

Attention to all BIGGA HOUSE visitors

Visitors to BIGGA HOUSE over the next three months should be aware that the famous Aldwark Toll Bridge will be closed for renovations and to be sure to look out for the diversion signs.

Sad passing of Ian Forbes

Ian Forbes, Links Manager at St Andrews Links Trust, died last month in the St Andrews Memorial Hospital. He was 45 and had been ill for some time.

As Links Manager, Ian had responsibility for matters relating to the maintenance and running of the golf courses — greenkeepers, starters, rangers, the caddie service, orderlies, engineering workshops, property maintenance and stores, as well as retaining responsibility for championships.

In addition, he managed all the developments on the Links including the building of the Links Clubhouse, the Eden and Jubilee Greenkeeping Centres, the Golf Practice Centre, the Caddie Pavilion, the Eden Clubhouse and the installation of the new irrigation system.

During his time as Links Manager, the condition of the courses improved dramatically, as did the facilities and services, enhancing the reputation of the Links throughout the world.

"Ian's contribution to the management and improvement of the Links in recent years cannot be overstated. He was a superbly effective manager, of both people and projects," said Alan McGregor, General Manager at St Andrews Links Trust. "His commitment to making the Links better for golfers was outstanding and he took enormous satisfaction from the improvements in the quality of the courses and the development of the teams of people reporting to him. Ian's achievements will have a lasting impact on the Links.

"The Trust has lost an invaluable member of staff and his colleagues have lost a great friend and helper known for his dedication, warmth, and humour. The loss of Ian is a tragedy for his wife, Elaine, and their two children and our deepest sympathy goes out to them."

Ian graduated in business studies from Strathclyde University. A former college lecturer, he joined the Links Trust as Deputy Secretary in 1987 after five years at the Scottish Rugby Union. In the Trust's management reorganisation in 1992 he took on the role of Championships and Development Manager with responsibility for managing the planned major development programme and became Links Manager in 1994.

Northern Region Golf Tournament

This year the Regional Final was played at Fishwick Hall Golf Club, Preston. Teams representing the six Sections in the Region had been selected at the various Spring Tournaments. We were lucky with the weather once again, finding a dry slot among some very wet weather. The course was in excellent condition and was a credit to Paul Eddlestone and his staff.

The format was the best five nett scores from each team of six. Unfortunately, only one team, from North Wales, was able to turn out a full team on the day. For the second

successive year, the players from the North East were counted out from the start when only four competitors appeared. The four other Sections had five competitors and all their scores would have to count. The failure of players to advise their unavailability was disappointing to all their teammates, the reserves who were available and not least to the sponsors Richard Campey Limited.

As in the inaugural event in 1999, the result was very close and was decided on the last green. The winners were the Cleveland team of Jim

Thompson, Martin Woods, Ollie Shepherd, Ian Pemberton and Neil Rogers.

We would like to thank Richard Campey for his company's sponsorship and for his attendance throughout the day and Bert Cross who organised the whole thing.

The scores were:

Cleveland: 370
North Wales: 371
Sheffield: 377
North West: 393
Northern: 396

BIGGA Scottish National Tournament

Played over the Hawkshill Course, Newmachar, by kind permission of the Board of Newmachar GC, the Scottish National Tournament enjoyed overhead conditions which were extremely kind, with a warm and sunny day and a slight breeze just to make things slightly tricky. Quite a change from the conditions we have had in the last two years.

Newmachar has only been open for 10 years and during this time has progressed to be one of the finest tests of golf in the North of Scotland. The condition of the course was superb and this was due to the fine effort and hard work by the greenkeeping staff, led by Dale Robertson. With 36 holes and a full size driving range and 20 bays, the staff at Newmachar have plenty to keep them occupied.

Scoring was always going to be very difficult with a course playing its full length of 6,600 yards, but, nevertheless many excellent scores were returned.

This year's Champion, with a fine round of 74, was David Leith, of St. Andrews.

The following members were the winners in the various classes.

SGGA Challenge Cup (Scratch), David Leith, St Andrews, 74.
Friendship Trophy (Best Nett) Steven Frost, Royal Aberdeen, 67 nett
Ransomes Trophy (Cat 1) 1. James McCormack, Kirriemuir, 70; 2. Neil Kidd, Keith, 74(BIH); 3. Archie Dunn,



David receives his trophy from the greens convener Mr Peter Thomson

Auchterarder, 74.
Pattison Trophy (Cat 2) 1. Gavin Neill, Tain, 72; 2. Michael Reid, Peterculter, 78; 3. Stuart Syme, Leven Links, 80.
STRI Trophy (Cat 3) 1. Andy Wilson, Brechin, 73; 2. Brian Hunter, McDonald, 81 (BIH); 3. Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead, 81.
Dick Aitken Trophy (Best Head Greenkeeper) Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, 73. M and M Trophy (Best Assistant) Derek Scott, Scoonie, 74.
Souter Trophy (Best Apprentice) Ian

Cowder, Tain, 74.
SIGGA Trophy (Best Veteran) Duncan Gray, Pines, 76.
St Mungo Cup (Team Trophy) North. Trade Pat Allan, Stewarts, 73
Guest P. Thompson, Newmachar, 71.

Once again our thanks to Newmachar CC for affording us the facilities of the course and clubhouse.

Peter Boyd

Ian gets regional promotion at Inturf

Inturf, the specialist grower of cultivated turf, has promoted Ian Collett to the position of Regional Coordinator dealing with turf installation projects. Ian, (pictured centre), is 36 years old, and was formerly Installation Manager for the York-based company.

Inturf's nationwide installation service means that the company's quality turf can be installed quickly on behalf of clients with limited or unskilled labour.

Inturf reports increasing demand for the service, which ensures the turf is installed to a similarly high standard as when it was grown at the company's dedicated nurseries.



Major accreditation awards for Barenbrug UK

Barenbrug UK, the specialist grass seed breeder, was recently presented with two major awards, recognising the quality of the company's complete operation and its entire staff.

Bert Barenbrug, President of the Holland-based Barenbrug Group, flew over to see the UK company receive an Investors in People award from Mike Box, Managing Director of the Suffolk Training Enterprise Council, and Ann Chittock, Business Improvement Advisor, during a special ceremony held at Barenbrug UK's headquarters in Bury St. Edmunds. The Investors in People programme recognises the formal commitment made by a company to the training of all staff and their ongoing development.

Barenbrug UK was also presented with ISO 9002 accreditation, an assurance to customers and suppliers of the consistent high quality of all aspects of a company's operation.

Barenbrug's efforts to gain both awards have been co-ordinated by Financial Director, Neil Loveday.

Paul Johnson, Managing Director



of Barenbrug UK said: "These two awards confirm not only the high standards of our staff, but also the quality of Barenbrug UK's complete

operation, from our careful research into new grass varieties to the prompt dispatch of grass seed mixtures to our customers."

The Inaugural Northern Ireland Education Conference October 25, Greenmount College, Antrim

Due to unforeseen circumstances a change has been made to the advertised programme.

Joe Paulin, of Golden Eagle Agronomy, will be replaced by Peter Jones, Golf Course Advisor, Peter Jones Associates Ltd making a presentation entitled A Strategy for Success in Greenkeeping - Ten Topical Tips.

Other speakers include Frank Ainsworth, Jim Arthur, Gordon Child, David Garland, Chris Kennedy, David MacIndoe and John Quinn.

For further details please contact Sami Collins, Education and Training Officer on 01347 833800.

Tuck your shirt in!



Would the BIGGA Northern Region member spotted in the Greek Island airport of Zante on the afternoon of Sunday September 3 please tuck his 10th anniversary BIGGA-logged polo shirt into his trousers in future, as it looks so much smarter!

New recruits arrive at BIGGA HOUSE

Two new faces joined the BIGGA HOUSE staff last month.

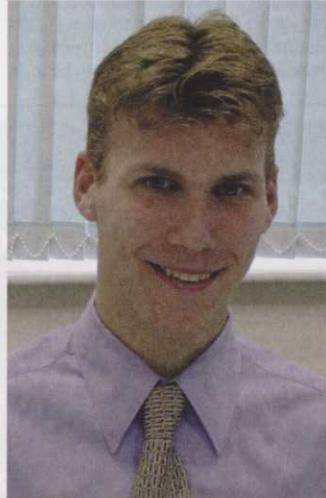
Meredith Foster, as Sales and Marketing Assistant brought the Sales and Marketing team back up to full strength following the departure of Jenny Panton, while Brad Anderson joined the staff as Clerical Assistant.

Meredith, 21, returned to her home in Easingwold, near Aldwark, following the successful completion - with honours - of a three year Business Studies Degree at the City University Business School in London. During her time in London she was lucky enough to undertake a period of work experience and research at the prestigious Saatchi and Saatchi Advertising Agency and two other Covent Garden-based agencies.

Outside of work she enjoys travelling having spent time in Canada and the United States. Her other interests include cross country running and squash while she has recently discovered a talent for snow boarding.



Brad, 17, also comes from Easingwold, and will soon become a familiar voice on the BIGGA switchboard. He is undertaking an NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration



on a day release at JHP Training in York having already gained an NVQ in Information Technology.

His interests include computers, electronics and music.

Golfplan Europe formed after merger

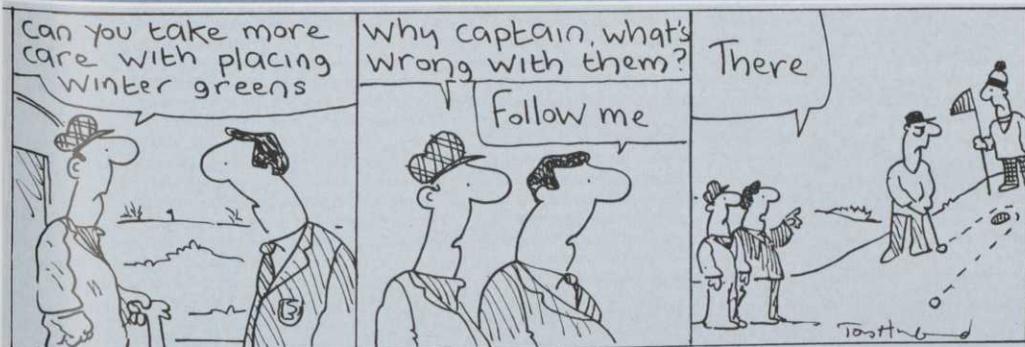
Mark James, Andrew Mair and Ronald Fream have joined their golfing and golf architectural abilities to form Golfplan Europe providing source golf course planning, design, construction, turfgrass agronomic, operational and golf academy teaching services. Ronald Fream has directed Ronald Fream Design Group in California since 1972.

Golfplan Europe will expand upon the several decades of experience each of these principals contributes. Mark James was the last European Ryder Cup Captain and is Chairman of the European Tour's Tournament Committee. Andrew Mair has a broad golf design and golf club operations and feasibility expertise. Ronald Fream has been a professional golf course architect since 1966 with diverse project experience in about 60 countries.

"Golfplan Europe's methods are eminently suitable to be put to tender. The developers and owner will know in advance for budgeting purposes what the actual construction works will cost. There will be no open-ended, uncontrolled costs," said Andrew Mair.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Major investment for Scotts UK

Scotts UK Professional is investing £50,000 in a major new fine turf trials area at Scotts Levington Research Station near Ipswich – Europe's largest independent commercial horticulture and turfcare trials facility.

The new project is the construction of a 2,000 sq m golf green built to full USGA specification.

Four times larger than an average course green, the facility will enable Scotts to research turf nutrition and chemical treatments under the specific and exacting conditions found on most new courses.

Installed by specialist contractor Ray Chisnall, the new green is built on a 100 mm coarse gravel, fully drained base, covered by a 50 mm blinding layer of finer grit to prevent integration of the rooting zone with the base.

The upper rooting zone is a mixture of sand (85%) and Shamrock Superfine Peat (15%).

"It is important that we tailor products to meet these particular circumstances, and this huge 'green' is ideal for the job. It is big enough to run a sufficient number of trials each year and still leave a large enough area fallow to recover from trials the previous two years," Trials Officer, Stuart Staples said.

Installation of pop-up irrigation is currently underway on the green, and Stuart anticipates seeding with a Barenbrug Bar 2 seed mixture by mid-September.

George Eastwood's German adventure

Reaseheath College Golf Course Manager student, George Eastwood, reports on his work placement in Germany.

I am a student at Reaseheath College, currently in the fifth semester of my Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management. The fifth semester required me to enter the golf industry and apply my studies as a professional greenkeeper and to report back to my college on my progress.

I was lucky enough to secure a position at Hamburger Golf Club and, although initially I had doubts as to whether I was making the right decision, from the first day, Norbert Lischka, the Head Greenkeeper and the rest of the Greenkeeping team, made me feel at home.

As I write, I have been working in Hamburg for five months of my six month contract, and I am enjoying the experience very much.

The six month contract which I received, states that I will carry out all the normal Greenkeeping duties on a five day week, and will receive payment of 1500 Deutsch Marks approx. £462, which is not a large amount of money, but with accommodation paid for, has been enough to have a good life.

The course itself is a wood, heathland course designed in the 1920s by Harry Colt, and Morrison Traditional Style. This is my first time working on a fully mature golf course and I have gained an understanding on how time can have an



effect on a golf course. Although I am a student and I am still learning this profession I have been treated with the respect of a qualified professional, and my position is highly regarded by all the staff. This has been of great benefit to me, as I feel more involved with the organisation, and keep a strong interest in the work that I am doing, and what is happening on the golf course.

The language barrier has been a problem at times, but I feel that this has been a benefit to me, as I now realise the importance of communication and gathering information. After five months I have learned enough of the language to communicate with those who cannot speak English.

I feel that my time here in Germany

has given me a great insight into how golf is seen in another country, and a wonderful experience of life in Germany. I think I will find it very hard to leave this place and all the friends I have made at the end of my time here.

My tutor from Reaseheath, Brian Jones, was most helpful in arranging this opportunity as he made the first connection with agronomist, Bruce Jamieson, who took the time to meet with me at BTME last January.

Bruce organised the sponsorship of my work placement and the payment of flight costs by TORO machinery as the club has a five year contract with TORO Europe.

Thanks to Bruce and Brian for their help in making the trip possible.

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 inflight 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.

John Deere's most northerly mower?

Shetland's only 18 hole golf course, on the main island at Dale, acquired a new 3235A lightweight fairway mower last spring - shortly after the arrival of new Course Manager, Ian Donaldson.

"It was one of the priorities when I came to the club, as there were quite a few older machines that needed replacing," he said.

"The fairways were being cut with an outdated set of trailed gangs, so I ordered the new mower from Orkney dealer Bobby Flett in March.

"I'd had a demonstration of the 3235A at my last course, so I knew what I wanted. As far as I'm concerned, there's no other fairway mower to touch it, and I've tried all the other makes.

"We use the machine twice a week for a total of 24 hours cutting the fairways, and the only problem in more than 500 hours of operation has been a hydraulic drive motor that was replaced quickly under warranty with no fuss.

Picture shows (left to right) John Deere dealer Bobby Flett, Shetland Golf



Club Course Manager Ian Donaldson, Club Captain Ronnie Gair and John

Deere Territory Manager Richard Charleton with the 3235A mower.

Football Groundsman of the Year Award

Mark Robinson, head groundsman of Premiership Derby County's Pride Park Stadium has been named IOG Professional Football Groundsman of the Year at Saltext.

His award, a silver plate and holiday for two, was presented by IOG director Carl Pass who sits on the playing surfaces committee of the Premier and Football Leagues. The final judging, on groundsmanship skills including management and maintenance techniques, was carried out by Carl and IOG Director and National Treasurer Alex Millar.

"I am deeply honoured by this award, particularly as it has been given by fellow professionals who know the pressure we are under," said Mark. His pitch was named top in the Premier League earlier in the year by STRI judge Stephen Baker. The other contenders for the top IOG award were:

Division One:

Steve Patrick of Blackburn Rovers.

Division Two:

Steve Drew of Bristol City.

Division Three:

Mike Heather of Cheltenham Town.

Financial support for GCSAA exhibitors

The largest trade show in the world for the golf course management industry, the GCSAA Conference and Show in Dallas on February 15-17, 2001 will once again be financially supported by British Trade International under the SESA programme.

The Agricultural Engineers Association will act as the sponsor and the grant is available to all UK based

companies involved in exporting from the UK.

Support for eligible exhibitors:

60% of expenditure on stand space and construction, up to a fixed ceiling of £2,300.

First Time Exhibitors Package:

A structured package of information and advice, in addition to the basic grant for those companies exhibiting with support for the first time in any market.

Applications for the grant must be received by the Agricultural Engineers Association before 15th November 2000.

Contact: Debbie Dale, Agricultural Engineers Association Overseas Manager.

Tel: 01733371381

Fax: 01733 370664

Email: export@aea.uk.com

In last month's issue we used a red cross to illustrate the article on the winter health check for golf courses, and in doing so we inadvertently contravened the "Statute ruling" which states that the Red Cross symbol is protected by statute and may only be used by member groups, societies of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement. We apologise unreservedly to the Red Cross for the breach.



Education matters: Both old and new

I feel that I have to comment on the statement in Steve Isaac's article, in last month's issue, that there has been a slight rethink on the subject of autumn fertilisers, on the part of those with dominantly annual meadow grass greens who see their turf turn a sickly yellow. Surely he and they have heard of the greenkeepers' friend, sulphate of iron, which imparts colour for the benefit of those who equate colour with quality, without all the harmful effects of fertiliser. It also, needless to say, acts as a mild fungicide, hardens the turf, acidifies the root zone (discouraging worms) and blackens moss.

Applying NPK fertilisers as late as the end of August would be regarded by many experienced traditional greenkeepers as too late anyway, but

such fertilisers in autumn not only encourage *Poa annua* to dominate but set up fearsome *Fusarium* attacks. When students in both Greenkeeper International and other turf magazines report through articles a big swing in the States towards traditional (low fertiliser) standards save in the case of 'resort' courses, we should not allow such heresies as autumn fertilisers to be given credence here. Needless to say the fertiliser firms are all in favour of the extra sales.

To advise NPK in autumn because greens look sickly (if they are dominantly annual meadow grass) is equivalent to letting a drying-out alcoholic go back on the booze just because he is suffering.

May I also comment on two other articles. First my congratulations

to my old friend Duncan Gray in Talking Heads, who is brave enough to say what many think, that overseeding greens is something invented by the seed trade as a sales ploy.

On the subject of the editorial on education, when will we accept that colleges today are inventing more and more courses not for the benefit of our profession but to serve their own interests? The trend today is for more and more on-course training, supervised by visiting lecturers and under their own head men - far more economic and efficient.

JH Arthur
Budleigh Salterton
East Devon

Toro thanks

Can I just say what an enjoyable afternoon I had meeting Jimmy Neilson for the first time and walking my course with him under the premise of his judging our efforts for the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award. I was previously under the mistaken impression that there was nothing for me in an award scheme like this - after all there must be thousands of people nominated, some who will be less deserving than me and some who will be more. If all your judges have as much enthusiasm and experience as Jimmy Neilson, and are willing to pass that on in the same encouraging and motivating manner then every one of those nominees will have had a worthwhile experience.

Meeting a man willing to share a lifetime of knowledge is worth more to me than any trophy. Jimmy, I look forward to meeting to again soon.

Simon Freeman,
Machrie Hotel and Golf Links,
Isle of Islay

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