

National recognition for BIGGA

BIGGA has achieved one of the most prestigious and nationally respected awards for business excellence.

The Association has gained the Investor in People National Standard which recognises that the Association works actively to improve its performance by linking the planned, efficient development of employees to the achievement of business objectives.

"That we achieved the Investors in People Standard so quickly is a tribute to the systems in place and the quality of staff who operate them. The support of Board members has also contributed to the assessors' positive view of the Association. The



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

co-operation and enthusiasm of staff in working towards the award has been impressive and they are naturally delighted at the outcome," said Executive Director Neil Thomas.

"I am proud that BIGGA has achieved this award and the members should be delighted that they have such an efficient and effective staff," he added

BIGGA's success was also recognised by North Yorkshire Training and Enterprise Council.

"Investors in People has been designed by some of the best businesses in the country and by achieving recognition the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association has shown itself to be among the best," said Bill Johnstone, Head of Business Services.

"Investors in People help businesses to be more efficient, give better customer service and as a result be more profitable," he added.

The achievement will be marked by the presentation of a plaque which will be displayed in BIGGA HOUSE.

BIGGA/GCSAI: Joint statement

As a result of a meeting held on 25 March 1999 at Portmarnock Golf Club, Dublin, the following statement has been agreed.

Those in attendance were: BIGGA - Gordon Child, Elliott Small, Neil Thomas. GCSAI - Iain Ritchie, Joe Bedford, Tracy Coburn

Objective

For the two associations to communicate and work together for the benefit of their members and the greenkeeping profession.

The GCSAI is to remain as the main association in the Republic of Ireland giving representation for superintendents, assistants, greenkeepers and apprentices.

Superintendents / greenkeepers in Northern Ireland will continue to have the choice of which association they wish to join and the GCSAI and BIGGA are to encourage membership of both.

If membership numbers suffice, the GCSAI may arrange outings, educational events for its members in Northern Ireland and will liaise with BIGGA to avoid duplication and clashes of date.

Members of BIGGA in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are to be invited to GCSAI conferences, seminars etc. BIGGA will likewise reciprocate in Northern Ireland.

Both associations are committed to remaining open and friendly as well as to communicating regularly.

STRI schedules two new courses on turf culture

In a break with tradition, STRI is replacing its annual five day residential training programmes on turf culture for greenkeepers and ground staff with two new courses.

Both courses are scheduled for the Autumn at STRI headquarters in Bingley.

November 15 - 19 "Your Passport to Perfect Courses" for golf greenkeepers, Course Managers and trade and November 22 - 26 "Your Passport to Perfect Pitches and Playing Surfaces" for grounds management, including

fine turf surfaces, and trade.

The structure of these training programmes allows the delegates much greater flexibility in juggling both their time away from work and costs.

The two training courses each consist of five consecutive one day specialist courses.

Delegates have the choice of attending one or more of the one day courses, relevant to their specific needs.

A range of optional accommodation packages are available for those wishing to stop over in Bingley, with

substantial discounts for multiple bookings.

Each training day is split into two distinct sessions. The morning session, presented by STRI research staff, covers facts and up to date information on the latest trends and current thinking.

The afternoon session presented by the STRI agronomy and Consultancy team, concentrates on "putting research into practice", with the focus on practical implementation for particular playing surfaces.

Sisis' US base heads for the Deep South

SISIS Inc is relocating its American-base from Florida to South Carolina, following the company's successful piloting of a range of maintenance machinery for use on sports grounds and golf courses.

SISIS Inc is relocating to premises at Clemson University, within the Madren Conference Centre and Walker Golf Course complex. There will be a Distribution Unit and Admin. Office initially managed by Ian Camp, General Sales Manager of the parent company SISIS Equipment Ltd.

Although initially concentrating on the states of Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, N & S Carolina and Florida, to ensure a high standard of support and after-sales service, SISIS is happy to deal with customers throughout the United States.

Free CD-Rom from Kubota

Kubota is using the second issue of its Owners Club magazine to launch a free CD-Rom entitled 'Kubota - Putting people first'.

Attached to the front cover of the magazine, the CD-Rom uses pictures, graphics and commentary to describe Kubota's worldwide environmental policy before moving on to focus on the company's development, new products, services and the customer support.

Suitable for playing on a PC or an Apple Macintosh computer, the CD-Rom presentation runs for 14 minutes.

The magazine, with CD-Rom attached, is being mailed to all registered members of the Kubota Owners Club. Membership of the club is available free of charge to all new and existing owners of any Kubota product.

BIGGA mouties friendship with GCSAC

Gordon Child joins Dean Piller, President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Canada, in a flag waving exercise prior to the banquet at the GCSAC Conference and Show in Toronto



2nd BIGGA Golf Directory

It is intended that the second edition of the BIGGA Golf Directory will include BIGGA member information in addition to the trade information on which the first Directory concentrated.

The proposed format would involve members' names being listed under their golf club address and telephone number.

Anyone who does not wish to be included in the Directory in such a fashion should contact BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800.

Career move for Chris Pye



Dow AgroSciences Specialty Products has appointed Chris Pye as Sales Manager for UK and Ireland. He will be responsible for sales to key distributors of all the company's turf, ornamental, amenity and vegetation management products.

Chris has extensive experience in the amenity sports turf, crop protection and public health sectors. On leaving university, his first post was with the STRI at Bingley. He comes to Dow AgroSciences following five years in the public health sector with a major distributor.

A keen golfer in his spare time, Chris is a member of Woolley Park Golf Club, Barnsley. He is married with two children and lives near Wakefield.

John Thomas

John Thomas (46) of Lansdowne GC, Bath, had died following a short illness. He leaves a wife, Carol, and two sons as well as a son and daughter from a previous marriage.



Contact us

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Celtic Manor promotion for Jim

The Celtic Manor Resort near Newport, which is mounting a bid to stage golf's premier event in 2009, has appointed Jim McKenzie to the new post of Director of Golf and Courses Management.

The 36 year-old from Helensburgh moves up to the wide ranging position after being in charge of estate management and overseeing the development of three courses in six years.

The latest is the 7,450 yard, par-72 Wentwood Hills course, which will be officially opened on May 17 by the resort's touring professional, Ian Woosnam, and Ryder Cup Captain Mark James.

"I have no qualms as a Scotsman in saying that this is a world class venue," said Jim.

"Wentwood Hills has been specially designed for matchplay and to cater for large crowds. It's ideal for the Ryder Cup."

When Jim arrived at The Celtic Manor in 1993, from his previous position of Head Greenkeeper of Wentworth's West Course work had only just begun on the resort's first course.

"I recognised The Celtic Manor's potential even in the early days," he said.

"I knew it was going to be something special and felt I couldn't turn down the chance to be involved in creating three superb courses on one site. The only people who now ask me why I left Wentworth are those who haven't been here."

In his new role, Jim will continue to guide the work of The Celtic Manor's grounds maintenance team, while also heading a golf operation with an ambitious programme of events.

"We're very proud of what we've achieved here, and we want to take it



further. The next stage is to host a European Tour event, the icing on the cake would be the Ryder Cup."

The Celtic Manor's Resort Director, Robert Church, believes Jim is ideal for his new role.

"His quiet and unassuming competence and his passion for golf have earned him enormous respect throughout the industry. He has already accomplished great things over the last six years, crowned by the successful completion of Wentwood Hills. We're confident

he can now carry forward that work on a wider basis and bring yet more success to The Celtic Manor."

The Celtic Manor's other two courses are: Roman Road (par-69, 7,001, opened 1995) and Coldra Woods (par-59, 4,000 yards, opened 1996).

The Celtic Manor's new hotel and conference centre is due to open this summer, giving the 1,400-acre resort 400 luxury rooms and an 1,800-seater conference venue.

Textron to supply PGA European Tour

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products has signed a new agreement with the European Tour as official suppliers of turfcare equipment to the Tour.

The deal, which was completed recently at Wentworth, means that Textron equipment will be used at Tour venues when additional machines are required in the important two-week run-up to the competitions.

The Textron stable of machines includes the world famous names Ransomes, Jacobsen, Cushman, Ryan, E-Z-GO and Iseki which have become renowned in the golfing world for quality, adaptability and reliability. The products used on the courses will cover the whole range from tractor gang mowers and the popular walk-behind motor mowers such as the Jacobsen Greens King whose name has become synonymous with top green care, through to aerators and Groom Masters.



Textron's Richard Bishop with David Garland, Director of Tour Operations

"Textron is a top name in turf care with a range of products which is second to none. We are delighted to have them on-board again as an official supplier to the tour and we

look forward to working closely with them all over Europe," said Richard Stillwell, of the Tour, who is responsible for ensuring the good condition of all courses.

Toro purchase Multi-Core

The Toro Company has completed its purchase of Multi-Core Aerators Limited, the British manufacturer of large turf aeration equipment.

The three aerators in the Multi-Core range are now being sold and serviced in the UK by Toro Commercial Products' distributor Lely UK and its national network of dealers and service centres.

Toro says the acquisition brings a high-quality product into its full range of turf maintenance machinery and greatly enhances its aeration range with equipment that has an immediate appeal to its own customers.

"These are proven products with a high reputation and we are delighted to have them join our stable. They shall continue to be made in Britain, and with immediate effect all sales, spares, repairs and service are now through our Lely operation," said Pete Mansfield, Toro General Manager at distributor Lely UK.

All three large units in the Multi-Core range are mounted to a compact tractor by way of a three-point linkage for fast, optimum core aeration. They are lightweight for use on sensitive turf areas such as fairways, tees and greens, as well as sports pitches, and come in working widths of 101, 152 and 203cm (40,60 and 80in respectively).



Changes will be made during the summer to the aeration tine holders so that all tines supplied both by Toro and Multi-Core become interchangeable. Completing the Toro aeration range are its existing Fairway Aerator, which is a towed PTO-driven heavy-duty machine for high-quality aeration of large

areas which can cover up to 1.5 acres an hour; the productive and durable walk-behind Greens Aerator covering up to 1,208sq m an hour; and the trailed or mounted Turf Aerators, which can be fitted with open or closed tines or slicing blades and operate at speeds up to 10mph.

Jayne plans a northern trip



Barenbrug UK has appointed Jayne Leyland to take over as Area Sales Manager (North), covering Scotland and the north of England. Originally hailing from Cheshire, Jayne is looking forward to returning to her roots with the challenge of this prestigious role.

Jayne was appointed thanks to her greenkeeping experience, at such courses as The Belfry and East Sussex National. Most recently, she was Assistant Course Manager at Chart Hills Golf Club, Kent. Indeed, Jayne has been very busy since graduating from Reaseheath College with a HND in Horticulture (Golf Course Management) in 1995.

She has worked in the USA and Austria and has helped prepare courses for PGA European Tour events. She is also a GTC approved D32/33 Industrial Assessor.

New role for Richard at John Deere

John Deere Credit Limited has appointed Richard Kinsey as the company's new Commercial & Consumer Equipment Finance Manager in the UK.

Richard was previously with FAF, where he handled both grounds care and agricultural finance in Lancashire and Cheshire for two years, after a one year spell in direct sales.

His new role will be to liaise with dealers in developing John Deere Credit's business with golf clubs, local authorities and contractors, particularly in asset management

and contract hire services, and coordinate the activities of the existing team of area managers and brokers.

John Deere Credit has also announced a number of changes designed to further improve its service to customers.

An additional 36 new staff members have been trained and now provide extra support in essential areas of the business. These include the operations division, which is responsible for customer care and new business, and direct sales, which is responsible for customer and dealer enquiries.



H₂O acquire Watermation

Watermation has recently undergone some major changes which will allow it to move into the new millennium. Watermation 2000 has been acquired by the H2O Group PLC.

H2O has been established for over 10 years and is a leading company in the field of domestic, commercial landscape and sports irrigation and the addition of Watermation 2000 will enable the Group to turn its attention to the golf market.

A number of key staff have moved with the new business, including design, installation and maintenance engineers.

The company will offer full design and installation packages, spares and maintenance and the contracting side has already secured contracts from Royal Porthcawl, and Hankley Common as well as the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

"The addition of Watermation into the Group will reinforce our strategy of expansion in all areas of the irrigation industry. The Watermation name and technical staff are recognised throughout the golf industry and we aim to build on these strengths," said Richard Allan, Chairman of the H2O Group.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Slap on the suncream!

Outdoor workers are at high risk of sun damage and skin cancer because of their long-term exposure to ultraviolet radiation. Yet until now little information has been available to help employers protect outdoor workers, who can be hard to reach with health advice.

Therefore together with the Health Education Authority and support from the Health & Safety Executive, East Surrey Health Authority has produced a comprehensive training pack for addressing sun safety in the workplace.



The pack enables organisations to run and evaluate workshops to raise staff awareness of the dangers, and identify protection measures that are acceptable and practical for the workplace.

It is easy to use and can be followed either step-by-step, or adapted by more experienced trainers. It contains all the materials you need including: overheads, handouts, a case study video, background notes on skin cancer and addresses of sun protection suppliers.

With a growing body of scientific evidence on the dangers of sun exposure, both in the short term with sunburn and long term damage leading to skin cancer, employers cannot afford to ignore this health and safety issue.

Further information can be obtained from East Surrey Health Authority Tel: 01372 731013.

Latin Lessons

In our article on Velvet Bents last month we inadvertently titled the article *Agrostis capillaris*. This is, of course, (almost) the Latin name for browntop bents. British Seed Houses would therefore like us to make clear that the Latin name for Velvet Bent is in fact *Agrostis canina*.

Humanum est errare, as they once said on the Roman fairways!

Translation? To err is human.

Wonderful Walton Heath!

The rain had stopped a few days earlier. The course was beginning to dry out. The sponsors were there in force and so were the Greenkeepers and their guests. Yes, everything was set fair for what had all the ingredients for a great day's golf, and a great day it turned out to be too.

Each year we are inclined to take for granted that we are to be presented with a golf course in magnificent condition, whether we are just recovering from a freezing winter, a dry winter or, the case this year, an extremely wet one. This year was no exception, Clive Osgood and his Staff once again produced a miracle on what was a few days earlier a very wet and soggy piece of heathland.

But it is not just because of Clive and his Staff that we have such a great day at Walton Heath. All the staff from the Secretary, Nick Lomas, and the girls in the office through to the Bar and Catering Staff seem to go out of their way to make sure that we have an enjoyable and our thanks are very much due to them for such a great effort.

One of the traditions of the 'Gentlemen's Evening' is that Alan Stow, Vitax, and Dennis Smith, Rigby Taylor, act as unpaid starters. This year was no exception and armed with waterproofs and warm clothing they set off for the 1st tee. The weather, however, was very kind and apart from an attempt at rain around 11am the day got warmer and warmer and Alan and Dennis removed more and more clothes.

It was also nice to see Chris Allen, late of Lewes GC, who was seriously ill a year or so ago, but thanks to a kidney donation from his son is now fit and well and gradually getting back to the 2 handicap that he played off before his kidney failure. Chris is now "doing the business" for Sheerwater Leisure, one of the day's sponsors. The others to whom we are indebted were: Avoncrop Amenity, CMW Ltd, Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd, E & S Sports Grounds, Farmura, Gem Professional, Grass Roots Trading Co, H. Pattison Co



Above: Alan Stow and Dennis Smith

Ltd, Rhone Poulenc, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd, The Scotts Co. (UK) Ltd, John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd., Sherriff Amenity Services Ltd, Sisis Ltd, and Vitax Ltd.

The Winners were 0-9. Category Kenny Mackay; 10-18. Stefan Antofik, Cooden Beach; 19-24. Tony Bremer, Gatton Manor; Guests and Trade - Mark Day, CMW; Rigby Taylor - Nearest-the-Pin 7th. Barry Bell; 11th. Alec McIndoe, Stockley Park; 17th. Mark Harvey, Epsom; Sisis Putting Competition - Mervyn Downing, Aldenham.

The Combined Score of Greenkeeper Playing with Club Official was won by Mervyn Downing and Fred Hague, of Aldenham GC, who both received a delightful Waterford Crystal Clock.

All in all, a great day.

Derek Farrington

Below: BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child shows a touch of class as he tees off



Master Greenkeeper gains promotion

John Quinn, a BIGGA Master Greenkeeper, has been promoted to Director of Golf Developments at Elmwood College and will manage all of the college's sportsturf related commercial developments under the name of Elmwood Golf Developments.

John was previously the Course Manager at the recently opened 18 hole course in Cupar, and oversaw the construction and growing in of the course.

"Among the future developments planned are a feasibility study into golf academy for aspiring young golfers and the provision of consul-

tancy and contracting services for the sportsturf industry," said John

"Research facilities are envisaged in the future. The Elmwood name is synonymous with quality greenkeeper and Course Manager training and we now intend to offer our expertise to the wider sportsturf industry."

Elmwood Golf Developments has been set up to manage and expand its golf related commercial activities and will provide services to all aspects of the golf industry.

With a contracting machinery fleet and fully trained greenkeeper staff they will offer services includ-

ing hollow tining, turving, seeding, top dressing, fertiliser application, pesticide application, verti-draining, spiking, scarifying and mowing.

Full sportsturf consultancy services will also be offered and include providing full advisory services in the following areas: annual maintenance plans, maintenance budget planning, machinery evaluation and selection, materials advice, design advice, project management, agronomic advice, management plans, construction specifications, materials specification and conservation and ecological management