

MBE for Carnoustie's John Philp

John Philp, Golf Links Superintendent at Carnoustie, has been awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List in recognition of the tremendous work he put into preparing the course for its first Open Championship since 1975.

"It was a very nice gesture and a complete surprise," said John, speaking as he made yet more improvements to the course.

"It really is an honour and credit to the whole team here because you are only as good as your team. We must have done something right!"

During The Championship John was in the newspapers as much as some of the big name players who struggled to find a successful way of playing what is regarded as the toughest golf course on The Open rota. He fended off criticism of the height of the rough and the width of the fairways but, even from the complainants there was nothing but praise for the quality of the course conditioning.

As well as the complaints of some of the game's superstars the 1999 Open will be remembered for an amazing climax which saw Jean Van de Velde take seven down the last to drop into a play-off which was finally won by local hero, Paul Lawrie. Both have been back to Carnoustie since.

"Jean was back to film a commercial for a putter company to show how he would have got on using one of their putters to play the last. The first time he took nine but the second time he managed a six," explained John.

"He was super. He shouted over to the team 'Here I am back again boys,' and saw some of the changes we've since made to the right side of the 18th and said he'd rather play it now."

Van de Velde was referring to the fact the team had just put down around 15,000 metres of Rolawn turf on the right side of the 1st and 18th holes including Van de Velde corner.

Paul Lawrie returned when the



Hotel named one of its suites in his honour and took time to sign a few flags for John.

John has yet to learn whether he will go to Buckingham Palace to receive his honour or Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh.

"I'd really like to go to Buckingham Palace because you'd only do it once wouldn't you?" said John, who after The Championship received messages of congratulation from all over

the world including a teleshoot from HRH The Duke of York.

By coincidence John, who previously worked under Walter Woods at St Andrews, attended the presentation when Walter received the BEM from Lord Elgin.

Jimmy MacDonald, the recently retired Head Greenkeeper of Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club was the last greenkeeper to be honoured by the Queen.

Mike Canaway takes early retirement



After over 25 years service at the STRI Dr Mike Canaway, STRI Chief Executive has decided to take early retirement in the Spring.

"It is with much regret that I have received Mike Canaway's resignation having worked closely and harmoniously with him since we assumed our respective positions in 1995. His work as Chief Executive in steering us through a significant programme of modernisation and expansion deserves our warmest thanks," said STRI Chairman, Roger Robinson.

Dr Canaway commented "After over 25 years of service at STRI, and approaching five years as Chief Executive, I now feel that it is time to hand over the reins. In today's fast moving commercial environment there is a need for fresh ideas and new initiatives. I will be more than happy to continue to give support to STRI in its work."

CPD embraced by BIGGA

One of BIGGA's primary, and stated, aims is to advance the profession of greenkeeping through education and development.

Therefore in common with many organisations, including Central Government, BIGGA recognises that Education and Training should continue throughout one's working life and so to encourage greenkeepers to develop their full potential, it is introducing a Certificate of Continuing Development.

"Unlike most other professions greenkeeping has always been at the forefront of the education for life - the packed education sessions during Harrogate week bear testimony to that - and so it is right that we should look to put that on a more formal footing," said BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small.

Greenkeepers will need to accumulate 20 credits in each calendar year (June to June) to be awarded a certificate. Certificates may be used as evidence for Master Greenkeeper, N/SVQ and as a guide for employers when recruiting.

Carraro offers a taste of Italy for visitors

A group of industry journalists visited the state-of-the-art Antonio Carraro factory in Padova, Italy, just before Christmas and saw at first hand the production of the unique tractors which are now being distributed in England, Wales and Ireland by Charterhouse Turf Machinery.

Carraro Tractors boast full chassis oscillation and have a driver position which can be rotated a full 180 degrees and the tractor driven forwards in both directions - this is particularly useful when deciding upon the attachments to use.

The company has also brought in several specialist technicians from Porsche to work with the established Carraro team on the assembly lines.

The newest member of the tractor family is the TTR 9400 which is aimed at the fine turf market.

The tractor boasts four equal wheel drive with low ground pressure and



wide tread and the chassis has 15 degrees of oscillation on each side which gives constant traction, stability and 50% balance on each of the front and rear. The gearbox has 64 speeds, 32 forward and 32 reverse

while the engine is a 87 horsepower diesel.

Further details of this and the other tractors in the Carraro range can be obtained from Colin Gregory, of Charterhouse Turf Machinery.

Volunteers required for the following events

Volvo PGA Championship, The Wentworth Club May 28-29, 2000

The Association will again be providing a team of 40 members for each of the above days (the third and fourth rounds). Each member will be allocated a match and will walk the course with the game, raking any bunkers found by the players.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course and there is no provision for overnight accommodation. you may apply to help on either or both days. When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided. Helping at this event will not prejudice your chances of a place on The Open Championship Support Team.

The Open Championship St Andrews July 20-23, 2000

The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open Championship will be involved in early morning course preparation; bunker raking, while matches are in play, and evening course repair. You must be available from Wednesday evening, July 19, through to the close of play on Sunday, July 23. While all transport, accommodation and meals will be provided between these dates it is the team member's responsibility from travel from home to the venue and return. When applying please give your polo shirt size.

Full BIGGA members only may apply in writing, for either or both of these events to: John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark Alne, York, YO61 1UF. Should you require any further information John can be contacted on 01347 833800 or via email: john@bigga.co.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday March 3, 2000

In the event of there being more applications than places available then a draw of names will take place.

Toro signs five year deal with Tour

Toro has secured five-year partnership deals with two of the world's leading golfing organisations.

The move sees Toro become the official supplier of turf maintenance equipment and irrigation products to both the PGA European Tour and PGA European Tour Courses. The latter owns and operates seven top golf course venues in the UK and Europe, five of which are used for the European Tour.

As part of the deal with PGA European Tour Courses, Toro has won an £800,000 contract to supply turf machinery and irrigation products for the four courses at the high-profile new Fleesensee golf resort, near Berlin, Germany, which opens in April 2000. The deal is one of the biggest of its kind in Europe, for what will also be a European Tour location.

The agreements were signed by The Toro Company, from Minneapolis, USA, at a special ceremony attended by all parties at the PGA European Tour headquarters at Wentworth, Surrey.

For the European Tour, Toro will supply each Tour venue with full tournament support covering both turf machinery and additional irrigation requirements. Additionally, there will be full technical support, back-up and training for operators as appropriate.



"One of the main reasons we selected Toro was that it offered irrigation expertise too. We have had some concerns about the standard of irrigation at tournament venues. But with Toro on board I am confident that we can solve these problems and keep the courses in top condition," said Director of Tour Operations, David Garland.

Meanwhile, PGA European Tour Courses has teamed up with The Toro Company to purchase turf maintenance machinery and irrigation products for its seven golf establishments in the UK and Europe. The company, which has a share holding in the PGA, owns and runs five courses on the European Tour including Woburn.



Who can you recognise from this old photograph taken at Elmwood College in 1981?

Raymond on the move



Raymond Hunt has left Marriott Forest of Arden to take up a fresh challenge in the Championship links of Pyle and Kenfig in South Wales - which is due to host the Amateur Championship in 2002.

Raymond spent 12 years with Whitbread during which time he was responsible for growing in two new courses and the preparation of the Arden Course for six European Tour events including four English Opens and two British Masters. Prior to that he worked on P&K's neighbouring course, Royal Porthcawl.

"I am looking forward to returning to Championship links golf to work with an excellent club and developing a fantastic links golf course," said Raymond.

R&A supports Environment Competition

The prestigious BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, which has identified the golf club which has done most to combine excellent environmental practice with good golf course management work, moves into a fourth year thanks to the support of the R&A.



The competition will enjoy the continued support of Amazone Ground Care, under the drive of Managing Director Rod Baker, who launched the competition in 1995 and which he ran successfully for two years before teaming up with BIGGA.

In 2000 the prize structure will change giving the overall winner a cheque for £4000 to be spent on environmental projects, a trophy and a plaque with the four Regional Winners each now receiving £500 for the same purposes and a plaque. All runners-up will receive certificates/ commendations. Also new for 2000 will be a prize for the club judged to have completed the best individual environmental project.

"We must thank Rod Baker for his continued and valued support of the competition he started and also the R&A whose support this year displays the importance placed on the competition by the game of golf in general," said Elliott Small, BIGGA Chairman.

Seminar a big hit at Pencoed College

The South Wales Seminar at Pencoed College recently proved a resounding success with over 50 people attending and hearing talks from Jim Clowes, of Turf Irrigation Services - who sponsored the event; Len Dixon, of Field Capacity; Barry Gregson, of the De Vere Hotel Group, Joe Turner, of Bernhard and Co, and David Shelton, of Shelton Sports Turf Drainage Solutions.

A presentation was also made to Peter Gillard, of Pencoed College, on behalf of the South Wales Section by Ken Richardson, in recognition of his dedication to greenkeeping and assistance to greenkeeping in the south Wales area.

Also pictured are Tony Webster, of TIS Ltd; Malcolm Davies, Chairman of Education; Dennis Archer, Course Manager at Whitchurch GC, and Peter Lacey of the South Wales Section.

Thanks to Scottish Patrons



The annual Scottish Region Patrons' Lunch was held in Stirling recently to honour the winners of the 1999 Patrons' Awards.

The day was a great success as usual with all the Award winners and a large turnout of the Scottish Patrons in attendance.

Each winner received a book and a trip to BTME 2000.

The After Dinner Speaker was Ian MacPherson from East Kilbride and

I must say I thought last year's was good but this year Ian was even better.

On behalf of the Scottish Region we would like to thank the Scottish Patrons for their continued support because if it was not for their help and all the work they do these awards would not be able to be given.

So once again thanks from all of us in Scotland.

Chris Yeaman

Expansion for Toro Excellence Competition

This year sees the expansion of the acclaimed TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition which now includes Ireland who previously held their own competition run in conjunction with the GCSAI. The new format ensures a real Home International flavour with each of the four home countries sending a representative to BIGGA HOUSE in October for the grand final. BIGGA Course Managers and GCSAI Superintendents stand equal chance of winning the first prize, a TORO



Workman 2100 Utility vehicle plus all expenses paid trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Dallas in 2001, a trophy and a TORO jacket. The winner's own greenkeeping team will receive a cheque for £250 while the runners up each receive a TORO Reelmaster 1000, a trophy and a TORO jacket.

The Panel of judges, led by Walter Woods, will select four finalists ie one from each country, England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales for the National Final which will be held at BIGGA HOUSE in October 2000.

"I believe the new format creates even more interest among Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers, as well as the GCSAI Superintendents, as we go about identifying the outstanding greenkeeper of the year," said BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small.

The Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award Final will run alongside the existing Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Final. Nomination forms will be sent to all golf clubs in Britain and Ireland during February.

Honour for Jim Arthur

Legendary agronomist, Jim Arthur, whose work on Britain's golf courses stretches back well into the last century has been awarded Honorary Membership of BIGGA.

It is only the fifth Honorary Membership ever granted by the Association and Jim joins the late Viscount Whitelaw, Jim Fry, Brian Gilbert and Fred Hawtree in the exclusive membership category.

"I was taken aback when I was told. I certainly hadn't expected it," said Jim, speaking from his home in Budleigh Salterton, North Devon.

"Throughout my career I tried to push the professionalism of the greenkeeper and this award is a reflection of the work of a great many people. I have always regarded the advisor as being just one part of a team when he visited a golf course with everyone an equal part of that team effort," he explained.

Jim will be presented with his certificate later in the year.

Kay collects bunker prize

The fifth winner of the annual Great BIGGA Bunker Competition for the world's media held during The Open Championship was presented with her prize - a fabulous Hayter Harrier mower - just before Christmas.

Kay Smart, who together with her husband, Chris, cover many golf events at home and abroad for the Mid Glamorgan Press Agency, was the closest in her estimation of how many bunkers the world's greatest golfers would find during The Open Championship at Carnoustie in July.

Kay's guess of 1398 was closest to the final figure of 1474 and was a fine achievement when the vast majority guessed far too low. Carnoustie has 115 bunkers and only Royal Lytham with 185 bunkers has had a higher total in the five years the statistics have been kept. Kay was presented with her £700 lawn mower, courtesy of Hayter Ltd, by Kim Macfie at Celtic Manor just before Christmas.

Obviously delighted to have won the first prize of her life she did admit to not actually having a lawn!



Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Recently joined BIGGA Golden Key members, Avoncrop Amenity Products, celebrated 10 years in the industry with a party recently and a cake ably sliced by partners David Onions and Rod Feltham.