

A Completely Different Ball Game

A few months ago I took time to crow about how sport had much to learn from golf in terms of sportsmanship. Well, unfortunately, I may have to revise that thought a bit.

Sure, I believe in its conventional form golf is a truly genuine game when it comes to true sportsmanship but Team Golf, well that's a completely different ball game.

We won't forget in a hurry the scenes on the 17th hole at Brookline Country Club when the American Ryder Cup team celebrated victory despite Jose Maria Olazabal still having the chance to hole a makeable birdie putt, win his game and therefore affect the result of the entire match. The scenes on the green have been well documented and did golf a great disservice but if mitigation were needed they were borne out of a genuine exuberance on the back of an atmosphere of high excitement and tension.

Prior to that there was the War on the Shore at Kiawah Island and the ridiculous Gulf War style hats that were worn by some of the American team. Dottie Pepper had been known to cheer when her Solheim Cup opponent missed a putt. Before that there were various incidents, one including a certain GBS&I Ryder Cup Captain who memorably instructed his team not to search for American balls in the rough.

However much of it pales into insignificance against the events at Loch Lomond during last month's Solheim Cup when a cynical attempt by the American team to win at all costs was witnessed by an appalled gallery and suffered by the European team.

For those who are not aware of what happened. Returning after a break for rain Annika Sorenstam was off the 13th green faced with a little chip while her American opponents, Pat Hurst and Kelly Robbins, were on the green. She then chipped in for what would appear to have been a hole-saving birdie only to have the Americans ask the referee to adjudicate on who had been further from the hole. The referee paced it out and decided that in fact, by about a yard, Annika Sorenstam's ball had been closer to the hole. The Americans then ordered her to replay the shot and, in tears, she missed.

The Americans were quite within the laws of the game but no attempt had been made to clarify the situation before the chip shot had been played and the general consensus was that if the shot had not gone in the matter would never have been brought to light.

It caused a bitterness which, even though Europe won the Cup, will not disappear for quite some time.

These incidents only seem to occur in team competitions when tensions are at their height and the true essence of the game is overlooked. It does highlight the magnificent sportsmanship Jack Nicklaus displayed in conceding Tony Jacklin's three footer to tie the 1969 Ryder Cup match at Birkdale.

Of course, Nicklaus's Captain, Sam Snead, was not best pleased but that brings me back to where I started.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



This old timer can still cut it!



A fully restored and working version of the world's oldest motor mower, a Ransomes 42" built in 1903, has been donated by Cadbury's World in Birmingham to The Hall and Duck Trust. It has been lovingly restored by Michael Duck, curator at the Somerset-based Trust. He and his team of volunteers have scoured vintage vehicle jumbles across the country sourcing parts to help in the restoration.

"The Hall and Duck Trust is one of those organisations that act as guardians of our heritage and I am particularly delighted that they have chosen to restore such a fine example of British craftsmanship," said Textron Marketing Director Neil Woodfin.

"It really is a testament to the work that the Trust undertakes and it looks quite magnificent."

CGSA International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show Vancouver, 24-27 February 2001

BIGGA's links with the CGSA grow ever stronger as the presence of their members at BTME testifies. Their 2001 Conference and Trade Show will be held at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre from 24-27 February. Departure will be from Heathrow Airport on Thursday 22 February at 1635 hours returning from Vancouver on Wednesday 28 February to arrive at Heathrow the following morning. Accommodation will be provided at the Waterfront Centre Hotel which is one of the CGSA official hotels.

Vancouver is most certainly one of the world's most beautiful cities and the Waterfront Centre Hotel is surrounded by the towering peaks of the majestic Rocky Mountains and located on Vancouver's spectacular harbour and city parks. From here you will have the opportunity to explore Chinatown, historical Gastown, the exclusive boutiques on Robson Street, Stanley Park surrounded on three sides by the sea with 1000 acres of gardens, lakes and forest, or bask in the view atop Grouse Mountain.

Itinerary

Thursday 22 February
Assemble at Heathrow Airport for the 1635 hours British Airways flight direct to Vancouver arriving at 1815 hours. You will be transferred to your hotel for a six night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

Wednesday 28 February
You will be transferred to the airport for your return flight departing 2020 hours to arrive in London at 1335 hours on 1st March.

Prices

Prices are £665 per person based on a twin share and £849 per person based on single occupancy plus comprehensive holiday insurance for the duration of £25 per person.

Included in the price are return economy class flights from London Heathrow to Vancouver with in-flight refreshments and meals; airport taxes; transfer from the airport to hotel and return; six nights accommodation on a room only basis and Canadian accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Conference and Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association. Details are available from BIGGA on request. Please forward full payment of £665 or £849 (plus insurance if required) to BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Airedale, York, YO61 1UF to arrive not later than Friday 8 December 2000, together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of 21 February please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel.

World's fastest visits Europe's biggest

Richard Noble OBE (right) will deliver the keynote speech during BTME 2001, Europe's largest indoor fine turf exhibition.

Richard, driving Thrust 2, was holder of the World Land Speed Record from 1983 to 1997 reaching a speed of 468 mph then he founded a company aimed at producing the first ever supersonic land speed record. This was achieved in '97 when, driven by Andy Green, Thrust SSC reached a speed of 763.035 mph.

Preparations for the Show are well underway and visitors will be treated to an exciting and fulfilling experience whether they stay for a day or the entire week - Monday January 22 - Friday January 26.

As usual, the Learning Experience, in association with Textron, divides into two parts - the National Education Conference together with the accompanying workshops on the Monday and Tuesday followed by the Seminar Programme which runs in conjunction with the show itself.

The recently opened Hall M will join Halls A, B, C and Q in housing the 180+ stands with a significant number of exhibitors showing for the first time - including Fern House Marketing Ltd, DGT Volmatic A/S, of Denmark; Aztec Chemicals and Rousseau Equipment Ltd. The added space available through the introduction of Hall M has enabled several companies including Toro, John Deere, Rigby Taylor and Amenity



Technology to increase the size of their stands markedly to enable them to show even more of their product to visitors.

Themes for the Education Conference include Growing; Human Resource Management; Water Management; and Environmental Management while - in addition to Richard Noble - the speakers to be enjoyed during the course of the week will be Dr Paul

Rieke, Professor Emeritus at Michigan State University; Dr Kimberly Erusha, Director of Education for the USGA; Canadian Superintendent, Dean Pillier; Australian Superintendent, Peter Schumacher, and Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper of the Old Course, St Andrews.

Richard Noble's speech will take place in the Royal Hall on Wednesday, January 24, at 10.45am.

Increased staffing levels with latest STRI appointments

Steve Gingell will be joining STRI's agronomy team this month. Working from his home base, Steve will be covering the Thames Valley as a Regional Turfgrass Agronomist.

Steve's previous experience within amenity horticulture ranges from research to retail to further education.

As Programme Area Manager for Horticulture at Berkshire College of Agriculture, Steve developed the Six Hole Golf Greenkeeping Academy, which featured in the September issue of Greenkeeper International, in addition to managing a varied curriculum which included Greenkeeping, Design Management, Conservation, Soil & Plant Science and Amenity Horticulture.

Steve will bring additional skills and experience to the agronomy team which will assist in the future development of the STRI Advisory Service.

Additional staff have also been recruited to the STRI's construction team. Jonathan Smith has been appointed as Regional Construction Specialist and will be operating a regional STRI office in Cardiff in order to develop STRI's services in South Wales and the southwest. Jonathan has considerable experience in soil management and has recently been involved with golf course construction projects. In 1992, he worked with Dr Bill Adams at Aberystwyth to complete a research project on "Physical and Chemical Properties of Rootzones in relation to Black Layer."

David Hemstock has also been recruited as an STRI Associate Consultant, working from the Midlands. David has many years experience in sportsturf drainage and construction, and, during recent years, in Golf Course Architecture, both in the UK and overseas.

New post for David at Barenbrug

David Linton has joined Barenbrug UK as the company's Area Manager for Northern Ireland and South-west Scotland. This is a newly created position, and David assumes responsibility for sales of both forage and amenity grasses within these areas.

Prior to joining Barenbrug, David, who lives in Northern Ireland, worked for a major grass seed distributor and so is already well known throughout the industry. He aims to increase Barenbrug's presence, particularly in the amenity sphere in Ulster, where the company sees tremendous potential for its purpose-bred varieties and mixtures.

David, who holds a National Diploma in Food Science & Technology, owns a small farm in Killea as a spare-time venture.

New role for Peter at Lindum Plant Nutrition

Peter Cotton, has joined Lindum Plant Nutrition as the company's new Northern Sales Manager. Responsible for the area from Birmingham to the Scottish border, Peter, who started working in horticulture in 1969 and moved to the amenity turf sector in the late seventies, brings over twenty years experience of the industry to his new post.

"Having been around for many years, I am excited by the opportunities offered by the Lindum Plant Nutrition system," he says. Fresh from an intensive training course

with Floratine Products Group USA, who pioneered the system, Peter is enthusiastic about what he sees as a new approach to turf care.

"While I was in Memphis I had the chance to talk to golf course superintendents who are using the system, which has given me a whole new perspective. The industry needs a fresh approach to soil science, and Floratine are ten years ahead of us in their thinking. We know the concept is successful in America, the Far East and elsewhere in Europe, and I am looking forward to developing it in the U.K."



Hayter bought by private investment company

Hayter, which has been a long time friend to BIGGA and known for the popular Hayter Challenges and Hayter International Cup Matches, has been sold to a private investment company.

The company with the dark green livery was part of the Murray Group which parent company Tomkins Plc sold to Summersong Investments Inc.

Wayne G. Smith, President of Summersong, said that they intended to assist the Murray Group in developing strong global alliances in order to bring new products to its customers.

"Additional related acquisitions may be made by the group as well," he said.

The existing management team remains - headed by Managing Director, Tony Bourke, and Sales and Marketing Director, Kim Macfie - and does not envisage any immediate changes in commercial policy or customer relations as a consequence of the change of ownership.

"The sale process has been extended but ultimately with a satisfactory conclusion. We look forward to working with our new colleagues who are obviously prepared to invest in the future of the business and we expect to continue the growth in sales and profitability with our dealer partners, experienced over the last few years," said Tony Bourke.



Two more books have arrived at BIGGA HOUSE that may interest some of our readers.

Practical Drainage for Golf, Sportsturf and Horticulture by Keith McIntyre and Bent Jakobsen
Published by Ann Arbor Press
ISBN 1-57504-139-1

Keith McIntyre, who is based in Canberra, Australia, has 34 years of experience in horticulture and sportsturf specialising in sportsground construction, soils and drainage. Bent Jakobsen has spent much of his working life working on soil compaction and particle movement. More recently, Bent worked with Keith on soil and drainage problems.

The two authors have used their knowledge and experience to put together an easy to follow text book on drainage which contains chapters on soil structure and water retention through to subsoil and surface drainage. All units are shown in both metric and imperial measures, key points highlighted in bold print.

Although some theory is included, the authors have attempted to keep definitions simple and at the correct level for practitioners, although some theorists may argue about some of their definitions.

An enlightening chapter on Perched Water Tables gives an insight on what can go wrong and this is followed up in a later section with information on the USGA Recommendations. Written by practitioners for practitioners this book would solve many of the problems and answers most questions that greenkeepers encounter.

The second book is for those greenkeepers who are interested in new grass species and are concerned with the changes that the 21st century may bring to the fine turf industries.

Seashore Paspalum
The environmental Turfgrass
by R R Duncan and R N Carrow

Both authors are Professors within the Turfgrass department of the University of Georgia, Griffin, where they have been concerned with the breeding and growing of new cultivars that are resistant to stress.

Although of limited use to greenkeepers in Britain, the book aims to establish a precedent by offering turf grass managers a four pronged approach to growing new cultivars.

This book concentrates on Seashore Paspalum and contains:

- A description and background information
- Environmental tolerance.
- Management practices
- Using alternative water resources

A fairly complex book for most readers, but it does give a useful insight into what is becoming available now and what may become available soon to help greenkeepers in their quest to plant, grow and maintain turf grass when it is under stress.

Membership Subscription Rates for 2001

Please note that from January 1, 2001, BIGGA Membership Subscription Rates will be as follows:

Job Title	2001 Rates
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£80
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£65
All other Greenkeeping staff aged 21 years and over	£52
Greens staff aged 20 years and under	£32
International Greenkeeping Member	£60
Full-time Students	£15
Associate Member	£60
New for 2001	
Corporate Membership (upto 4 trade members)	£180

Top IoH award for Robert

Independent turf consultant and agronomist, Robert Laycock, (right) has been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture (IoH).

The honour comes in recognition of the high level of distinction achieved within the turf profession by Robert during a 25-year career working with turf growers, golf greenkeepers, groundsmen and other turf professionals.

Following his election, Robert Laycock becomes the only Fellow of the IoH who is also an active turf agronomist. He is the first turf specialist to be made a Fellow since Dr Peter Hayes and the late John Shildrick, both of the Sports Turf Research Institute, were elected Fellows.

"I am very pleased and deeply honoured to have been made a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture," commented Robert.

"Very few turf specialists have received this accolade which is made on the recommendation of the Institute



before being approved by individual members. The honour reflects the growing status and importance of the turf profession within the horticultural industry."

New aquisition for Charterhouse



Redexim Charterhouse has added to the company portfolio with the acquisition of Pro-Seed Equipment Ltd.

This acquisition was made by Charterhouse Turf Machinery's parent company in Holland, whose strategy is to grow by gaining strength in niche market areas within the turf industry.

The products manufactured by Pro-Seed will complement Redexim Charterhouses' existing range and

benefit from their world-wide distribution. Ken Knowles, Managing Director of Pro-Seed Equipment said that he was delighted that several months of negotiations had come to a successful conclusion and that his whole Company would now receive the benefits which flow from being part of a larger group. He himself would continue working in conjunction with the group's Engineering Department which is based in Holland.

Links Manager appointed at The Trust

Former Scottish National Chairman and National Board Member, Gordon Moir, has been appointed Links Manager at the St Andrews Links Trust following the tragic death of Ian Forbes in September.

Gordon, (right) has worked for the Links Trust for nine years. He joined in 1991 as Head Greenkeeper of the Eden Course from Fraserburgh Golf Club. He then added the management of the nine hole Balgove Course and in 1996 also became responsible for running the newly-opened Eden Greenkeeping Centre.



As Links Manager, he will have responsibility for the greenkeeping squads covering all six courses, property maintenance, stores and engineering workshops – over 60 employees in total. He will also oversee the installation and future maintenance of the irrigation system.

"I am delighted that the Trust has been able to fill this senior position by internal promotion. This confirms the rising quality of the Trust's staff at all levels. Under Gordon's management the condition of the Eden Course has improved substantially and I am convinced he will make a major contribution to the management of the Links," said Alan McGregor, general manager of St Andrews Links Trust.

Originally from Fraserburgh, Gordon served his greenkeeping apprenticeship at Fraserburgh Golf Club and completed his training at Elmwood College.

A keen golfer, he plays off 6. Married with three children, he lives in St Andrews and is past Chairman of St Andrews Round Table.

Mike Olver passes away

Mike Olver, of Olver Seeds and Sundries, and a regular attendee at Devon and Cornwall Section events has died after a short illness.

"Mike supported the Section for many years and we are all saddened by his passing. Our condolences go to his family," said Devon and Cornwall Section Secretary, Richard Whyman.

Canadian Awards

Jim Wyllie has been awarded the John B. Steel Award for distinguished service and will be presented with the award at the CGSA Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Show in Vancouver next year.

He will be joined by James Brown, who has been voted the CGSA's 2000 Superintendent of the Year.

The Conference and Show will be held in the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre on February 24-27, 2001.

A true International feel to Association

In recent editions of 'Greenkeeper' we have noticed that you have been mentioning international members more and more, so we thought that it was long overdue that we introduced ourselves as two of probably very few members currently working in Nigeria.

The golf course is an 18 Hole Championship course situated in the new capital Abuja. It has been named IBB Golf and Country Club, named after the former president Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB), who initiated the idea. The course was opened in 1984 and since then it has developed into a very challenging and beautiful course, which could easily be compared to any of the better courses in the hotter parts of Europe or America. The course also serves as a nature reserve providing a home for many types of tropical wildlife including crocodiles and dangerous snakes (so be careful in the rough).

The greens are 100% Tifdwarf which after several attempts was found to be the most appropriate grass to suit the conditions found in this part of the world, as such extreme temperatures which can reach 40°C coupled with six months of drought and six months of heavy rain. The fairways and tees are made up of native grasses such as Kikoji and common Bermuda, which generally provide a good playing surface.

At present we have a staff of 45 but not all are working on the course. We have four mechanics, store keeper, timekeeper and cleaners. During the rainy season the remaining staff spend 90% of their 10 hour day just keeping up with the course cutting on this 101 hectare site, bearing in mind that the grass here grows at three times the normal rate found in Europe. Providing it gets irrigated during the dry season it never stops growing as the coolest experienced is 21°C so it's like growing your grass in a heated greenhouse with no shortage of moisture all year round.

With the exception of the rough the whole course is irrigated. During the dry season we would normally irrigate with 1,000,000 litres of water per day. All valves are operated by hand which requires a team of four working 24 hours per day to ensure enough water is applied.



Our machinery is made of 95% Textron equipment and the remaining 5% being the Kubota compact tractor range. These machines have proved very reliable in these conditions, although we are forever changing rubber components such as hydraulic hoses and tyres. This is due to the constant exposure to extreme heat and sunlight which softens the rubber, causing it to wear prematurely. We would normally change the tyres on the drive wheels every four weeks, so, as you can imagine, with over 100 tyres on the course daily we get through quite a few.

We enjoyed reading a letter from one of your readers in which he complained about waiting 33 days for spare parts for an Iseki tractor. As I'm sure you realise we do not have the luxury of a local dealer so everything is shipped in from Europe. The normal delivery time (without expensive air freight charges) is three months. We keep a large stock which probably compares to a small dealers stock but sometimes we do get caught short - for example, an engine for one of our bat wing mowers developed a major fault which required a new engine. It was ordered in January 2000 and after shipping and customs problems did not arrive at the golf course until seven months later. A long time to be without such

an important machine but as with all greenkeepers we just have to find a way to manage this kind of situation and still present our course in the best possible condition no matter what. We all know excuses do not make any difference when the chairman of the greens committee is stuck in the rough up to his waist on the 18th hole and, as a result, loses the monthly medal by one shot.

On saying that, it's not a bad job really turning up for work every day in a pair of shorts, tee shirt and sunglasses. Yes we can remember that wet and cold February morning huddled together in the shed thinking of the summer months which seem a lifetime away.

On a final note we hope you enjoyed a look into greenkeeping in Africa. We could go on to tell you about greens disappearing overnight due to insect attack and the problems of filling the accident book after scorpion and mamba bites, but instead would like to thank BIGGA for its splendid publication which brings us a much needed look at what's going on back in Europe every month.

Robert Bell and Paul Evans
Golf Course Superintendents,
IBB Golf & Country Club,
Abuja, Nigeria

Sad passing of Fred Hawtree

BIGGA Honorary Member, Fred Hawtree, has died after a long illness. Fred, a world renowned golf course architect, was presented with his Honorary Membership certificate at his home in Oxfordshire by his long time friend and then BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, last year.

Gordon will write his own tribute to Fred in next month's magazine.

Drainage Seminar

A Sports Turf Drainage Seminar will be held at Newbury Racecourse on November 16. Further details can be obtained from the Land Drainage Contractors Association Tel: 01327 263264 Fax: 01327 263264.

Positive feedback after Deere trip

Alan Sampson, of Wortley Golf Club, reports on the latest John Deere Feedback trip

In September, approximately 90 people from the UK, mainly greenkeepers and sales representatives, travelled to Moline in Chicago, the headquarters of John Deere, for Feedback 2000.

For nine years John Deere have been listening to comments made from feedback stations and then re-designing machines to suit greenkeepers needs. This year, as in previous years, feedback was held at the Pinnacle Country Club where various new and hybrid versions of John Deere equipment were there for us to put to the test and then give feedback on whether it meets the needs and demands of greenkeepers and golf courses back in the UK.

There is without doubt some excellent machinery in its final stages of production and who knows, we may even see some launched at our very own BTME show.

Although feedback was the main reason for the journey to Chicago we were treated to many more features of the trip. On the second day we were given the opportunity to play golf at the new TPC golf course Deere Run, a PGA tour course and host to the recent John Deere Classic. This, for a golf course in its first playing year, was very impressive. For those not golf minded was a trip to Grand Detour to visit the historical site and home of the influential figure John Deere himself.

Day three was a trip to see the production of John Deere combine harvesters followed by an introduction programme at the auditorium and dinner at the John Deere headquarters.

Day four started with customer evaluation field stations (feedback) followed by a short trip to the 41 acre under cover parts department. Day five was back in down town Chicago for a guided tour of some of the city's most famous landmarks.

This trip, apart from being a chance of a lifetime, was an opportunity for greenkeepers to say what they really want out of machinery from a company whose aim is to provide excellent equipment. I would like to say a big thank you to Richard Tyas, of Bob Wilds Grass Machinery, to James Morley, of John Deere, and to John Deere themselves for their hospitality and generosity on this trip was first class from start to finish.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband

