

Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. You can also fax them to 01347 833801, or email them to reception@bigga.co.uk

Thanks 1

I would just like to express my thanks and gratitude to Rain Bird

International and the Grand Tour Scholarship Committee for awarding me one of the inaugural Grand Tour Scholarships (western route). I would also like to say a special thank you to Bettina Schrickel for organising such a wonderful trip, and to all the Superintendents and their assistants for sparing their valuable time to give a detailed tour of their courses and facilities.

The tour was an experience that I will never forget, and the knowledge that I have gained from the trip will be invaluable to me. I would urge anyone to apply for the scholarship as a great wealth of knowledge and exchange of ideas, as well as making new friends in the golf world is made possible by this opportunity.

Once again thank you to everyone involved in the Grand Tour Scholarship.

Colin Mumford
 Via e-mail

Thanks 2

During my recent accident the help that I received from all concerned was excellent and much appreciated. A wee word to our members. Our insurance package works for all. Please use it!

The extra cash during my seven weeks off work gave me a big boost when I was feeling a bit sorry for myself while it also helps to pay a few bills if you get caught a bit short.

Once again thanks to all at BIGGA. Keep up the good work.

Stephen Dixon
 Course Manager
 Kingsknowe GC, Edinburgh

Thanks 3

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate William Bowden, a member of my greenkeeping team, on being awarded the Grand Tour Scholarship 2000. William is fully deserving of this Scholarship and will be given the opportunity to visit 22 of the top golfing venues on the East Coast of America.

I only wish that these types of Scholarship were available when I was an up and coming greenkeeper and for this reason I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rain Bird International and Bettina Schrickel for their investment into the industry.

Martin Hucklesby
 Course Manager
 Woodbury Park
 Devon

Much Deserved Honour 1

In our May magazine you would have seen our Chairman making the presentation of Honorary Membership to Jim Arthur.

I was very pleased to be asked to arrange a small dinner to tie in with Elliott and Neil's visit to Westurf in Exeter. At the same time I invited a few of Jim's oldest friends who have worked with and known him for a long time. This proved to be my only problem, because I could have invited so many greenkeepers who have great respect for him and his work and also cherish his friendship. So, I am sorry it was just not possible to ask everyone.

The night was a very enjoyable occasion, even though Jim's wife,

Audrey, was unable to join us. It was very fitting that Walter Woods, George Brown, Bill Lawson and Derek Green could be with us to make the night so memorable for Jim.

Jim has been and still is a great friend, not just to greenkeepers, but also to the whole industry. He has given us so much and it was nice to see him honoured in this way. I know Jim has written to thank all who were there, but I would like to thank them all personally for making such long journeys to be with us. It just proves the respect we all have for him and his work over six decades.

Gordon F Child
 Churston

Much Deserved Honour 2

A few months ago I was contacted by our Association Past Chairman, Gordon Child, to ask if I, along with George Brown, of Turnberry, could travel down to Exeter to an arranged dinner and presentation dedicated to Mr Jim Arthur, who recently was made an Honorary Member of BIGGA.

I have personally known Jim for over 25 years, most of it in my capacity as Links Supervisor at St Andrews, where Jim was Agronomist to the R&A. Throughout all of those years I have gained nothing but respect for this man's knowledge and contributions to greenkeeping, not only in Britain but throughout Europe

as well.

On the evening of the presentation, in the company of Jim's friends from the greenkeeping world he looked perhaps, at 80 years of age, slightly older but his mind is as sharp as a 20 year old's. Fertiliser and irrigation companies were receiving his full wrath while aeration companies were being congratulated.

What would we have done without his contribution. When he has stood up to be counted or criticised he has invariably always been correct.

Walter Woods
 St Andrews

Well Done Brian !

Through the pages of our magazine, I should like to congratulate Brian Turner and his staff at Sunningdale on managing to put on the Seve Ballesteros Trophy in such adverse conditions. To be able to play any golf at all on the Saturday after all the overnight rain took a great effort and hard work by all his staff.

It does not end there, the pro's move on, with no thought of the mess and mud left to contend with. It is really silly to put on a tournament of

this magnitude at this time of the year. April to Greenkeepers is still a winter month, cold and wet with not much growth maybe the Professional Golfers Association should think of this and play early events abroad in warmer climates.

A E Watson
 President BIGGA
 Surrey Section
 via e-mail

Ask Us Another

I have just read the letter from Eric Liskey in the May issue of Greenkeeper International with regard to a Short-Cut greens mower.

The AEA is the UK trade association representing the agricultural and outdoor power equipment industries. We have a wide range of information on the industry and have found what you are looking for.

The company to contact is Eurogreen, The Tythe Barn Farm, Titnore Lane, Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6NZ Tel: +44 1903 700678 or Fax: +44 1903 700868.

Hope that they can help you.

Debbie Dale
 Overseas Manager

Top Issue

I write with congratulations for arguably the "best ever", certainly the most relevant ever, edition of the Greenkeeper International - the April issue.

John Ross's sensible reply to the "Temple" article epitomised what this Association and its members stand for, and recognised the damage that an ill-advised article in a National Newspaper could do. (Of course, Temple Golf Club and Martin Gunn are to be congratulated for their stance; it would be interesting to hear their experiences first hand.)

I remember winter golf in the 70's - waiting weeks on end for a game when snow and frost finally thawed. Then, when the course was open, chances were that the greens hadn't been cut or rolled, holes weren't changed, putting was a lottery etc, etc. Wasn't a problem then - the handful of players who were keen enough to go out didn't worry.

Ten years later however, memberships started to boom - the demand went up out of all proportion - the course could be busier on Winter weekends than it was at times during the summers. Couple that with the distinct absence of any significant snow or frost - my children have grown up almost without knowing snow - and you begin to see where problems have arisen. The quality of the courses is far higher now than it was during the 70's and it is a disgrace to suggest otherwise.

Kerran Daly's witty essay touched on the subject of looming legislation within the industry. When oh when are we going to realise that we must take the lead now and not wait to be tamely led by "Eurocrats" from an ivory tower somewhere near Brussels?

Change is inevitable and continual - we often resist change because of the additional workload and stresses it brings but we must shape and influence the change. We certainly can't afford to bury our heads - after all, who knows what Brussels may do with the sand?

All power to the elbows of last months' authors. Let's have more of the same.

Paul Worster
 Course Manager
 Minchenhampton GC
 Glos.