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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

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December 1999

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by January 6, 2000

Regulars

News

Pages 7, 8, 9

10 Letters

15 Learning Experience

Fantastic Voyage. Steve Chicken, of Textron, gives an insight into what we might expect to see on our golf courses in the next millennium

18 Education

Ken Richardson provides the answers to the quiz he set last month and explains what are Education, Training and Development

20 Membership Update

20 Finance File

Trevor Downing of J. Rothschild Assurance examines the various options available when purchasing an annuity

38-42 Around the Green

58 Features Listing

Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International's previous articles.

58 As I see it...

Gordon Child attends the finals of BIGGA's main competitions as well as Viscount Whitelaw's memorial service in London

Reader Reply Card

Use our post-paid reader reply card to obtain further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the company's Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us, and we'll arrange for further information to be sent direct to you.

Advertiser	Page	Adref
A F Trenchers	35	203
Amenity Technology	60	431
Bernhard & Co	23	535
Biotal	29	614
British Seed Houses	21 & 35	87
Driving Force Leisure	33	624
Eagle Promotions	17	549
Eric Hunter Grinders	50	73
Etesia UK Ltd	59	644
Evergreens	14	526
Flowtronex	21	610
Golf Mats UK	43	426
Greensward	14	312
Hi-Chem UK	19	638
Inturf	14	31
John Deere	41	103
Lely UK	2a, 2b, 3	61
Marlwood	38-39	501
Ocmis Irrigation	43	360
Rhône-Poulenc	11 & 46	59
Sovereign Turf	33	435
Weed Free	43	504

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact BIGGA on 01347 833800



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22 Environmental Temple



51 Win £50 with our Buyers' Guide quiz

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

Features

- 12 Past Reflections**
Jimmy MacDonald MBE has just retired as Head Greenkeeper at Royal Lytham and St Annes and takes with him some wonderful memories
- 30 Criminal Damage**
Joe Paulin gives some advice that might lead to reducing the chances of vandalism or theft on your golf course
- 32 Start the New Year with a Bang**
All the up-to-date information about BTME 2000 at your fingertips. Also information on some of the hotels that await your custom. Bet you can't wait to get there!
- 47 Past Masters**
Dr Stephen Baker of the STRI takes a retrospective look at 100 years of research and progress in golf course agronomy.

COVER FEATURES:

And the winner is...

- 22 Environment Competition**
Bob Taylor explains the background to the voting in the 1999 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Groundcare and The Grass Roots Trading Company
- 26 Toro Awards**
Brian Turner and Tommy Givnan lifted the main prizes but everyone who reached the finals of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award and the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award were winners



26 Toro Awards



32 Preview

Seasons Greetings from BIGGA

It has become fashionable among some to send a circular letter instead of a Christmas Card. I thought I'd give it a go as well.

Dear Friends,

As we draw towards the end of another year it is a wonderful opportunity to look back at the the last 12 months

BTME '99 was a resounding success. It just never fails to top the year before and this one was no exception. I'll certainly remember Frank Dick's inspirational motivational talk which I still watch on the video when I'm in need of a bit of a boost. Also who will ever forget the sight of everyone dancing the night away to Under the Moon of Love and Showaddywaddy at the BTME Banquet? I hope the Bootleg Beetles are just as successful next month.

BIGGA's annual Golf Day was on June 21st - the longest day of the year and the height of summer. Why then were we struck by a hail storm? But I think everyone enjoyed themselves and Aldwark Manor did us proud.

Weather seemed to follow the Association around this year and Andy Campbell had to replace his 4x4 with an arc to get around Carden Park when the National Championship took place in October. He did a great job to get the courses playable though and the restyled event looks set for a long and prosperous future.

Talking about competitions, praise must go to Brian Turner and Tommy Givnan, who won the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping and Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards, while Temple Golf Club in Maidenhead won the Environment Competition. All three will represent the Association well in the forthcoming year.

A good many of us were at Carnoustie for The Open Championship. John Philp did an outstanding job in preparing the course - although many of the players thought he'd got out of bed on the wrong side when he decided on the height of the rough and width of the fairways - and we were blessed with a ring side seat for one of the most memorable finish in the Championship's history. Jean Van de Velde nearly left a lasting impression on a few of us with his fateful approach to the final green while the Greenkeeping Support Team orchestrated the Mexican wave while everyone waited to greet the local hero, Paul Lawrie, up the final play-off hole.

Perhaps the saddest moment of '99 came with the death of BIGGA's President Viscount Whitelaw who had been such an instrumental figure in the Association's formative years. He will be a hard act to follow but in our new President, Sir Michael Bonallack, we have a man whose pedigree in golf is unsurpassed and he will be a huge asset to BIGGA in the years to come.

So that was our year. I hope your preparations for Christmas are well advanced and your dreams of seeing in the new millennium in style are still intact.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Millennium.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum

