

## Take a lead from Stoke Park

Elsewhere in this issue we profile Stoke Park Club, a wonderful place with a rich and varied history; a high quality golf course, both in design and conditioning, and a hotel with supporting facilities good enough to make even the most privileged feel pampered.

But despite all these qualities perhaps the one which we should applaud the loudest is the vision they have shown in becoming a BIGGA Golden Key Supporter - the first golf club in the country to do so.

Those within the fine turf industry, including the many high profile companies who have contributed for so many years, have long known of the benefits to the game from supporting BIGGA's Education and Development Fund, but perhaps those who have gained the most have not been aware.

It is without dispute that golf courses are now maintained to a higher standard than ever before and that this has enabled clubs to cope with increased rounds played over a much greater proportions of the year - it seems strange writing this when so many courses have been closed for extended periods but it shouldn't be allowed to cloud the overall picture - and the reasons this has been made possible is by the sophisticated machinery and knowledge and skills of those charged with their care.

From a golf club's point of view this has meant increased revenue, while from the member's perspective an ability to play more rounds over his or her own course than would have been conceivable 20 years ago.

Sure people do complain if the greens are a little slow or bumpy in February but they forget that not so very long ago their Mizunos or McGregors would have been gathering dust in the garage for about five months by then.

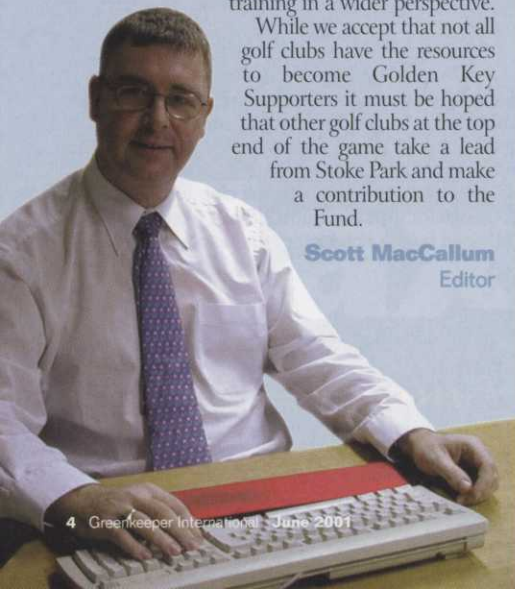
The greenkeeper's ability to keep on top of the job can be put down in no small part to the excellent training that is available to the fine turf industry and which is, in all modesty, the envy of many other professions.

Much of this is paid for, or subsidised, by BIGGA's Education and Development Fund and golf clubs have been the ultimate beneficiaries of this free, or low cost, training. It staggers me when I see the cost of training in other fields when compared to what is offered in the fine turf industry. The difference can be measured, not in tens of pounds but hundreds for two or even one day courses and this certainly does not reflect on the quality of the training which almost without exception is out of the top drawer.

Stoke Park must be applauded for recognising that they have a responsibility to assist in the development of not just their own excellent team of greenkeepers, but greenkeeper training in a wider perspective.

While we accept that not all golf clubs have the resources to become Golden Key Supporters it must be hoped that other golf clubs at the top end of the game take a lead from Stoke Park and make a contribution to the Fund.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor



## Gidman elected as new EIGCA President

Simon Gidman, well known to many BIGGA members who have attended the Golf Design Courses he and Howard Swan have held regionally and at Harrogate, has been elected as the new President of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects at the first Annual General Meeting of the EIGCA. Peter Harradine was re-elected as Vice-President.

Following his election Simon immediately thanked outgoing President David Williams for his work and guidance since the inception of the new Institute. He paid special tribute to David's reorganisation of the Institute's Committee structure and his work on Continual Professional Development courses.

"It is a great honour to be elected as President and I am looking forward to working to further develop the role of the Institute in the coming year within the golf industry and beyond. The next twelve months should be an exciting period for the EIGCA particularly with our intention to hold a conference in the autumn devoted to the planning of golf and real estate communities," he said.

He first entered golf course architecture with Hawtree in 1983 after studying Landscape Architecture at Leeds Polytechnic between 1979 and 1982 and prior to that having worked as a professional golfer for six years. In 1991 Simon set up his own golf course architecture company and has now designed more than 35 golf courses throughout Europe. He has served on the Committee of the EIGCA and before that the BIGGA for many years and has chaired the Institute's sub-committee investigating safety margins on golf courses.



## Kawasaki award for Jim Price

Kawasaki Commercial Products Group has just announced that the Jim Price Machinery at Craven Arms, Shropshire, has won its Welsh Dealer of the Year title and collected a ten-year dealer service award.

The Welsh dealer title recognises sales performance in both ATV and Mule utility vehicles and was presented to Managing Director Jim Price, by Kawasaki Commercial Products' Sales and Marketing Manager Jack Ford and UK Field Sales Manager Robert Rees.

## Here's mud in your eye!

Assistant Greenkeeper Jamie Gill got more than he bargained for during a recent demonstration of the Terralift machine at Stowmarket Golf Club. Invited by Head Greenkeeper, Roger Eade, who has been with the club for 30 years, Terrain Aeration Services probed to a one metre depth using their Terralift aeration equipment and injected compressed air at 10 bar into an area of the fairway which slopes towards the river Rat. Although the blast lifted the turf for two to three metres around the probe hole, the surface settled and TAS moved the Terralift further down the slope.

"As the machine is capable of injecting air up to 20 bar, we decided to up the pressure", remembers TAS director, Lynda Green.



"The spread was more extensive, the blast blew old divots out of their replacement spots and delivered a free mud pack to Jamie's face."

## David lands new role at Sportsworld



Sportsworld Amenity has appointed David Evans as its new Area Technical Sales Manager for the south region covering South Wales, Avon, Wiltshire, Somerset, the M4 corridor and London. David was previously Amenity Sales Manager with Stollens and prior to that spent eight years working for Maxicrop.

## Leatherhead GC sign new Textron deal

Textron Golf and Turf has signed a three-year agreement with Leatherhead Golf Club in Surrey to supply a range of turf maintenance equipment from their Jacobsen and Ransomes brands.

Stewart McMillan, Leatherhead's General Manager, is in the process of upgrading and improving the facilities at the members club that includes replacing their older turf maintenance equipment and installing fairway drainage in the next five years.

The first batch of equipment arrives shortly and includes an LF-3800 light fairway mower, two Greens King IV greens triples and a Frontline 728 ride-on rotary for the semi rough. Inclusive to the agreement is a package of operational and technical greenkeeper training programmes to ensure that we get the maximum benefit from the equipment.

Completing the package are two petrol-driven E-Z-GO golf cars.

"I'm delighted with this agreement



between Textron and ourselves as it will ensure that we have the very best equipment to provide superior playing

conditions for our members as we approach our centenary in 2003," said Stewart.

## Creating an instant park at the London Eye

Tillers Turf, took just one day to transform an area adjacent to the British Airway's London Eye into a green landscape park. To complete the job on schedule turf was supplied by the company in 20sq metre big rolls to cover 2,000sq metres of prepared ground located in the shadow of the landmark "big wheel" on London's South Bank.

The laying of the turf was sub-contracted by Tillers to Talbot Farm Landscapes and the main contractor for the job was Surrey firm, Waterers Landscapes.

As temperatures soared into the 80's Tillers Turf Managing Director, Tim Fell, was on hand to ensure that the turf was being well watered following laying.

"The park was to open to the public just three weeks later, so it was vital that the turf got off to the best possible start" he explained.



## Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



## Perryfields plans series of wild flower seminars

Due to the growing interest in native Wild Flowers meadows, DLF-Perryfields are planning to hold a series of Wild Flower seminars throughout the year. They will cover the production, selection and management of native meadows. The seminars will be targeted at Architects, Landscapers, Contractors and Advisors.

DLF-Perryfields, the UK's fastest growing Wild Flower seed specialist offer a superb range of Wild Flower Mixtures. Their catalogue is beautifully illustrated with colourful photography as well as a very comprehensive section on the management of Wild Flowers. "Each mixture carries both common and Latin names for the flowers, colour of flowers, flowering period and growing height," explains Derek Smith, Amenity Sales Manager.

The range of mixtures is suitable for amenity landscaping and habitat recreation.

Wild Flower seed is harvested from second generation plants which is derived from primary stock. This is collected from wild plant communities in the UK and this, together with new in-house production facilities, ensures improved seed quality of native origin.

Seed has been supplied for many of the UK's most prestigious landscape and recreational projects, whether it is Wild Flower for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link or Blue Water Shopping Centre. This has undoubtedly led the Pro Flora range to become 'the professional choice'.

For more information about the seminars or to receive a catalogue please call Derek Smith on 01386 793135.

### Latest news?

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

## Open Championship comes back to Royal Troon for 2004

The 133rd Open Championship will be played at Royal Troon Golf Club in July 2004.

This will be the eighth time that Royal Troon has hosted the Open and will come just over 80 years since Coombe Hill professional Arthur Havers won the first Championship to be played over the Ayrshire Links in 1923.

He still remains the only European winner there. Justin Leonard was the last Royal Troon winner clinching the famous claret jug in 1997.

## To E and not to B

Andrew Jeffery, who wrote the article "Under One Roof" in the April, works at Golf Club Eichenreid and not Bichenreid, as it appeared in the piece. Apologies for the error.

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



## JUNE 1991

### Royal St David's Golf Club

'Greenkeeper International' profiled Royal St David's Golf Club as it prepared to host BIGGA's National Tournament. It was reported that the linksland course is one of Britain's finest and certainly the most atmospherically alluring of all, whilst the skillful layout follows the contour of the dunes and hillocks and consequently no two fairways run parallel. Tantalising breezes keep even the most talented golfer guessing. Head Greenkeeper, Roger Kerry, had been at the club for 13 years, working in harmony with a dedicated staff of five, including deputy Head Greenkeeper, twin brother John. "I'll not be trying for anything unusual or try to 'trick' the course up" said Roger of the forthcoming BIGGA National Tournament.

Today Roger and John Kerry remain in their positions at Royal St Davids.

### 1991 BIGGA Annual Report

The Annual Report for 1991 advised readers that membership continued to grow and at the end of 1990 totalled 3700, of which 3300 were greenkeepers and 400 Associate or trade members. The 1991 BTME had attracted 86 exhibitors and a highlight had been the two motivational presentations by American keynote speaker, Bobbie Gee.

BIGGA membership currently stands at 7,176 while the number of exhibiting companies at BTME 2001 was 191.

### Drought? Surely not ...

Greenkeeper International reported that greenkeepers countrywide were praying for rain. It was considered more than likely that certain parts of Britain would again be in drought during the summer and a nine page 'Irrigation' feature was simply headed 'DROUGHT'. It was clear that reserves were lower than normal and another dry summer could see restrictions in the use of water sooner rather than later.

As for comparison with 2001...

# Demands for quality turf set to grow

Turf buyers, specifiers and installers are being urged to place orders sooner rather than later for quality seeded turf required for landscaping projects during the year.

The advice comes from the Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) which is forecasting shortages of cultivated turf, and higher prices, over the coming 12 months due to continuing delays in re-seeding caused by the wet weather experienced nationally since last September.

Returns from the TGA members' survey carried out in December 2000 reveal that the total turf sown by members last autumn was 20 per cent down on predictions made in the members' survey of June 2000 and 20 per cent down on the total area sown by TGA members in the autumn of 1999.

"The optimism of last June's survey has been washed away by three months of autumn rain, the fuel blockades and, now, the foot and mouth



crisis," commented TGA spokesman, Graeme Forbes.

"From reporting good business and good prospects in the summer of 2000, a number of turf growers have

seen sales fall by 60 per cent. This was highlighted by last December's TGA survey in which a staggering 79 per cent of respondents described current trade as ranging from fair to very poor.

## Whatever the weather!

A new computerised weather station is being employed by one of Sovereign Turf to help maintain consistently high production standards of their quality turf - whatever the weather.

"Information fed into the computer assesses rainfall and the irrigation required to maintain the correct moisture level for the grass," said Mac Bailey, General Manager at Sovereign.

"The weather station has made a dramatic difference as we can now predict the necessity for water up to 10 days ahead. The system only applies the correct amount, at the correct time, without any wastage."

This is the first year the system will be fully utilised, following successful trials last year. Linked to tensiometers - used to measure the amount of water in the ground - readings are taken every 15 minutes and the weather centre also takes into account wind and humidity.

Water levels were previously checked every other day by taking readings in the field and these were used to predict five days ahead.



## New General Manager for C+P Soilcare



John Warren has been appointed General Manager of C & P Soilcare.

John joins the company with a background in mechanical engineering and 18 years of senior management experience with local companies.

He studied and qualified at Suffolk College and has since achieved incorporated engineer status with the Institute of Engineering. John, who is 40, lives at Haughley Green and is married with two sons.

## Latest recruits graduate to EIGCA



Following their recent successful conclusion of the Professional Diploma course of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects, Miss Ljubica Jovetic (far left) and Richard Myers (left) now join the Institute as Graduates. Both were awarded Distinctions in the Graduation ceremony held in April in Surrey, England.

Myers, with a Landscape Design degree from University of Greenwich, London also gained the Barenbrug prize.

Jovetic, a Croatian who has played golf for her country, and an engineering graduate from Zagreb University, becomes her nation's first qualified Golf Course Architect.

IN THE NEWS IN THE NEWS IN THE NEWS  
**People**  
 IN THE NEWS IN THE NEWS IN THE NEWS

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...



## Ian Semple

BIGGA Board Member for the South East Region

**Name:** Ian Semple

**Golf Club:** Old Fold Manor Golf Club

**Association Position:** Board Member for South East Region

**How long have you been a member of BIGGA?**  
 Nearly 14 years

**Where do you hope the Association will be in 10 years time?**  
 At the same high profile level as the European Tour

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

**For what would you least like to be remembered?**  
 Over indulging at Harrogate

**Why did you take on a more involved role in the running of the Association?**  
 To help progress the Greenkeeping industry

**Name one thing which would improve the Association?**  
 More high profile press coverage

**What is your claim to fame (None not acceptable)?**  
 Single figure handicapper for the last 28 years

**Describe BIGGA in 15 words.**  
 An association run by Greenkeepers for Greenkeepers, available to everyone in the Golf Course industry

## A very fishy tale indeed!

Carl Horrax, Course Manager at Salisbury and South Wilts GC found himself in the news in a most unexpected way last month when he was called upon to comment on the downpour of goldfish and koi carp which landed on the golf course.

Golfers took cover when it started raining and when they returned to their game the fairway was covered in the fish.

"It's not a particularly believable story but I drove over the area about ten minutes before I got the call and everything was fine then, so if it had been a prank I would have seen them," said Carl, who appeared in the local and national papers as well as on television and radio.

It is thought that a mini whirlwind may have sucked up the fish from a garden pond and dumped them on the course.

## Golf Course Solutions

Two well known faces in the industry have formed a new company covering course surveying, agronomy and golf course design.

Steve Jones MG, formerly the Superintendent at The London Club and Bill Farnham, who has been involved in golf course design for over 25 years and had an article on Global Positioning System survey work published in the May 2000 edition of Greenkeeper International have formed Golf Course Solutions.

"We are proud of the client base we have built up in such a short period, having provided our services to such clubs as, Sunningdale, Loch Lomond, The Oxfordshire, Chart Hills. GCS also offer a worldwide service, and we already have clients in Poland, Spain, France and the USA," said Bill.

Based in Kent, the nucleus of the business is the survey work, using GPS at sub-centimetre accuracy, usually to within +/- 10mm.



"The two other main thrusts of the business are quite naturally Agronomy and Golf Course Design both of which tie in with our survey work.

"Having both come from a golf background, we fully appreciate the needs and requirements of the golf club and the Course Manager, we aim to the client a tool to aid in the efficient and cost effective management of the golf course without sacrificing on quality," said Steve.

## Remodelling work for Midland courses

Golf course architects, Gaunt & Marnoch, have recently started significant new remodelling work on existing golf courses in the Midlands.

From their Head Office base in Bakewell, Derbyshire, proposals for work on eight courses in the west Midlands and Cheshire are now underway. The courses vary considerably from vintage courses, such as Atherstone in Warwickshire, Trentham Park and Newcastle in Staffs, through to younger courses such as Brandon Wood, Coventry.

"Four of the courses in this batch are at least sixty-five years old and the oldest is well past its' first century. You can see some common problems, particularly with bunkers and drainage but, invariably there are specific issues like internal and external safety and the impact of new highways which affect an individual hole or part of the course," said Jonathan Gaunt.

According to co-director, Steve Marnoch, the expansion in remodelling work is not simply a response to the ageing process.

"Many of the new courses built in the 1960's, 1970's and 1980s have raised the awareness of the golfing public to the high standard of facilities that can be offered at a reasonable cost. Today's British golfer is discerning, demanding and prepared to travel for good quality golf facilities.

"Course remodelling can be crucial to the delivery of quality service and customer satisfaction. Linked to our skills as landscape architects, we are also improving golf courses by adding aesthetic interest and artistic flair, particularly in our planting proposals."

## All go at Algarve Course for Howard Swan

The new 18-hole course at the Boavista Resort in the Portuguese Algarve is advancing well and now has ten holes completed and the remaining eight nearing seeding and planting.

The 6,065 metre par 72 course, which also includes a range and large Golf Academy is designed by Howard Swan.

Much effort by the golf course architects has been concentrated on conversion of a spectacular cliff top location, with outstanding vistas. All the natural stone from the site has been reused in waterfalls and lakes, and to restore many of the ancient walls of the land. In addition where it has been necessary to remove trees, they have been transplanted in new locations to suit the design.

The greens, tees and fairways of the new course are being irrigated with treated sewage effluent with specially designed aeration features - 800m of spilling waterways - and all rain and irrigation water is being reclaimed through a recycling system.

The new course is scheduled to open early in 2002.



## Rolawn receive Holy order for turf

Rolawn, Europe's largest producer of cultivated turf have recently received an order to supply 8,800 sq.metres of Medallion turf for the church yard at Birmingham Cathedral, which is one of the few remaining open green spaces in Birmingham City Centre.

The work is being carried out under the Heritage Lottery Scheme and the overall aim is to restore the churchyard and monuments to their former glory.

"The Landscapers in charge of the restoration work require top quality turf to enable them to complete the task to a very high standard, which includes painstakingly returning around all of the existing grave stones and monuments" said Terry Ryan, Sales & Marketing Director.

## SW diary dates

The South West and South Wales Course Management Trophies, sponsored by Scotts UK Professional, are again being played in August. Entry is by invitation only and if your club has not received an invite but would like one they should telephone Paula Humphries on 01288 352194.

The dates and venues are as follows South Coast, Salisbury and South Wilts, Tuesday August 7; South West, Manor House, Castle Coombe, Tuesday August 14 and South Wales, Celtic Manor, Roman Road Course, Tuesday August 28.

## Retirement for CGSA's Vince Gillis

Vince Gillis Executive Director of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association of CGSA has announced his decision to retire early next year.

Vince said that as of November 1, 2001 he will have completed 12 years as the Association's Executive Director and he felt that it was time to give up full-time employment and pursue his personal interests. He has been in association management since 1965. The latter 22 years he has served as Executive Director of three different organisations as well as Acting Secretary-General for an International organisation.

He expressed his satisfaction with things that have been accomplished over the years he has served CGSA and said that he considered it a privilege for him to serve the members of such a dedicated and professional group of people.

He indicated that he is prepared to assist in the orderly transition from himself to new leadership.

## PLM's new President

Harry Leytham, of PLM Power Products Ltd, has been elected President of the ABA for the period 2001/2002. For the preceding two years Harry had served as Chairman of the ABA Outdoor Power and Equipment Council.

Keith Christian, Managing Director of Claymore Grass Machinery, takes over from Harry as Chairman of the ABA's Outdoor Power & Equipment Council.



Please address your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or send them via email to; [reception@bigga.co.uk](mailto:reception@bigga.co.uk)

## Royal Navy give praise for article on maintenance facilities

I write in my capacity as Chairman of the Management Committee of Southwick Park Naval Recreation Centre to thank you for the excellent article about our new Course Maintenance Centre in this month's Greenkeeper International. Several of us in the Centre worked hard to ensure that we achieved both the right conditions for our greenkeepers and a facility that would help us ensure that our most important asset; the course, could be properly looked after well into the new century. We are therefore delighted to receive such a ringing, professional endorsement of our efforts.

There is one point I would wish to clarify however. Your article mentions that the Navy provided £144,000 of funding for the project but in fact, Southwick Park receives no Public funding at all, depending on receipts from subs and green fees for its operating income. Two Naval Charities, the Sailors Fund and the Fleet Amenities Fund provided the £144,000. These charities largely funded the building of the course and facilities in 1976 and have nobly supported us since for larger projects where the Centre has been unable to raise the funding itself.

We are most grateful to these charities and their part in our success deserves proper mention.

Thank you again for the great article and I hope we will see you at our course again in the future.

Commander Roger Ireland,  
Royal Navy

## Iain Taylor to take early retirement

It is with mixed feelings that I bring you the news of Iain Taylor, of Powfoot's early retirement.

I would like to wish Iain all the best. Like many colleagues in the South West of Scotland, I will miss Iain, as he was one of the old school.

Iain was always patient, sympathetic and always available for advice. I will miss Iain's advice greatly, and Powfoot is a sadder place without him. Wishing you all the best in the future,

Ian G McNab.

## John Calderwood Young 1939-2001

It is with a heavy heart that I have to inform BIGGA members of the sudden death of my great friend and mentor John Young. As Head Greenkeeper at Esporta Dougalston, in Milnegavie, Glasgow, since the early 70s John was one of the most loyal, hard working and conscientious greenkeepers in the business.

Born at Baljaffery Farm, in Bearsden, John entered greenkeeping around 1957 at Douglas Park GC under his uncle, Alec Calderwood, and learned his craft from one of the most respected greenkeepers of his day. After a spell at Mount Ellon, in Gartcosh, John returned to Douglas Park as Head Greenkeeper in 1968.

When the Stakis Organisation decided to build a championship length golf course on the Dougalston estate in 1973/4 John was appointed Head Greenkeeper and set about the task with his usual enthusiasm and sheer determination. Dougalston golf course was his life and here he was in his element. I will never forget the time I had here as John's Assistant Head Greenkeeper and when I moved into grass machinery sales John was always there with a kind word of encouragement or just a cup of coffee and a chat.

John was my best friend and would always have time for me as he would for all he encountered.

In his honour Esporta have decided to name the new 14th hole, "Young's Choice" in John's memory and with the permission of John's family and Esporta I have decided to plant a flowering cherry tree at the point where he died.

John's wife, Maureen and his son Alan, also a greenkeeper in the USA, have asked me to extend their gratitude and thanks to the scores of greenkeepers and members of the trade for their presence at the funeral and for their kind words. John's popularity with his fellow members of BIGGA came as no surprise to me. It is also a mark of the respect in which he was held that members of the unit of the Royal Marine Reserve for which he served and reached the rank of Colour Sergeant carried him into the crematorium.

The greenkeeping fraternity has lost one of its most colourful, honest and hard working members and there will always be a place in my heart for John Young, my friend.

Kenny Hunter, Souters Sports Ltd

## Help sought with medical query

Having been a member of BIGGA for a number of years, now retired, I thought that you might find this of interest. A month ago I had a blood test at the hospital which showed that my white cells were down and immune system in danger. I was told that the cause could well have been radiation or baryon.

Well, as a Royal Marine, I landed in Japan in 1945 and may have come into

contact with radiation then but I also remember that the moss killer used on the greens contained baryon.

I know I used the moss killer quite a few times and am also aware that some of them were banned about that time because of what they contained. I wonder if any other greenkeepers have had any trouble of this nature.

John Farley, Dursley, Gloucs

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