

# EGU withdraw GTC funding

BIGGA is printing in full a recent Press Release from the English Golf Union which is likely to have wide-ranging effects on the future of greenkeeper training. Following this Press Release, the STRI issued a Press Release outlining its position in this matter and this is also included for readers' information.

**EGU Press Release Dated  
November 12**

## The English Golf Union's new initiative for Greenkeeper Training

The English Golf Union Executive Committee have endorsed the recommendation of its Golf Course Committee for the future training of golf greenkeepers in England.

The recommendation follows the re-appraisal of the current training and funding programme and will involve the introduction of a dual structure approach to instruction.

The curriculum will be designed to achieve the improvement and maintenance of golf courses through the improved quality of better educated and informed greenkeeping staff. The Union are convinced that this innovative approach will ensure that all of its funding will be specifically directed to the actual training of greenkeepers.

It has been established that the vast majority of junior greenkeeping staff receive their training from their on-course work and through the management and ministrations of their Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper. Support for the Government funded modern apprenticeship scheme is endorsed by the Union who will ensure its continuance by providing administrative support and additional monies where they consider this is appropriate. The English Golf Union recognise that Clubs may wish to

exercise their prerogative to decide whether or not to send trainees to educational institutions.

For senior greenkeeping staff wishing to continue a recognised programme of on-going training and education it is envisaged that a series of lectures will be held at the National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa during the winter period between October and March each year. These lectures will be highly intensive, culminating in an examination and with levels of success being recognised by Certificates of Achievement. It is proposed that the full series of lectures will comprise of around 20 subjects and that the programme will be made available to senior greenkeepers employed at Clubs affiliated to the Union. On behalf of its affiliated Clubs the Union intend to ensure that the funds for training provided by its members are used to the best possible advantage and benefit of the greenkeeping industry.

Support for this initiative from the fine turf industry has been most encouraging as has the endorsement by the Sports Turf Research Institute whose technical expertise, educational and instructional skills will be incorporated within the training syllabus.

The administration of the scheme will be centred at The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa and an English Golf Union Training Committee will be established to ensure the essential quality of the introduction and maintenance of the syllabus.

**STRI Press Release Dated  
November 23**

## Greenkeeper Training Committee

STRI has received a number of enquiries regarding its collaboration

with the English Golf Union over new initiatives in greenkeeper training. This coincided with a decision by the English Golf Union to withdraw its support from the Greenkeepers Training Committee. The STRI wishes to make it clear that there is no linkage between these events as far as STRI is concerned. STRI did not know about the English Golf Union decision to withdraw funding from the GTC until after the event. The decision was made by the English Golf Union alone. The STRI has expressed general support for educational initiatives by the English Golf Union, which is one of STRI's founder Members, for the good of the game of golf in England, as it would for the other Home Unions.

It should be noted that the EGU Press Release does not mention the fact that the EGU has written to the Greenkeepers Training Committee to advise that EGU membership of the GTC will cease as of 31 March 1999. Consequently after that date, the EGU will no longer be providing funding towards GTC expenditure in support of greenkeeper training.

Commenting on developments, BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child who represents the Association on the GTC said, "This is a serious matter with considerable implications for the future of greenkeeper training. The GTC has since met and asked for an urgent meeting with the EGU's Golf Course Committee. BIGGA will be closely monitoring the situation but will await the outcome of that meeting and the subsequent deliberations of the GTC before determining its own position on behalf of its members."

Greenkeeper International will continue to follow developments and report further in future issues.

# ISO 9001 for Textron

Textron Turf Care & Specialty Products has achieved ISO 9001 Certification for their manufacturing facility at Ipswich in the UK. Spokesman, Kevin Forrest, Quality Manager said 'We are delighted to have achieved ISO 9001 Certification as this is a result of many months of hard work by all departments in the Company and gaining ISO 9001 has considerably improved both employee motivation and commitment to quality. It has resulted in a significant improvement in internal quality standards.

"Our intention as a business is to be a company that is easy to do business with and ISO 9001 has certainly had a significant part to play in the achievement of this objective."

The Textron Turf Care Group already has two other facilities carrying ISO 9001 Certification. They are the Racine facility and the Johnson Creek manufacturing plant in the USA.

# ISO 9002 for Supaturf

Supaturf Products Ltd is celebrating the recent award of the ISO 9002 quality standard.

Supaturf has been a leading force in the industry for 35 years offering innovative products, but can now also claim to be among that small group of suppliers who lead the way in quality of production and service to their customers.

"We regard this award as the start of a new phase of development for Supaturf. Now we don't just think that we do what we say we do, we know we do, and have the system to back us up and the award to prove it. An outstanding result for everybody at Supaturf and good news for our customers" said Marcus Palmer, Managing Director.

# Ronnie cleans up at Gleneagles

This year's Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme winner was Ronnie Lumsden, who, after 23 years working for a life assurance company, chose an altogether different career.

Ronnie moved to Elmwood College to study for a National Certificate in Greenkeeping and an HNC in Golf Course Management. Alongside his Elmwood studies, he also chose to further his passion for golf course design by securing a place on the BIGCA Professional Diploma in Golf Course Architecture at Merrist Wood.

Of his year at Gleneagles, Ronnie said: "The students enjoyed working with the golf course management team at Gleneagles. Everyone put in an amazing amount of work and all the stu-



dents feel that the year has given them an excellent base upon which to launch their course management careers."

The second place position went to Susan Rothwell. Susan arrived at Gleneagles from Myerscough College after deciding to extend her knowledge of turf manage-

ment, following three and a half years managing and maintaining the nine hole golf course at Hoddon Castle Caravan Park. Both Ronnie and Susan were presented with bursary cheques to include a trip to the GCSAA conference and show in Orlando, Florida, next February.

# Top post for Catherine

Spaldings has appointed Catherine Locking to the board of Spaldings UK as Sales Director of their Grasscare division.

Catherine joined the division from its start up in 1993 after previously gaining wide experience of the industry with a manufacturer of replacement grass cutting spares and has worked in the industry for over 10 years.

Since start up the division has grown from a standing start in 1993 to become market leader in the replacement grass cutting spares, tools and accessories market by 1998. Supplying many leading grounds maintenance professionals, local authorities and contractors in both the UK and mainland Europe.



ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

# 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:** Antony Bindley

**Club:** Kirby Muxloe

**Position:** First Assistant

**Age:** 35

**1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?**  
Eight years

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**  
None

**3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?**  
Setting up the course for a big competition

**4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?**  
Strimming

**5. What job other than green-keeping might you have ended up doing?**  
Groundsperson/gardener

**6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**  
Richard Barker, Head Greenkeeper at Kirby Muxloe

**7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?**  
Improve relations between the greenkeeper and the members

**8. What are your hobbies?**  
Golf, cricket and fishing

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**  
Friendship and education

**10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?**  
Still enjoying life

# Curse of big name designers

You wouldn't be too thrilled if your airline pilot announced that it was his debut flight or your surgeon told you that it was the first time he had performed the particular operation that had resulted in you being flat on your back in theatre.

That was the analogy used by golf course architect, David Williams, when he bemoaned the fact that big name golfer/designers had their first work trumpeted by the press and media.

He was delivering a paper at the biennial British Institute of Golf Course Architects Conference sponsored by Barenbrug, Toro and Club Car at The Wentworth Club.

David continued by saying that people wouldn't have too much faith in the new Ford if you knew it was designed by Damon Hill or Nigel Mansell but that we are happy for a top golfer to design a golf course.

On the other side of the coin David, who has designed a number of 18 hole courses including Merrist Wood and Reigate Hill, said that during the last Open Championship there was much praise on the BBC for the redesigned and reconstructed greens but now once was Martin Hawtree mentioned.

"The media is not interested unless it is a big name," said David.

He added that it was different in



America where club golfers regularly knew who had designed particular courses and they could discuss the various styles of Robert Trent Jones, Pete Dye and Tom Fazio.

David Williams also talked about the fashion of inflating the cost of particular projects in the press which lured the public into thinking that the more spent the better the course.

He urged the media to name the architect in reviews of golf courses, if it was a big name to ask who was the real architect also to ask the cost of construction.

Among the other speakers at the one-day conference was Bob Taylor and Mike Canaway of the STRI; architect Peter Harradine; Jimmy Kidd of Gleneagles Golf Developments; Parker Smith, of Sports Opportunity; David Clarke, of Golf World; Trevor Homer, of the Golf Foundation, and David Wright, of the PGA.

The day before the Seminar the West Course hosted the traditional golf tournament and this was won by Calum Todd and Parker Smith. Bob Buckingham, of Toro, presented the prizes.

## New team recruited at Barenbrug



Paul Johnson has been promoted to Managing Director of Barenbrug UK, following in the footsteps of Michel Mulder, who has been handed the task of running Barenbrug's North American division.

Paul was previously in charge of the agricultural side of the Barenbrug UK but his love and golfing ability should make him ideally suited to his new role.

Alan Lomas has joined the Bury St Edmunds-based company as Sales And Marketing Manager. His depth of experience is seen as a great asset to the grass seed company's continued growth.

After graduation, Alan's working life began in the Middle East, principally Saudi Arabia. On his return to the UK, Alan joined Fisons Horticulture Division and remained with the company during its transition, in 1994, to Levington Horticulture. He subse-

quently became Export Manager, responsible for several new product releases.

Despite extensive experience in turf-care, Alan's golf is at beginner's level and he will look to his new colleagues at Barenbrug for handy tips. Not surprisingly green-fingered considering his pedigree, Alan is also a keen walker and cinema-goer.

Darren Wilding is Barenbrug's new Area Manager for South Wales and southern England. A Turfgrass Science graduate of Myerscough College, he joins the company from Amenity Land Services, where he was a Technical Sales Advisor.

Darren has also had two spells at The Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club. Before college there was three years part-time work for the Senior Tour; after, Darren spent a year as full-time greenkeeper, helping to prepare the course for the Open.

## Southern dealership for John Deere

Bristol based BS Mowers has been appointed to sell John Deere's full range of professional and golf and turf equipment to golf clubs, local authorities and contractors in Bristol, Bath, north west and north east Somerset, south Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.





# New 1999 Golf Championship



The Charterhouse/Scotts Golf Championship is an exciting new event open to all members of the Association the final of which will be played at Carden Park Hotel Golf Resort and Spa, near Chester on 3 to 5 October.

The overall winner will receive the coveted BIGGA Challenge Trophy while there will also be a Regional trophy competed for by the Section qualifiers in each Region.

The agreement was finally struck at The Reform Club in London's Pall Mall between David Jenkins, of Redexim Charterhouse, Richard Minton, of Scotts Turf and Amenity, and Neil Thomas, of BIGGA.

To ensure the event is representative of the Association nationally, the winning gross and net players from each of BIGGA's 28 Section Spring Outings will win a free place in the final, which will include accommodation, meals and golf fees. Places are also available to anyone wishing to pay an entry fee of £95 which will

include accommodation at the four star Carden Park Hotel, meals and golf fees

Neil Thomas said, "The Association is delighted that it once again has a high profile golf tournament for its members. Charterhouse and Scotts are both Golden Key sponsors and long term supporters of the Association and we look forward to working closely with two such well established companies."

BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, commented, "This will be a festival of golf played among members of the Association from far afield at a venue fit to host such a prestigious event."

Richard Minton, who was involved for many years with the Association's National Tournament, said, "Scotts are delighted to be sponsoring this Championship. BIGGA has needed an event that brings together the best players in the Association to play for the ultimate prize of being the Association's Champion golfer."

David Jenkins, Managing Director

of Charterhouse, said, "Charterhouse view this as a wonderful opportunity to support the Association and receive national coverage in the most positive light. We look forward to meeting greenkeepers at Section events as well as at Carden Park."

Carden Park recently opened The Nicklaus course to complement its already well established Cheshire Course and the venue, magnificently managed by Master Greenkeeper Andy Campbell, is one of an increasing number of British courses which has gone "spikeless". This fits nicely with BIGGA's other supporting sponsor for the Tournament, Softspikes, who will be providing cleats to all of the players playing in the final and offering their services at the qualifying section events as required.

The Championship will be launched officially at BTME 99.

Further details are available on request from the tournament administrator who will be Sarah Sowerby at BIGGA HOUSE, tel: 01347 833800.

## Eco-Unit for STRI

STRI have established an Ecology Research Unit in response to the growing need for research into areas where sports and amenity turf science and golf in particular overlap with ecological interests.

The new unit will form part of the Turfgrass Biology and Environmental Science Division led by Dr Andy Newell. STRI's senior Ecologist, Bob Taylor will act as consultant and a member of the cultivar research team, Jonathan Hart-Wood, will be responsible for the day to day running of the unit as Research Co-ordinator.

Current projects being undertaken by the new unit include an ecological lawn research study for DLF Trifolium (Danish Plant Breeding), which is monitoring the effects of clover on the appearance and persistence of grass species managed for low input lawn uses.

Also, scheduled will be a study of heather on UK golf courses. Emphasis will be given to evaluating the distribution of heather and golfers perceptions to heather as a feature or hazard on golf courses. Management practices will also be investigated. This major project is being funded by the R&A. Golf Clubs wishing to be included should contact Jonathan Hart-Woods, Research Co-ordinator for the new Ecology Research Unit.

Jonathan Hart-Woods has taken over the new role of Research Co-ordinator for STRI's new Ecology Research Unit. Jonathan will be responsible for the day to day running and co-ordination of the new unit.

Jonathan joined STRI in April 1996 as a research officer for the Cultivar Evaluation programme. However more recently his enthusiasm and interest in natural science have involved him working more closely with Bob Taylor in STRI's Ecology Section.

## Colour blind apology

Despite what it may have appeared from the college listings which appeared in last month's issue of Greenkeeper International we would like to point out that Merrist Wood is a GTC approved college.

Unfortunately the Surrey College appeared in the wrong colour, and we can assure all potential students that the College is GTC approved to offer Craft, Supervisory and Management Levels.

We apologise to the College for any embarrassment caused by the error.

### Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband





## South West/ South Wales seminar success

Over 120 people attended the South West and South Wales Regional Seminar at Cannington College sponsored by Roffey Bros and Supaturf recently.

The speakers included Ian McMillan, of Hankley Common, who spoke on his year of achievement in '97; John Mullins, of Supaturf, who delivered a paper of water management; Tony Rees, on Health and Safety; Phil Greenway, of Roffeys, spoke on top dressings while Dave Phillips gave a talk on seed selection and its implications. Frank Newberry gave an inspirational talk and workshop on "Making the committee work for you".

The day was chaired by Ivor Scoones.

# Honours for Brian Gilbert

At the December meeting of the Board of Management members were informed of Brian Gilbert's decision to step down as a Guardian of the Association. Mr Gilbert has served on the BIGGA Board of Management as the R&A representative, and provided advice and guidance to BIGGA on finance and administration matters, since 1990. BIGGA's Constitution enables the Board of Management to award Honorary Membership to any person recognised as having contributed in an outstanding manner to the Association or profession. The Board of Management has

therefore awarded only the third Honorary Membership in BIGGA's history to Mr Gilbert, following awards to Viscount Whitelaw and Mr Jim Fry.

Neil Thomas, BIGGA's Executive Director commented: "This is a much merited award. Brian's advice on many aspects of BIGGA's affairs and development has been instrumental in the progress we have made as an Association.

"It has always been given in his quiet, unobtrusive manner and he has gained the respect of all who have consulted with him on BIGGA matters.

"He has been BIGGA's link with the R&A and the excellent relationship between the two bodies owes much to his influence. He has been a guiding light in the financing and building of BIGGA HOUSE and his decision to step down comes at a time when this major project has come to fruition.

"At a personal level he has been a great help to me with his business and financial expertise which has greatly advanced the Association.

"I am delighted with this award to a most deserving recipient," said Neil.

# A BIGGA Building Fund thank you

BIGGA would like to take this final opportunity to thank the many golf clubs who contributed to the Association's Building Fund.

Abbeylea GC	Cawder GC	Frilford Heath	Lees Hall GC	Old Fold Manor GC	Royston GC	Tenterden GC	West Sussex GC
Addington Palace GC	Chestfield GC	Gerrards Cross GC	Letchworth GC	Penrith GC	Rugby GC	The Wisley GC	Whitchurch (Cardiff) GC
Alton GC	Chigwell GC	Glenbervie GC	Lincoln GC	Peterborough Milton GC	Sandy Lodge GC	Thorpe GC	Whitley Bay GC
Alwoodley GC	Childwall GC	Goodwood GC	Lindrick GC	Plassey GC	Scarcroft GC	Tidworth Garrison GC	Whittington Heath GC
Arcot Hall GC	Chipping Norton	Goring & Streatley GC	Little Aston GC	Pleasington GC	Seacroft GC	Tulliallan GC	Willingdon GC
Army GC	Chorlton-Cum-Hardy GC	Haberley GC	Littlestone GC	Pollok GC	Seaton Carew GC	Turnberry GC	Woburn
Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	Churston GC	Hags Castle GC	Loch Lomond GC	Potters Bar GC	Sedburgh GC	Tynemouth GC	Woking GC
Baldon GC	Clitheroe GC	Halifax GC	Long Ashton GC	Purley Downs GC	Sheringham GC	Tyrrells Wood GC	Woodbridge GC
Banchory GC	Conwy GC	Hallamshire GC	Longniddry GC	Puttenham GC	Sherwood Forest GC	Uttoxeter GC	Worcestershire GC
Beaconsfield GC	Cooden Beach GC	Haltwhistle GC	Macclesfield GC	Pyle and Kenfig GC	Shipleigh GC	Verulam GC	Worksop GC
Bedale GC	Coombe Hill GC	Ham Manor GC	Malone GC	Ranfurly Castle GC	Sitwell Park GC	Wakefield GC	Wortley GC
Beeston Fields GC	Coombe Wood GC	Hampshire, Isle of	Manchester GC	Ravelston GC	Skipton GC	Walmley GC	York GC
Berkhamsted	Copt Heath GC	Wight & Channel	Mapperley GC	Ravensthorpe GC	Sleaford GC	Walsall GC	
Bingley St Ives GC	Cotswold Hills GC	Islands Golf Union	Masham GC	Reigate Heath GC	Sonning GC	Walton Heath GC	
Birchwood GC	Coventry Hearsall GC	Hampstead GC	Maxstoke Park GC	Ringway GC	Southport & Ainsdale GC	Wentworth GC	
Bishops Cleeve GC	Coxmoor GC	Handsworth GC	Meltham GC	Roehampton GC	Spalding GC	West Byfleet GC	
Blackmoor	Cradock GC	Hankley Common GC	Mendip GC	Romsey GC	St Andrews	West Derby GC	
Blackwood GC	Croham Hurst GC	Harpden GC	Merrist Wood GC	Ross-on-Wye GC	St Austell GC	West End Halifax	
Blyth GC	Crompton & Royton GC	Hawkstone Park GC	Moffat GC	Royal Ashdown	St Bees GC	West Essex GC	
Brancepeth Castle GC	Denbigh GC	Haywards Heath GC	Moor Hall GC	Forest GC	St Enodoc GC	West Hill GC	
Bristol & Clifton GC	Doncaster GC	Henley GC	Moorstown GC	Royal Birkdale GC	Stafford Castle GC		
Brokenhurst Manor GC	Dore & Totley GC	Heswall GC	Moray GC	Royal Burgess Golf Society	Stand GC		
Bromborough GC	Drayton Park GC	Hickleton GC	Mullion GC	Royal Cinque Ports GC	Stanmore GC		
Brookmans Park GC	Dunfermline GC	Hillside GC	Murrayfield GC	Royal Guernsey GC	Stanton on the Wolds GC		
Bungay & Waveney Valley GC	Dyke GC	Hindhead GC	Newbury & Crookham GC	Royal Jersey GC	Stocksfield		
Burford GC	Eastwood GC	Huddersfield GC	Newcastle-Under-Lyme GC	Royal Liverpool GC	Sundridge Park GC		
Burhill Golf Centres	Edenmore GC	Ipswich GC	Normanby Hall GC	Royal Mid-Surrey GC	Sunningdale GC		
Burnham Beeches GC	Enfield GC	John O'Gaunt GC	North Hants GC	Royal St Georges GC	Sutton Coldfield		
Bury St Edmunds GC	Epsom GC	Kilmarnock	North Oxford GC	Royal Musselburgh GC	Swinley Forest GC		
Bush Hill Park GC	Erewash Valley GC	(Barassie) GC	North Wilts GC	Royal Porthcawl GC	Tain GC		
Canterbury GC	Fairhaven GC	Kirby Muxloe GC	Northenden GC	Royal Portrush GC	Tandridge GC		
Cardigan GC	Fereneze GC	Knole Park GC	Northumberland GC	Royal West Norfolk GC	Taunton & Pickeridge GC		
Cathcart Castle GC	Fishwick Hall GC	Knowle GC		Royal Wimbledon GC	Temple GC		
	Flamborough Head GC	Knutsford GC			Tenby Golf GC		



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