

Building Fund grows!

Over 100 golf clubs have to date responded positively to the letter sent by BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw asking for a contribution towards the building of BIGGA's new Headquarters and Training Facility.

Among the golf clubs to donate to the fund this month is the recently opened Merrist Wood Golf Club based at Merrist Wood College in Guildford, Surrey. College Principle John Riddle presented the cheque to BIGGA's Education and Training Manager Ken Richardson (right) during a recent open day at the college. Merrist Wood is the first college in the country to make a donation.

The Association would like to thank the following golf clubs for their donations.

Clubs who donate £250 or more will each receive a plaque in recognition of their generosity, while each golf club which makes a donation will appear on a Roll of Honour within the new building.



Thank you for support

This year for the first time BIGGA members were asked to assist with the Volvo PGA Championship held at Wentworth Golf Club at the end of May. A team of 80 members drawn from nearby clubs were on hand over the final two days of play. The main role of each member was to accompany a game, from start to finish, and rake any bunkers found by the players, a task normally carried out by the caddy. There are several benefits arising from this course of action:-

1. The caddy is left free to concentrate on the game and the player's next stroke.
2. It helps keep play continuous and thereby reduces delays.
3. While walking the course the support team member is able to keep a watch for any divots, litter etc which may have found their way into a bunker and thereby pose a potential problem for subsequent games.
4. The support team members were on hand to help the Wentworth greenkeepers in the event of bad weather.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who took part and we have been invited by the PGA European Tour to look at providing a similar team for 1999.

Congratulations to Edward Kitson and his colleagues at the PGA European Tour and to Chris Kennedy and his greenkeeping staff at Wentworth for a well organised, well presented tournament.

Thank you to the Scotts Company who provided each BIGGA member with a shirt, jacket and baseball cap as well as the catering in the BIGGA marquee.



Banchory GC
Beaconsfield GC
Bedale GC
Birchwood GC
Bishop's Stortford GC
Blackmoor GC
Brancepeth Castle GC
Bristol & Clifton GC
Bromborough GC
Cardigan GC
Chestfield GC
Childwall GC
Chipping Norton GC
Chorlton-Cum-Hardy GC
Churston GC
Clitheroe GC
Conwy GC
Cooden Beach GC
Coombe Hill GC

Coombe Wood GC
Coventry Hearsall GC
Coxmoor GC
Crompton & Royton GC
Dore & Totley GC
Dunfermline GC
Edenmore GC
Enfield GC
Flamborough Head GC
Glenbervie GC
Goodwood GC
Habberley GC
Haggs Castle GC
Halifax GC
Ham Manor GC
Hampstead GC
Handsworth GC
Hankley Common GC
Haywards Heath GC
Hindhead GC
Ipswich GC
Kilmarnock Barassie GC
Kirby Muxloe GC
Knowle GC
Lincoln GC
Little Aston GC
Loch Lomond GC
Longniddry GC

Manchester GC
Masham GC
Merrist Wood GC
Moor Hall GC
Moortown GC
Moray GC
Mullion GC
Murrayfield GC
Nairn GC
North Hants GC
North Oxford GC
North Wilts GC
Pollok GC
Potters Bar GC
Purley Downs GC
Pyle and Kenfig GC
Ranfurly Castle GC
Roehampton GC
Royal Birkdale GC
Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh
Royal Cinque Ports GC
Royal Guernsey GC
Royal Liverpool GC
Royal Porthcawl GC
Royal St Georges GC
Royal West Norfolk GC
Royal Wimbledon GC

Sandy Lodge GC
Scarcroft GC
Seacroft GC
Sherwood Forest GC
Sonning GC
Stand GC
Sundridge Park GC
Sunningdale GC
Tain GC
Tandridge GC
Temple GC
Tenterden GC
The Wisley GC
Thorpeness GC
Tidworth Garrison GC
Tulliallan GC
Tynemouth GC
Tyrells Wood GC
Uttoxeter GC
Wakefield GC
Walmley GC
Walton Heath GC
West Byfleet GC
Whitley Bay GC
Whittington Heath GC
Worcestershire GC
Worksop GC
York GC

BIGGA elect Howard Swan as new President

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects has elected Howard Swan as its President for the forthcoming year.

At its Annual General Meeting, Swan's confirmation at the head of the Institute was accompanied by Jeremy Pern being made Vice President, and Neil Coles, Ken Moodie and Bruno Steensels, from

Belgium, joining the Committee.

Martin Hawtree stepped down as President, after 18 years of service to the Institute.

"I am privileged to have become President of what is Europe's leading professional body in the field, and look forward to a busy and productive year. We have much to do to bring together all Europe's

architects and to advance our own educational efforts for our members and students alike," said Howard.

In the Autumn the Institute will stage its International Conference at Wentworth on November 17 and 18, together with the Barenbrug European Architects' Trophy.

David heads towards the Deep South

Rigby Taylor has appointed David Rogers as Technical Sales Representative covering the south coast of England from Dorset to Hampshire including Wiltshire.

David is well known to greenkeepers and Course Managers throughout the area having had extensive experience during the past 15 years most recently with Gem Professional (Sta-brite Supplies) prior to joining Rigby Taylor.

Video firm hires new director

After eight years working on the development and operation of the Buckinghamshire Golf Club, Kevin Munt has moved into a new role as a Director of Plexus Projects Ltd.

Plexus Projects is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Lanyfax Group a leading design and installation company in the audio visual and video conferencing market.

"I felt that after 25 years working at all levels within the golf business it was time to pull all my experience together and offer it to people who are working to further develop the game," said Kevin.

The company has been formed to provide a high quality project management and consultancy service to developers, architects and commercial operators within the leisure industry. Through the Lanyfax Group's computer generated design capability Plexus is able to offer a visually lead approach to the design and management services currently available to the leisure industry.

One of Plexus Projects first moves in the leisure market has been to form a division in the golf industry, this has been achieved by the acquisition Project Golf Ltd the owners and operators of the 1997 Senior Tournament of Champions.

Kevin has developed a vast field of experience within the golf industry, encompassing course maintenance, design, construction and facilities management through to tournament promotion and staging.

His previous employers include Royal Dornoch Golf Club, the Wentworth Club, John Jacobs Golf Associates and Kajima (UK) Engineering with whom he help to create the Buckinghamshire Golf Club, one of the country's most successful new golf facilities.

Kevin was also instrumental in bringing tournaments such as the Andersen Consulting World Championship of Golf and the Senior Tournament of Champions to Buckinghamshire Golf Club.

Sir Michael...

Michael Bonallack, Secretary of the R&A, has been awarded a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

The 63 year-old five time Amateur Champion who was already a holder of the OBE has been at the helm of the R&A since 1983 and this latest honour comes on top of host of accolades he has received from the game itself.

Colin Montgomerie was also honoured in the same list with an MBE.

Lord Whitelaw in the frame



Having reached his 80th Birthday in June the Association's President, Lord Whitelaw, has been reviewing his personal commitments. He has decided to step down from his position with BIGGA after this year. In recognition and thanks for his support to the Association since its inception in 1987 Gordon Child presented Viscount and Lady Whitelaw with a framed print of the 13th hole at Nairn, the course where he spent many of his early golfing years.

Watch the birdie!

The largest single day birdwatching exercise on golf courses produced a remarkable score of 272 species from the 116 golf clubs in 18 European countries which took part.

Country	Number of clubs	Different species	Best site count
Ireland	21	102	Bandon (57)
England	20	108	Corehampton (62)
Scotland	13	96	Hilton Park (64)
Wales	12	88	Woodlake Park (52)
Denmark	1	65	Faaborg
Estonia	1	75	Niitvaija
Finland	3	84	Virvik (61)
Iceland	6	46	Ness (28)
Norway	1	37	Meland
Sweden	2	97	Falsterbo (87)
Austria	4	71	Waldviertel (41)
Germany	4	82	Nordkirchen (56)
Hungary	1	50	Hencse National
Netherlands	7	104	De Heemskerkse (58)
Switzerland	1	41	Club de Bonmont
Italy	8	137	Fiordalisi (79)
Portugal	4	80	San Lorenzo (61)
Spain	7	142	Ulzama (93)
Total	116	272	

New project beckons for Phil

Phil Langdon has joined Wardle Consulting Engineers as Projects Director, having worked for Watermation since 1988. Phil will be responsible for project management and inspection of works by contractors on behalf of our clients in addition to undertaking site survey and appraisals of existing irrigation systems in order to make recommendations as to system upgrade and extensions.

A BTLIA committee member, Phil's practical experience and knowledge of irrigation installation ensures that our expertise extends right across the board from survey, feasibility study, design, specification to installations supervision and inspection of the contractor's works.

"With Phil based in Scotland, Bill Hawthorn based in the South and head office the Midlands the company now has true nationwide coverage giving our clients a quality service," said Giles Wardle.

New signings at St Andrews for Millennium Open

St Andrews Links Trust has signed two exclusive agreements aimed at ensuring that the Millennium Open will see the Old Course looking at its majestic best while the town's other courses are also kept in tip top condition.

The two contacts are with The Toro Company for its irrigation systems for all five championship courses and Barenbrug for its grass seed and related products such as wild flowers.

Toro sprinklers are currently being installed on the fairways of the Old Course in preparation for the Millennium Open but other work includes irrigation to the walk-offs from the tees on the Jubilee Course.

"Our selection committee liked the broad range of products and flexibility that Toro offered," explained Links Manager, Ian Forbes.

"Using a total irrigation system is new for us. Working with Toro we know we have found the system to keep our links courses in the beautiful and natural state that has typified St Andrews throughout its 600 year history."

The agreement was warmly welcomed by The Toro Company.

"It highlights our commitment to create solutions to manage the world's landscapes. As water resources become increasingly valuable, our ability to provide flexible systems that meet the needs of our customers is important," said Phil Burkart, Toro's International Director of Marketing.

The agreement with Barenbrug will see the company's grass varieties being used for the continued enhancement of the playing surfaces of all the St Andrews Links Trust courses.

"We are impressed by Barenbrug's research and development facilities and are confident that they will supply the quality products and technical support we here at St Andrews look for," said Ian Forbes.



Clinching the deal. Above: Barenbrug and below, Toro



Michel Mulder, Managing Director of Barenbrug UK, said "Given that St Andrews is insistent that its suppliers live up to its own world-class reputation, it

is a pleasure and an honour to join up with them. St Andrews can rest assured that they will receive our total commitment to service in the years ahead."

New Recruit at BIGGA HQ



Rebecca Watson has joined the Association Headquarters' staff as Membership Services Assistant.

A native of York Rebecca (24) arrives at Aldwark Manor having worked in the membership department of a York-based Health Care company. She is also a graduate of Modern American History from Liverpool University.

Keen on sports, particularly athletics and tennis, her other interests include travel - she spent six months as an au pair in Switzerland.

"I am really looking forward to working for the Association and getting to know the BIGGA members," said Rebecca, who will be working alongside Tracey Maddison, the Membership Services Officer.

Duncan's new challenge

Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager at Letchworth Golf Club for the last 11 years, has been appointed Course Manager at Potters Bar GC succeeding John Adamson, who will shortly be retiring.

"While I have had a long and enjoyable spell at Letchworth I'm looking forward to my new challenge," said Duncan, who is a well known speaker on the seminar circuit and an occasional contributor to Greenkeeper International.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



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World Cup fever?

While Scotland were tackling Brazil in the opener to the World Cup in Paris another big event was taking place in London.

Remarkably the result was similar with the London Scots coming up short and losing bravely to the London English. Carl Crocher, of Orsett GC, and Steve Lee, from Browns, are pictured being presented with the winning shield.



Course Ranger: Out for the count

It is a paradox that the simplest question to ask of a golf club is often the most difficult to answer.

"How busy is your course?" on the face of it should be straightforward enough but coming up with an answer, which is anything more than an approximate may prove trickier than you might think.

Yet knowing the amount of traffic a course copes with, and its busy and quiet times would be extremely valuable information for both greenkeeper and secretary alike.

Course Ranger is an infra-red detector beam which monitors the number of rounds played on a golf course. The Course Ranger can work even in isolated parts of the course, owing to its independent power supply.

It makes it possible to count how many rounds are played in any one day, week or year. The count is activated when an individual golfer interrupts an invisible beam between two discrete points, one a receiver the other a transmitter. The system is suitable for use over any distance up to 15 metres which may be extended under favourable operating conditions.

The benefits it can produce are wide ranging. Which part of the day, week and month are the quietest? Course maintenance can be carried out more efficiently and cause less intrusion to the playing membership.



Which are the quieter days to book societies etc? On Pay & Play courses - do green fees tie up with

the number of rounds played?

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For further information Contact Mike Humphries on 01363 82273.

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New appointments at Kubota

Kubota (UK) Ltd has made two important appointments within its agricultural and grass machinery sales division,



Newly appointed Marketing Manager is Tom Barnes (above) who has been with Kubota for 13 years, most recently in the position of sales manager responsible for Kubota's south east region. Prior to joining Kubota in 1985, Tom worked for an agricultural and horticultural machinery dealer in the eastern counties.

In his new position, Tom takes on responsibility for all of the marketing activities carried out to promote and support Kubota's agricultural and grass machinery sales

throughout the UK. In addition to researching and identifying new market and product opportunities, Tom is responsible for co-ordinating sales promotion, new product introductions, demonstrations, exhibitions and shows, ensuring that the company's marketing activities comply with the quality procedures required under ISO 9002, gained by Kubota in 1996.

The second new appointment at



Kubota (UK) Ltd sees the company's former Agricultural and Grass Machinery Distribution Manager, David Roberts, (above), become Regional Sales Manager for the south east, taking over the position vacated by Tom Barnes.

Incredible journey for Joseph

Lady members of Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club thought they were doing the decent thing when they found a new home for Joseph the Cat who had adopted the golf club as his base for the last 18 months.

Looked after by the members who carried biscuits in their golf bags for him Joseph was in fine fettle until he was injured while out on the course.

Member Pam Lane took him to the vet and began to look for a more permanent, and safer, home for him.

As luck would have it a woman in a village ten miles away was looking for a cat and the match was made.

Unfortunately, though a few days later Joseph went missing and ten days later he turned up... back at Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club, a little thinner but in good health.

Members are now organising for a special house to be made for him and are holding raffles to raise money for his food.

Simon leads the way

Simon Ridland an assistant at Canford Magna Golf Club in Wimborne, Dorset, has become the first man to achieve NVQ Level 2 through his prior experience and knowledge without going to college and by being assessed at his own Golf Club.

The assessments were carried out initially by Canford Magna Deputy Course Manager, Matt Maryon, who subsequently moved to become Course Manager at Yeovil Golf Club. The assessments were then completed by his own Course Manager, Trevor Smith.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be the first to achieve the qualification and the club have rewarded my success with a pay rise," said Simon, who initially worked on the construction of the Canford Magna's 36 hole construction before being retained on the greenkeeping staff to carry on the maintenance.

"I'm now thinking of doing Elmwood College's HNC distance learning package which will hopefully lead on to my NVQ Level 3 in Sportsturf Maintenance as I still want to further my qualifications but can't afford the time to go to college," said 35 year old Simon

"The assessments were initially carried out over a six to eight month period and the GTC Training Manual was used as the training programme and



Matt Maryon and Trevor Smith congratulate Simon Ridland (centre)

the vehicle towards the City and Guilds Level 2 Sportsturf. The practical assessments were planned to be done by observation on the Golf Course within the normal work schedule and the knowledge evidence was checked by oral questioning from the questions prepared from the underpinning knowledge in the Training Manual and everything was logged," explained Matt.

Trevor added that they also gathered a lot of prior evidence of work Simon had carried out during the construction of the course using photographs.

"We at the GTC are delighted that Simon has achieved his NVQ Level 2 in Sportsturf with the support of Matt

& Trevor who we trained to be work based trainers and assessors. The concept of NVQ's have made it possible to release the potential of employees who have not previously had the opportunity to prove their competence and value in the workforce to gain nationally recognised qualifications and to receive reward. Their appetite for self-improvement then goes on," said GTC's N/SVQ Co-ordinator Sue Gudgeon

"I'm sure that Simon fully appreciates the support that was given by Matt and Trevor and it will hopefully encourage more experienced greenkeepers to become qualified," said Sue.

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