

A Memorable Year

As we edge towards the end of a year which will be memorable for a great many reasons - record flooding in many parts of the UK; the first Foot and Mouth Outbreak since 1967; the horrific atrocities in the United States and what has subsequently followed - there are still a number of reasons for we in BIGGA to feel positive.

The BIGGA National Championship was probably one of the best in the time I have been with the Association. Two outstanding golf courses in Royal Birkdale and Southport and Ainsdale and a strong field featuring some of the finest golfers this Association is lucky enough to boast.

Chris Ball showed that there is no substitute for local knowledge. He played superb golf over Birkdale, where he was once a junior member, and at SS&A, which overlooks Hillside, where he earns his living as an Assistant, to be crowned the Association's Champion Golfer.

The desire to do well on his home patch was there for all to see and it is great that the BIGGA National Championship can produce that sort of passion and commitment.

Tribute must also be paid to Ian Semple who produced the round of the Championship in gales gusting up to 50mph. Ian, who plays off 1, was shot better than anyone else with his score of 74 round Birkdale. He couldn't reproduce it the next day but hung on for a very well deserved win in the the Scratch competition.

Around about the same time as Chris and Ian were lifting trophies in Southport, Dr Keith Duff, Principal Judge in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, supported by the R&A, was concluding his deliberations.

His decision, and as ever it was a close run thing, was to award the title to Broadstone Golf Club, in Poole, a club which has been edging closer to the top prize over the last few years. It also marks another triumph for the south as Broadstone, which is managed by Adrian Archer, succeeds The Dyke Golf Club, from Brighton, as BIGGA's environmental Champion.

The STRI's Lee Penrose has written a report on this year's competition on page 16 of this month's magazine, while you can read about The Dyke on page 24.

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition is one of the most important events run by the Association as it showcases, to the wider golfing community and indeed the general public, what a great job is done by golf clubs up and down the country to maintain and enhance the flora and fauna which everyone, golfers and non-golfers alike, can enjoy.

While those two BIGGA events have come to a conclusion for 2001, as I write, we still await the final of two other extremely prestigious competitions - the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student of the Year Award. Knowing the quality of the finalists in both we

are guaranteed two more outstanding Champions and at the end of the year BIGGA will be able to look back with satisfaction at some wonderful competitions which will have produced excellent winners and ambassadors for the Association.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

Dublin the venue for Sportsturf Ireland

'Sportsturf Ireland' staged by The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland (GCSAI) will be the largest turf management and groundcare exhibition ever to be held in Ireland. This bi-annual Trade Show is being held at the RDS in Dublin on November 14 and 15 and due to the increased demand for space is for the first time being run over two major exhibition halls at this prestigious venue, the Main Hall and the new modern Shelbourne Hall.

Sportsturf Ireland will act as an important shop window for all major machinery manufacturers, dealers, the supply industry and

many ancillary exhibitors of interest to those involved in fine turf maintenance. It presents an ideal opportunity to discuss at first hand both the problems and the developments of the trade between the supplier and the end user.

In addition to those connected with the golf market it will interest a wide section of the fine turf industry including sports clubs, parks, local authorities, education, landscapers, contractors and leisure complexes.

There should be something to interest everyone from secretary/managers, golf course superintendents to assistant

greenkeepers and grounds people to students.

The GCSAI is a non-profit making organisation set up for the education and improvement of those involved in Irish golf greenkeeping. It has now expanded into sports clubs and landscaping and other areas of fine turf management covering the whole of Ireland. As this is a bi-annual event a large attendance is expected from every corner of the country over the two days.

Admission is free.
Wednesday 14 November, 10am - 6pm
Thursday 15 November 10am - 5pm

Hair today...

Master Greenkeeper Anthony Davies, Course Manager at Prestbury Golf Club near Manchester, will be hoping for a mild winter having had his head shaved in the name of a cancer charity.

"I decided that because October is Breast Cancer Awareness month I would have my golden locks shaved for charity and hopefully raise funds at the same time," explained Anthony.

No shrinking violet, Anthony opened the doors to his friends and supporters on the evening of the big snip.

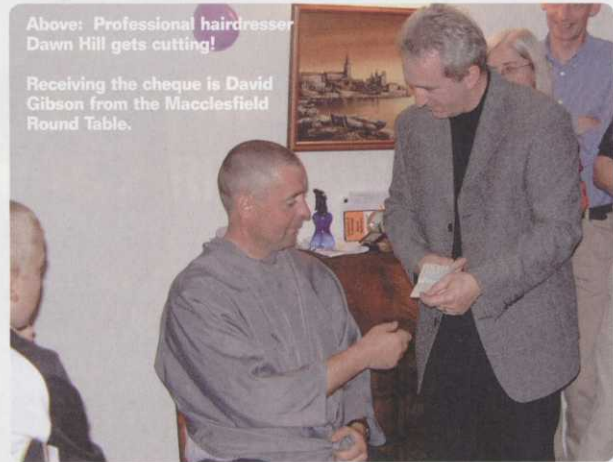
"Over 50 people attended, either to goot or to make sure I didn't do a runner!" joked the by now follically challenged Anthony.

On the night of the 'BIG CUT' £500 was raised and since that evening the amount has reached £1,100. All the proceeds are heading for an early detection Ultrasound scanner for the Breast Screening unit at the Macclesfield District General Hospital.

Anyone wishing to support Anthony's fund raising exploits can send a donation to BIGGA HOUSE where we shall make sure any money is forwarded to Anthony.



Above: Professional hairdresser Dawn Hill gets cutting!



Receiving the cheque is David Gibson from the Macclesfield Round Table.

Cumbria Cup goes to Graham Forbes

Graham Forbes, Head Greenkeeper of Maryport Golf Club, emerged as winner of the Course Care Cumbria Cup which was finally played at Penrith Golf Club having been postponed due to the Foot and Mouth epidemic earlier in the year.

Graham lifted the prestigious Whitelaw Bowl with a score of 37 Stableford points winning on a better back nine.

Graham is pictured with the Whitelaw Bowl between BIGGA Chairman Clive Osgood and Penrith Captain, Donald Birkett.

