

Renewing a Link to the past

One of the most interesting pieces of news released in the last few weeks was that Royal Liverpool Golf Club, better known as Hoylake, is to return to the Open Championship rota, having last hosted an Open in 1967. Coming hot on the heels of Carnoustie's return in 1999, after a gap of 24 years, it is another example of the R&A's policy of widening the Championship rota.

I don't suppose I'm alone in welcoming this development, particularly as none of the existing venues are being removed.

The Open is an amazing, unique, wonderful event. Every year something happens which quickens the pulse and causes your jaw to drop. Think back over the last few years. We've had Costantino Rocca's amazing putt on the final green at St Andrews to force the play-off with John Daly; Justin Rose's holed chip from the rough to signal the end of his amateur career closely followed by Brian Watt's extraordinarily difficult bunker shot to force a play-off with Mark O'Meara both at Royal Birkdale; then of course there was Jean Van De Velde and local hero Paul Lawrie at Carnoustie and, last year, Tiger Woods at St Andrews becoming the youngest ever to complete the set of Grand Slam events. History in the making.

Before that we've had the Duel in the Sun at Turnberry in 1977; Tony Jacklin at Royal Lytham; Sandy Lyle at Royal St George's; Nick Faldo's 18 straight pars at Muirfield and the first ever four hole play-off at Royal Troon.

Each venue on the current rota has offered something worthy of permanent space in our memory banks and extending the rota will give yet more opportunities for memorable moments.

There are so few classic links courses in this country, and even fewer with the infrastructure to host a modern day Open Championship that the R&A and Royal Liverpool Golf Club must be applauded for taking the initiative and spending the money necessary to make Hoylake a venue again. Since Roberto De Vincenzo won the Championship there in 1967 the Championship has become unrecognisable with a tented village, which should be rights now be known as a town, and media exposure which requires an army of journalists, photographers and broadcasters. I understand extra land has been acquired by the club to ease some of the pressure this brings.

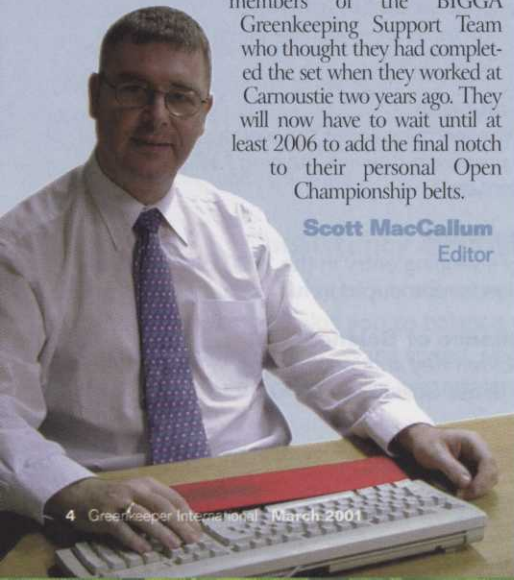
What it does mean is that a wonderful course will again be given the exposure that it deserves and the world's top players will be presented with a challenge they haven't faced before.

That can only add something to the Championship and give, all but the older among us, a new experience for which to look forward.

May I pass on my congratulations to Hoylake and in particular Derek Green who, even now will be making preparations for The Open's return.

The one downside might be for members of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team who thought they had completed the set when they worked at Carnoustie two years ago. They will now have to wait until at least 2006 to add the final notch to their personal Open Championship belts.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



Robert to provide support for Marriott

York-based independent turf consultant, Robert Laycock, (left) has been appointed by Marriott UK to provide agronomic support to the 11 Course Managers at golf courses located at Marriott Hotel and Country Clubs throughout the United Kingdom.

Encompassing 16 separate golf courses in England, Scotland and Wales, the appointment by Marriott UK involves the provision by Robert of advisory visits as well as detailed soil and plant analysis, as required by the individual Course Managers.

Robert's appointment was confirmed by David MacLaren, (pictured right) Director of Golf Operations, Marriott UK: "This appointment is part of a world-wide strategy by our parent, Whitbread plc, aimed at reinforcing Marriott Golf's position as the number one provider of quality golf and associated hotel and leisure facilities in the United Kingdom," he said.

"Although we are very proud of the work carried out by all our



Course Managers, it was felt that they deserved additional independent technical support to help maintain Marriott's golf facilities in peak condition throughout the year."

David explained that Robert came highly recommended having worked closely over the past two years with the Course Managers at Marriott Hanbury Manor and

Marriott Forest of Arden. Both courses are PGA European Tour venues and have hosted four English Opens between them since 1997.

"I am naturally delighted to have been chosen to provide independent agronomic input and technical support to such an important group of golf courses," commented Robert.

Charterhouse present dealer awards



Charterhouse Turf Machinery, the specialist distributor of turf and grounds care equipment, recently presented their 2001 Dealer Awards. The awards recognise outstanding achievements made by the company's 18 Tractor Dealers and 34 Turf Machinery Dealer Outlets throughout the UK. Awards were also presented for development and success in reaching and surpassing targets in other key business areas.

Pictured above are Philip Threadgold, Sales Director Charterhouse Ltd; Ian Royston, Risboro' Turf - a division of Turner Groundscare (Winner of Turf Machinery Dealer of the Year); David Jenkins, Managing Director, Charterhouse Ltd; Richard Campey, of Richard Campey Ltd (Winner of Tractor Dealer of the Year), and Tony Scambler of AJ Scambler (Target Achiever).

Peter claims UK territory

Bernhard and Company has appointed Peter Hampton (right) as their new UK Territory Manager. This follows the company's continuing development as leading manufacturers of professional grinding equipment.

Peter was previously the company's US Territory Manager for Western North America.

He has been responsible for business and field support to distributor salesmen supplying

Express Dual Grinders from The Mississippi to the West Coast, including Canada.

"Having been in the grass machinery industry since 1963 Peter has a wealth of experience and has been involved with many innovative changes in the industry," says Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director.

A Trade Member of BIGGA for over 25 years Peter numbers many UK Greenkeepers as his friends.



Have your say and help BIGGA grow

BIGGA is big – and getting bigger! We want that growth to continue, and we have therefore commissioned an independent market research study, with two aims:

We want to know what our members, and those with whom we work most closely in the golf industry, think of the services we offer and the way we deliver them.

We are also looking for new ideas, particularly in the areas of sales and marketing, so that we can protect and enhance the income base on which our continuing growth depends.

The study is being financially supported by the R&A, and will be carried out by Mike Williamson, of MW

Associates, a specialist golf research company which carried out a similar study for the Sports Turf Research Institute in 1999.

Mike will be sending questionnaires to about 2000 BIGGA members, and talking to representatives of golf companies, golfing organisations, and golf clubs. The survey work will be undertaken in March and April, with the full research report going to the BIGGA Board in June.

We do want (and I'm sure we will get!) frank opinions and good ideas from as many of our members, clients, and those we work with as possible. So:

If you receive a questionnaire from Mike, please do complete and return it. BIGGA is YOUR Association, and we very much want your input to this study.

If you are contacted by Mike or one of his colleagues, please do spare a few minutes to pass on your views and suggestions.

If you do NOT receive a call or a questionnaire (since these will only go to a random sample of members), and you would like to participate in the survey, please contact Mike Williamson and he will be delighted to include you. Mike can be contacted at:

MW Associates, PO Box 6677, Edinburgh, EH14 3YB Tel/Fax: 0131 476 6677 e-mail: mw.assoc@virgin.net

We want BIGGA to get better as well as bigger – so please do help us with this important research.

Neil Thomas, Executive Director



John Shaw Machinery host seminar series

Toro dealer John Shaw Machinery staged a series of one-day seminars designed to assist all those involved with the maintenance of sports and golf turf throughout the area it serves across southern England.

For the three events, titled Sports Turf Maintenance - the Future, the firm, based in Sussex, brought together a group of top speakers that attracted a large attendance from golf and grounds care professionals.

Eddie Seaward, Head Groundsman at The All-England Club, Wimbledon, gave the keynote address. He told the interesting story behind the redevelopment of the Wimbledon complex and provided delegates with a personal insight into his turf preparations for The Championships.

The other expert speakers were Andy Brown, of The Toro Company; Neil Squires, from the STRI; health and safety consultant John Albutt, of John All butt Associates; and John Westrope, Humberlyde Grounds care Finance.

The audience was made up of a cross-section of head greenkeepers, their staff and senior golf club officials, as well as grounds men from the sports turf side of the industry.

Venues were Kings Hill GC, West



Pictured at Kings Hill GC are, from left, David Cole and Miranda Meadon from John Shaw Machinery, with Eddie Seaward, Neil Squires, John Westrope and Andy Brown

Malling, Kent; The Wentworth Club; and Singing Hills GC, Albourne, West Sussex.

John Shaw's marketing director David Cole hosted the events. He said that since its inception his company

has focused on the professional turf maintenance market. Their new company slogan was Providing Solutions for Grounds care Professionals and it was against this background that they had put on these seminars.

Graham launches internet project

A new greenkeeping website www.golfingsupplies.net has been launched by Graham Pickin, Head Greenkeeper of Thornhurst Manor, Doncaster.

"The net has plenty of greenkeeping resources, but they are a little bit fragmented. I thought it would be a good idea if I could browse other greenkeeping web sites including golf courses and suppliers, also join in with a discussion forum and possibly find a bargain in a golf course equipment auction or even get rid of some old machines that are lying around the sheds all in one sit," explained Graham.

The site is completely free and no monies are passed through the site at all. At the auction the successful bidder has the sellers details sent to them automatically via email.

Top level changes at British Seed Houses

British Seed Houses has announced two senior management changes at its Lincoln head office. British Seed Houses director Simon Taylor becomes unit manager for the Lincoln-based operation with overall responsibility for all seed business done from the site.

Jon Chippendale becomes amenity seeds manager and is now responsible for all grass seed, wild flora and granular fertiliser sales into the amenity sector.

Apology for email address error

In last month's magazine under the heading Grand Tour Scholarship 2001 we listed Bettina Schrickel's email address incorrectly. It should have read rtjbettina@aol.com and not ftjbettina@aol.com as we listed at the end of the piece. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

www.tonyhusband.co.uk



Angus Horticulture launch new range

Angus Horticulture are the manufacturers of the "Turf Rise" range of fertilisers.

The programmed approach has been devised by the "FACTS" qualified personnel of the company to allow greenkeepers and groundsman to look after their turf to a high standard with optimum input.

Turf Rise Spring spread at 50 grams/sq. metre will get the grass off to a good start in the spring. Turf Rise Summer is in granular or liquid form applied 4 - 5 times throughout the season, timing depending on the demands of the management of the course, greens, pitches and Turf Rise Autumn applied in September - October with enough potash to harden up the turf ready for the rigours of winter.

Made with raw materials including seaweed powder and lignite which helps the cation exchange in the soil, the "Turf Rise" range gives the greenkeeper the best chance to manage his turf in an efficient and effective way, producing his greens to the satisfaction of players and committee alike. The following is a list of some of the distributors throughout the U.K and Europe.

Phil joins namesake

With a name like Seedhouse, Phil was destined to work for a seed company. The latest member to join the Johnsons Sport and Amenity team, Phil has an easy job of attracting customers. They all want to talk about his name!



Phil plays a very supportive rôle to the team, dealing with inquiries and processing orders. He has completed the STR1 residential course "The passport to perfect courses" and can act with authority when advising customers on mixture selection.

He is very confident about the range he is selling. "Johnsons Sport and Amenity range of grass seed mixtures represents the best choice for turf grass. From rugby pitches to golf courses, the new range can cope with the best of British sport and the worst of British weather," quotes Phil.

Awards presented to Textron dealers

Broderick Grass Machinery Ltd has won the Textron Distributor of the Year Award for 2000.

Noel Broderick, (pictured top) Dealer Principal, accepted the silver trophy and commemorative plaque from Harold Pinto, Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Product's Managing Director, and former three times world motor racing champion Jackie Stewart, at an evening awards ceremony held at The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate during BTME.

Textron dealers from the UK, Eire and Europe attended the ceremony, which recognised business excellence in all areas. TH White Ltd of Tetbury in Gloucestershire, scooped two awards as did European dealers Svenningsens of Denmark.

"Broderick's have demonstrated exceptional performance across all areas of their business and tremendous commitment to the Textron franchise with the recent opening of their new premises in Co Tipperary. They thoroughly deserve the title of Textron Distributor of the Year," said Harold Pinto.

A special award for Outstanding Service to the Grounds Maintenance Industry was presented to Len Breakwell, (pictured bottom) of ET Breakwell Ltd, the Solihull-based Textron dealership. The company celebrated 60 years of trading in 2000, 40 of those as a dealer for Ransomes turf maintenance equipment.



£150 BIGGA voucher for Vitax winner, Alan Court

One of the first duties of Clive Osgood, as the new Chairman of BIGGA, was to make a draw on the Vitax stand for a £150 voucher for BIGGA merchandise. The lucky recipient was Alan Court of Bradley Hall Golf Club, Halifax, who gained an extra benefit from attending the BTME exhibition. Alan (left) is pictured being presented with his voucher by Gary Potter, Technical Representative of Vitax.



Advanta Seeds aim for Headstart with first Internet site

Advanta Seeds UK has launched its first Internet website at www.headstart-advanta.co.uk.

The clear and colourful pages, which are easy to navigate, explain the features of Headstart - the biological seed treatment applied to all Advanta's amenity grass seeds.

Seeds treated with Headstart emerge faster and stronger than untreated seeds. The seedlings also have an improved natural resistance to diseases, and are less prone to drought stress.

The treatment, which is non-toxic and completely safe, contains only natural substances including cytokinins and enzymes. These encourage cell division, and help mobilise food reserves within the seed. It also

has chelated trace elements, which are readily available to the young seedling. Water attractants draw moisture from the soil to help the start-up process.

"Headstart is particularly useful where groundsman and greenkeepers are under time, or weather pressure, to establish new swards or repair existing ones," explained Advanta's Amenity Sales and Marketing Manager Dave Phillips.

"With so much work postponed from the autumn and the rain continuing to fall, Headstart could make all the difference between success and failure, for any reseeded work carried out this spring.

"We want our customers to know what Headstart is and what it can do. The website will answer any ques-

tions, and also provides a quick and easy way to contact us, through the response form on the last page."

ADVANTA

Get a Headstart...

Headstart is a revolutionary biological seed treatment that can speed up germination by 20%.

Headstart helps greenkeepers and groundsman establish new turf or repair key playing areas when under pressure against time or weather conditions.

It also helps prevent disease and is used on the highly successful 'Turf and Designer' ranges of grass mixtures from Advanta.

- How it works
- Benefits
- Usage
- Where to buy
- Contact us

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Advanta Seeds UK Limited - Headstart - Advanta Seeds UK - Tel: +44 (0)1276 340111 - Fax: +44 (0)1276 310227

Volunteers required!

Volunteers required for the following events:

Volvo PGA Championship, The Wentworth Club, May 25-28, 2001

The Association will again be providing a support team for this prestigious event, this year, for the first time, it will operate on each of the four competition days. Each team member will be allocated a match and will walk the course with the game, raking any bunkers found by the players. In addition, should adverse weather conditions prevail, you may be required to assist the Wentworth greenkeeping staff in keeping the course playable.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course and there is no provision for overnight accommodation. You may apply to help on any or all days and usually all those who apply are given the chance to participate on at least one day.

When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided together with daily meal vouchers.

Helping at this event will not prejudice your chances of a place on The Open Championship Support Team.

The Open Championship, Royal Lytham & St Annes, July 19-22, 2001

The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open Championship will be involved in early morning course preparation; bunker raking, while matches are in play, and evening course repair. You must be available from Wednesday evening, July 18, through to the close of play on Sunday, July 22. While all transport, accommodation and meals will be provided between these dates it is the team member's responsibility for travel from home to the venue and return. When applying please give your polo shirt size.

Full BIGGA members only may apply in writing, for either or both of these events to: John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark Alne, York, YO61 1UE. Should you require any further information John can be contacted on 01347 833800 or via email: john@bigga.co.uk

The Wentworth support team will be co-ordinated by the BIGGA South East Region and Derek Farrington, the Regional Administrator, is available to offer help or information. Derek can be contacted on 01903 260956 or mobile 07850 162401.



Rolawn, Europe's largest cultivated turf producers have signed a long-term haulage contract with K & J Logistics Ltd. K & J who are based in York have worked with Rolawn since 1997. They have a 40 strong fleet of trailers of which three trailers will carry the Rolawn livery. "Our customers demand a delivery service which matches the quality of our turf - it has to be the best available. In order to maintain this level of service we require more commitment and specialised equipment than ever before," said Paul Dawson, Rolawn's Operations Director.

Moore aim to give 'more' mower for your money



With the Moore Mower now in full production, with both its 36" cylinder and 44" rotary mower heads, it is not surprising that Frank Moore is busy adding attachments to his innovative brainchild.

Now a novel Dumpbarrow has gone into production. A practical means of shifting materials such as hardcore, ballast, builder's sand, soil or manure, the attachment can be fitted to the Moore Mower in a couple of minutes with minimal effort.

Designed to carry 100kg, its low pro-

file makes hand loading easy; for unloading, the body is tipped hydraulically to a vertical position and will empty completely in a few seconds, making the whole operation extremely quick, especially where the load must be carried some distance.

A prototype has been in use for several years and has shifted tens of tons of various materials, often at confined and otherwise inaccessible sites. RRP for the attachment is £396+ VAT.

For further information contact Frank Moore, telephone 01308 862653.

Royal Mid Surrey GC appoint Inturf as turf supplier

Inturf has produced turf that exactly matches the specific requirements of Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club.

Royal Mid Surrey, at Richmond, approached the York based company to grow turf for a major redesign that will involve the re-turfing of 36 greens. Rapid establishment is essential to bring the holes back into play quickly, and to minimise loss of green fee revenues.

Under its Custom Grown Turf service Inturf imports prescribed rootzone and seed that matches the conditions where the turf will eventually be laid. The company then grows it for the client, strictly following the highest standards of turf management. For Royal Mid Surrey Inturf is growing the turf on a USGA specification rootzone. The Club has selected the grass mixture itself, choosing varieties that will give an equally proportioned bent/fescue sward. The project at Grantham involves growing some 20,000 m² of turf - enough to cover about three soccer pitches.

Royal Mid Surrey's turf is currently being cared for at the 350-acre Grantham nursery by seven of Inturf's turf management experts. They are implementing a strict greenkeeping regime, with much of the work being done by hand. Their final task will be to harvest the special turf, ready for installation.

ESD Waste2Water launch new recycling system

ESD Waste2Water launched their new Recycling Wash-off System for Golf Course Equipment at BTME.

The system is installed as part of the wash-off facility, replacing traditional Interceptors etc. The contaminated water is biologically cleaned and recycled for continual re-use, potentially saving very significant amounts of water.

The system provides a rapid breakdown of Organic contaminants including: Oil, Grease, Petrol, Diesel, Pesticides, Fungicides etc., into Carbon Dioxide and Water.

A range of capacity sizes are available to suit wash-off requirements from a small 9 hole course up to a 54 hole golf complex and beyond.

With environmental consideration of everything we do now so important, the benefit of this new closed-loop system, which saves very significant amounts of water and at the same time removes a number of major potential contamination areas, makes this one of the most exciting developments for some time.

For more information contact Tim Earley Tel. 01782 373 878.

