

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

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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