

## It's hard work, but well worth the effort

The month of July is the highlight for many, with The Open Championship acting as a magnet for golf lovers from all over the world.

It is a marvellous event both on and off the course as it's the perfect opportunity to see the world's finest exponents of the game up close and also meet friends you perhaps haven't seen for the entire 12 months.

In this regard BIGGA is extremely fortunate. Not only does the hard working BIGGA Support Team have the chance to play a key role in one of the biggest events in the sporting calendar but the BIGGA marquee is a superb base for members to meet and enjoy a bit of refreshment between watching live golf.

Having said that, with television sets in the marquee some people do tend to settle in for an afternoon in front of the box and the delights of Peter Alliss and Alex Hay, rather than seeing the action first hand.

This year, Lytham St Annes plays host to the Championship, and the course has been prepared for an Open for the first time by Paul Smith and his team.

Paul was First Assistant to Jimmy MacDonald MBE last time the Championship was played there in 1996, and that experience, coupled with that acquired since he started out in the profession as a 16 year old apprentice at St Annes Old Links, will stand him in good stead when the media spotlight falls on the course.

You can read about Paul's preparations for The Open elsewhere in this issue but you can be sure that the conditions which face the 156 competitors, who tee it up on Thursday, July 19, to face Lytham's daunting opening par-3, will be as good as the weather in the run up to the Championships has allowed.

My first experience of Royal Lytham came in 1988 when Seve Ballesteros went head to head with Nick Price and produced some miraculous golf to win. We can all recall the wonderful chip he played from the side of the green which all but went in.

In the midst of such heroics it was easy to forget that Seve held the Claret Jug aloft on the Monday afternoon and not the Sunday. Horrendous rain caused Saturday's third round to be washed out and we all had to amend our diaries to allow for another day. While this was inconvenient for many it was nothing compared to the work Jimmy Macdonald and his team, with the help of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team had to do to make the course playable for the Sunday and the Monday. In such occasions people can show their true qualities and it was not just

Seve who deserved all the accolades that year, behind the scenes there were a great many more.

Hopefully Paul and his team will not have to pull the stops out to such an extent this year and will have a successful, and quiet Open Championship.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor



## BIGGA survey: An excellent response

As this edition of Greenkeeper International goes to press, Mike Williamson of MW Associates is busy analysing the responses to the market research survey we reported on in March.

"The response to the survey has been excellent," said Mike.

"We have received completed questionnaires from 570 BIGGA members, and have conducted about 150 telephone interviews with companies and organisations in the golf industry, as well

as representatives of golf clubs and greenkeepers who are not currently BIGGA members. A lot of people have applauded BIGGA for having the survey carried out - and are looking forward to hearing the outcome!"

As a first step, Mike Williamson will be reporting key findings from the research to the BIGGA Board at their June meeting. The Board will then decide on the best way of considering, and responding to, the detailed

results that will be in the full report.

In the meantime, Mike passes on his thanks to all those who took the time to respond, often very fully, to the questionnaires and interviews. And Mike's commiserations to the 569 members who did not win the £100 voucher in the questionnaire prize draw.

(The lucky winner was Stephen Curtis, Head Greenkeeper of Richmond Park GC in Norfolk.

## Scottish National Championship



### Results

**Scottish Champion, SGGA Challenge Cup, Scratch,** Stuart Raeburn, Tulliallan, 73.

**Friendship Trophy, Best Net,** Stephen Brown, Newmachar, 68.

**Category One, Ransomes Trophy**  
1. George Thompson, Goswick, 72;  
2. James McCormack, Kirriemuir, 73BIH;  
3. Archie Dunn, Auchterarder, 73.

**Category Two, Pattison Trophy.**  
1. Craig Pennycook, Winterfield, 72;  
2. Colin Irvine, Muirfield, 74;  
3. Alan Russell, Torphin Hill, 76 BIH.

**Category 3 STRI Trophy.**  
1. Andy Wilson, Brechin, 73;  
2. Albert Arnott, Lochore Meadows, 76;  
3. Colin Scott, Glasgow, 80.

**Best Head GK, Dick Aitken Trophy,** Stuart Taylor, Glasgow, 73.

**Best Assistant, M&M Trophy,** Kenneth Mitchell, St Andrews, 74.

**Best Apprentice, Souter Trophy,** Richard Love, Kilmacollm, 74.

**Best Veteran, SIGGA Trophy,** Duncan Gray, Pines, 75.

**Team Trophy (Best four net scores)** St Mungo Cup, North - Stephen Brown, James McCormack, Andy Wilson and John Urquhart.

**Trade:** Pat Allan, Stewarts.

**Guest:** Scott MacCallum, BIGGA.

A superb round of 73 around the long and testing Drumoig Hotel Golf Resort in Fife by five handicapper Stuart Raeburn clinched the 2001 Scottish National Tournament.

The 22 year-old First Assistant to current National Past Chairman Elliott Small, played near the back of the field and overhauled the scores of Stuart Taylor, from Glasgow Golf Club, and Richard Love, of Kilmacollm, who had been out earlier in the

day and posted fine scores.

Although windless, the home of the Scottish Golf Centre tested everyone with its succession of long par fours and fives not to mention an array of par-3s in excess of 200 yards.

Beautifully maintained by Ian Menzies and his team the 10 year-old course, just a few miles inland of St Andrews, required proficiency with every club in the bag to achieve a score anywhere close to handicap.

## Stephen boxes clever at John O'Gaunt

Stephen Thompson, of John O'Gaunt Golf Club who has previously reported on the success of the bird boxes installed on the course has further good news to report.

"So far 11 out of 14 tit boxes have been accepted and we have 84 young blue tits ranging in age from half a day to 14 days. 31 blue tits were ringed and we also had a nest containing three young great tits," said Stephen.

The majority of the boxes were put up in February and March this year to give the birds time to get used to them and possibly to roost in them.



"Out of six open fronted boxes one was used and a complete nest found, presumably used by a wren," said Stephen.

"This was the first year for these boxes and it was very suc-

cessful," said Stephen who works closely with Peter Wilkinson of Bird life International, who was able to ring some of the birds.

# PGA team: A real credit to their Association

Greenkeepers came from Denmark, Scotland, Wales and England to volunteer their services for the Volvo PGA Championship held at The Wentworth Club at the end of May. Their work are much appreciated by the European Tour as by relieving caddies of the bunker raking considerable time is saved on a round, speeding up play to the advantage of all concerned.

They are also a great comfort to Course Manager, Chris Kennedy, who apart from all the worries that he has during a Championship such as this knows that in the event of heavy rain he can call on tremendous support from this team to get the squeegees out and keep play moving by keeping the greens playable.

The Championship in the past has been plagued by such weather and was one of the reasons that the Tour asked the Association if Greenkeeper Support could be made available for all four days this year. Thankfully that was not the case this year and the event was blessed with four days of almost continual sunshine. More volunteers would have been useful over the first two days as there were 52 matches to provide for and it was a great effort by those Greenkeepers who covered two rounds in temperatures around the eighties.

There was a great atmosphere in our little office, nobody being unkind to the Regional Administrator when he gave exhibitions of controlled panic and an even better one, especially on the last day in the hospitality suite overlooking the 18th green generously provided for our use by the Tour, for apart from the Support Team we seemed to 'pick up' lots of Greenkeepers there just for the golf (including Jack and Rita McMillan!) and who managed to talk their way past security.

On a serious side eventual winner Andrew Oldcorn must feel eternally grateful to Rob Boyce, Newmarket, who was the only person to see his ball catch a branch while he was playing out of trees and land near him, still in the trees and finishing up covered in leaves. As Andrew and his caddie walked towards the green Rob called out "Where are you going? The balls here."

Oldcorn then played a great shot on to the green and holed the putt. At least the caddie bought him a



Above: The 2001 Volvo PGA Championship Support Team relaxes with Nick Faldo

Below: The team poses with new Volvo PGA Champion Andrew Oldcorn



drink afterwards but I reckon the two shots that he would have incurred without Rob's help were worth thousands.

The week seemed to run rather smoothly especially with Andrew Oldcorn and Nick Faldo posing for the cameras with the Team. I'm sure that all of the Greenkeepers, including Willy Harder who had made the trip from Denmark to work all four days, will want to return next year, hopefully with a few more volunteers to make those first two days a little easier. A great effort by all concerned.

Finally, the following conversation was overheard between a greenkeeper inside the ropes, who was accompanying the Lady Official marker during one of the days play ...

**GK:** What Club are you from?

**Lady Official:** Wentworth

**GK:** Do you live on the Estate

**Lady Official:** Yes

**GK:** You don't live in one of these £3 million houses do you?

**Lady Official:** No darling. I live in one of these £10 million pound houses!

**Derek Farrington**

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year [www.tonyhusband.co.uk](http://www.tonyhusband.co.uk)



You may have heard their names mentioned in conversation, or even seen them in print, but have you ever wondered who the individuals are who help BIGGA to run so smoothly as the leading Association in the fine turf industry? Read on...



## Jim Paton

**BIGGA Board Member for Scotland**

**Name:** Jim Paton

**Golf Club:** West Kilbride GC

**Association Position:** Board Member for Scotland

**How long have you been a member of BIGGA?** Since its inception in 1987.

**Where do you hope the Association will be in 10 years time?**

Having a greater regional identity with full time Regional Administrators and their own regional offices.

**For what would you most like to be remembered?**

Being on the board at a very important time in the Association's development - moving into our own offices and taking giant leaps forward generally.

**For what would you least like to be remembered?**

Some of the pictures Scott has taken of me for the magazine.

**Why did you take on a more involved role in the running of the Association?**

Being more involved has enabled me to assist in bettering the lot of the greenkeeper.

**Name one thing which would improve the Association?**

If every greenkeeper joined the Association.

**What is your claim to fame (None, not acceptable)?**

Former Open Champion Mark Calcavecchia giving me his clubs after a round in the '91 Open at Royal Birkdale. Any offers?

**Describe BIGGA in 15 words.**

(15ish!) Better greenkeepers through education, Improved golf courses, Gains for members, Great social opportunities, Advances in standards throughout.

A LOOK BACK TO A DECADE AGO  
**Back Lapping**  
 FROM GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Take a time-honoured look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



**JULY 1991**

**Award for Walter Woods.**

It was reported with great pleasure that the Association had learnt of the award of the British Empire Medal to Walter Woods in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. The award had been made to recognise his services both as Links Supervisor at St Andrews and to the greenkeeping profession. Walter had played a leading part in the establishment of BIGGA in 1987 and had been the first Chairman of the Association. The magazine commented on his forthright views, warmth of personality and his determination to enhance the greenkeeping profession and the well-being of greenkeepers. It was hoped that the Association would continue to enjoy his practical support and be able to call on his technical expertise for many years to come. *Although 'retired', Walter remains very active today both in a consultancy role and as one of BIGGA's Guardians on the Board of Management.*

**The Open Championship.**

Greenkeeper International previewed the Open Championship to be held at Royal Birkdale with the golf course in the excellent hands of Tom O'Brien B.E.M. It is interesting to note 'Royal Birkdale's Working Calendar' at the time.

*Aeration: Throughout the year Tom aerates the greens weekly, stepped up at the back end of the year to 2/3 times a week.*

*Top dressing: He dresses the greens once a month before The Open with a Buxton Sand of a consistent grade and particle size, specified by the STRI.*

*Verticuts: Every two weeks until two weeks before the tournament.*

*Turf grooming: He uses Turf Groomers all the time. The height is adjusted according to grass growth.*

*Grass growth: Greens are cut every day. In January, February and March there isn't much growth because the turf is links grass and east winds retard development. It is more a case of trimming than cutting - he calls it 'topping'.*

*Grass cuts: He cuts in two directions at 90 degrees. During The Open weeks he cuts the greens three times a day - once early morning, twice at night.*

*Length of cut: Before The Open - three-sixteenths, during The Open - one-eighth of an inch.*

*Watering: Yes, he uses water, but only if absolutely necessary.*

## Gleneagles to host new Turf Care Conference

The first ever Turf Care Conference will be held at The Gleneagles Hotel this November.

The Conference, the brainchild of Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turfgrass Management at Gleneagles, is designed to appeal to and address issues facing both the business entrepreneur who wishes to build a golf course as well as those already involved in the industry who can turn the developer's ambition into reality.

"There are a lot of different individuals required to build and maintain a golf course each with their own area of expertise and all with an important role to play in the development process," said Jimmy.

"The Conference is the ideal springboard for representatives from each part of that process to meet and expand their knowledge and understanding of one another's role.

"Experts in the field of golf course design, construction, turf care and golf management will provide professional advice on each aspect of the development process, taking them from the initial idea to the first tee shot," he explained.

Among the speakers confirmed are Fred Green, Developer of Queenwood Golf Club, England, Nantucket Golf Club, USA; David McLay Kidd, Designer of Queenwood GC and Bandon Dunes GC in the USA; Project Manager/Membership Structures, Melvin Thomas, of Barrefield GC; Dr Albert Kausch, Rhode Island University; George Shiels, Consultant Agronomist; Melodee Fraser, Director of Research - Pure Seed Testing Inc; Paul Latshaw, US Open and Masters Course presentation and Jan Beukema, Rain Bird Irrigation Design and Operation.

The main sponsor of the Conference is Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products.

"I am delighted on behalf of Textron to offer our full support for the Conference. It's a phenomenal idea. I am confident that the speakers from the UK and USA will inspire delegates and undoubtedly nurture examples of good practice from day one which will benefit their golf course venture and the industry in the long term," said Peter Bell, Marketing Director.

## Simon and Jim get expanded roles at Advanta



Advanta Seeds has handed Simon Harrison and Jim Fulton expanded roles within the company.

Based in Leeds Simon is now responsible for after sales in the north as well as managing Advanta's advertising and PR spend, attendance at shows including BTME and SALTEX and all promotional activities.

Jim, who lives near Grantham, will look after his customers in the east but also manage sales on a nationwide basis.

## New man for Eammon Wall

Eamonn Wall and Co has appointed Antony Strawson to its new English office in the Midlands, where the company has now concentrated its English based consultants.

The company now has two offices, at Dollar in Scotland and Retford in Nottinghamshire.

Antony, 30, is an experienced woodland design and management consultant having worked for another company in the East Midlands for the last five years. He is a graduate of Reading and Oxford Universities and is a native of Lincolnshire. He is a keen mountaineer and a member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.



## Rolawn website is a real hit

Rolawn opened its web site just over a year ago and has steadily built up awareness of the site to the extent that in recent months their site has received record numbers of visits rising to 16000 page requests in May alone.

Recent developments have included using the site as a means of recruiting stockists for both turf and the recently launched loam products, which are sold in to the topsoil market. Potential stockists register their interest via e-mail.

"We are delighted with progress and the variety of ways we are able to use the web site. It is such a flexible medium and it is particularly interesting to use it to support the development of a product as basic as topsoil. We see the web as an invaluable aid in

helping us to both recruit and provide ongoing support for stockists" said Terry Ryan.

"It's all too easy to dismiss technology but we believe that in the future there will be only two kinds of business. Those that develop technology as their servant and those that are going out of business."

- HOME
- ABOUT US
- CONTACT US
- HELP AND SUPPORT
- THE BLADE
- STOCKISTS
- CORPUS YOU CAN TRUST
- PRODUCT RANGE
- WHY ROLAWN?
- ROLAWN OVERVIEW



**Section Event?**  
[www.bigga.org.uk/events.html](http://www.bigga.org.uk/events.html)

## Apologies

Last month we inadvertently described the AEA as the ABE. This was as a result of a scanning error not picked up at a later date and we apologise to the Association for any embarrassment caused.

**Latest news?**  
[www.bigga.org.uk/news.html](http://www.bigga.org.uk/news.html)

## Management buy out at AF Trenchers

A.F. Trenchers has been the subject of a management take-over from its co-founders Bruce and Rodney Fulford. The 35 year old company will be continued to run by Harry Jurgens and will be renamed A.F.T. Trenchers and will continue to operate in both the domestic and exports markets.

The company has also appointed Angus Macdonald, who will be responsible for marketing in UK and Ireland and to service the company's existing customer base and with developing the plant and agricultural sectors for all A.F.T. Trenchers' attachments.

# Rothley trespasser turned medal winner

A dog walk which took in land owing to Rothley Park Golf Club resulted in the trespasser being offered a job at the club. Six years later that trespasser, Sue Antcliffe, now Deputy Course Manager at the club has been awarded a Medal of Excellence for her outstanding NVQ Level 3 work undertaken through Brooksby College.

The medal is not just for greenkeepers but is open to everyone undertaking NVQs to Level 3 in outdoor work with only a select few out of the 18,000 in the category being awarded medals.

"I finished the course last year and the college entered me for the award. I didn't hear anything for quite a while and thought not more about it until the letter arrived," said Sue, 33.

Her unusual entry in the greenkeeping profession - she had just been made redundant from a garden centre and was looking for work - says much for Course Manager Stav Woodings ability to spot potential.

"We were stretched at the time and talking with Sue I thought she could do a good job for me. We gave her two days a week and then added another day and before we knew it she was working full time.

"Sue then asked if she could attend college and she actually reached the regional finals of the Toro Student of the Year Award, then my Deputy left



Left to right. The Rothley Team. Jordan Roman, David Holling Paul Falk, Stav Wooding, Sue Antcliffe, Dave Doherty and Nick Smith.

and as Sue was doing so well, every good at ever task and very thorough, she became Deputy. From trespasser to Deputy in three years," said Stav. "Now she is a key member of the team and I don't know how we would manage without her," he added.

Stav works a rotation system at Rothley Park in which every one of the seven man team does every job.

"I don't look on myself as a female. I'm must one of the lads and can lift as well as they can," said Sue, who also

sails at a national level.

"I like the variety of this job, no two days are ever the same. Each day is a challenge and you never stop learning. I also like the environmental side of the job and I write articles on this in the club magazine."

In future Sue would like to continue her education perhaps undertaking more specialist courses covering irrigation.

She will be presented with her medal later this summer.



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)

## Safety in the sun

If anybody else has suffered the problems of trying to keep a fair skin, or any other skin, protected on a long summer day outdoors, then check out an excellent product which only needs to be applied once and is effective for the whole day.

Despite covering up with hats, it takes the worry out of all that outdoor exposure to dangerous rays. An added bonus is that it isn't sticky and all that lovely bunker sand stuck to your skin with normal sun products won't be a problem! It's a Danish sun filter called P20 and it works! ... although it needs to be applied well before exposure to allow it to bond with your skin.

James Hall, currently on student placement in a very hot Italy.

## PGA thanks

I was privileged to be part of the Support Team at Wentworth for the PGA Championship and I would like to congratulate Derek Farrington for his efforts in making the team work for the entire four days of the Championship as opposed to the final two for which it had operated in previous years. He was ably assisted by all and sundry who couldn't do enough for the cause.

I personally had a great day and feel certain that everyone else did so as well. A few more volunteers next year I'm sure would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks also to our standby photographer in the shape of Mrs Farrington.

Peter Biscoe, Kent

## BIGGA keep up the good work

I want to take time to congratulate all of the staff at BIGGA for excellent service, prompt action to my membership enquiry and for putting together a magazine that is informative, up-to-date and has retained its English feel over the 12 years I have enjoyed it.

The fact that I'm in Hong Kong and can still find out what is happening in the UK in this industry and keep a little finger on the pulse makes England feel a little closer.

I take my hat off to you all.

Ian Bruton, Skek O Country Club, Hong Kong

## Happy Birthday

Banks Amenity Products is celebrating 40 years in the golf course and landscape industries. Founded in 1961 by Reginald Banks, the company has been owned and managed by Tim Banks since 1981.

"Banks Amenity Products has been providing high quality bulk materials for four decades," said Tim.

Banks Amenity Products was one of the founder members of the BAGCC (British Association of Golf Course Constructors) and the newly formed BRTMA (British Rootzone & Top Dressing Manufacturers Association).

Today the company enjoys the benefits of having an excellent reputation for supplying quality materials to some of the most prestigious golf courses throughout the UK.

## Pest and Disease Audit undertaken by the STRI

The number of outbreaks and the severity of pest and diseases on sports turf throughout the UK is currently an unknown factor so the advisory team and research staff at the STRI have vowed to rectify the situation.

Part of a surplus from the STRI's advisory work is being used to fund an internal research programme into the spread and severity of pests and diseases on sports turf throughout the UK and Ireland. The programme is being co-ordinated by Dr Ruth Mann, the STRI Turf Pathologist.

Initially the research will centre on a comprehensive questionnaire which will determine the major pests and diseases across the country and any hot spots of certain problems. Questionnaires have been sent to all clubs in the UK and Ireland.

Once the replies have been collated on a database the Research Staff will be able to determine if there are any correlations between disease occurrence and management practices or weather conditions. Initial results, showing the spread of pests and diseases will be published on the STRI's website [www.stri.org.uk](http://www.stri.org.uk) and in the Turfgrass Bulletin early next year.



## Runner-up showing for East Section

Congratulations and well done to the BIGGA East Section team who were competing for only their second time in the Dispatch Trophy which is played over the Braid Hills Golf Course in Edinburgh for over 100 years at the Braids. Last year, their first, they were beaten in the 1st round but put up a very good performance against one of the former winners so they did not disgrace themselves. This year they did even better, beating former winners and tournament favourites Silverknowes in the semi

finals en route to the final where they were narrowly beaten 6 & 5 in the final by the Barnton Hotel who themselves were playing in only their second time in the competition. So well done to the team.

The team consisted of four section members and they were Tom Murray, Ratho Park; David Drummond, Muirfield; Stevie Nicol, Winterfield, and Iain Laing, Kingsknowe.

Well done lads and we hope you can go one better and lift the trophy next year.

Chris Yeaman

**National Championship**  
October 1-2, 2001  
Royal Birkdale and  
Southport and Ainsdale GCs

All greenkeepers should have received the brochure including application form for the National Championship with the May copy of Greenkeeper International magazine. If any member has mislaid the brochure please contact Sarah at BIGGA HOUSE for an additional one. The response to date is such that early booking is essential to guarantee a place in the Championship.

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