - St Mellion Golf and Country Club

Oct 7
Ritefeed Classic National Final - The Gleneagles Hotel

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The hard work's worth it



The work that Ian McMillan and Hankley Common undertook in support of their entry in the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award became all the more worthwhile the moment Ian sat astride part of the prize, a Toro Reelmaster 2300-D, at a presentation just before BTME.

Winning the Toro Excellence Award completed a marvellous double for Ian and Hankley Common, one which will be extremely difficult for any club to repeat, as a week before winning the Toro the club also won the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc.

As you read this Ian will be enjoying the other element of the Toro prize – a trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Anaheim, USA.



Picture shows J. K. A. O'Brien, Hankley Common Secretary; Michael Hunter, Club Centenary Captain; Ian McMillan and Peter Mansfield, of Toro Distributor, Lely UK.

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Kubota's new weapon in fight against crime

Insurance cost savings of around 10% have been made possible by the "fitting" of the Kubota Alpha-Dot security system as standard to every new Kubota tractor prior to its delivery to the customer by the dealer.

The Alpha-Dot system comprises a large number of tiny discs encoded with the unique serial number of the new Kubota tractor to which the discs are applied. Although too small to be read by the human eye, the serial number can be clearly seen using an illuminated magnifier.

Dispatched direct to dealers following notification to Kubota of a new tractor sale, the custom-made discs are suspended in special adhesive within a sealed container. Using the brush supplied, the dealer applies the minute discs to various dry, clean parts of the tractor and attaches the high visibility warning labels. After 30 minutes, the adhesive has set and the tractor is comprehensively

marked with a permanent identification system which provides unique proof of ownership and a highly effective deterrent against theft.

Kubota recommends that 75% of the Alpha-Dot markings are made to random and secret parts of the tractor, including all major components, and that dealers keep a note of the location of the markings to assist with identification if and when required.

Developed by Alpha-Scientific Ltd, the Alpha-Dot security system is proving highly successful in protecting a wide range of other industrial and commercial plant, vehicles and equipment against theft. The secret and random method of vehicle identification has led to a number of insurance companies offering automatic discounts to customers using the system. Further details on the Alpha-Dot security system can be obtained from appointed Kubota dealers nation-wide.

Yet another Scottish Goalkeeping nightmare

Don't be late, make a date, for the event of '98. With good intentions I pre-booked, and duly, arrived early, Sunday evening to be precise. A message on the phone, requested me to play goalkeeper for the Soots against the Exiles, in the annual Football Challenge Match.

There was I, playing well, in the running for 'Man of the Match' when, with ten minutes to go, something snapped and I kept falling over. I hear the Exiles won 6-5, but I would say the Scots should have had a penalty in the last few minutes, that's the way I saw the incident from my 'worms eye' view.

As a consequence I missed out in much good social intercourse, good food and a great exhibition - the best ever I hear. I also missed out on a great "Race Night" which raised much for the Building Fund and a fantastic banquet where Lee Hurst was a star turn. As for my

football career, you think it's all over, it is now.

May I, through the magazine, thank the nurses of Harrogate District Hospital, Ward 2A for the way they looked after me, during my short "break" with them. I must also thank Jim Paton, West Kilbride, for assisting me change from the horizontal to the vertical positions in many places, ranging from a football pitch to an Italian restaurant. Thanks to Sue of the Acorn Lodge Hotel for the 'courageous' painkiller - it works, and to Ronnie Bunting, Kilmacollm, for organising and carrying out my safe return home.

Thanks Richard (Lawrence) for the reading material, John (Walker) for the grapes and Alastair for the sympathy. Many, many thanks to all the well wishers who have been on the phone, and I look forward to joining them all next year at Harrogate.

Robert T. Bruce



All Rite on the night



The Ritefeed Race Night which made its debut on the Wednesday night of the show in the Majestic Hotel was a superb success and raised £650 for the BIGGA Building Fund. The money was raised by auctioning horses before each of the races. The racing theme was continued on the RiteFeed stand where Managing Director, John Walker, (third from left), had borrowed a sleek racing car to attract more business to his stand.



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