

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.