



Successful Sheffield seminar

On the 16 March 1999 the Sheffield Section of BIGGA held their first Seminar for over 20 years. It was a big success with over 100 people attending.

Our thanks go to our Trade Members who sponsored the day, namely, Aitkens, Cheshire Turf Machinery, Course Care, Garbutts International Ltd, Glenside Organics, Irrigation Control, Mansfield Sand Company Ltd, Multi Core Aerators Ltd, Ocmis Irrigation UK Ltd, Purdy's Grass Machinery, Rigby Taylor Ltd

and Sisis Equipment Ltd.

Also many thanks to our speakers David Golding, GTC, Bob Taylor, STRI, Ken Richardson, BIGGA, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA, John Coleman, Course Manager, Abbeydale Golf Club and Ian McPherson, Golf Course Construction.

Finally, our grateful thanks to Rotherham Golf Club for allowing us to use their Club for the day.

Ron Ullathrone
Sheffield Section Secretary

Keep smiling, Sandy

This is just a short note to reassure Sandy McDivot that not all greenkeepers have lost their sense of humour. It is blatantly obvious that the McDivot series of articles are somewhat tongue in cheek and therefore should be enjoyed as a piece of light relief.

Carry on the good work, Sandy. As for your critics, maybe a sense of humour bypass would be an option.

Michael Poole,
Assistant Head Greenkeeper
Nevill GC, Kent. (Via e-mail)

Environment action for Golf Courses

Golf clubs across Europe can now demonstrate their concern for the environment by signing up to participate in "Committed to Green" a campaign initiated by the European Golf Association Ecology Unit.

Following a meeting of Ecology Officers representing over 10 national golf federations, held at Vilamoura, Portugal, in February, details of the "Committed to Green" certification process have been finalised, and a common registration format agreed.

"Committed to Green" is a voluntary Environmental Management Programme, through which any European golf club is eligible to seek public recognition for demonstrating good environmental practice. The recognition process involves three stages of certification: Registration; Intermediate Recognition and Full Recognition.

The three levels of certification offer clubs an incentive to participate and then to follow the successive steps of the programme.

To register - clubs need to complete a registration form which gives a profile of the club and its environmental situation, and to provide a copy of the club's environmental policy statement and a list of the members of the club's "Committed to Green" Team.

As clubs progress to subsequent stages, they will address different environmental topics, including nature conservation, water resource

management, integrated turfgrass management and aspects dealing with waste, energy efficiency, education and communications.

Full "Committed to Green" recognition will be based on a comprehensive Environmental Management Programme, in which the candidate clubs clearly demonstrate significant environmental achievements.

This is a long-term process, normally taking at least three years to complete. Successful clubs will also be expected to sustain their commitment.

"The award of the 'Committed to Green' label will be a valuable form of recognition, both for golf clubs and eventually for other sport and recreation facilities," said David Stubbs, Executive Director of the EGA Ecology Unit.

"All fields of activity are these days having to address environmental questions, and it is good that golf is taking a positive lead on this subject. The example set by golf should have wide applications throughout the sport sector."

Since its launch in late 1997, the "Committed to Green" programme has attracted widespread interest throughout the golf community, and from leading environmental organisations. The initiative has been welcomed by the European Commission, United Nations Environment Programme and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

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