

Lord Whitelaw: Thanksgiving Service

So it was, together with our wives and Past Chairman Pat Murphy, that on a beautiful late autumn day in keeping with the occasion we walked past Buckingham Palace to the Guards Chapel of the Scots Guards at Wellington Barracks. The occasion was the Service of Thanksgiving for our late President, Viscount Whitelaw.

On entering the chapel and being ushered to our pew there was a quickening sense that we were in auspicious company and that those normally viewed at a distance through the medium of press and television were suddenly in close proximity. To name names would be invidious on such an occasion other than to simply say that the congregation truly represented the whole spectrum of Viscount Whitelaw's life and times.

It is difficult to convey through the medium of our magazine the aura of such an occasion. Most certainly it was a celebration of a notable life with, at times, humorous anecdotes from those paying tribute. Indeed a former Foreign Secretary was overheard saying how much our late President would have enjoyed the occasion. Essentially it was an emotional occasion with Lady Whitelaw and their large family present, together with so many who had enjoyed his company and friendship irrespective of their political allegiance.

As you would expect the service, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, was in exact keeping with the occasion and there were exemplary tributes from Sir Brian Hayes on behalf of the Police Service, together with tributes to his political life from Lord Carrington and John Major. The fourth tribute, in respect of Viscount Whitelaw's golfing life, was given by our incoming President and Captain of the R&A Golf Club, Sir Michael Bonallack.

As Sir Michael drew towards the conclusion of his tribute he turned towards Viscount Whitelaw's role as President of BIGGA from 1988 to 1998, how the approach had been made for him to take up the



Presidency more in hope than expectation and of how, once accepted, he had insisted on being an active President. Sir Michael spoke of his influence in the growth and development of BIGGA and pointed out that the last occasion on which he had seen Viscount Whitelaw was when Lady Whitelaw had brought him last year to the opening of BIGGA HOUSE, a building described to the congregation as the greenkeepers' magnificent new headquarters near York. Sir Michael concluded his tribute in the hope that the building would forever be viewed as a lasting memorial to Viscount Whitelaw.

For the Association to be so elevated on such a stage was something very special for us as representatives of BIGGA and a particularly emotional experience when the years since 1987 seemed to flash before the

eyes and one realised just how far BIGGA has progressed in that time, in no small measure due to the influence and support of our late President.

There can be no better way for us to conclude than through the service itself and particularly the Commendation which spoke of the vast number of people whose lives were enriched and touched by William Whitelaw for, wherever he was, he bore with him an immense zest for life. We most certainly include ourselves among that vast number of people as do so many BIGGA members who met him, enjoyed his company through the years and who will have their own lasting memories of an essentially kind, wise and inspiring man.

Gordon and Neil

ETL awarded accreditation certificate



Ann Murray, Laboratory Director, holds the accreditation certificate

Following European Turfgrass Laboratories move to Stirling Enterprise Park earlier this year, the new laboratories were re-assessed by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA).

"The requirement for biennial re-assessment fitted in well to the relocation of the lab enabling the premises to be reaccredited this year. We are committed to providing a quality service to the Golf Course and Sportsturf Industries," said Laboratory Chairman, John Hacker.

European Turfgrass Laboratories remain the only A2LA Accredited laboratory outside the USA approved by the USGA for putting green materials analyses.

Top honours



Philip (left) and Derrick (right)

Two young men have reason to feel proud following their academic achievements.

Philip Gilbank, Deputy Course Manager at Meltham Golf Course in Huddersfield, has achieved his NVQ Level 3 and 4 Amenity Horticultural Management Diploma at Askham Bryan. He has since applied to London City and Guilds where he received his Licentiate Horticulture.

Derrick Johnstone, of Langside College, Glasgow, featured in his local Fife newspaper following his success in achieving an Award for Excellence in his HNC - Golf Course Management.

Textron appoints PA Turney as dealership

P.A. Turney Limited of Bicester, Oxon, has been appointed Textron dealer for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire.

"We are delighted to be representing Textron in the Home Counties. We shall be distributing the complete range of equipment that includes the Ransomes, Jacobsen, Cushman, Ryan, E-Z-GO and Iseki ranges," said Paul Turney.

"We are delighted to welcome P.A. Turney into the Textron fold. They are an established company, professionally managed with all the right credentials that we look for in a dealer. We look forward to many years of mutual benefits for both parties," said David Withers, Textron's National Sales Manager.



Mark lands new role at Avoncrop



Avoncrop Amenity Products has appointed Mark Rayner as Technical Sales Regional Manager covering the Midlands region, to call on golf, sports and bowls clubs, Local Authorities and landscapers.

Mark is a qualified landscape architect gaining his diploma from Thames Poly in 1980. He then worked for P61 for six years as Product Development Officer. Moving to Scotland to work for Stewarts Seedsmen as sales representative to the amenity sector. He gained further experience with Mommersteeg and prior to joining Avoncrop Amenity Products, worked for Rigby Taylor calling on local authorities.

John gets new territory role with Sisis



SISIS has appointed John Welling as Territory Manager for Kent, Sussex and Surrey, working from the SISIS South East Depot at Merrist Wood College. Jon has come full circle as he spent three years at Merrist Wood studying for a Diploma in Countryside Management.

Prior to joining SISIS John worked for three years at a Kubota dealer.

He is married with a three and a half year old son.

Shield2000 offers Y2K bug fix

By now Action 2000's Last Chance Guide will have dropped on everyone's door mat. Few people understand that the Bug lies more in the applications software and how it is written, rather than just in the PC itself.

The hardware is relatively simple to fix, but conflicts embedded in the software will lock up the computer, disabling critical programmes such as geo-mapping, irrigation systems, fire, security and safety systems as well as programmes that run in DOS or use Windows such as Microsoft Office.

Shield2000 is available off-the-shelf tool and repairs Millennium Bug conflicts without the necessity to change your computer or your software.

Shield2000 scans every file, line by line, in machine code and then repairs problematic date calls between the applications software and the operating system without changing the way in which the computer or the software



works. Available on CD or floppy, this powerful hardware and software fix is easy to install.

For more information call Shield2000 Europe on 01932 269495

Glyn Abbey appoints new Head Greenkeeper

Glyn Abbey Golf Club, in Carmarthenshire, Wales, has appointed John Rogers as their new Head Greenkeeper. John, the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member assigned to Paul Lawrie's final round match at this year's Open, will assist the Glyn Abbey

Management though to the spring of next year with their plans for continuing improvements to the course, protecting it though the winter and preparing for a busy season in 2000. He will be training staff and setting work programmes and routines throughout.

Mini-Ryder Cup at Cumberwell Park

Recently a group of South West Greenkeepers valiantly redressed the balance following the Ryder Cup by welcoming a group of USA visitors to Cumberwell Park Golf Club near Bath.

The occasion was the annual visit to the UK of the top Turf Equipment Salesmen from the American and Canadian Distributors for Express Dual and Anglemaster Reel Grinders, manufactured by Bernhard & Co (Atterton & Ellis) of Rugby.

The meeting was a new idea to foster relationships between people in a similar business, many US Golf Course Equipment Salesmen are ex golf course Superintendents.

Thirty people played golf including eight local BIGGA members, nine Bernhard staff and the USA contingent. Many wives and partners were present for dinner, enjoying each other's company enormously and having a great time during the evening making the event a must for all future Distributor visits.

During their visit to England the group also visited Bath, Wells, The Cotswolds, Stratford upon Avon and Windsor Castle.

Bernhard & Co Ltd wish to extend their thanks to Marc Haring, Course Manager, at Cumberwell Park and all the UK Greenkeepers who made the visitors from across the Atlantic so very welcome.



New labelling aids leatherjacket control



Leatherjacket insecticide Lorsban T is now approved for use beyond the end of March on amenity turf.

The product label now states that Lorsban T may be applied at 1.5 litres/ha in 200 - 1000 litres of water at any time from the beginning of November where high larval populations are detected or damage is first

seen. However, early treatment is advised in order to prevent leatherjackets feeding on turf over the winter.

Commenting on the label change, Andy Cawley, of Dow Agro Sciences said, "With leatherjacket control, earlier is definitely better. Turf managers and greenkeepers should conduct a

risk assessment in November when leatherjackets are young and treat early before any root damage occurs to the turfgrass.

"However, this label change also gives turf managers the extra flexibility to control leatherjackets later in the season if weather conditions have prevented earlier application."

New roots planted at Eamonn Wall

Eamonn Wall & Co, who specialise in trees in the golfing landscape, has appointed two consultants based in the South of England.

Mark Boulton, 33, joins the firm based at Lindford on the Surrey/



Mark Boulton and Charles Dutton

Hampshire border and brings with him ten years experience of woodland management in the South East of England. He has particular experience of woodland improvement grant schemes which will be of great relevance to the firm's clients in the South East. He is also a keen deer stalker and deer management specialist.

Charles Dutton, 42, joins the firm based near Sherborne in Dorset and brings with him 20 years of experience in the management of broadleaved trees and conifers. He is the national expert on grey squirrel control and this will be of particular relevance in the management of new tree planting schemes on golf courses where grey squirrels can cause many problems. Charles enjoys golf and combined with his knowledge of designed landscapes he will be assisting Eamonn Wall run a series of seminars for golf courses over the coming years.

Eamonn Wall & Co will be at BIGGA, Harrogate this year on Stand 38 Hall Q and are always pleased to meet with new and existing clients.

New LasTec role for John

John Millen has been appointed UK Operations Manager to organise the sales of LasTec Articulator Rotary Mowers throughout its dealership in the UK.

Clarification

Last month's magazine contained reference to the Pesticide Safety Directorate completing its evaluation of Rhône Poulenc's product Castaway Plus. While the piece was accurate it appeared under the heading "Rhône Poulenc issues safety warnings for Castaway Plus" which was not accurate.

Castaway Plus was revoked due to physical properties of the formulation. The product is still safe, when used as recommended on the label. Distributors and users have a two year wind-down period (to the end of July 2001 to sell or use existing stocks).



Paul moves on to BSH

British Seed Houses has appointed landscape specialist Paul Hadley as technical sales advisor for South Wales and South West England.

Holder of a Diploma in Landscape Technology, Paul Hadley brings 14 years of horticultural and landscape industry experience to the post. He joins the company after six years with Pershore College of Horticulture where he was Landscape Unit

Manager. Prior to that he spent four years as a self-employed landscape design and build contractor.

Paul brings additional client-side perspective to British Seed Houses and its Seeds, Service, Solutions initiative. He will be responsible for technical advice and direct-to-market sales of the Grade A amenity grass seed range, as well as the company's UK provenance wild flora mixtures.

Scotts move for Simon

Simon Barnaby has joined Scotts UK Professional as Technical Advisor - Turf and Amenity. A newly created post, Simon's role will be to work alongside the Scotts Turf and Amenity sales team - providing customers with expert, up-to-date guidance on their turf nutrition and pest control needs.

Simon is a qualified Turf Grass Agronomist with over 15 years experience

in the fine turf maintenance industry. He has a BSc in Amenity Horticulture and is currently studying for an MSc in Landscape and Amenity Management.

Simon has previously held positions in Golf Course Management with several UK clubs, has worked at the Sports Turf Research Institute and has also worked as an independent consultant on turfcare.



Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband

