

Address your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, **BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF**, or email them to [reception@bigga.co.uk](mailto:reception@bigga.co.uk)

## Ronnie's praise for Toro Excellence Award winner

The photograph published in last month's issue of the Toro finalists was one of smiling faces proud of their achievements and pleased that the process of selecting a national winner was over, win or lose. It was the end of six weeks of anticipation and saying "Maybe, just maybe." Finishing runner-up is disappointing yes, but if the truth were told they were still chuffed with their lot.

Back to the photographer, smile, smile, smile. Just one more to make sure everyone's happy.

December 4. Received the magazine. Front cover, two worthy winners Iain Ritchie and Jonathan Clelland. Turned to page 18, a group picture and 11 smiling faces and ME! Yes the one with the disappointed, glum, couldn't care less, sleeping, drunk, camp look. I never had this problem when I was in Playgirl magazine!



Above: Ronnie's more usual expression

To Iain Ritchie, well done and a pat on the back to Jonathan Clelland from Helensburgh Golf Club. As for everyone else I look forward to seeing you all at BTME.

Ronnie Bunting, Course Manager, Kilmacolm GC

## Friendly advice for Sandy McDivot

I was pleased to see that Sandy McDivot had replied to my letter that you so kindly printed in the previous month's letters page and would like to respond with a few points of my own. Firstly, Mr McDivot can rest assured that I have no need to lighten up and my sense of humour is perfectly intact, but thanks for the concern.

My second point is still to do with the content of your article (Friendly Advice). I am well aware of the need for Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers to be able to communicate with as many of their membership as possible, but your interpretation of "net working" gave the impression that you should not voice any of your opinions if it was likely to rock the boat.

Speaking from personal experience I have found that if you are honest and up front with your membership you will gain just as many friends and you retain your self-respect.

We as greenkeepers must stand up and be counted and not be afraid to correct someone, whom ever it may be, when they do or say something that we know to be incorrect. This seems to be the approach that Mr John Nudds used so successfully to manage Gerrards Cross CC, a person for whom you have obvious respect and admiration.

The other debatable area in your article was your comments about Professionals and Lady Captains. These remarks were unprofessional

and very disrespectful. The BIGGA publication is read not only by its greenkeeping members but by many people connected with golf clubs, so how are we expected to gain the respect of other professional organisations and our employers with articles like this. Surely a more productive use of these two pages would suit our magazine.

I have to agree with you on your final point, the marvellous thing about advice is that you don't have to follow it, so it will come as no surprise for you to find out that I will not be taking any of your friendly advice.

A J Mannon, Deputy Course Manager, Southerndown CC

## BIGGA's invaluable education opportunities

I would like to reply to a letter in last month's edition, (December 2000). I would reiterate what Anthony Kyle said about the Education & Training Department run by Ken & Sami at BIGGA HOUSE.

I will have to agree with him on the excellent and most hospitable way in which we were looked after while on the course.

The two-day course I was on was Golf Course Design 1 presented by

Howard Swan & Simon Gidman. To them many thanks. The course was excellent, informative and it was made light hearted and fun. It was hard work (but you're not there for a holiday, are you), above all it was value for money, and I would have no hesitation in recommending these courses to anyone willing to learn. As for the knowledge gained, it will most certainly be used in the future. This was my first course at BIGGA HOUSE and it certainly won't be my

last. I can't wait to get on with Golf Course Design 2.

It's nice to have a little insight into their side of the profession. Sadly there are too many Greenkeepers out there who aren't taking advantage of these courses designed by professionals for professionals.

Once again, many thanks to Ken and Sami, see you all at BTME.

Mike Gash, Deputy Head, Moseley GC

## A tribute to Fred Hawtree

As a past employee of Addington Court Golf Club, I was saddened to read of the death of Mr Fred Hawtree in the November edition of Greenkeeper.

Mr Hawtree was a very enlightened and progressive employer, who encouraged his staff to develop their knowledge and experience of Greenkeeping, not only on his courses but by facilitating external training wherever it was available. This was during the sixties when the Greenkeeper training depended on the benevolence of the employer.

Mr Hawtree, through his Head Greenkeepers, fostered a competitive spirit and enthusiasm for Greenkeeping which has stayed with me for the last 30 years. His knowledge of, and contribution to, the world of golf will be sadly missed.

Joe Findlay, Head Greenkeeper, Royal Portrush GC

## After all, what's in a name?

In the December issue, Elliott Small asked for examples of unusual names of golf clubs. Well while waiting for the frost to lift in Vancouver I decided to check out the North American Golf Directory for unusual names and came up with this selection.

Shaganappi GC, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Supestation Springs GC, Arizona; Fountain of the Sun GC, Arizona; Mad Russian GC, Colorado; Furry Creek GC, Vancouver; Beaver Creek GC, Arizona; Singing Hills GC, California; On top of the world GC, Florida, and Hanks Swank GC, California.

Keen up the good work!

Ian Bennion, Carnoustie Golf and Racquet Club, Vancouver, Canada

## Thanks from Bob, as he begins to enjoy retired life

I would like to thank the Committee and Members of Mid Anglia for the generous presentation made to me after the Christmas Scramble at Chesfield Downs Family Golf Centre.

My contributions to the founding of the Section in the late 1970s was indeed a joint effort with a number of other local

greenkeepers and none worked harder, throughout the 1980s, than my long-time friend, Ken Bunting, who looked after the golfing side for Members. It was, indeed, a great pleasure for me to sit alongside Ken for dinner at Chesfield Downs on this enjoyable occasion.

More than 40 years have passed since I

started work at Cocks Moor Woods Golf Course, Birmingham and in that time I have known some wonderful characters. Now in retirement, I will play more golf and can look back on many happy times with so many good friends.

Bob Goodwin, Hemel Hempstead, Herts