

Plenty of birdies at John O'Gaunt

Stephen Thompson, of John O'Gaunt Golf Club, who was featured in the magazine three years ago installing bird boxes on the course, has since seen them well used.

"The 'A' frame box was used almost straight away by Barn Owls but when it was checked later it the year two dead chicks were found," recalled Stephen.

"In the second year when it was checked it was just eggs that were found. Then last year Kestrels nested in it and raised three young and again this year Kestrels used it and raised four young."

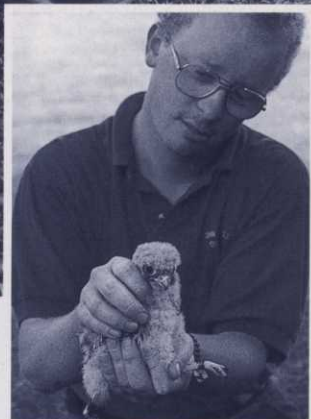
Ironically the open fronted box which was designed for Kestrels was not used for the first two years except for squirrels and in the third year in was used by Jackdaws and a Stock Dove. This year it has remained empty.

"We're aiming this winter to put up more boxes for some other birds that are to be found at John O'Gaunt like the Blue Tit, Great Tit, Robin and Spotter Flycatcher.

"Peter Wilkinson, from Birdlife International, and I took a walk round both courses last year with the intention of finding suitable places for nest boxes and compiled a list of suitable sites and the number of boxes required," said Stephen who does a regular article in the club newsletter on the birds and wildlife on the course.



"There has been a lot of interest in my articles from members who say they read them every month and often ask questions and report sightings to me."



A Hawkhurst retirement

Rex Baldock, 65, who has been the Head Greenkeeper at Hawkhurst since the course opened in 1968, has retired.

Rex started with the club two years before it opened when work first began to create a golf course at Hawkhurst.

He has been so dedicated to what he calls his as his personal garden, that back in the early days of the club, he could often be seen on his hands and knees weeding the greens. And when there was a Sprinkler and Watering Restrictions in the summer of 1976, the then secretary of the Kent Golfing Union wrote to the club congratulating the green staff on the magnificent greens, which, he stated, "were the best he had played on all summer".

On receiving this accolade Rex was asked how he had managed to keep

the greens in such good order. It turned out that unbeknown to anyone, he had gone out each night after midnight and hand watered the greens with a watering can commenting, "I'm not going to let the buggers spoil my greens."

Rex's retirement was marked with a Testimonial Competition, and presentation of cheques by the club's General Manager, Brian Morrison, and Veterans' Captain, Les Dadsell.

Sadly Rex's retirement has been totally overshadowed by the recent loss of his wife Naomi (known to most as Pat). He has two sons Philip and Stephen and a daughter Rachel.

He now intends to spend his time visiting relations at home and abroad and, of course, tending his own garden.



DTI support for overseas exhibitors

Through British Trade International, the ABA has been offered financial support from the DTI under the SESA programme (Support for Exhibitions and Seminars Abroad) for UK companies to exhibit at the GCSAA Trade Show in New Orleans 18-20 February 2000.

More than 700 exhibits will be in place for the annual GCSAA trade show, the largest of its kind in the

world. From blowers to drainage systems, to mowers and utility vehicles - everything to oversee the operation of a golf course.

To be eligible for the grant companies must be UK based and exhibiting goods and services of UK origin.

● Companies can claim back 60% of expenditure on stand space and stand construction up to a total of £2,300.

● A free First Time Exhibitors Package is available to all companies exhibiting with DTI support for the very first time in any market.

Further information and grant application forms are available from the ABA. Deadline for receipt of grant applications 15 November 1999. Tel: 01733 371381

Oliver Seeds invest in the future with new award

Oliver Seeds has been awarded 'Investor in People' accreditation after fulfilling the scheme, a comprehensive evaluation of its business and employee training and development programme.

The company currently employs 17 at its Lincoln head office and some 70 agents operating throughout the UK.

"Investor in People accreditation is excellent for the whole company and an important stage in its evolution. Such development is vital if we are to keep ahead of our competitors and for customers to be assured they are working with a professional company with personnel who are fully trained in responding to the needs and issues of their business," said Roger Peacock, Amenity Product Manager, who spearheaded the successful application for Investor in People.

ESGA and AFAG join forces to form new Euro association

The European Society of Golf Course Architects (ESGA) and the Association Francaise des Architectes de Golf (AFAG) met in Paris on July 10, and decided to merge into one association.

The legalities of this merger are presently being drafted and the new organisation is expected to be operational by the Autumn of 1999.

The Association will group 46 members representing eleven countries with first office in Vienna and will be called the "European Association of Golf Course Architects" (EAGA).

A previous attempt to amalgamate with the British Institute of Golf Course Architects (BIGCA) failed earlier this year, in March.

The EAGA is a truly European Association and will not pretend or have the presumption to dictate style. It will, however, promote high standards of construction and safety, especially in conjunction with the ever increasing legislation caused by escalating ecological constraints coupled with project viability.

The EAGA will maintain the strict entry requirements needed to join as a full member but will encourage a larger and more representative association by asking new members to join among the qualified architects operating in Europe which will hopefully and eventually also include the British Institute (BIGCA).

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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: Richard Mullen

Club: Swanston GC

Position: Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Age: 24

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
8 and a half years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
Just completed an HNC

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Cutting fairways

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Patching fairways

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?
Working in an office somewhere

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
Jimmy Nielson, Scottish Chairman

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
Better relations with the golf club

8. What are your hobbies?
Football and golf

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Outings and meeting people

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
Course Manager

Textron support for Otley College

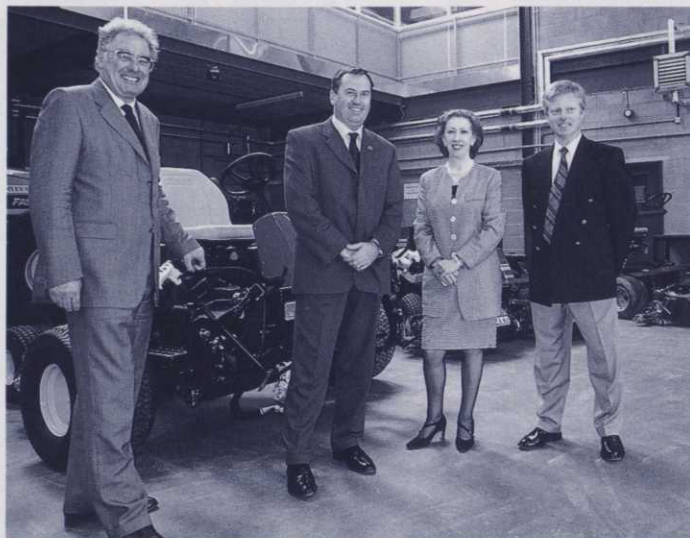
Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products have provided Otley College with one of their latest fairway mowers to assist with training for prospective engineers at their newly opened Centre of Excellence.

Leader of the House of Commons, the Rt. Hon. Margaret Beckett, M.P., on a recent visit accepted the Jacobsen LF3400 mower on behalf of the College.

Otley College of Agriculture and Horticulture is a recognised Centre of Excellence and recently secured a £1 million grant that enabled them to erect and equip a new building with high-tech electronic teaching equipment. The computer-based system enables engineering students to study electronics, pneumatics, hydraulics and electrics and can also be used for fault diagnosis.

The LF3400 will have faults introduced to its various systems by the lecturers and students will then use the equipment to initially diagnose the faults and then complete the relevant repair.

Ian Miller, Head of Resources/



Project Manager for the Centre of Excellence said, "We are extremely grateful for Textron's donation of the LF3400, as it is one of their latest machines and provides our

students with an excellent training aid. This will help us to maintain our status as a Centre of Excellence to the landbased engineering sector."



Re-surfacing undertaken at Valderrama

Rubaroc International, the worldwide manufacturer, supplier and installer of the rubber safety surfacing material Pro-Path, have recently completed the first phase of a major contract in southern Spain with Valderrama.

Valderrama, venue for the Ryder Cup in '97 and the venue for the European leg of the World Cup in November '99,

placed an order with Rubaroc International to re-lay the cart paths surrounding the magnificent 18-hole course.

Mr Ortiz-Patino, President of Valderrama, chose the product after seeing it installed at the Royal Melbourne. Over 2,000 square metres of Rubaroc were installed at the Royal Melbourne

in 1996, and they are still delighted at the durability. Mr. Ortiz-Patino was extremely impressed with the installed product. He felt that this would be the ideal solution to provide a permanent cover to the concrete cart paths and also to replace the indoor/outdoor surface to the main presentation area to the front of the clubhouse.

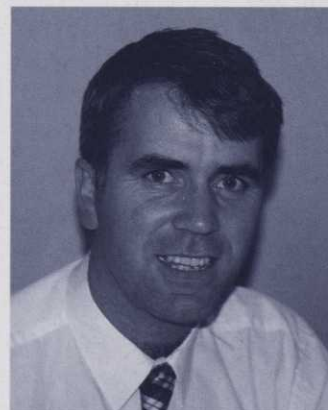
Familiar? But where are they now?

This photograph has been uncovered from the dim and distant past showing some "ken speckled" figures from the industry looking somewhat younger.

If you look closely at some of the figures and picture them with another 20 years of wrinkles and and carrying a more pounds you might recognised them as Walter Woods, Jimmy Nielson, Elliott Small, Alistair Connell, Chris Kennedy and Jimmy Kidd. They are seen here outside the R&A Clubhouse with colleagues from the GCSAA.



A fond farewell to James



BIGGA's Sales and Marketing Manager, James McEvoy, has left the Association to return to the telecommunication's industry in which he started his career.

"James had been with BIGGA for three years and in that time had become a well respected and popular figure within the fine turf industry," said Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

"We value the work he did while with the Association and wish him, and his wife Julie, every success in the future," he added.

Nairn invests in Toro for Centenary

Scotland's Nairn Dunbar Golf Club, near Inverness, has bought in a new Toro ride-on greens mower and fairway mower to ensure the 6,720 yards championship course looks its best for the club's centenary celebrations this year.

With 100 years of golfing history being celebrated throughout 1999 with an ambitious series of special tournaments, the delivery of a new Greensmaster 3200-D and Reelmaster 5200-D is helping make it a little easier for Head Greenkeeper Derek Roy and his greenkeeping team to keep on top of their hectic turf maintenance programme.

Festivities at the club began earlier in the year with a reenactment of the opening of the course in 1899, complete with figures in period costume using golf clubs and balls of the day.

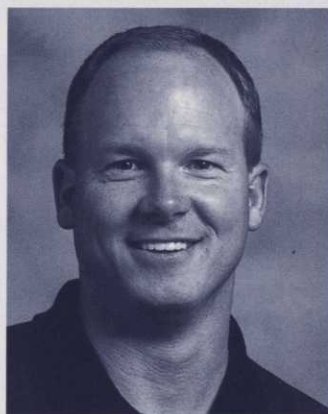
Club Secretary Scott Falconer is justifiably proud of his club, which opened a new £1.5 million clubhouse in 1997, and he said: "We've always received excellent back-up and support from



both Lely and their Scottish dealer AM Russell, and the two new Toro mowers

will guarantee our players the finest turf during this year's packed programme."

Tim joins Rain Bird's Golf Division



Rain Bird's Golf Division announces the addition of Tim Lambert to the sales department as a Regional Sales Manager.

Overseeing Rain Bird's golf business in the northwestern region, Tim will focus on building relationships with distributors and seeking opportunities in new course construction and renovation. Prior to joining Rain Bird, Lambert worked for Black & Decker where he served, most recently, as National Account Manager for power tools and accessories.

A native of Beaverton, Ore., Lambert is a graduate of Oregon State University. He holds a bachelor of science degree in exercise and sports management.

Gleneagles moves into the cyber age

Past employees of Gleneagles are now able to enjoy up to date resort news on-line at a new site designed specifically for their use.

Visitors to www.gleneagles-alumni.com have the opportunity to surf through details of exciting new developments, current staff news, job vacancies, and even e-mail present

employees at the world famous resort. A search facility also assists those interested in tracing old friends and colleagues. With a direct link to the resort's main web site, past employees can view many of the changes at the resort via 3600 photos.

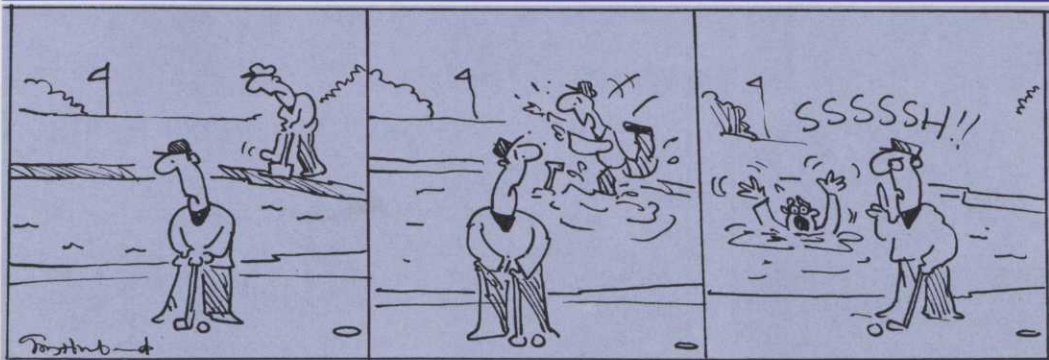
The creation of the alumni site is something Managing Director, Peter

Lederer, has been eager to pursue.

"The Internet provides us with a marvellous chance to keep in touch with colleagues and friends around the globe. Similarly there is the opportunity for them to refer new people who are looking for the level of training and career development they received while at Gleneagles."

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Textron appoint RS Bird as South and West Wales dealers

R S Bird Ltd of Cowbridge, in the Vale of Glamorgan, has been appointed as Textron Turf Care and Specialty Product's dealer for South and West Wales.

To celebrate this appointment an open day was held recently at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club and attended by over 150 people including senior greenkeepers and Greens Committee Chairman from numerous clubs in the region.

Some of the products that were demonstrated from the Jacobsen Turfco range included the F1 5B Mete-R-Matic Pedestrian Top Dresser, Pro-Lite Turf Cutter and the F12 Mete-R-Matic which can be towed by a wide range of turf maintenance vehicles.

Roger Bird, the Chairman of R S Bird Ltd, commented,

"It was a beneficial two days which enabled us to introduce products from the Textron range. The open day was a tremendous success and we were delighted with the attendance from many senior turf care professionals."

Rigby Taylor on the move



Rigby Taylor has recently moved its southern region operation to new, larger premises on the Riverway Estate at Peasmarsh, Guildford, close by its previous site. The new depot has more than doubled the previous warehouse space to 22,500 sq ft complete with a new purpose built pesticide store. The newly furnished offices house the operation centre for the Company's extensive distribution network serving Southern England with a range of amenity products including their MASCOT portfolio. In addition to their normal delivery services the company invites customers to "Call and Collect" if this suits their particular business requirements.

Barenbrug's Southern distribution awarded to Avoncrop

Barenbrug UK has forged a new partnership in an effort to further enhance its service to customers in southern Britain. Avoncrop Amenity has been appointed as the distributor for this diverse region, which spans a significant area from Cornwall to Kent and from South Wales to Leicestershire.

Avoncrop is an established amenity distributor based in Sandford, near Weston-Super-Mare, with warehousing facilities both there and at its depot in Bracknell. Managing Director, Rod Feltham, heads up a team of ten Technical Area Managers, plus a Business Development Manager. Avoncrop also has its own delivery fleet, which will speed up Barenbrug's response time to client requests.

Alan Lomas, Sales & Marketing Manager for Barenbrug UK, points out that Avoncrop were preferred for their decade-long track record of achievement.

"We're always checking to see that our service is as efficient and courteous as it can possibly be. By linking up with Avoncrop, we're able to offer even higher standards of professionalism."

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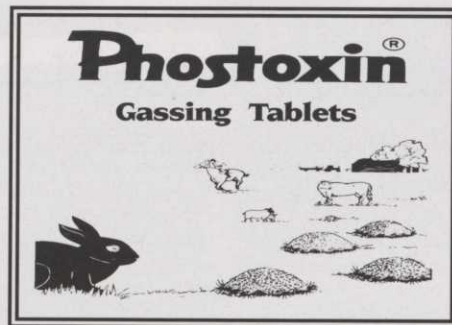
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