

Sir Michael Bonallack accepts his invitation to become BIGGA President

BIGGA's Board of Management is pleased to announce that Sir Michael Bonallack is to be the Association's President.

In doing so he succeeds the late Viscount Whitelaw, the Association's first and only President, who stepped down a short time before his death earlier this year.

Sir Michael, who has just retired after 16 years as Secretary of the R&A and was installed as the Club's Captain for the year of the millennium on September 16. He is one of the few people in the game to have been a formidable force on the golf course and then as a golfing administrator.

As a player he was recently listed as one of the top 200 male golfers in history - a rare feat for an amateur player - and few would complain about that assessment. A record of five Amateur Championships and nine Walker Cups appearances, two as playing Captain, speaks for itself. In addition he was twice leading amateur in The Open Championship.

Off the course his list of honours is unrivalled culminating in his being Knighted in the Queen's 1998 Birthday Honour's List. He has been Chairman of the PGA and the Golf



Sir Michael pictured on a visit to BTME97, with then Chairman, Pat Murphy

Foundation, President of the EGU while before his Knighthood he was also the holder of the OBE.

"I am absolutely delighted that Sir Michael has accepted our invitation to be the Association's President," said BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child.

"No-one in the game is held in higher esteem and for him to agree to become our President is a real honour for the Association and everyone who

is involved in greenkeeping," added Gordon.

"I am delighted to accept the invitation to become BIGGA's President, and to follow in the footsteps of Viscount Whitelaw, who was such a marvellous President, is a great honour indeed.

"I hope that I can contribute as much to the Association as he did," he added.

War of the Roses won by Tykes

This annual competition takes place around August between the Northern and North West Sections of BIGGA. The "Roses" trophy has been contested for about the last 25 years, with both sides winning approximately the same number of times.

Pattissons have sponsored the event from the outset, providing players with their meals and a trophy to be retained for the year by the victorious team. Many thanks to Pattissons for their long support of this event which I hope will continue for many more years to come.

The contest is played on a Yorkshire course one year and the following on a Lancashire track and over the years it has been played on some testing courses.

This year the tournament was played at Howley Hall Golf Club near

Leeds. I can't say too much about the condition of the course as I am the Head Greenkeeper but from the comments made by the lads they all thoroughly enjoyed the golf course.

After eight hard fought contests, this year's winners were the Northern Section with a score of 6.5 to 1.5

Mike Hinch, the Managing Director of Pattissons, travelled up from the South to attend the tournament and present the trophy to the winning team.

Bert Cross informs me that next year's venue in Lancashire has already been booked, and it sounds like the North West team are out to get their revenge.

However, anyone who has played in the tournaments over the years will tell you that win or lose, the spirit between the lads whilst on and off the

course couldn't be of a more friendly nature.

Thanks to this year's North West Team and I am sure next year's event will be as good as the previous.

Simon Heppenstall Northern Section Team Captain 1999

The photograph below shows the victorious Northern Section Team being presented with the trophy. Pictured from left to right are: Les Kirkbright, Peter Thompson, Andrew Clarke, Dave Collins, John Waite - Northern Section Chairman, Pattissons Representative, Mike Hinch - MD Pattissons, Simon Heppenstall - Captain Northern Team, Ken Purdy, Jim Brown, Richard Harris, Alan Court, Alvin Fawcett, Alan Baxter, Jonny Platt, Tito Arana, Richard Smith and Marcus Cordingley.



The 1999 BIGGA Essay Competition

For those of you who have already put pen to paper in the BIGGA Essay Competition the fact that the deadline is fast approaching will not be too much of a shock. For those of you who have been intending to write an essay but have not quite got round to it, you'd better get your skates on! October 29 is deadline day giving you a good three weeks from when you receive this magazine. That should be sufficient time to collect your thoughts and put them on paper but it doesn't leave much slack!

The Competition will be judged in three categories: Head Greenkeepers/Golf Course Managers and deputies; Assistant Greenkeepers and Students aged 25 and over and Assistant Greenkeepers and Students aged under 25.

Entrants have to write an essay of between 1500 and 2000 words long ie. five to seven type written pages on the subject of Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management Techniques for the 21st Century. Essays should not confine themselves to 'crystal ball gazing' but should include lessons to be learned from the 20th Century.

All entries should be sent to BIGGA House by 29 October 1999. Essays will be judged on content, accuracy and presentation.

The winners will be announced in the January 2000 edition of Greenkeeper International.

Winners of each category would receive £500 with two runners up in each category receiving £100.

A brochure containing all the winning essays will be published in January 2000, together with a number of the essays from 1912 to 1915.

Andrew nets a top job at Par Aide UK

Par Aide UK has appointed Andrew Lofting as their new Sales Manager.

Andrew brings a wealth of experience to the job and will mainly be concentrating on the company's driving range equipment which includes all types of artificial surface and perimeter netting.

Premier honours go to Steve

Steve Baddock, Head Groundsman for Arsenal FC, has been named Groundsman of the Year and the award was presented at Saltex.

Highbury was chosen as the best pitch in the Premier League with Oxford United, York City and Cambridge United winning the other divisional awards.

Martin goes West to Scotts



Scotts turf and amenity sales team has been added to by the recent appointment of Martin Townsend, from Avoncrop, to cover the West of England and South Wales.

Martin brings to Scotts a wealth of experience from all sides of the turf-care business beginning his career in 1972 as a player on the MCC Young Professionals Staff programme at Lords. Martin subsequently turned his hand to groundsmanship at Lords and greenkeeping at Bishops Stortford Golf Club, where he was appointed Head Greenkeeper.

After a spell with Gloucestershire County Cricket Club as Deputy Head Groundsman, Martin moved to the commercial sector with Monro Amenity Care and Avoncrop, where he was promoted to Technical Sales Manager.

New role for Dave at LasTec



LasTec, manufacturer of the revolutionary Articulator mower, has appointed Dave Bayless to the newly-created position of Product Manager.

The Product Manager is responsible for the development of all LasTec products - complete from the research & development process to the shipping of finished goods. This includes overseeing initial product development, coordinating manufacturing processes, implementing design changes, tracking field service and warranty issues - and assuring quality control and effective customer service throughout these processes.

"We needed someone who was not only very familiar with our complete product line and our manufacturing processes, but was intimately knowledgeable of our parts department for customer service issues," said Mike Eastwood, LasTec President.

Northern Region Golf Tournament

On 25 August teams representing the six Sections in the Northern Region assembled at Macclesfield Golf Club in Cheshire for a golf tournament to fill a gap left by the late lamented Hayter Tournament. The teams of six had been selected following the Spring Tournaments with two qualifiers from each of three handicap ranges.

Most of the members who had qualified to play were present; holiday and work commitments resulting in one or two changes. Unfortunately, the North East team was hit by late withdrawals and could only muster a team of three on the day. This put them out of the running, as the result would be decided by the aggregate of the best five medal scores of each team.

Macclesfield Golf Club is real mountain goat country and it would be a definite advantage to have one leg shorter than the other (alternating legs preferably). It was in excellent condition and was a credit to Steve Worthington and his staff. The scoring was very good and it was clear from an early stage that the result would be close and arrangements were quickly made for a sudden death play-off. However, this was not required as the Sheffield Section came through in the end and won by one shot.

Sheffield 348
Cleveland 349
North West 352
North Wales 353
Northern 354



The Sheffield team was John Darrock, Hirst Priory; Andrew Lornas, Matlock; Cohn Hopper, Doncaster Town Moor; Mark Knowles, Rufford Park; Paul Neve, Brough; Alan Sampson, Wortley.

The best gross scores of 74 were returned by Roger Bielby, Hornsea, from the Northern Section, and Michael Nolan, Haltwhistle, representing the North West. Michael, playing off a handicap of 10 had the best net score of 64.

At the Dinner following the tournament, Bert Cross thanked Richard Campey for his company's sponsorship and his personal interest in the event and Macclesfield Golf Club for the excellent arrangements on the day. It was nice to see Steve Worthington

and his Deputy, Mike McGinnis, present taking the deserved plaudits for the condition of the course.

This was Bert Cross's day. He made the original suggestion to the Board, He found the sponsor, and he found the golf course. He purchased the prizes. He negotiated with the caterers. He liaised with the Section Secretaries to ensure that all qualifiers or replacements would be present. He donned his official BIGGA Starter's bright blue blazer and saw the players off the 1st Tee. He checked the cards and then presided over the Dinner and Presentation. Well done, Bert!

It is hoped that the tournament will become an annual event, circulating around the Region.

Doug Bell, Regional Administrator

Knighton Course opened at Canford



A ribbon was cut on the first Tee by Proprietors Bill Riddle and Richard Harding to open officially the Knighton Course, an additional 9 hole course to the Canford Magna Golf Club near Bournemouth. The new 2754 yard course has been designed to compliment the existing 6,496 yard, 18 hole Parland Course and the Riverside Course, again 18 hole and over 6000 yards.

More than £400,000 has been invested by the complex to complete the new 9 hole par 3 to offer a shorter but equally challenging game on unused farmland that remains rich in wildlife.

Landowner and farmer Richard Harding, who with his developer partner Bill Riddle first started landscaping what has become a £15 Million com-

plex in 1994, says that the 1000 strong membership and visitors will greatly appreciate the new addition to the existing Championship level courses.

The new Knighton course was designed and constructed by Trevor Smith, who was recently appointed as Managing Director from his position of Project Manager, and the Club's Greenkeeping team.

New MD announced at Allen Power

Peter Bateman will succeed Peter Jefferis when he retires as Managing Director of Allen Power Equipment at the end of this year.

Peter Jefferis joined the company in 1962. During his 15 years as MD, he was responsible for the continuing development of the company's own brand of British made products, including hover mowers and ride-ons, plus the acquisition of other established outdoor power equipment companies.

With his background and experience, Peter Bateman is well placed to provide the insight and experience to continue this policy. His career in the industry started in 1986. For the last five years he has been General Manager at Kent-based Godfreys. Under his progressive management

style the company has achieved rapid growth through marketing initiative, enthusiasm and staff motivation. This has brought the dealership into the forefront of the areas in which they trade.

Commenting on the appointment, Allen's Chairman, Michael Macarho said, "The company has grown substantially under Peter Jefferis' leadership and we all wish him a long and happy retirement. In Peter Bateman we have appointed an exceptional young man to take the company forward. We believe firmly that building on our strengths will increase profitability for our dealers."

Peter Bateman joins Allen Power Equipment at the beginning of November.



New amenity herbicide products from Rhone Poulenc

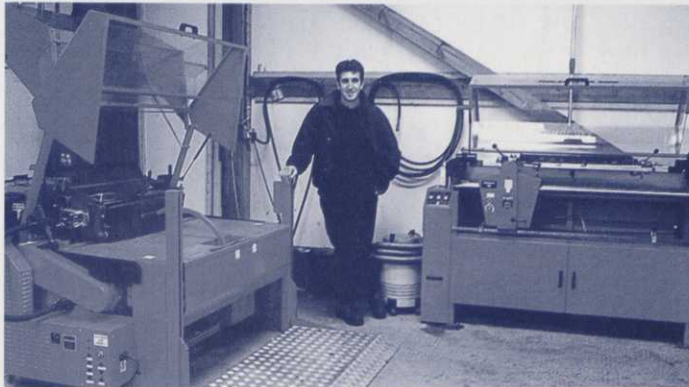
Rhone-Poulenc Amenity launched two new products into the Amenity Herbicide Market.

The first of these is Xanadu, a ready to use non-hazard CDA formulation of Diuron/Glyphosate. This herbicide fits into the Rhone-Poulenc CDA range, as an early season partner for CDA Vanquish and gives at least three months control of germinating weeds.

The second product Helmsman, takes shrub bed weed control into a new direction with innovative active ingredients being introduced into the Amenity Market. Its three-way mode of action means control over a wide spectrum of weeds and less chance of resistance build up. It is very safe to use on an extensive variety of trees and shrubs from 10cm high. The product stays where it is applied and does not move into sensitive areas, such as watercourses.

Abbeyle and Bernhard get to the point

Abbeyle Golf Club now enjoys the benefits of the twin performance of the Bernhard Express Dual and Anglemaster grinding machines. Current Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner, John Coleman, has seen his maintenance costings fall since the purchase this year of the grinders. Maintenance and stress relief were the important factors which John was required to address, as he sought the correct machinery, earlier this year. The products were identified on the Atterton Bernhard Website and following an initial demonstration, were purchased for immediate maintenance work.



The 'Rite' blade from Atterton-Bernhard

As a further extension to their range of grinding equipment, Atterton/Bernhard demonstrated their Blade Rite 2000 and RapidRelief 1000 sharpening equipment at Saltex '99.

The Blade Rite 2000 has been designed for the smaller golf club where there are only a small number of mowers to maintain. This quattro grinder will spin sharpen cylinders, allow one to add relief or single blade grind. The maintenance manager can also fully grind bottom blades making this an excellent value for money machine.

This all-in-one unit provides accurate relief grinding with a hands-free safety aspect integrating a simple guard system. Other features include: compact variable speed cylinder drive control; a built-in vacuum system and a superb simple hydraulic lift which is integrated into the grinding table - eliminating all lifting of today's heavy mowers.

When greenkeepers and Course Managers need to 'backlap' they require relief to be maintained on their cylinders. The Rapid Relief 1000 achieves this in minutes by avoiding the need to remove the unit to place it on a grinder. The Rapid Facer technology, the new rapid relief 1000 combines speed with accuracy employing powerful magnets to hold the unit firmly to the mower. Driven by standard shop air, the head restores worn away relief to cylinder blades in only a few minutes. This minimises down time and ensures mowers being lapped do not suffer hydraulic or power problems during the mowing season.

A risk assessment? What do you think?

Marc Haring, Course Manager, at Cumberwell GC in Wiltshire, had a close escape when he got just a little too near to one of the five new lakes on the club's new nine holes.

"Before the new course was opened we took bets on who would be the first to end up in one of them," explained Marc.

"Unfortunately, and to great amusement to the rest of the team it was me. Of course there were the usual jokes about fitting periscopes to the mower and supplying me with a rubber ring but I was able to inform my team that I was simply carrying out a particularly dedicated and radical form of risk assessment on their behalf," he said.



Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Now available for the Acorn: It's Super Mario Man!



David Bottomley formerly of Trident/Rigby Taylor has a new post with Acorn on Course Equipment as Area Sales Manager, covering the Yorkshire & East Coast areas. Dave was Head Greenkeeper for 10 years at Branshaw Golf Club and has a further five years experience with Rigby Taylor. Dave joined the company at the end of May and has gained a nickname in the company as 'Super Mario Man'

South East beckons as Ray joins Weed Free



Ray McClatchie, formerly Course Manager at Blackmoor GC in Hampshire, has joined Weed Free as Contracts Manager for the South East of England.

Ray brings 12 years Greenkeeping experience to the post, having begun his career at Sunningdale, before becoming Course Manager at Blue Mountain Golf Club.

"I'm ready to be part of a company that's going places and I think that my years in greenkeeping will help. When you have been in charge of maintaining a golf course yourself, you know what the Course Manager expects and how to behave while the course is in play."

His appointment closely follows that of Mark Anderson who joined the company at the beginning of the Summer moving from an earlier career in Greenkeeping, and continues proprietor Mike Seaton's policy of staffing Weed Free with turf professionals.

St Andrews Head GKs get grassed up

Three of St Andrews Head Greenkeepers recently travelled to Holland to meet a number of fellow grass experts, beginning at the Barenbrug Research Station. Sales and Marketing Manager, Alan Lomas, was the escort.

Eddie Adams, Mark Brunton and David Wilson flew from Edinburgh to Amsterdam and were then whisked off to Wolfheze to meet Gerard van't Klooster, Chief Breeder at Barenbrug Research and be given a tour of the establishment.

On the second day they visited the Amsterdam Arena to meet Head Groundsman, Pierre Joosten, and then on to the Arnhem Vitesse Gelredome stadium to be greeted by the Head Groundsman, Henk Roosendaal. The final visit was to the Roosendaalse Golf & Country Club where the St Andrews team were given an opportunity to swap notes with Chris Wagener, the Head Green keeper.



Black Widow gets a new twist

The Black Widow alternative spike is now available to golfers with the Fast Twist locking system.

The Fast Twist system makes changing spikes quicker and easier, without in any way detracting from the traction and comfort that the Black Widow provides. The Fast Twist system is currently available in shoes made by the following manufacturers, Footjoy, Dexter, Lady Fairway and Hi-Tec.

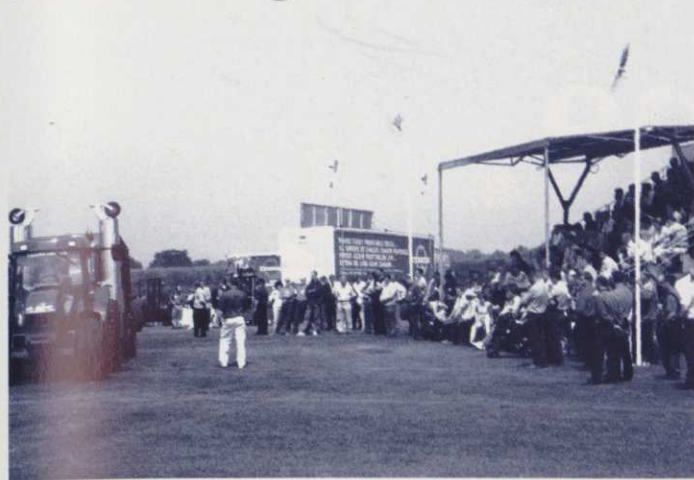
At a recent ELPGA event in France, first round leader Trish Johnson hit out at the spiked greens.

"The greens were quite cut up, I can't believe more players haven't switched to soft spikes. Only a handful of players haven't converted in the States and it has made a big difference to the putting averages. And anyway they're far more comfortable."



BIGGA's South East Northern Ireland Section enjoyed a superb day out and also raised £1,250 for the Heartbeat children's charity at the same time. The Greenkeepers' Charity Open attracted greenkeepers and visitors from as far afield as Sligo and it is hoped that the event will become an annual date on the calendar.

TGA field days are a resounding success



The Turf grass Growers Association held its first ever UK Field Days recently. Final attendance statistics including details of attendees not only from the UK, France, Holland, Greece and Spain, but also from the USA, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Exhibitors gave important technical information accompanied by working demonstrations and attendees were offered hands on experience of the equipment that they were interested in an experience that has never

been offered at this type of event before.

To ensure a blend of business and informal pleasure, turf producers and their suppliers took up the opportunity of attending the TGA Summer Social while at the event and ate and danced the night away at an event which was sold out well in advance of the Field Days. The evening included the presentation of TGA Awards to Members, Affiliates and attendees.



Long Ashton Golf Club, Captained by Course Manager and Past BIGGA Chairman, Ivor Scoones (far left) clinched the second of the three Course Management Trophies, sponsored by Scotts at The Manor House last month

Retirement of Denis Clark

Denis Clark, Managing Director of Links Leisure, the Shropshire-based manufacturer of the PRO-TEE range of golf accessories, has retired.

After being at the helm since the company's formation in 1994, Denis's management replacement is Brenda Baskerville, ex-Marketing Manager of North West Turf, a member of the Institute of Groundsmanship, and one of the people organising this year's IOG Haydock Show alongside the IOG's, Geof Brereton, and Aintree's, Terry Robinson.

Commenting on the new appointment, John Butler, chairman of Links

Leisure, said. "After working successfully with Denis for more than 17 years through both Links Leisure and other group companies, it was fairly obvious that he was going to be a difficult man to replace.

Brenda, however, has the qualification and experience to become a valuable member of the team contributing towards the continuing growth of the company. At the same time, I am certain that her many friends in the industry will be looking forward to seeing her when the company exhibits at SALTEx, Harrogate, Haydock, and Scotsturf."

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