

Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. You can also fax them to 01347 838864, or e-mail them to bigga@btinternet.com

A sad loss

Steve Devlin lost his battle for life against cancer at the age of 31 in May after being diagnosed just four weeks earlier.

Steve started in greenkeeping while still at school when he worked at Downfield for work experience. He fell in love with the job and such was his enthusiasm that he spent all his free time at Downfield even bunking off school. When he was offered an apprenticeship he jumped at the chance and never looked back.

At that time he was under the watchful eye of Head Greenkeeper, Bill Milton (now retired) and when he attended Kingsway College in Dundee he passed all his exams with flying colours. Steve was a keen golfer and footballer winning many medals and trophies.

When Bill retired Steve served under Ian Menzies and Paul Murphy at Downfield before joining me as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Drumoig Golf Club at the start of 1996 where he will be sadly missed by all staff.

Our thoughts go out to his family and fiancée, Hayley. I have lost a good friend and workmate.

Malcolm Hall
 Head Greenkeeper
 Drumoig GC



Thanks to Volvo PGA Support team

On behalf of the European Tour, please pass on our thanks to all the Golf Course Managers for all their time and assistance put into the upkeep of the bunkers around the course during the event.

Considering the hectic final day on Monday, from what I gather there were no problems and the whole operation was run very smoothly. I know that Chris Kennedy and his team very much appreciated the help and support; it took a considerable burden off their shoulders.

Edward Kitson
 PGA European Tour

Left: Ross Wilson (Donnington Grove Country Club) 'does the business' for Tony Johnstone and Andy Sherbourne at the greenside bunker on the first at Wentworth

Can't get no satisfaction...

I have been an avid follower of your monthly magazine and in particular the recruitment section. I feel that by advertising a job in a national and international basis the company advertising has every chance to obtain the desired appli-

cant and by using Greenkeeper international they should achieve this.

My gripe is that if a company is going to the trouble of advertising in such a professional magazine, seeking the desired applicant, then should the applicant fail, he at least deserves the decency to receive a knock back letter.

I have applied for several posi-

tions in your magazine over the past few months and after discussions with a few colleagues they have found the same, that they never receive a letter in reply, not even just saying "thanks but no thanks".

I just wonder if this is common place in the UK, not to let the applicant know where he stands. I realise I have only eight years expe-

rience, on "Top 100" golf courses in three different continents, one of which being America, in which case this would not happen.

With so many trying to emulate the American standards, maybe a few should start with their recruitment techniques.

Steve Johnson
 Auchterarder

Gala Opening ceremony at Woodhall Spa

The new Donald Steel-designed Bracken Course at the National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa was opened officially by the English Golf Union President John Scrivener at the end of May. The ribbon cutting had followed an Opening Day Invitation tournament during which the delights of the new course, which adjoins the world renowned Hotchkin Course, were experienced. Significantly different from its older neighbour the Bracken is a fine addition to a

Centre which also boasts state-of-the-art training facilities and practice ground which are regarded as the best around. The opening was graced by the presence of Neil Hotchkin, who sold the land to the English Golf Union, and the Bracken Course architects, Donald Steel and Tom McKenzie. Picture shows EGU President John Scrivener cutting the ribbon flanked by John Flanders, the EGU Honorary Treasurer and Neil Hotchkin.

