

# What's in a name?

With building work on the new BIGGA Headquarters and Training facility now past the half way mark, thoughts turn to the task of finding a suitable name for the new building.

With the Well of Inspiration running out after one lonely suggestion - Thomas Towers! - it was decided to throw the job over to the members.

A superb prize of B&B accommodation and entry to all seminars of the Learning Experienced in association with Ransomes at both the National Education Conference and BTME as well as a ticket to the banquet will be available to the person who comes up with the most appropriate name for the new building or, if there is one name which has proved overwhelmingly popular and is the one selected by the Board of Management, a draw will be made from all the winning selections.

To give you some information to go on:-

- The new Headquarters and Training Facility is sited 50 yards from the current offices at Aldwark Manor Hotel and Golf Club.

- The Association's long standing President, Viscount Whitelaw,

retires in the year the new building opens.

- While a proportion of the funding for the building came from an R&A grant, a significant amount was raised by members through the "Buy a Brick" raffle and a fund raising drive through the golf clubs.

- For anagram purposes the initial letters of Christian names of the current board of management are - G, G, P, J, I, R, G, R.

- For anagram purposes the initial letters of Christian names of the past Chairmen are - W, J, P, I, G, R, J, J, B, D, P.

- For anagram purposes the initial letter of Christian names of the staff members are - N, D, J, J, C, K, S, S, S, R, J, T, A, P.

Can I apologise for the lack of vowels!

While we all enjoy a good laugh, suggestions which you could actually see being used on a new building, of which we are all very proud, would be preferable.

Entries should be sent to the current BIGGA Headquarters at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, nr York YO61 1UF by Monday July 5, or via your Section Secretary or Regional Administrator.

# A BIGGA thank you!

Over 60 golf clubs have so far 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.

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.



Banchory GC  
Beaconsfield GC  
Bedale GC  
Birchwood GC  
Bishop's Stortford GC  
Blackmoor GC  
Bromborough GC  
Cardigan GC  
Chestfield GC  
Chorlton-Cum-Hardy GC  
Clitheroe GC  
Conwy GC  
Cooden Beach GC  
Coventry Hearsall GC  
Crompton & Royton GC  
Dore & Topley GC  
Dunfermline GC  
Goodwood GC  
Habberley GC  
Haggs Castle GC  
Halifax GC  
Ham Manor GC  
Hampstead GC  
Haywards Heath GC  
Hindhead GC  
Kilmarnock Barassie GC  
Kirby Muxloe GC  
Little Aston GC  
Longniddry GC  
Manchester GC  
Moor Hall GC  
Nairn GC

North Oxford GC  
North Wilts GC  
Potters Bar GC  
Purley Downs GC  
Pyle and Kenfig GC  
Ranfurlly Castle 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 Wimbledon GC  
Stand GC  
Sundridge Park GC  
Sunningdale GC  
Tandridge GC  
Temple GC  
Tenterden GC  
The Wisley GC  
Thorpeness GC  
Tulliallan GC  
Tynemouth GC  
Tyrells Wood GC  
Uttoxeter GC  
Wakefield GC  
Walton Heath GC  
West Byfleet GC  
Whitley Bay GC  
Worcestershire GC



# 'Cool Britannia' assists sales for Huxleys

Huxley's new Greenstar, the only British manufactured ride-on Greens mower, is setting record sales for the Hampshire based company. Recent orders include those from Burnley Council, Southampton City Council, Wakefield Council, Ascot Authority, Newbury Racecourse, Newbury and Crook ham GC, Winter Hill GC (John Lewis), Torphin Hill GC, Goodwood GC, Langley Park GC, Vale of Leven GC, Pains wick GC, Ashton and Lea GC, Ashley Wood GC, Cook ridge Hall GC, Andover GC and Southwick Park Naval Recreation Centre.

"We took a lot of trouble to get the specification right for British conditions by asking British Greenkeepers what they wanted. Standard features include permanent all wheel drive, exceptionally quiet operation, 11 knife cutting reels, steering mowing units with quick detach facility and optional groomers, turf combs and rear roller brushes," said Director Paul Huxley. "We made sure that the price was very competitive. It's pleasing to find that a lot of customers prefer to 'Buy British' provided they are getting good value for money."



Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club.

Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



**Name:** Iain Smith

**Club:** Drumpellier GC

**Position:** Apprentice

**Age:** 18

**1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?**

Two years

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**

Level 2 SVQ

**3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?**

Cutting greens

**4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?**

Strimming Bunkers

**5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?**

Assistant professional golfer

**6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**

My big brother

**7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?**

Double the standard rate of pay for an apprentice greenkeeper

**8. What are your hobbies?**

Golf, football, running

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**

Monthly magazine, finding out about new technology and meeting other greenkeepers at social functions

**10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?**

Course Manager at Drumpellier

# New recruits at BIGGA

The two newest members of the BIGGA Headquarters Staff are Cheryl Broomhead and Sarah Sowerby.

Cheryl, who joins the Sales and Marketing team, would certainly give Mel C of the Spice Girls a run for her money when it comes to all things sporty.

She has represented North Yorkshire at netball and now plays both league tennis and badminton. When she's not doing that she's into aerobics and swimming and she takes every opportunity she can to enjoy the outdoor life.

"I must confess, however, that the one and only time I've played golf I managed to hit a car," revealed Cheryl (30).

Cheryl, who lives in York joins the Association with experience of both advertising sales and exhibition organising, having worked on the Peterborough Evening Telegraph for the former and a Harrogate based exhibition organiser for the latter.

Since leaving college, though, she has packed a lot into her life having been a Thomson's holiday rep working in Spain, Greece and the Canary Islands as well as managing an Arts and Crafts Gallery.

Her desire to see the world has also taken her to Australia and Hong Kong during which time, despite being afraid of heights, she experienced the thrill of a bungee jump from a bridge.



New recruits, Cheryl (left) and Sarah (right)

"I'm really looking forward to working for BIGGA. From what I've seen so far it's a growing Association and the job really attracted me," said Cheryl.

Sarah (24) is the new Secretary/Administrator and arrives at the Association after a spell working for Yorkshire Television in Leeds.

While acting as secretary to the Group Controller of Commercial Affairs she regularly bumped into familiar faces including Nick Berry, of Heartbeat fame, and those two legends of afternoon television Richard Whiteley and Carol Vorderman.

Sarah, who lives in Ripon, boasts an honours degree in Modern Languages (French and Spanish)

from Manchester Metropolitan University and she added to that by completing a secretarial course at Park Lane College in Leeds.

As part of her degree she spent five months studying in Murcia, in Spain, and a further five months in Dijon in the Burgundy region of France. While in Spain she acted as an au-pair in Marbella.

She is a regular in the gym while her interest in both playing and watching tennis takes her to Wimbledon at the end of this month where she is hoping to catch a glimpse of either Tim Henman or Pat Rafter.

"I am thoroughly looking forward to working at Aldwark Manor," said Sarah.

## Who says that romance is dead?

Everyone who knows BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, must be aware of the fact that there can be few greater enthusiasts for the greenkeeping profession than him.

However, even Gordon can become a little carried away. Let his long suffering wife Marion take up the story.

"A couple of nights ago, after a hard day at work, my husband took me out to a romantic place for a candle lit dinner.

"I had just begun my starter when Gordon suddenly said, and I quote, 'What do you know about dry patch?' With fork poised, I froze, and I didn't know whether to laugh or cry," explained Marion.

"I told him what I knew, which isn't a great deal, but I'm not entirely ignorant of such matters - and anyway it makes a change from poa annua or fusarium.

"I have taken the incident as a compliment and I think that maybe my 'retired' husband looks upon me as one of his experienced greenkeeper friends after all these years and not just any old wife."

## Hayter International Cup

BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, will have the tricky task of moulding the most international group of people ever to come together under the same banner in any sportin history when he captains the Rest of the World team which competes in the second Hayter International Cup match, to be held at Cherokee Town & Country Club in Atlanta, Georgia, in October.

Sounds a little over the top? Well you can't get more international than 12 different players representing 12 different countries from as far afield as Finland and Australia. So you might find Gordon attempting to enlist the services of Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, to act as Vice Captain!

Gordon will be attempting to win back the trophy which the Americas clinched in a closely fought inaugural match at West Lincs Golf Club, Liverpool, in 1996.

The countries represented are, in alphabetical order:-

Australia, England, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales.

### Rest of the World Team.

Non-Playing Captain - Gordon Child, England

**Australia** - Peter Frewin

**England** - Andy Sheehan, Bentley GC, Essex

**Finland** - Jorma Eriksson

**France** - Remy Dorbeau

**Germany** - Andreas Kauler

**Ireland** - Nick Webber, Portstewart GC, Co Antrim

**Norway** - Atle Revheim Hansen

**Scotland** - Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside GC

**Spain** - Eugenio Rezola

**Sweden** - Martin Sternberg

**Switzerland** - Pierre Ambrosin

**Wales** - Russell Lewis, Northop, Country Club, Flintshire.

The Hayter International Cup will be played in the week beginning October 11, 1998.

The Americas team to defend the cup will be announced shortly.

# Carnoustie links up with Toro for the 1999 Open

Toro and Carnoustie Golf Links have signed a three-year working partnership deal that includes the supply of Toro turf maintenance equipment and on-site support for the 1999 Open.

The preferred-supplier agreement will see Carnoustie taking delivery of a wide range of Toro turf care machinery for maintaining all three golf courses at the renowned Scottish "institution", which is owned by Angus Council and run by the Links Management Committee.

Carnoustie Golf Links' Superintendent John Philp, said "I chose Toro based on my past experience. I know the products and am particularly keen on the greens and fairways mowers. They give a superb quality of cut, are very reliable, well engineered and hard to beat.

The courses are supplied by Edinburgh Toro dealers A M Russell.

Under the agreement, John Philp's ever-expanding new Toro fleet will include seven GR3200-D greens mowers, one RM2300-



D utility mower, two GM5300-D fairway mowers, a GM3000-D for cutting semi-roughs and five of the new GR1600 pedestrian mowers for tees and greens collars.

There are also six GR500 pedestrian greens mowers on order for The Open.

In addition he is purchasing

three Workman utility vehicles - two provided with top dressing units and one with the hydroject 4000 water-injection aerator with on-board tank, which he says is an important aeration tool, not just on the greens and tees but on the high parts of fairways which are prone to drying out.

## The Italian job for Peter



Peter Bradburn, former Courses Supervisor of The London Golf Club, Kent, has been appointed Assistant Superintendent of The Arzaga Hotel and Country Club, Italy.

Peter will be joining Sylvain Duval, Golf Courses Superintendent and formerly of Hanbury Manor, to aid the development of the project from growth to opening preparation of the Jack Nicklaus II and Gary Player courses, which are set in the magnificent hills surrounding Lake Garda. The Nicklaus course is scheduled to open in July this year and the first nine holes of The Player Course in Spring 1999.

Steve Jones, Golf Courses Superintendent of The London Golf Club said, "It is sad to lose Peter after five years at the Club, but we wish him well with this marvellous challenge."

Peter, a former Diploma Graduate of Myerscough College, previously worked in turf research and agronomy in New Zealand. He has also worked as a Contract Manager in Grounds Maintenance in the UK and as a Groundsman at The All England Lawn Tennis Club.

## TGA appoint new Chief Executive

The Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) has appointed David Clarke as its new Chief Executive.

David is a chartered management accountant who has served as a Finance Director and Company Secretary in the agricultural sector for over 30 years. His strong organisational and professional skills will enable the Association to move forward into the millennium and further develop benefits for Members.

At the Association's last All Members' Meeting Mr Clarke reported an exciting year ahead for the TGA. Forthcoming events, continued input from the Association's Members and

Turfgrass users is clearly underlining the value of the TGA and its quality standards.

The Association's Mission Statement, which in part states "the sharing of knowledge for the benefit of the customer" is continuing to bring growers much closer together for the regular exchange of information and ideas to achieve its goal of constantly improving standards in production and business practices.

The recent wet weather will not give a picture of complacency for the TGA - the next All Members' Meeting on July 8 will have a speaker from the Environment Agency to discuss



Water Management and how water users can benefit from forward planning and good management practices.

### Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



## The Ritefeed Classic, 1998

Please note the following official statement from the Association with regard to the Ritefeed Classic 1998.

With effect from May 5 1998, BIGGA is no longer associated with the Ritefeed Classic 1998.

**THE FACTS**  
~  
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Ad Ref 104

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

Dear Sir,  
 I reply to Sandy McDivot's article "Field of Experience" Greenkeeper International - May 1998 which I read with interest - twice.

Before addressing the issues raised I would like to be up front and open about my own identity and assure you that I have no hidden agendas, just a desire to challenge and give balance to the content of the article.

I have been employed in the turf grass industry for some 25 years, have received education both in the UK and USA, worked with a number of consultants at the various golf courses where I was employed and since February this year have formed my own independent consultancy service - I also do not believe I fall into any of the four categories as described in the article.

Firstly, there are some points raised in the piece with which I wholeheartedly agree: Education is better now than ever before and there are some good and some not so good consultants currently working in our industry. I suppose it would also be fair to add that there are a good many clubs out there who have yet to really embrace and encourage training and development for their

staff who are, therefore, not accessing the education and also some Head Greenkeepers who feel that training and development no longer applies to them as they have been there, done that and got the certificate.

However, I would think there are few industries which have experienced so many changes both in terms of new products and work practices over the last decade which means the learning never really stops - something which the Chairman also referred to in his article - May issue.

May I also be bold enough to suggest that there are some good and not so good Head Greenkeepers out there who could really benefit from working with an experienced consultant and, given the right pairing, might even welcome the opportunity.

Just by changing the focus and being positive and optimistic rather than suspicious and somewhat defensive we can also change the perception of the role of the consultant from agitator to partner for, I believe, it is only through open and honest partnerships that progress can be made. There is little or nothing for

anyone to gain from an "us and them" scenario and I do not believe that any consultant would wish to work in such an atmosphere.

I make no excuses for the fact that, as a consultant, I question and challenge work methods, look over machinery and equipment, review staff training and request copies of budgets, records and reports in order to gain a better understanding of each organisation I work with. In return, I will offer independent advice, guidance, support, suggestions and recommendations which will all be given without prejudice and within a no blame framework - for it is all too easy to point the finger and neither party should fall into this trap.

A well chosen consultant will increase confidence and motivation just by reinforcing what is already known and by offering guidance and support through times of change and development if, or when, this is required to achieve higher standards and better quality for this would be the only reason to suggest change.

There will, undoubtedly, be the occasions when the not so good consultant gets it wrong and Sandy McDivot gave examples of this.

However, is this reason enough to alienate an outside influence and risking a missed opportunity for the times when the consultant gets it right!

All clubs should spend time in researching and selecting the right consultant for their course and have some way of measuring the impact of that consultant on the goals which have been set. However, I do not agree with the suggestion that the best consultant is one who will not question the Head Greenkeeper's actions, as this assumes that, in all instances, there is no room for change, progress or improvement - this shows no respect for the integrity or intellect of either parties.

As an individual I believe I have much to offer today's progressive Head Greenkeepers, both in terms of knowledge and experience, but also support and I have yet to work with any fellow professionals where this has been rejected.

Perhaps, therefore, the challenge is to try to establish a network of tried, tested and trusted consultants who really can offer a service to the industry.

Ken Barber  
 On Course Consultants

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## Duke to present Environment Award

His Royal Highness the Duke of York has accepted an invitation to open officially the Askham Bryan College Golf and Environment Conference on Wednesday October 21.

As part of his visit to York His Royal Highness has also agreed to present the winning golf club with the 1998 BIGGA Golf Environment Award, in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc.

"We are delighted that the presentation to the winning golf club will be held during the Conference and the fact that the Award will be presented by the Duke of York will be an extra incentive to golf clubs to do well in the competition," said BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson.

Last year, Hankley Common GC, in Surrey, won the award as a result of the extensive work carried out by Course Manager, Ian McMillan, and his team.

The two day conference includes papers from Dr Roger Bennett, Principal of the College, David Stubbs, Executive Director of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, golf ecologists Bob Taylor and Jonathan Smith, architect Jeremy Pern and Chief Scientist of English Nature, Dr Keith Duff.

# Princess Royal opens new John Deere headquarters

The opening of the new John Deere £2.5 million British Headquarters and Training Centre was a Royal occasion with the day being graced by a visit from the Princess Royal.

Fog delayed the Princess' arrival as her helicopter had to divert to East Midlands airport but she spent time viewing the new building, admired the range of old and new John Deere machinery on display, watched some students in action in a training room before unveiling a plaque to mark the occasion.

The offices, which are a short distance from the previous building, are "state-of-the-art" with five training rooms - four with adjoining workshops - and all with the most up to date equipment. The new facility will be used to assist the company with its 5000 training days covering 40 different courses per annum.

The administration department and restaurant for the 98 staff is found on the first floor with a huge open plan format with glass fronted individual offices around the perimeter.

Before leaving The Princess Royal was presented with a gift of two model tractors mounted on a plinth



by the company's longest serving employee, Marjorie Watchorn.

Around 500 people attended the event and were treated to an excellent buffet lunch and had the opportunity of also being shown round the new building.

"We are very honoured that Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal agreed to officially open our new premises," said John Deere Ltd

Managing Director, Alec McKee, who has just been elected President of the Agricultural Engineers Association.

Picture shows Her Royal Highness with John Deere Ltd Managing Director, Alec McKee (extreme right); Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Deere & Co, Robert Lane, and Director of Marketing of Deere and Co, Paul Enz.

## Pattisson's fantastic summer PROMOTIONS

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### 1. Pattisson's 'Aqua Pack'

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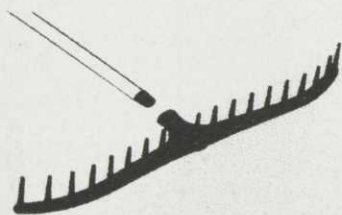
Set of replacement tines - £20

Tricoflex 3/4" 50m hose - £68

2 Snap fast hose tails - £5.90

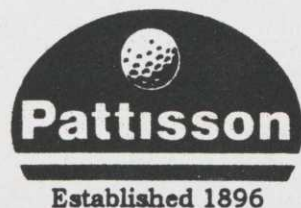
TOTAL VALUE -  
£238.90

Promotional  
price - £160!!!



2. Pattisson's are selling their Bunker Rake with black screw in head and white fibre glass handle

for just £5.95.



# Westurf celebrates 10th birthday in style

By Paula Humphries

On the Saturday before the big day I arrived to look at the site and began marking out but rain which fell as stair rods and mud that sucked in my wellies drove me quickly back to my hotel for a rethink.

On Sunday morning the rain was still falling but more gently and Ivor Scoones, Peter Baynton, Robin Greaves and I got busy with measuring machines, white lines and marker posts. During the morning the first of the lorries bringing the marquees arrived, pulled through the gate and immediately got stuck! What a start to the week!

"I thought that would happen," said Ivor, matter-of-factly and went off to get a tractor to drag him out.

Tuesday came reasonably dry and pretty windy, which helped no end, but still vehicle after vehicle became bogged in the heavy ground. Much of the traffic had to be redirected to the club car park and the equipment transported to the showground by tractor. Ivor and his staff were magnificent with their help. I cannot thank them enough.

On Wednesday the sun shone, the sky cleared and although it was a bit chilly, generally it was all that could be hoped for. Visitors from all directions told me of torrential rain they had come through but it did seem as though someone "up there" was holding back the rain clouds from the exhibition.

We were honoured with the presence of the Chairman, Gordon Child, together with Marion, and John Cox, the Captain of Long Ashton. The three of them very kindly judged the best stand prizes.

The day started with the Chairman officially opening the exhibition by cutting the red tape...well he tried to but the scissors were blunt and the tape a bit tough! He managed eventually but the photographer missed it and he had to hold it together and pretend for a retake.

There were a lot of changes this



Gordon & Paula cut the cake, flanked by Ivor Scoones and Robin Greaves

year - new marquee suppliers and a catering marquee complete with licensed bar. The BIGGA marquee, too, was much larger and provided courtesy wine and also a slice of 10th anniversary birthday cake which was officially cut by the Chairman and the Regional Administrator. When you see the photos - No, we were not getting married!

Traders really seemed to have pulled out all the stops to make their stands really attractive and to complement the day there were competitions of putting and pitching plus a special "Spot the Thing" competition to encourage visitors to visit each of the stands.

In the BIGGA marquee you could also "Meet the Experts." A panel of experts from all fields of the industry were there to answer your questions and give advice. My special thanks to all of them for being there especially Jim Arthur, who seemed to be conducting his own

personal fan club as he signed many copies of his book.

Neil Thomas, Ken Richardson and Jenny Panton came down from HQ and many members had the opportunity to meet them and talk over queries and educational needs and purchase merchandise.

When the rain eventually arrived at around 3pm it brought the exhibition to a natural close but filled the beer tent and BIGGA marquee and anyone else offering free food and drink!

All in all it was a successful day and has raised enough money to be able to offer members in our Region a truly remarkable package to BTME '99. Together with Amenity Technology, who are generously sponsoring the coach(es), delegates can go for £95 which includes three nights B&B, coach travel and entry to all seminars. A second delegate accompanying his Head Greenkeeper is £85 and we have 20 places for greenkeepers

under 21 to go at £45 (Details and application forms from Paula).

It was both nerve wracking and challenging organising this event for the first time and a daunting exercise trying to emulate Gordon and Marion's previously wonderful successes.

I hope I did you justice, Gordon.

## Competition Winners

"Spot the Thing" - Paul Williams, Salisbury & S. Wilts

Putting - Sponsored by Vitax. 1. N. Powell, Belmont Golf and Leisure Club; 2. M. Todd; 3. R. Neale, Taunton Vale.

Chipping - Sponsored by Amenity Technology. 1. T. Glover, Axe Cliffe GC; 2. A. Chant, Farrington GC; 3. G. Higgins, Vivary Park GC.

Best Covered Stand - Pencoed College; Best Uncovered Stand, Pro-Seed Equipment

Amenity Technology and Pipewise were very close runners-up.

# New products launched at Iseki conference

Jacobsen held a Conference recently at Highgate House, Creton, Northamptonshire for their Iseki Dealer Principals and their Sales Managers. The event was well attended by Iseki Dealers both existing and new and Mr Hamada, Managing Director, Mr Takemoto, Manager of Planning and Administration, and Mr Debar, Product Manager, from Iseki Europe also made a major contribution to the event.

After global overviews on Textron from Peter Bell and an Iseki global

overview on Iseki from Mr Hamada, future plans for improving parts and warranty procedures were outlined. This was followed by an outdoor session where the new products along with modified existing products were demonstrated to the Dealers.

The TM 223, a 23HP compact tractor complete with 54" side discharge deck made its first appearance as did the SF230, a 23HP out front mower complete with 54" side discharge deck and 500 litre high lift collector.

