

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:** Graeme Ferguson

**Club:** Duddingston GC

**Position:** Second Assistant

**Age:** 25

**1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?**  
10 years

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**  
HNC at Oatridge College

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

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

**5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?**  
PE Teacher

**6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**  
The late William Shepherd, Royal Musselburgh

**7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?**  
To try to make BIGGA a Union (trade recognised)

**8. What are your hobbies?**  
Golf

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**  
Meeting different people from different areas

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



Slow Play can be a real menace as the third member of this threeball learned to his cost. Ably supported by Pat Allan, of Stewarts, and Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacolm, our friend came off worst during a round at the magnificent Elie Links, in Fife.

## Helen achieves success with Symbio

Symbio's new MycoForce range of mycorrhizal inoculants has been granted Millennium Product status. The news was announced by the Prime Minister at the launch of the fifth tranche of the Millennium Products Initiative, attended by Symbio's management and research team at the Millennium Dome and the MycoForce range will take its place in the Spiral of Innovation in the Dome.

The Symbio MycoForce range, developed during four years of academic research and field trials, uses the power of natural mycorrhizal fungi and rhizobacteria to assist virtually all plants to grow using much less fertiliser.

Mycorrhizal plants are also more disease and draught resistant thus

reducing the need for fungicides, ancillary chemicals and water.

"After nearly ten years pioneering the biological approach to sports turf management in Europe, I am delighted for our hardworking, innovative research team and our technical advisors that we have been honoured and included in the Millennium Dome," said Martin Ward, Symbio's Managing Director.

Symbio enter the new year with great confidence following a year in which the new MycoForce range was voted as a finalist in the Horticulture Week/Mercurius best new grower product of the year awards, and Helen Wakerley was voted runner-up in their Young Achiever of the Year Award for her research work on the MycoForce Project.



## New ecology title from STRI

"Nest Boxes for Birds and Mammals" is the second book in Bob Taylor's ecology series -Studies in Golf Course Management. This new title covers a range of box types suitable for encouraging roosting, sleeping and hibernation in a variety of bird species and mammals, including badgers, bats and hedgehogs.

Written in four sections, the new 74 page book is very much a 'how to' practical guide for nest box construction. It takes the reader through an easy to follow series of 19 types of box all illustrated by excellent drawings and diagrams, which enable even the most inexperienced to tackle some of the simpler designs. Text, which outlines construction details, siting of the boxes, sustainability, maintenance

and management of wildlife conservation, accompanies each drawing.

Although the book forms part of the ecology series for Studies in Golf Course Management and was written in response to the needs of golf course manager and greenkeepers wishing to enhance the wildlife potential of their course, the new book is equally suitable for anyone keen to encourage native bird and mammal populations. Including amenity turf users, parks, recreational and leisure areas and schools. Copies of "Nest Boxes for Birds and Mammals" priced at £7.50 plus £3.00 postage and packing are available direct from the STRI's mail-order specialist book service "Turfgrass Titles of the World". Please contact Margaret Richards 01274 518908.

## Philip named as BTLIA Personality of the Year

Philip York was named BTLIA Personality of the Year during BTME.

The annual award presented by BTLIA Chairman Tim Hooper acknowledged Philip's personal contribution - made over a period of many years promoting the fine turf irrigation industry.

John Shildrick Memorial (Educational) Awards were presented to the BIGCA and Warwick College.

Tim Hooper also presented Merits Awards to MJ Abbot Ltd and Irriturf.