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Profile

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: John Ellis

Club: Denbigh GC

Position: Greenkeeper

Age: 27

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
10 years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
None

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Cutting greens

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Cleaning the out of bounds trenches

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?
Involved in the cycling or the music industry

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
My Head Greenkeeper, Dave Goodridge

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
The relationship between the golfers and the greenkeeper

8. What are your hobbies?
Cycling, gym and music

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Education and a magazine

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
Carrying on greenkeeping, doing more mountain biking and hopefully winning the lottery

Textron set to travel back in time

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products has stepped in to assist the organisers of a World War II Air Show, offering to prepare the airfield for the prestigious event which takes place next month.

Raydon Airfield, at Hadleigh in Suffolk, is a former wartime USAAF base that was once home to the Mustangs and Thunderbolts of the 353rd Fighter Group.

On September 4th the Raydon Wings Air Show will take place when the skies over Suffolk will once again be filled with the sound of over 30 classic wartime aircraft of yesteryear.

Textron has stepped in and offered to cut and prepare the 15-acre grass site including the maintenance of the 900 yard runway.

"Our involvement followed an appeal from the organisers and it was one that we could hardly refuse especially as the profits will be used for the benefit of local charities. We will



be preparing the runway and surrounding areas throughout the summer to ensure that Raydon

Airfield is in pristine condition for the show in September," said Peter Bell, of Textron.

John Deere set record in Ireland

Where the Mountains of Mourne sweep down to the sea - that's the location of one of the most beautiful and challenging golf courses in the world.

Ranked four in Britain and seven in the world, The Royal County Down championship links course by the Irish Sea at Newcastle, Northern Ireland, was host to the prestigious British Amateur Championship at the end of May and will welcome the amateur home internationals in September.

Despite the extremes of weather during the Amateur the immaculate condition of the course was noted by players and commentators alike. This was due to the hard work of Course Manager Alan Strachan and his greenkeeping staff of 15, with the help of a recently extended fleet of John Deere golf course equipment.

The course has just added two 3235A fairway mowers, three 220A walk-behind greens mowers, a Turf Gator utility vehicle and a 1200A bunker rake worth nearly £70,000 to the existing fleet of two 6x4 Gators, three more walk-behind greens mowers and a tractor mounted Aercore aerator.

This is the biggest sale of John Deere equipment to a golf course in Northern



Ireland by local dealer Johnston Gilpin & Co of Lisburn.

"We hand cut all the greens and tees with the 220A greens mowers, which is why we now have six altogether," said Alan.

The picture shows Randal McConnell, of Johnston Gilpin & Co (far right) with Course Manager, Alan Strachan (second right) and some of the staff with the Mourne Mountains in the background.

Stop press... Stop press... Stop

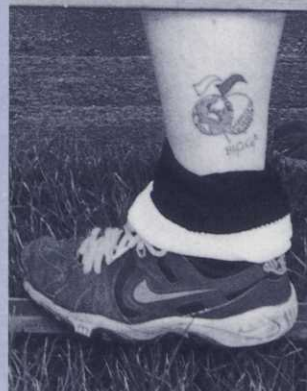
After over 10 years BIGGA has decided to change its logo from the distinctive world/golf ball spheres and flags, which have stood the Association in good stead, to something more appropriate for the new millennium...

No, no don't worry. The above is a joke designed to see the colour drain from the cheeks of Craig Pennycuik.

Craig, Head Greenkeeper at Winterfield GC, in Dunbar, is so delighted to be a member of BIGGA that he has had the logo tattooed on his left leg.

Unless he pulls his socks up he'll be seen as one of the Association's more committed members.

Can anyone else match Craig's devotion? Logo over a heart maybe!



Honorary Membership for Fred

Revered golf course architect Fred Hawtree has become an Honorary Member of BIGGA, only the fourth time such an honour has been bestowed.

In doing so Fred, 83, joins the late Viscount Whitelaw, Jim Fry and Brian Gilbert.

It was Fred's father, also Fred, who was the founder of the first greenkeeper association, BGGGA, in 1912 and, along with his wife Beatrice, he administered the Association from the Hawtree offices.

Fred's father, known as F.G. to his son's F.W., was also the second President of the BGGGA succeeding the Chairman of the News of World newspaper, Lord Riddell.

"Lord Riddell was a very keen golfer who played with all the top golfers and wanted to help golf," recalled Fred, as he sat in his Woodstock study adorned with golfing books and artifacts.

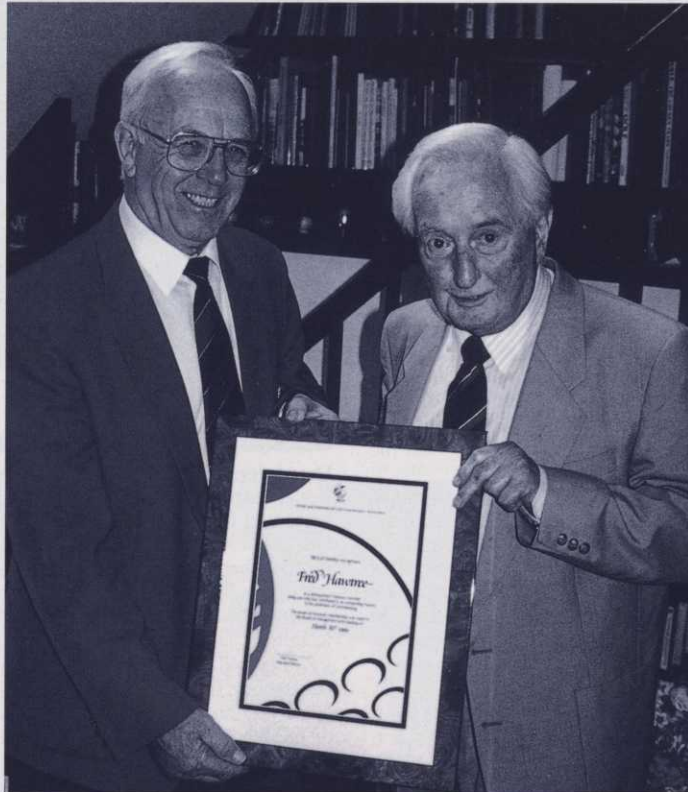
Indeed the News of the World Trophy donated by Lord Riddell himself will be played for in the new BIGGA Golf Championship.

"I always got the feeling that my father, deep down, wanted to promote golf for the ordinary people because it was very restricted around his time," explained Fred, who edited one of the first greenkeeper magazines for a time and wrote a regular column in the BGGGA magazine before BIGGA was formed.

He is delighted with the way BIGGA has developed from the merging of the three original associations.

"I think the association has progressed wonderfully. It is everything you could have hoped for."

His own recollections of greenkeepers go back to 1922 when he was just a young boy and a tournament at Sundridge Park.



"Charlie Prickett, the greenkeeper at Frilford Heath, was playing and he put half a crown in my hand. In 1922 that was a fortune and I thought these greenkeepers really are wonderful chaps."

It was fitting that the presentation of the Certificate should be made by Gordon Child, in whose house Fred was enjoying dinner when the call to say that

BIGGA had been formed came through.

"I am absolutely delighted to make this presentation as I've known Fred for so many years, Marion and I call him Uncle Fred," said Gordon.

The Hawtree practice continues under the leadership of son, Martin, a past President of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects.

Course Management Trophy

These competitions for a team of four comprising of the Secretary/Manager, Head Greenkeeper, Course Manager, Chairman of Green and Club Captain have now been set up in each of the sections in the South West & South Wales Region.

Entry is by invitation only and any club who has not received an invitation and would like one should apply to Paula Humphries (Tel: 01288 352194).

The venues and dates are: South Coast Section at Salisbury & South Wilts 17 Aug; South West Section at Manor, Castle Coombe 24 Aug; South Wales Section Celtic Manor 25 Aug

Devon & Cornwall is at Exeter on 15 July (apply direct to Exeter Golf & Country Club)

Size isn't a problem for Nigel



What do you get the greenkeeper who has everything?

That was the question posed to Clive Tilbury of Darent Valley GC, when deciding what to get his boss, Nigel Stapley, to commemorate 22 years at the club - 12 as Course Manager.

One thing Clive knew he didn't have was a mini mower so that's exactly what was presented to Nigel.

"You can imagine how long it would take to do 18 greens with that! Mind you it doesn't use much fuel," said Nigel.

New MD for Scotts UK Professional

The Scotts Company has appointed Bernie Ford to the position of Managing Director of Scotts Professional Business Group UK and Ireland.

The company was created following the acquisition of Levington Horticulture and Miracle Garden Care by the Scotts Company in 1997 and markets key brands such as Sierrablen, Sierraform and Greenmaster turf fertilisers and the pioneering new turf growth regulator Shortcut.

Bernie Ford has held a number of international Sales and Marketing positions with The Scotts Company over the past 21 years, covering consumer and professional markets.

He has extensive experience with Osmocote controlled release fertilisers and established major markets for this brand in South America, Malaysia and the Caribbean.

He is married with two children and will be relocating from Ohio to the UK.



Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



New Chairman at BAGCC

The British Association of Golf Course Constructors have elected Nigel Ely as their new chairman.

Nigel is a director of J & E Ely Ltd., whose recent construction work includes the new 18-hole Palmerstone course at Bocket Hall, designed by Donald Steel.

Personal goal leaves Peter triumphant

Retired Kent Section member Peter Biscoe put a recent heart bypass operation behind him to win his Club Championship.

Peter, 64 year-old whose handicap is now 12, shot rounds of nett 65 and 71 to tie for first place in the Eltham Warren GC Championship and, under the rules of the event, had to endure an 18-hole play-off before coming out on top.

"I'm surprised, elated and, understandably, knackered," said Peter, who also won the Kent Seniors Championship a few years ago.

New chairman of SGA elected

The newly elected chairman of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association is Rolf Lowgren who replaces Roland Andersson who has moved from his Course Manager's job to become Toro rep for the Southern Sweden dealer.

Rolf is Course Manager of Bro-Balsta Golf course West of Stockholm, and is very well known in Sweden with his background as an agronomist in Swedish Golf Federation 1977-1989 and then, more recently becoming a Course Manager.

The rest of the board was reelected and SGAs 1200 members can look forward for another interesting year with a highlight coming up in September with a Conference and Trade Show in Jonkoping in mid-south Sweden.

This show is a biannual arrangement in cooperation with Swedish Golf Federation, Golf Administrators and also PGA. The conference programme contains topics for everyone and it's possible for greenkeepers to listen to the pro's day and vice versa. Also programme for Greens Chairmen, all to try to find a good cooperation within the whole golfing World.

Colin moves to Charterhouse

Colin Gregory, previously with Hardi and Twose has joined Charterhouse Turf Machinery.

Colin joins the company to head up the new Tractor Division which has been formed following the announcement of Charterhouse Turf Machinery's appointment as the exclusive Distributor for Antonio Carraro in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Bire.

Colin said he is looking forward to working with a dynamic marketing Company, particularly as they have been able to obtain one of the most advanced tractor franchises in the world. Colin is already well known in the industry and will be pleased to hear from any of his old Dealer or customer friends to discuss future business prospects.

Charterhouse expand their horizons

Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd and Antonio Carraro Spa have signed an exclusive distribution contract for Charterhouse Turf Machinery to distribute their range of tractors throughout England, Wales, Northern Ireland and The Irish Republic.

Antonio Carraro Spa have been manufacturing tractors in Padova since 1901 and employ 400 staff. They have over 118 tractors in their range and Charterhouse Turf Machinery have selected the most appropriate for the UK markets. These are niche products which have been selected in particular for golf, local authority, contracting forestry and nursery markets. Charterhouse Turf Machinery will also be importing a full range of ancillary equipment which dovetails with the tractors in this sector.

Many of these tractors have a unique feature including reverse seat, steering wheels and controls can be operated with 'finger tip' control. This enables the operator to operate equipment on the rear mounted linkages in a forward direction. In this context, the operator has a panoramic view of work being undertaken.

Another feature of the equipment is that they are all articulated in the horizontal plain and some models are also



David Jenkins and Dr Marcello Carraro jointly signing their contract at the Reform Club, which among other things, is renowned for being the start and finish for the epic journey "Around the World in 80 days".

pivoted about a centre point.

"I am pleased to welcome Charterhouse Turf Machinery into our worldwide family of distributors and feel they will be able to expand sales throughout their territory," said Dr Marcello Carraro, Managing Director of Antonio Carraro Spa.

David Jenkins, Managing Director

of Charterhouse Turf Machinery said he was delighted to have such a high performance range of tractors to 'market'.

"I feel sure that the marketing skills contained within Charterhouse Turf Machinery would enable the company to achieve a significant percentage of the UK tractor sales."

Scottish Golf Course Advisory Group has it in the bag

The Scottish Golf Course Advisory Group has been working hard over a number of years to improve the environmental quality of Scottish Golf Courses. This important objective has been supported by the introduction of 'Golf Bags' to more than 50 sites throughout Scotland. The Golf Bags do not contain clubs, balls or clothing, rather, they contain a wealth of information on environmental management and environmentally aware golf course design, including books, videos, leaflets and case studies.

Each Golf Bag is looked after by a Bag Manager who is responsible for the dispatch and return of all items in the bag. Golf Clubs may borrow items from the bag or may buy items if they wish to hold

onto them permanently. Golf Bags contain information on birds, bird boxes, nests, bracken, walls, hedges, dunes, heathland, moorland, lowlands, woodlands and waterways, to name but a few, giving information that greenkeepers, club officials, golf club members, architects and constructors could all find useful.

In his foreword to the Golf Bag Handbook, Colin Montgomerie says that a golf course that has been sensitively designed and managed in a way that works with nature is normally more interesting and challenging. The information provided in the Golf Bag proves that golf and the environment can work together providing a respite from outside pressures

and ensuring that golf courses and the areas that surround them will be available for our descendants to enjoy.

The Golf Bag is an excellent idea giving a mass of easy to follow information on golf course ecological management. It would be pleasing to see such Golf Bags available to all golf clubs in Britain and throughout Europe.

More information on the Golf Bags, including the location of your nearest Golf Bag Manager and general advice on all aspects of conservation on golf courses can be obtained from the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Advisor, c/o Scottish Natural Heritage, 2 Anderson Place, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 5NP, 0131 5549797.

New UK Sales Manager at Toro Turf Maintenance

Toro Commercial Products' distributor Lely UK, in St Neots, has appointed Jeff Anguige as the new UK Sales Manager for Toro Turf Maintenance Machinery.

Jeff, 42, has wide experience of the industry, having spent his entire 24 year career in the turf equipment business.

His experience includes, unusually, spells working both for the dealer and manufacturer sides of the industry. This is something he sees as especially valuable in his new role for Toro, where his responsibility for the entire sales operation covers retail business and sales through dealers as well.

Therefore his wide-ranging responsibilities include managing Lely UK's retail sales team, as well as the sales force of business managers working closely with the national network of dealers and service centres. It is an all-

encompassing brief that sees him also in charge of overseeing its business with Toro key accounts.

In the year before joining up with Toro, Jeff Anguige worked for Textron on sales of Ransomes Jacobsen and Iseki.

A man with a thorough grounding and wide knowledge of turf machinery and the machinery business, he began his career 24 years ago as an apprentice in the workshops of a leading local Ransomes' dealership in Morley, near Leeds, before moving on to become a sales representative with the firm. He later worked his way up to become sales director with another Yorkshire dealership before taking up a two-year appointment with a machinery manufacturer prior to joining Ransomes.

Jeff Anguige, his wife Julie and their daughter Carly, 16, and son Ryan, 14, live near Wakefield, in Yorkshire.



Bailey's peat-free topdressing

In response to Greenkeepers concerns Bailey's of Norfolk have developed a peat-free USGA specification topdressing in which the organic amendment is supplied from a sustainable source. As with all their topdressings Eco-BJD1 is continually monitored for quality through their 'in-house' soil analysis laboratory and is delivered with an up-to-date analysis sheet.

"As concern about the environment continues to grow golf clubs must demonstrate wherever possible ecologically sound management. Traditionally peat or fen soils have been used to improve the organic matter content of nutrient poor root-zones, however, Peatlands are now becoming endangered ecosystems," said John Farrell, of Bailey's

Telephone John Farrell on 01603 754607 for further details.

Allister earns Perpetual Cup

John Lindsay (left), of John Lindsay Professional Sportsturf, continued his support for Greenkeeper education by presenting his Perpetual Cup and Travel Award to Allister McEwen, of Spa Golf Club.



A Ryder Cup home from home

Anyone with tickets for September's Ryder Cup at The Country Club, Brookline Massachusetts, and who is still seeking accommodation might be interested in a four bedroom house a mere three minutes from the course.

The house has two double and two single rooms as well as a large basement if required and the owner is prepared to cook and ferry the tenants to and from the course if requested.

For further information contact Ailsa Wade Tel: 01577 865607 (after 4pm).

Kubota opens new showroom

A brand new machinery showroom, parts store and workshop facility dedicated to the supply and support of Kubota compact tractors, ride-on mowers and professional and domestic garden machinery was opened last month.

Located in Christchurch, the all-new Procure Kubota Centre is scheduled to be opened by Mr Massey Miyake, Managing Director of Kubota (UK) Ltd, accompanied by James and Julian Macklin, co-directors of CPT Procure.

The Procure Kubota Centre represents a joint investment by Kubota (UK) Ltd and CPT Procure, Kubota's appointed area dealer. It has been designed from the ground up to provide domestic and professional customers with a dedicated one-stop shop for the complete Kubota product range, encompassing top quality garden machinery, market-leading compact tractors with matching implements, and high performance professional and domestic ride-on mowers.



"The new Procure Kubota Centre represents a major investment by Kubota and CPT Procure. "It is extremely well situated and dedicated 100 per cent to the demonstration and sale of Kubota products, supporting customers with genuine parts, first class service and individually-tailored

financial packages. We look forward to welcoming past, present and future Kubota owners at the new Procure Kubota Centre and signing them up as members of the Kubota Owner's Club," commented Tom Barnes, Marketing Manager of Kubota (UK) Ltd.

Keith is new lecturer at Merrist Wood College

Merrist Wood College has added Keith Harrison to its expanding team in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Keith, who took up his position at the beginning of June, will have special responsibility for developing and co-ordinating a programme of work-based assessment and training for employees in the Sports Turf, Greenkeeping and Grounds Maintenance sectors.

Keith comes to Merrist Wood from Brinsbury College in West Sussex, where he spent 14 years in a number of roles, including Head of Horticulture and latterly, as Head of Faculty. During his time at Brinsbury, Keith was involved with the development of work-based programmes,

among other responsibilities.

Keith is ideally placed to forge further industry links for the College, through his extensive network of contacts, developed over the last 23 years.

Returning to his specific interest of Sports Turf Management, Keith is enthusiastic about his new role.

"I am pleased to be joining Merrist Wood. The excellent facilities and the very positive outlook of my new colleagues will help to facilitate the bringing together of students, employers and the College, for the benefit of the industry as a whole," said Keith, a former Lancashire League cricket groundsman, Head Greenkeeper and Head Groundsman at an independent school.



A veritable army of greenkeepers at Wentwood Hills

Jim McKenzie, Director of Golf at Celtic Manor, was so determined to ensure the new Robert Trent Jones Jnr-designed Wentwood Hills course was in pristine condition for its first professional tournament, the PGA Mastercard Tour event, that he used 46 greenkeepers every day.

The staff worked for three hours from 4.30am. Fairways, greens and even fringes were stripe-cut every morning and eight men raked the bunkers.

"We used this as a dry run for The Welsh Open being staged here next year and have learned a lot. The kind comments were a tribute to the hard work of our staff," said Jim.

The course, which it is hoped will host the 2009 Ryder Cup, had been opened the previous month with a special match between local hero Ian Woosnam and this year's Ryder Cup Captain, Mark James.

Jim is pictured with MasterCard winner Lee James.

