

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

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

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.