

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

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 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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