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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: 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.

