

## BIGGA Chairman to address IOG conference

BIGGA Chairman Gordon Child is among the speakers at a four day IOG Conference in Wakefield.

Other leading speakers during the event on March 27-30 include Stephen Studd, Chief Executive of SPRITO, the national training organisation for sport, recreation and allied organisations, and Ken Siems, Course Superintendent of Loch Lomond Golf Club.

Among a line-up of senior figures from the world of sports turf management and research will be Bob

Taylor, Senior Ecologist for the STRI.

Cricket will come under the microscope on the fourth day.

Other speakers during the conference include Peter Dury, sportsturf consultant, John Hacker of Professional Sportsturf Design, and Danny Thorogood, Senior Research Scientist of IGER, the grass research station backed by British Seed Houses. Mike Wattam, Course Manager of the East Sussex National Golf Club, will talk about

the control of turf grass pests and diseases, while Brian Robinson, sports and amenity consultant for Rigby Taylor, will talk on the future of sportsturf technology.

Study tours for delegates include a tour of the STRI headquarters at Bingley with Executive Director Mike Canaway and a visit to Headingley, headquarters of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club.

For more details of the event at the Cedar Court Hotel, Wakefield, call the IOG on 01908 312511.

## Scottish Patron's awards

The traditional Scottish Region Patron's Award Lunch held in Stirling just before Christmas to honour the greenkeepers chosen as the year's Patrons' winners.

"We would like to thank all the Scottish Region Patrons as, if it wasn't for their help and input the awards would not be possible," said Chris Yeaman, Swanston GC Course Manager and Scottish Magazine Liaison Officer.

The winners each received a book and earned themselves a trip to BTME 99

The occasion was graced by the presence of a man who was once widely regarded as the Fastest Man in the World. Not Allan Wells, who won the 1980 Olympics, but George McNeil who many believe would have won the 1972 Olympics, had he been able to compete.

Unfortunately George was regarded as a professional having competed in the famous handicapped Powerhall Sprints and was



Picture: Chris Yeaman

thus unable to compete against the world's best on the greatest stage of all.

He is now a highly regarded after dinner speaker and Assistant Manager of Livingston FC (Who

have just knocked your Editor's team out of the Scottish Cup)

"I have to speak for everyone when I say he was absolutely superb and the best that I've heard," said Chris.

## Expansion at Gem Professional

GEM Professional has significantly expanded its sales-team and has also appointed a new National Sales Manager to co-ordinate its activities.

The appointment of five new members - Tony Beaumont, David Orchard, Dean Stanton, Jim Nicholson and Richard Haynes provides the sales-team with a complement of ten full-time salesmen covering the British mainland.

Each member of the team has extensive knowledge of greenkeeping and groundsman'ship and is able to provide full advice on GEM Professional's range of fertilisers, top-dressings, grass seeds and other turf care products and on the company's Diamond Partnership scheme.

Overseeing the operation of the sales-team is Clive Pearson who has been promoted to National Sales Manager after five years as Southern Area Sales Manager.



## Volunteers required for the following events

**Volvo PGA Championship, Wentworth May, 30-31, 1999**

The Association will again be providing a team of 40 members for each of the above days. Each member will be allocated a match and will walk the course with the game, raking any bunkers found by the players. You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course and there is no provision for overnight accommodation. You may apply to help on either or both days. When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided.

**The Open Championship Carnoustie July 15-18, 1999**

The greenkeeping support team at the Open Championship will be involved in early morning course preparation, bunker raking while matches are in play and evening course repair. You must be available from Wednesday evening 14 July through to the close of play on Sunday 18 July. Whilst all transport, accommodation and meals will be provided between these dates it is the team member's responsibility for travel from home to the venue and return. When applying please give your polo shirt size and your golf shoe size as these may be provided.

Full BIGGA members only may apply, in writing, for either or both of these events to; John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne York YO61 1UF

Should you require any further information then John can be contacted on 01347 833800.

**The closing date for applications is Friday, February 26, 1999**

In the event of there being more applications than places available then a draw of names will take place. All applicants will be contacted mid-March.



## CJ Collins success

CJ Collins Construction have had another successful year, having completed their biggest project ever by constructing a championship course at Killarney Golf & Fishing Club in Ireland which will open in the spring. This is Killarney Golf & Fishing Club's third course.

The Company are now embarking on their extremely busy Winter Schedule which includes the re-modelling of the 14th Greens and Tees on the Links Course at the Open Venue at Royal St Georges in Kent and major work at Walton Heath Golf Club to include Championship Tee, Bunker refurbishment and revetment on both Courses.

Further refurbishments include West Sussex, Littlehampton, Haywards Heath, Romford, Shooters Hill and Royal Wimbledon Golf Clubs.

Water storage Reservoirs and alterations are to be carried out at Bramley Golf Club and Buckingham Golf Club along with further works already in the pipeline for Dyrham Park, Cuddington and Corhampton Golf Clubs.

## Fine Turf Agronomy

Greenkeeper International would like to apologise to Fine Turf Agronomy Ltd for a number of errors which occurred in the advert which appeared on Page 22 of the January issue. These were caused by a fault in the scanning equipment used to set the advert which has since been rectified.

## Keith McKee

Greenkeeper International would like to apologise to Keith McKee Associates for incorrectly describing Keith as being an employee of Scotts in the article he wrote under the Learning Experience banner in the January issue of Greenkeeper International.

Keith, who was previously employed by Fisons and Levingtons, has enjoyed an active and practical involvement in the turf grass industry for over 30 years and has expertise in interpreting soil analysis and producing practical maintenance programmes for football, cricket, golf and tennis at venues across and beyond Europe.

Keith McKee Associates can offer advice on maintenance programmes, machinery, top dressings, health and safety, construction, drainage specifications, disease control, irrigation, fertiliser programmes and weed control.

Keith can be contacted at Miraflores, 78 The Street, Manuden, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 1DS Tel: 01279 813574 Fax: 01279 815191.

# STRI launches new research

The new STRI Ecology Research Unit has launched a major research initiative funded by the R&A to assess the distribution and status of heather on UK golf courses. Initially the project will involve a comprehensive questionnaire to be circulated to every golf course in the UK. The questionnaire has been designed to determine heather distribution throughout the UK and management, as well as golfers perceptions of heather on the course. All clubs with or without heather are being asked to participate fully in this part of the project.

We urge all golf clubs to take the time and trouble to complete the questionnaires, as this heather survey provides an important opportunity

for golf to demonstrate its environmental role and responsibilities. The project presents a unique opportunity for the golf industry to work together with other national conservation bodies so contributing to the preservation of this important but declining habitat. Ecologically, heather is an important and unique habitat only found in North-West Europe. Approximately 20% of the European heather resource is found in the UK. It has been estimated that over the last 50 years the UK has lost 80% of its heather cover.

Golf as a sport is a major landscape user. There are over 2,500 golf courses in the UK occupying in the order of 130,000 hectares of land. Of these, 400 are estimated to support heather.

The STRI Ecology Research Unit believes that golf has a significant role to play in the conservation and management of heather but more detailed information is required. The heather research project is designed to provide this important information.

The work will be carried out over two years by Bob Taylor, STRI Senior Ecologist, and Jonathan Hart-Woods, Project Co-ordinator. The information collected in this first year will be used to determine sites for detailed survey work in year two.

If you require any further information on the heather survey research project or the work of the STRI Ecology Research unit please contact: Jonathan Hart-Woods on 01274 565131

## Loch Lomond achieve new environmental status

Loch Lomond Golf Club has achieved designation as a 'Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary' by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International, endorsed by the USGA.

Loch Lomond is the first golf club in Scotland, the second in Europe and the 154th course in the world to receive the honour, which recognises commitment to developing and maintaining an environmental programme. The other European course is Valderrama in Spain.

In 1996, Loch Lomond joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programme for Golf Courses which provides information and guidance to golf courses to help them preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources.

"Loch Lomond Golf Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental programme. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Joellen Zeh, Staff Ecologist for the Cooperative Sanctuary System.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas. These categories include environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, integrated pest management, water conservation, and water quality management," explained Zeh.

Commenting on their achievement, Abby Miller, Conservation Manager at Loch Lomond, said:

"Since we joined the programme in 1996, we have been working hard to put in place a number of environmental initiatives and it is great to receive such recognition for our efforts. With this award under our belt, we are ready to continue with looking at ways to further improve and develop our commitment to the wildlife and environment at Loch Lomond. Taking care of such a sensitive site requires dedication and, while delighted with what we have achieved so far, we believe this is really only the first stage in a long term programme of environmental management."

Loch Lomond were the Scottish Regional winners of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and Rhône-Poulenc.

## John Fife Memorial Trust travel and study awards

The Trust was established in 1979 in memory of John Weir Fife, a well known member of the Scottish Nursery trade.

It provides awards to assist those involved in commercial or amenity horticulture or related work to broaden their knowledge and experience. Applicants should normally be

resident in Scotland and should preferably be under 30 years of age. Awards are usually intended to enable travel either in the UK or overseas, but other purposes may be considered if they contribute to career development.

The normal maximum award is £500 but the Trustees may accept up

to £1000 for proposals considered to have merit.

The Trustees invite applications for suitable candidates for awards to be used in 1999. Application forms are now available from: Mr T.P. Smith, 12 Bruntfield Crescent, Edinburgh EH10 4AH Tel: 0131447 1035 and should be returned by March 15.

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband





## BAGCC news

Jonathan Franks, Administrative Secretary to the British Association of Golf Course Constructors, is to retire at the Association's AGM later this month.

His successor will be journalist and PR consultant, David White, who will be responsible for the administration, media, public relations and all other matters pertinent to the promotion of the Association.

David can be contacted at The Dorny House, Cooden Beach Golf Club, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 4TR Tel: 01424 84238 Fax: 01424 843375 e-mail: writelinks@telinco.com.

## Textron renew Iseki link

Representatives of Japanese tractor manufacturers Iseki recently renewed an agreement with Textron Turf Care in Ipswich for Textron to continue to act as Iseki's UK agents.

Jacobsen Textron had previously marketed Iseki from their base in Kettering. The new five year deal is set to take the relationship between the two companies well into the 21st century.

Iseki were represented by Mr. Fukatani, Executive Managing Director; Mr. Abe, Overseas Business Managing Director and Mr. Hamada, Director Iseki Europe.

The agreement was signed on behalf of Textron by Peter Bell, Marketing Director.

Speaking after the signing, Peter said "Jacobsen has had an excellent relationship with Iseki and their tractors have built up a tremendous reputation in the UK for both quality and performance. Textron is delighted to continue the partnership and we regard Iseki as a fundamental part of our strategy to provide the strongest possible choice of products for our customers to meet all applications both now and in the future."

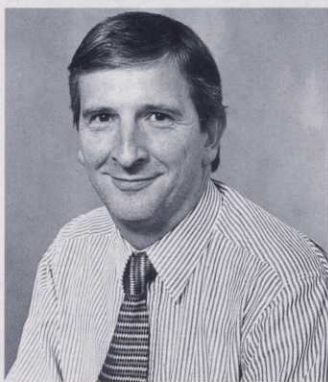
## New appointment for John

Oliver Seeds has appointed John Hughes as Amenity Technical Manager with responsibility for Sales and Business Development in the North of England.

John has joined the company from British Seed Houses where he spent 10 years, most recently as Senior Technical Manager for Amenity Grasses. He has a degree in Applied Biology and has spent time working with the N.I.A.B., Welsh Plant

Breeding Station and as a lecturer.

"I am pleased to have joined a forward thinking and professional company that is committed to supplying quality amenity grass seeds to the industry. I am confident that with my experience I will be able to strengthen further their commitment to providing a first class level of support and advice to their Amenity Customers" commented John.



# A GREAT ADDITION



**Ian McMillan, winner of the '97 Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping, gives a review of his main prize - a Toro 2300 - after a year in use.**

Hankley Common Golf Club were delighted to be the recipient of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the fabulous prize of the Toro 2300 has made our maintenance practices easier. "The quality of build of the new machine is superb and a worthy addition to the Toro stable. It also offers new features, such as back lapping, reel speed control as well as fully hydraulic drive. These features give this machine added refinements normally only found on

greens triples. This is also a measure of Toro's commitment to manufacturing market leading equipment

"The three wheel drive capabilities of this machine allow it to get gracefully to those steep areas around the course which require a finer cut. The fact that this facility can be engaged by the simple operation of a lever from the seat gives the operator full control in those sticky situations. The transport speed has allowed us to carry out the mowing of tees and surrounds

considerable quicker, therefore, keeping us ahead of early morning play. The construction, design and large volume of the grass boxes make for easier use and longer periods between empties.

All the operators of this machine have found it to be easy to use and set up. The quality of cut from the eight blade units is excellent. Coupled with the Toro links mounting system allows the units to hug the contours of the turf ensuring that top quality cut.

## 1998 winner



John Coleman is pictured astride his well-earned Toro Greensmaster 3200-D with the rest of the Abbeydale GC greenstaff, Chairman of Green, Jack Copeland (4th left), and Peter Mansfield of Lely UK Ltd (extreme right)



## Sisis go online

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd, leading designers and manufacturers of turf maintenance equipment for sportsgrounds and golf courses now have a website. For details of the whole SISIS range, and topical news stories visit "www.sisis.com".

## New BIGCA appointment

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects has appointed Sharon McGregor as Secretary.

She joins the Institute after the highly successful BIGCA International Conference held at Wentworth in November, which saw 110 delegates from all over the world attend the event, and the Conference Dinner.

The British Institute, now has 60 members including its Diploma Students, the third intake of whom are to commence their two-year programme at Merrist Wood College in February.

## On the move

The Greenkeeper Supply Company has appointed Liam Galway to the position of National Sales Manager.

In addition Michael Fance, previously Course Manager at Stock Brook Manor Golf and Country Club, in Essex, has been appointed Southern Sales Representative and Richard Pull, previously an assistant at Knaresborough Golf Club has been appointed Northern Sales Representative.

## Stalham win Kubota contract

Kubota (UK) Ltd has appointed Stalham Engineering as its exclusive dealer to cover the NR postcode area within the county of Norfolk.

Based at The Green, Stalham, Norfolk, the company is now providing comprehensive and professional sales, service and parts support for the full range of Kubota's market leading compact tractors and matching implements, ride-on mowers, power products and garden machinery. Customers include local authorities, golf and sports clubs, landscape contractors, farmers, growers, estate owners, equestrian centres, schools, colleges and domestic gardeners.

Stalham Engineering and its customers will receive full support on equipment sales, technical enquiries and demonstrations from Kubota's regional sales manager, David Roberts, backed by Kubota (UK) Ltd's sales, service and parts staff located at the company's Thame, Oxfordshire headquarters.