

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 general@bigga.co.uk

Old ways are often the best...

Referring to Bill Pile's letter on earthworm control the banning of Chlordane, (with an appeal against the original decision being dismissed) is irreversible. Those who are not already aware of the insidious invasion and control of all aspects of the U.K., not just greenkeeping, by Brussels should remember that if we ever do have a referendum on eg. a common currency, once the pound is lost it is lost for ever. Think on when opting for

change - the pound is rather more important than Chlordane. It is accepted that Brussels' decision on Chlordane was swayed because it was not used at all widely in Europe so a ban would affect virtually only the UK.

But there are alternatives, even on a big scale, namely to acidify the soil with eg. sulphur or its derivatives. Anyone who has seen muddy open weedy worm-casted 'agricultural' fair-

ways transformed in a year to fine wiry *Agrostis* turf, with better drainage and especially winter play, will need no convincing. Trials to determine optimum rates before mass application are sensible. We were doing this over 60 years ago - the old ways should never be despised or overlooked.

J.H. Arthur
 Budleigh Salterton
 East Devon

Open thanks

On behalf of the Championship Committee, the members of Royal Birkdale and, also personally, I would like to thank all the BIGGA members who helped at the recent Open Championship. Their contribution was invaluable and helped to ensure a successful Open. The course presented during the week was immaculate.

I hope to see you all again at another Open at Royal Birkdale in the not too distant future.

P.K.M. Rostron
 Captain

High praise for Scottish entrants in Excellence Award

As an Assessor for the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping I would like to take this opportunity to thank the greenkeepers I visited for their organisation and hospitality which I received on my tour of the Scottish Region golf clubs.

I found that the golf courses were of a very high standard and facili-

ties for the staff were amazing at some of the clubs. Having said that, there are still some clubs which require to move into the Millennium with updated facilities. No doubt this will happen.

While there can be only one winner I have to say there were no losers in this competition. Head

Greenkeepers who entered are all winners in my opinion. They opened their clubs for inspection, accepted me as an equal and I enjoyed every visit I made.

I hope I get the opportunity to do a similar exercise in the future. It gave me great pleasure to be asked by the Association - through

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson - to do the assessments for the Scottish Region and I thank Ken and Sami for their assistance and hospitality during our meeting in York.

Jimmy Neilson
 Scottish Region Chairman



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