

## Another one for the memory banks

As a week, it would be hard to beat Harrogate 2001. Virtually every aspect of it has been deemed a success ... and not just by those people involved in the organisation but by delegates and exhibitors, many of whom have contacted BIGGA HOUSE to say how successful, not to mention enjoyable, it had been for them.

Sure there were problems. I wouldn't have liked to have been stuck in one of the long, cold queues of people trying to get into the halls but that in itself is a measure of how successful the show had been. We've had queues in the past but not to the extent that they were significant hardship for the participants as they were this year. Having identified it as an issue it is something we will have addressed well in advance of next year.

There were many highlights for me during the week of the National Education Conference and the Show. There was the member, all the way from Germany, who, on the Sunday night, put on his jacket for the first time since the last year's Harrogate and found £200 in the top pocket. He'd forgotten all about it. It must be nice to have that sort of disposable income.

Another high point was the surprise appearance of BIGGA's Administration Manager, Johnny "Rotten" Pemberton, on stage with The Searchers, a truly unforgettable experience for all who witnessed it. I'd always thought John might possess the talent and the potential to be a great singer ... I'm afraid I was wrong.

It was also pleasing to see so many international visitors to the Show. Harrogate has always attracted a number of overseas members and friends but this year there seemed to be many more than usual, reinforcing the view that BTME week is an opportunity for the entire industry to come together and compare notes on problems and solutions.

Once again Textron must be given a vote of thanks for their support of the Learning Experience programme.

That 7,172 people chose to make a date with BTME during the two and a half days of the Show is quite astonishing. That represents a huge increase on previous attendance figures and marks the Show down, among existing and would-be exhibitors, as a vibrant and exciting event which must not be missed. It also goes a long way to justifying the decision to extend the show by half a day next year.

It was not a decision taken lightly, as Neil Thomas explains elsewhere in this magazine, but the flexibility the additional few hours will add will give everyone a chance to get round the entire show, while the exhibitors themselves will no doubt appreciate a more even flow of visitors over the three days.

News on the format of next year's Harrogate will be posted as and when it becomes available but you can be assured that BTME 2002 will build on the success of this year's event and once again be the highlight of the greenkeeping calendar.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor



## International membership growing!

Bert Cross describes his recent visit to Lusaka Golf Club.

While on holiday in Zambia I had reason to drive to the capital city, Lusaka, and on route drove past Lusaka Golf Course. From the road I could see some of the course, and I decided on my return journey I would call in to take a better look. When I arrived at the golf club, I made myself known by showing my BIGGA membership card which is always in my wallet, and was introduced to the Secretary/Manager, Mr Mulenga.

I was made very welcome, and invited to walk the course with him. I was very impressed with the condition of the course, and even more impressed when Mr Mulenga gave me a list of the machinery to maintain the course, which consisted of; one 20inch certes to cut greens; one 18 inch certes to cut tees; two MF tractors (fair condition); one three gang Toro drag sets and one Tractor rotary mower. The greens are Bermuda grass and are cut at approx six millimetres, three to four times weekly, the fairways are a mixture of very coarse grasses and cut weekly.

On our walk round the course I was introduced to the Professional/Head Greenkeeper Mr Zulu. He explained the diffi-



culty of getting fertiliser, and machinery, plus the high cost of both even if they are available. Bunkers on the course are mainly green side only, but you can run into other problems just off the fairways like, snakes, termites, army ants, and great numbers of beautiful trees lining the fairways. The course is 18 holes par 73, covering 240 acres, with fairways, tees, and greens with irrigation fed by three bore holes. Lusaka Golf Course was officially opened in 1935. The first major alteration was made during the war years, with the scrapping of some holes, and constructing new ones within the frame work of the remainder. In

1956 the course was re-designed to eliminate playing into the sun on the closing holes. The first grass green was planted in 1958, and by 1962 all 18 greens were grass. The irrigation during the months between October and January is used constantly due to high temperatures 30-40 C. The course is the venue for the Zambian Open, and Masters Champion Vijay Singh won his first tournament there in 1992. Ian Woosnam since then won a Range Rover for a hole-in-one. The course is in a beautiful setting, and a credit to Mr Mulenga and Mr Zulu considering the lack of machinery to maintain the course. A staff of 25 work on the course (male and female) hand weeding greens, and keeping down the rough with slashers (3 ft x 2 inch steel blades sharpened both edges).

Thinning out the course grasses on the fairways is also done by hand, a task that could be solved with a good scarifier. The greens come under attack from all sorts of burrowing and flying insects, and every green has to be checked daily and sprayed if necessary. I was, as mentioned earlier made very welcome, and loaned a set of clubs, a caddie who knew the course inside out, and courtesy of the course. The golf club have now joined BIGGA.



## Top level changes at Textron

Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products International has made major changes to its sales and marketing teams.

Garry O'Neill joins the company as Sales Director for Europe and Africa. Previously with Toyota (GB) he held a number of positions, latterly in a strategic role responsible for product, pricing, marketing and distribution for light commercial vehicles.

Former Sales Director Peter Bell becomes Marketing Director, International with overall responsibility for all promotional activity, together with distribution development, product management and sales planning.

Neil Woodfin is appointed to the

new position of Customer Services Director, International with full responsibility for after sales support including service, parts and training.

All the above positions report directly to Managing Director, Harold Pinto.

Other appointments resulting from the senior management changes include: Ian Loveys, who joins the company as National Accounts Manager from Bosch Power Tools.

He replaces Richard Bishop, who after 32 years with the company, leaves with the best wishes of everyone in the Sales and Marketing team, to further his career within the turf care industry.



Above: Garry O'Neill

## Training priorities recommended by GTC Technical Committee

The GTC Technical Committee has set out its recommendations for Greenkeeper training priorities in a three year Business Plan.

"The work of the new Technical Committee within the GTC structure chaired by Dr Mike Canaway will enable the Management Committee to consolidate its position as the Leading Industry Body for Greenkeeping by achieving set objectives and ensuring funding is approved to meet these objectives in the development and implementation of Greenkeeper Education, Training and Qualifications," explained David Golding, the GTC's Education Director.

The Technical Committee consists of the following members:-

Chairman - Dr Mike Canaway  
 Consultants - John Davis, Tony Mears,  
 Course Manager; Kerran Daly, Course  
 Manager; Iain Ritchie, Course Manager;  
 David Golding, Education Director GTC, in  
 attendance and Sue Gudgeon - N/SVQ  
 Co-ordinator, in attendance

Bob McLaren, the Chairman of the Management Committee, has fully supported the work of the Technical Committee and has recommended endorsement of the Business Plan to the Management Committee. The representative bodies are currently considering the Business Plan including the financial implications to implement the Business Plan.

## IOG meeting to welcome one and all

The Bristol Branch of the IOG is to hold a special meeting at St. Mary's School, Cable, Wiltshire at which Steven Bernhard, of Bernhard & Co, will be giving an illustrated talk, "Why lap?". Anyone who uses a cylinder mower should find this an extremely interesting talk.

The Branch will give a warm welcome to any member of BIGGA who would like to attend the meeting.

This is the first meeting the IOG have held in this area, and they would appreciate if those intending to come along would first phone Ted Cavell on 01278 788689, so that they may arrange a room of a size to fit the number attending. (Evening calls to Ted would be appreciated).



The third year of the RigbyTaylor sponsored Matchplay Knockout tournament for the South Wales Section members saw 32 individuals equating to 16 pairs from 19 golf clubs. This year's final, as usual at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, was between last year's winners Team Morrision consisting of Daryl Bray and Leigh Davies against Team Pennard consisting of Peter Lacey and Robert Hanford. On this occasion though the Champions were unseated and Pennard clinched the trophy on the 15th green.

## Grand Tour Scholarship 2001

The Grand Tour Scholarship invites golf course design and golf course management students for the second time to apply for a journey to leading golf courses throughout the United States in August 2001. The scholarship offers a unique learning experience to future leaders in our industry. TORO sponsors this year's scholarship that has been organized by Bettina Schrickel, golf course architect (EIGCA) and president of Lioness Golf LLC.

The scholarship offers four students the opportunity to visit a variety of famous historic and modern golf courses on the east coast and west coast, respectively. The two study tours include golf courses such as Augusta National, Harbour Town Golf Links, The Count' Club in Brookline, Cypress Point, Pebble Beach and Castle Pines to name just a few.

Both study tours will take place in August. The Western Route will lead to 20 golf courses in 23 weeks; the Eastern Route includes 23 courses and takes four weeks. Experience has proven the benefit of two students traveling together per route in order to exchange knowledge and impressions. Students will have the opportunity to walk each course, study the layout and talk to the golf course superintendent.

Golf course design and turfgrass management students from all over the world are invited to apply. Applicants shall be at least 21 years old and have demonstrated significant efforts and results in their educational career.

The scholarship covers costs for air-plane tickets, rental cars, hotel accommodation and cellular telephones for the duration of the journeys and provides students with the Scholarship Route Book that includes detailed directions, useful information and safety advice.

Applicants must be in possession of a valid passport and an international drivers licence. It is the students own responsibility to obtain a tourist visa for the United States, if applicable, and full health and travel insurance prior to departure.

The deadline for completed applications is April 15, 2001.

The Grand Tour Scholarship Committee will select successful candidates according to the contents and quality of application documents.

For application forms or further information, please contact Bettina Schrickel by phone on (+1) 954462 0157 or via email: [ftjbettina@aol.com](mailto:ftjbettina@aol.com)

## Edgbaston GC

A verdict of death by misadventure has been returned on Alan Cutler, Deputy Head Greenkeeper and a much valued staff member of Edgbaston Golf Club, who was crushed by a mower after it toppled onto him as he cut round a bunker's edge.

The Birmingham inquest was told that Alan, who had been at the club for 34 years, had been cutting round a bunker on the 15th hole in March last year when the incident occurred.

When Alan didn't return to the maintenance facility Course Manager, Mike Hughes, went to look for him and found him trapped underneath the machine. It took three men to lift the machine off him and he was declared dead at hospital having suffered respiratory failure due to a crushed chest.

The jury, after having been guided by the Deputy Coroner, took 45 minutes to come to its unanimous verdict. Earlier it had been told that it was the club's normal practice to mow to within at least a foot of a bunker's edge and then hand mow the remainder but that on the occasion in question it was apparent that Alan had been mowing to within one to three inches of the edge.

The Environmental Health Inspector, Pauline Beever, advised that she was not proposing to prosecute as the club had demonstrated that it was a responsible employer and had implemented all recommendations since the accident.

The club had a Health and Safety Policy in place but has tightened its practices still further on the strength of what the HSE had said following the accident.

It has also bought a new machine with a sidewinder mechanism which means operators stay further away from the edge of banks while roll bars have been fitted to every piece of machinery which could accommodate them.

"I think one of the main lessons that other clubs could learn from our very sad experience is to keep in regular contact with the local Health and Safety Executive and see any input as a positive contribution to the working of the club and not a hindrance," said Edgbaston Secretary, Peter Heath.

"We have always had a good relationship with the HSE but having had such an accident on our golf course it has made us even more aware of the need for good practice," he explained.

A civil compensation claim is currently being pursued by 56-year-old Alan's family through the Club's Employer Liability policy.

## Website clarification

Anyone finding difficulty accessing Dr Kate Entwistle's website which was listed in last month's magazine may have been confused by a dash which appeared at the end of the line but in the middle of the address.

The website can be accessed at: [www.theturfdisseasecentre.co.uk](http://www.theturfdisseasecentre.co.uk)

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

[www.tonyhusband.co.uk](http://www.tonyhusband.co.uk)



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## Volunteers required!

Volunteers required for the following events:

Volvo PGA Championship, The Wentworth Club, May 25-28, 2001

The Association will again be providing a support team for this prestigious event, this year, for the first time, it will operate on each of the four competition days. Each team member will be allocated a match and will walk the course with the game, raking any bunkers found by the players. In addition, should adverse weather conditions prevail, you may be required to assist the Wentworth greenkeeping staff in keeping the course playable.

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 any or all days and usually all those who apply are given the chance to participate on at least one day.

When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided together with daily meal vouchers.

Helping at this event will not prejudice your chances of a place on The Open Championship Support Team.

The Open Championship, Royal Lytham & St Annes, July 19-22, 2001

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 18, through to the close of play on Sunday, July 22. While all transport, accommodation and meals will be provided between these dates it is the team member's responsibility for 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 Ane, York, YO61 1UE. Should you require any further information John can be contacted on 01347 833800 or via email: john@bigga.co.uk

The Wentworth support team will be co-ordinated by the BIGGA South East Region and Derek Farrington, the Regional Administrator, is available to offer help or information. Derek can be contacted on 01903 260956 or mobile 07850 162401.

The closing date for applications is Friday March 2, 2001 and in the event of there being more applications than places available then a draw of names will take place.

## Correction for disease-free turf article

In the article on Disease-free turf which appeared on pages 23 and 24 of last month's magazine we inadvertently mixed up the photographs so that the Take-all Patch pictures appeared above the description for Fusarium Patch and the Fusarium Patch pictures appeared above the Take-all Patch description. We apologise for any confusion caused by this error and hopefully make up for the error by printing a corrected version for both diseases this month.

Anyone seeking further clarification information should acquire BIGGA's Turf Major Pest Diseases Field Guide which gives detailed information on turf diseases. A copy can be obtained for BIGGA HOUSE.

### Fusarium Patch

#### Symptoms

Orange brown patches, 2.5 to 5cm across, increasing in size under suitable conditions. Can coalesce to affect large areas. Disease often very active following periods of snow cover, when it appears as an orange-brown ring surrounding a pale straw-coloured/slightly pink centre.

#### Occurrence

Any time of the year when conditions are suitable, but especially spring and autumn and after snow.

#### Grass species involved

Annual Meadow-grass (*Poa annua*) is the main species attacked but the fungus also attacks Bent Grass (*Agrostis* spp) and occasionally other grasses. Host preference is diminished when disease attacks under snow cover.

#### Other influencing factors

Shade, humidity, alkaline surface, inefficient drainage, excess nitrogen.

#### Control measures

Identification of influencing factors and application of appropriate remedial measures.



### Take-all Patch

#### Symptoms

Rings or part rings of orange/brown grass from 0.1 to 1 metre in diameter. The band of drying grass is usually about 0.1 metre across and is predominately the result of a fungal attack on the roots which become grey and discoloured, thereby allowing the affected plants to be easily plucked from the turf. At certain times, a black reproductive structure, known as perithecia, may be seen low down on the stem. This is usually found immediately below the leaf junctions. The perithecia contains many banana shaped asci, each containing 8 long ascospores which serve to spread infection. Infected patches become devoid of bent-grass species and contain only non-susceptible grasses.

#### Occurrence

Most common in late summer and autumn.

#### Other influencing factors

Waterlogging and surface alkalinity increase the likelihood of this disease

#### Grass species involved

Bent grasses (*Agrostis*)

#### Control measures

Avoid over application of lime during the summer. Liming is best done in the autumn and, after a suitable interval, should be followed by a dressing of fertiliser to re-acidify the surface. Attention to drainage of wet areas is recommended



## Trials and tribulations



Alan Domett of Devon Garden Machinery has a lot to answer for, he is the one responsible for Stuart Dymond's occasional absences from his beloved golf course at St Enodoc on Sunday mornings. His generosity led to greater things as he pursued his other passion that of Pre-65 motor bike Trials.

It was through Alan's sponsorship that Stuart was able to compete on his much prized Triumph Tiger Cub and which saw him win the 1998 Launceston Motor Cycle Club Championships followed by a runners up in 1999. It was this generous sponsorship by Devon Garden Machinery that further encouraged Stuart to have his own Triumph Tiger Cub restored. This was completed in 2000 and enabled Stuart in continuing to forego the beauties of the fabulous North Cornish coastal scenery that are St Enodoc and aim for his third crack at the Launceston Championship.

So partly on Alan Domett's Tiger and finishing on his own little gem he has now gained a second Championship for 2000. From little acorns as they say and a timely connection with Devon Garden Machinery Stuart next venture will be much further afield at the national Pre '65 Trials held in Scotland in 2001.

## IOG Conference

The IOG 2001 Conference is on the theme "Caring for the Environment with each of the three days following a different topic Rootzone Stimulants; Water Management and Recycling.

Among the excellent group of speakers are Dr Alan Gange of Royal Holloway College who will talk on "Microbial management of turf- myth or reality?"; Prof Cliff Johnston - Environmental Consultant on "Seaweed - an environmentally friendly turfgrass stimulant?"; Martin Ward, of Symbio on "Rootzone nutrition - the biological route explored" and Kim Von Essen, Course Manager of Losby Golf Course in Norway, on "But does it really work? - practical experiences of the biological route from a grounds management professional". Among those speaking on Water Management are Carol Holt of the Environment Agency; Alex Vickers of Cranfield University and Victor Jamieson of Rain Bird Europe.

The Conference runs from Friday March 30 through to Monday April 2 at The Thistle Hotel, Haydock.

Further information can be obtained from the IOG Tel: 01908 312511.

## A Trans-Atlantic promotion for Deere's Alex

John Deere's UK Managing Director, Alex McKee, has been promoted to the position of Vice President, Worldwide Marketing in the company's agricultural division, based in the USA at Lenexa, near Kansas City.

He is being replaced at John Deere Limited by Clay Sherrill, who is currently Sales Branch Manager of the Minneapolis branch in the USA.

"I have had 28 very happy years working for John Deere Limited, the last eight as Managing Director," said Alex McKee.

"A major part of my new responsibility will be to ensure that we have the right products to meet our ever changing customer needs, and to provide increased customer and market development support on a global scale."

Clay Sherrill is a graduate of Wofford College and gained an MBA from Georgia State University before joining Deere & Company in 1977.

He held a variety of marketing roles in different North American sales branches before becoming

Minneapolis sales branch manager in 1998.

"I am looking forward to learning about the business in the UK and Ireland, and to settling my family here in the next few months," said Clay Sherrill, who is married with two children.

"Europe is more advanced in some ways than the USA, particularly with regard to more intensive use of machinery and the highly competitive nature of the marketplace - it promises to be an exciting challenge.



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:** Tracey Scourfield

**Club:** Vale of Llangollen

**Position:** First Assistant

**Age:** 27

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

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**  
Level 3 at the Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop

**3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?**  
Cutting the greens on a summer's morning

**4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?**  
Aerating the greens

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

**6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**  
My Course Manager, Jeremy Hughes

**7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?**  
Get golfers to realise that when the closed sign is up that it's for the good of the course and not just to annoy them!

**8. What are your hobbies?**  
Going to the gym, reading Stephen King novels and surfing the web

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**  
BTME and educational seminars

**10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?**  
Working somewhere where it doesn't rain 12 months of the year!

## New Golf Course Consultancy formed

John Nicholson has joined with architect, Ken Moodie and golfer Ken Brown to form a new Golf Course Consultancy.

The services offered by the new company range from feasibility studies, layout proposals, advice on construction programmes, production of contract documents, woodland design and establishment, grant applications as well as advice on all aspects of existing courses.

"The growth of John Nicholson Associates has meant that golf course architecture was increasingly becoming an issue that had to be dealt with and the natural progression was to expand into the area.

"It soon became apparent that the philosophies held by Ken Moodie, Ken Brown and myself were so similar that the obvious solution was to work together," said John.



## Career move to Renault for Ian



Renault has appointed Ian Thomson as its new Groundcare Product Manager, with responsibility for tractor sales to the non-agricultural sector.

He joins Renault from Scottish Grass Machinery, where he set-up, and was manager of, its SGM Industrial division, for which he took on the non-agricultural franchise for Renault in Scotland which proved a tremendous success among both the groundcare and local authority sectors.

"There is massive potential in the non-agricultural sector and it is the product that has drawn me to Renault," says Ian.

"Renault is the only wholly European tractor manufacturer left. It has the product range to suit the market and various sectors within it."

## Tim's appointment at Grass Science



Grass Science, has appointed Tim Colclough as an Agronomist.

Tim has a background in geography, geology and crop protection (specialising in soil science).

He began his career with the STRI before leaving in 1994 to retrain in the education sector.

After a period of teaching for South Tyneside LEA in 1998 he moved on to become a lecturer in Turf Science at Myerscough College.

Tim has a vast knowledge on golf course maintenance and other sports turf areas and is an important addition to the team.

He is in the process of establishing an office in the North East which will allow him to service this area quickly and efficiently.

## BTLIA announce award winners

The British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association Personality of the Year, announced at BTME, is Glyn Prime, Director, Prime Irrigation Ltd.

Glyn, who joined the family business in 1964, then involved in agricultural and horticultural markets, later became head of system design, adapting his skills to the sports turf market when his company broadened the scope of operations, in 1986.

"I was very surprised - shocked perhaps - to receive the award which made to me as an individual, also reflects great credit on my company. We have been members of the BTLIA for 14 years and I know first hand, just how much work the organising committee accomplished for the good of all those involved in designing, installing and using fine turf irrigation," said Glyn.

## A tree-mendous move for David



David Cassie recently joined the tree and woodland management firm of Eamonn Wall & Co., based at their Dollar office, where he has taken over from Steve Collins, recently departed on a five year stint to Honduras. The firm specialises in the planting and management of trees in the golfing landscape and David, a native of Newcastle with a degree from Aberdeen University, will be working on golf courses throughout Scotland and England.

## Carl gets new role at Sisis

Carl Tooley has been appointed Sales Office Coordinator at Sisis Equipment Ltd, the Cheshire based turf maintenance machinery manufacturers.

Carl has 22 years experience with SISIS, having worked as an assembler, in Spares Despatch and then for 14 years as Stores Supervisor.

Carl was Cheshire Youth Darts Champion and his other hobbies include computers, growing fruit trees, biking and supporting Manchester City FC.

