

# BIGGA practises what it preaches

BIGGA's achievement of attaining the Investor in People standard, which came just nine months after making the commitment to aim for it, was formally recognised by the official presentation of its plaque.

"That we achieved the Standard so quickly is a tribute to the systems in place and the quality of the staff who operate them and, coupled with our impressive new headquarters, shows that BIGGA is growing in stature," said Executive Director Neil Thomas.

The Investor in People plaque was presented to BIGGA by Roland Harris, Chief Executive of York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce, at a lunch attended by BIGGA staff and Averil Jenkins, of North Yorkshire Training and Enterprise Council, who assisted in BIGGA's progress towards the Standard.



# Charity trek a whizz for Stephen

A Senior Greenkeeper at The Buckinghamshire is about to face a challenge that would have all but the most energetic feeling guilty about how little they do with their time.

This November 24-year-old Stephen Jack is to trek 100 kilometres through the Himalayas of Nepal to raise money for Whizz Kidz, a charity which supports children who cannot walk unaided.

"I will be in a group of 60 trekkers and the route takes us through rarely visited hillside villages in the foothills of the mountain range close to the border with Tibet and reaching a height of 13,500 feet," explained Stephen, who has pledged to raise £3,500, the average cost of a specially adapted child's wheelchair.

Stephen has been at The Buckinghamshire for about 18 months having previously worked at Loch Lomond and St Andrews.

"In preparation I'm cycling to and from work which works out at 80 miles a week while in the weeks before I leave I'll do some more intense work including swimming gym work, Tae-Kwon-do and trekking," said Stephen who, with some spare time on his hands after his move south, decided to do something positive.



Stephen is training hard for his 100km trek through the Nepal Himalaya

The Himalayan Challenge is headed by Doug Scott CBE, the first Briton to conquer Everest.

"I've always had a strong desire to visit different countries and the Nepal Himalaya has the most spectacular mountains on earth.

"There are many positive factors resulting from this challenge but

more importantly are the benefits of freedom and independence that the children get from the specialist equipment the money is used for."

Anyone wishing to support Stephen in raising money for Whizz Kidz should contact him at The Buckinghamshire Tel: 01895 835727 Fax: 018895 834723.

# Great response to Heather questionnaire

The heather questionnaire sent out by the STRI Ecology Research Unit has prompted a flood of response from UK golf clubs.

The questionnaire is part of an R&A sponsored research initiative to assess the distribution and status of heather on UK golf courses.

The STRI is delighted with the rapid response rate and encouraged by the number of people phoning to express their support and willingness to participate in the survey. A num-

ber of enthusiastic club secretaries have already volunteered their golf course for the detailed survey work planned for the second year of the project.

The heather questionnaire is part of a two year project that it is hoped will eventually help to safeguard a nationally important habitat that is currently in decline. The project also provides the golf industry with the opportunity to demonstrate their environment and conservation cre-

dentials to a wider audience. Many people outside the industry are unaware of the levels of commitment to environmental and ecological management of many of the UK's golf courses. This project will help to heighten awareness.

For those golf clubs who have not yet received a questionnaire, a copy can be obtained from the STRI Ecology Research Unit. Please contact Jonathan Hart-Woods for further assistance or information.

# Kerran moving on

Master Greenkeeper and member of the BIGGA Board of Management, Kerran Daly, is moving from Salisbury & South Wilts GC to Gog Magog in Cambridge.

"I take up my new position of Course Manager at The Gog Magog Golf Club in mid-July. The 36 holes will present an exciting challenge with the prestigious Old course now complimented by the opening of the Hawtree designed Wandlbury course in early June. The Club has much history and tradition, matched by a progressive outlook, necessary to satisfy a very busy 1300+ membership," said Kerran

"As I look forward to the move I must admit a little sadness to be leaving Wiltshire and the South West. I have had 12 marvellous years at Salisbury & South Wilts and would like to thank the staff and the members for making it such an enjoyable time. I have also made many friends in the South Coast Section and from the South West, South Wales and Devon and Cornwall Sections. I would like to thank them all for their friendship and support over the years."

# Promotion for John at RP

John Hall, of Rhone Poulenc Amenity, has been promoted to Amenity Market Development Manager based in the company's Ongar office having previously been Contractors and Public Utilities Customer Manager. In his new role he will be responsible for both the marketing of the company's existing pesticide brands and the development of new products.

# Practical Greenkeeping

The newly re-published Practical Greenkeeping by Jim Arthur is available to all greenkeepers and interested parties from BIGGA HOUSE. "It is an excellent book and we have agreed to a re-print and I wrote to all the colleges to let them know of its availability," explained R&A Secretary Sir Michael Bonallack, who wrote to all greenkeeping colleges explaining that the book promotes sensible greenkeeping practices and should be made available to students.

"Jim Arthur's book promotes sound greenkeeping practices and the colleges should use it as part of their teaching tools," he added.

While carrying Jim Arthur's name the book, in addition to containing Jim Arthur's philosophies on greenkeeping gathered and honed from a lifetime in the industry, is a collection of views and writing from acknowledged experts in many different fields of the game including Donald Steel, Neil Baldwin, Barry Cooper, John Allbut and Jim's own son, Richard Arthur.

Autographed copies of the book are available from BIGGA HOUSE priced £29.95 plus £3 p&p.



## 'Boro fan Kirstie is latest recruit



Kirstie Lamb is the newest member of the BIGGA HOUSE staff, filling the recently vacated post of Membership Services Assistant.

Kirstie has just finished an English degree course at Ripon and York St John College in Ripon having previously worked for a computerised labelling company in her native Cleveland.

Her north east roots account for her otherwise incomprehensible decision to support Middlesbrough, a fact she advertises through a sticker in the back of her car.

"My boyfriend is a huge Gazza fan but I quite like Dean Gordon and Brian Deane," she revealed, and she gets along to the Riverside whenever she can.

In her spare time, 27 year-old Kirstie enjoys walking her dog, Dena, while a couple of years ago she also donated some bone marrow through the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.

"I'm looking forward to my time with BIGGA as it is a lovely place to work," she said.



### Contact us

You can contact The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in any number of ways:

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## Old Braid restoration programme

The Old Braid course at Tyrrells Wood, Surrey, is presently being restored to its traditional past, by the recreation of many of the original design features laid out by one of golf's greatest triumvirate, and with some help later from Harry Colt.

Howard Swan, President of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, is the man responsible for the restoration plan, along with the Club's Course Director and Course Manager. It is anticipated that the overall programme will take seven years and will include the redesign of teeing areas, as well as bunker restoration throughout the course, and improvements in presentation.

The par 4, 8th, one of the course's signature holes, was renovated this year, to great effect, with Braid's original five fairway bunkers, and the spectacle greenside bunkers restored.

Swan's work is extensive on the older courses, and programmes such as that at Tyrrells Wood are underway at Royal Wimbledon, Calcot Park, Workington, Wearside, West Essex and Reykjavik, Iceland, and Hubbelrath, Germany.



Swan adds "It is a great privilege to work on these old courses, bringing them up-to-date and setting out a future for them on a five or 10 year horizon, while respecting their tradi-

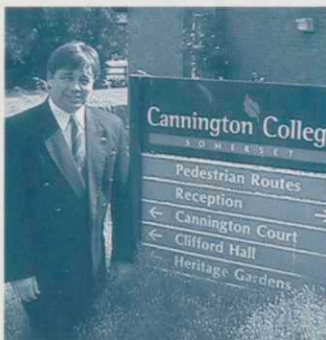
tion, history and the spirit of the original design. I hope that more of our Members' Clubs will look to such long term planning, put in professional hands."

## Huw's on the move to Elmwood College

Huw Parry, Section Manager Golf Course Management at Cannington College, Somerset will shortly be leaving to take up a new post as the Deputy Head within the School of Greenkeeping and Sport at Elmwood College.

Huw has been at Cannington since 1994 and during that time the Golf Course Management Team have established Cannington as not only the regional centre for Greenkeeper training, which has been endorsed by the GTC, but one which is recognised both nationally and internationally.

"I am delighted at my appointment and I am looking forward immensely to taking up my new position. This



will allow me the opportunity to further develop my educational and training experiences by working

with the team at Elmwood and within the SQA system," said Huw.

"I feel confident that with the present Golf Course Management team, I am leaving Cannington in a strong position, which will see their positive commitment to Greenkeeper education and training continue to grow in the future," he added.

Principal Richard Hinxman commented "We are very pleased for Huw that he has achieved such a good career move. The purpose of the college is to develop people and that goes for staff as well as students.

"We will now be looking for an able successor to build on the impressive achievements to date."

## Mark lands new role at Weed Free

Mark Anderson has joined Weed Free as Contracts Manager as the company prepares to expand, following major new investment.

An ex-Estates Manager at Selsdon Park Hotel where he was responsible for over 84 hectares of amenity turf including an 18 hole golf course, grass tennis courts and croquet lawns, Mark brings business knowledge as well as turf care experience to the company.

At Newbury Racecourse golf club where he was Head Greenkeeper, Club Manager, Secretary and Barman, rolled into one, and was in charge of everything including the budget. Mark, 38, has had first hand experience of Weed Free's contract spraying services from the customer's point of view.

Having just returned from three



months in Europe, Mark is excited by the large potential market across the Channel, where he observed that due to the laws surrounding the application of pesticides, many Greenkeepers are afraid to spray.

Keen to be part of a young, growing business, Mark's arrival is in line with Weed Free's preference for staffing the company with turf professionals, as the Proprietor, Mike Seaton is himself an ex-Groundsman.



# New MD receives Future Leaders Award

Harold C Pinto, Managing Director of Ipswich based Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, has been named a winner in the Future Leaders of Wisconsin StarStream Award scheme. The programme recognises outstanding business achievement and honours those individuals destined to be the top leaders of tomorrow.

Commenting upon the accolade he said, "I'm very proud to receive this award as it supports my belief that leadership and success come from teamwork. You can accomplish much when you enlist the help of others."

Mr. Pinto won the award in the category of 'companies with over 500 employees.' Winners were also named in the categories of 'compa-



nies with less than 500 employees' and 'governmental/non-profit organisations.' There were eleven finalists in all, selected from 120 nominations.

Each nominee was required to fill out an extensive questionnaire and submit it with supporting documents and reference letters. The questions probed how nominees exhibit leadership within their organisations and their community.

"Harold has played a key role in developing our future strategic direction," said Philip J Tralies, President of Textron Turf Care And Specialty Products - Americas.

Harold's award represented a double for Textron as they also joined BIGGA in achieving the Investors in People standard.

# Craig aims for Local Authorities



Craig Brisley has joined the UAP Amenity team of turf specialists. Craig who has been with UAP for some time working in the 'Special Products' division has been appointed as Amenity Local Authority Specialist covering the south of England. He will be responsible for developing both the Local Authority and contractor sections of this very important specialised amenity market.

# 1999 Volvo PGA Championship

BIGGA were pleased to have been invited by the PGA European Tour to help out for the second year at the prestigious Volvo PGA Championship held at Wentworth at the end of May. Organised by John Pemberton who is based at BIGGA Headquarters the BIGGA Support Team consisted of 80 members whose ages ranged from a 19 year-old apprentice greenkeeper to those who have retired from greenkeeping.



Over the final two days of play the BIGGA team members were each allotted a game which they walked round the course with, raking any bunkers found by the players. Undaunted by the prospect of rain on Sunday, and at one point carrying not only a rake but also a squeegee just in case, the team provided a valuable service which was greatly appreciated by

the PGA European Tour, the Course Manager, Chris Kennedy, and also the players. The involvement of the BIGGA support team helps keep play continuous by leaving the caddie free to concentrate on the game. The team members were also on hand to help the resident greenkeeping staff in the event of bad weather such as that

which caused a delay in play on the Saturday evening. Although giving up a day off those who took part were rewarded with the opportunity to see some exciting golf at very close range and experience the thrill of walking up the 18th fairway inside the ropes not to mention the odd mention on TV!

John would like to thank all those who were involved for their enthusiasm and support and in particular Mark Ellis and Neil Whitaker who patiently manned the 1st tee check point for the two days. Thank you is also due to the PGA European Tour for providing the BIGGA team with luncheon vouchers, season tickets, a Cutter & Buck shirt and a baseball cap.

# New post Flows toward Ian



Hampshire based pump manufacturer Flowtronex Europe has appointed Ian Hazleton as regional Sales Engineer for the North of England and Scotland.

Ian, who lives in Buckinghamshire, brings with him a wealth of experience honed from 10 years working in the industry.

Sales Manager Adam Booker said: "He will be a valuable addition to the team, working closely with existing customers and supporting new business."

"The new appointment is an exciting development in the expansion of Flowtronex as it is the first time we have had a permanent representative in this region. Customers will have the benefit of a personal service as well as advice and information when they need it."

Flowtronex Europe specialises in the design and manufacture of water pump systems for the turf irrigation, water and building industries.

# Chris receives unexpected presentation

Chris Kennedy, Courses Superintendent at The Wentworth Club had star billing during the prize presentation for the Volvo PGA Championship.

Just before the trophy was presented to Champion Colin Montgomerie, David Garland, European Tour

Director of Tour Operations, announced that The Wentworth Club wished to make a presentation to Chris in recognition of his 10 years at the club and the 10 Volvo PGA Championships and 10 World Match-Play Championships for which he had

prepared the West Course and that he was probably the best Course Manager in the country

Chris was then presented with a Cup, in front of the huge galleries by Elliott Bernard, Chairman of The Wentworth Club.

# Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband

