

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.

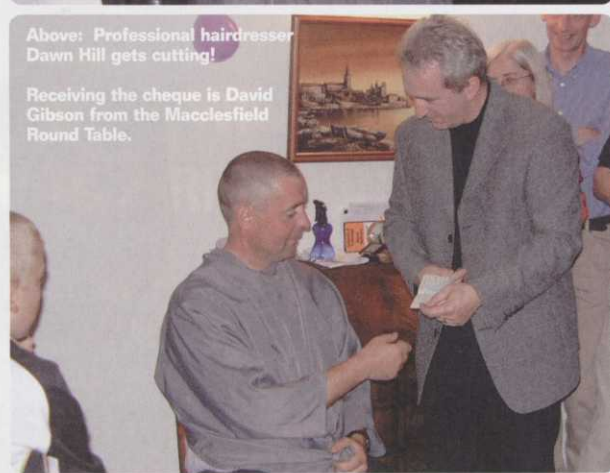
"Over 50 people attended, either to goot or to make sure I didn't do a runner!" joked the by now follically challenged Anthony.

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.



Textron Managing Director resigns

Harold Pinto (right), Managing Director of Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products - International, has resigned and left the company at the beginning of this month.

His decision is purely voluntary and he is returning to the USA to head up one of the subsidiaries of the Boston-based Goldman Industrial group reporting directly to their Chairman and CEO, Greg Goldman.

"We are all really sorry to see Harold go and wish him the very best in his new career opportunity. He has done a tremendous job in the past four years where he has successfully managed the integration of Jacobsen and Ransomes, bringing together the two organisations under the Textron umbrella and creating a distinct identity for the two major brands in their respective market sectors," said Peter Bell, Marketing Director.

"He leaves behind a superb team of people in a stable and progressive business with high expectations of continued growth in their respective markets.

"We all echo the thoughts of Greg Hyland, the President of Textron Golf and Turf in the States who, in thanking Harold for his outstanding contribution said that he will miss his business insight, his leadership and his efforts to consistently move the business forward, while wishing him great success in his future endeavours."

Following his departure Textron announced a series of temporary organisational changes until the reorganisation of the International division is finalised. This will result in the senior management team at Ipswich reporting directly to Greg Hyland, the President of Textron Golf and Turf in the USA.



Scotland North take Norrie Whytock Trophy

The Norrie Whytock Team Trophy, sponsored by Aventis, was once again held at Auchterarder GC by kind permission of the Captain and Committee.

The Sections were all represented and the players were looking forward to taking part in what has become a regular fixture in the Region's golfing calendar. The weather was kind but prior to the day, the Course Manager, Archie Dunn, was not hopeful as the rain had made conditions pretty awful. Thankfully they cleared up on the day.

The event consists of teams of four from each Section within the Scottish Region taking part on a Stableford basis with the best three scores counting. Conditions were ideal and with the European Tour event taking place next door at Gleneagles the players were in good company. Some of the scores returned would not have disgraced that field.

At the end of the day the North Section again emerged as winners with an aggregate of 104 points. The winning team comprised of Iain MacLeod, Steve Sullivan, David Marnoch and Stuart Hogg. Runners-up were the West Section on a countback from the Ayrshire Section.



Mention should be made of young John Mair, Beith GC, of the Ayrshire Section who amassed 40 points but unfortunately missed out on the team prizes.

Our thanks go once again to Aventis and David Drummond, the Regional Manager Scotland, for hosting this event and providing such excellent prizes. Their support of this tourna-

ment is appreciated by the players who wish to pass on their thanks and appreciation to Aventis and David for the day.

Our thanks to Archie Dunn and his staff at Auchterarder GC for preparing the course for our visit. Thanks are also due to the club for the use of the clubhouse.

Peter Boyd

Membership Subscription Rates for 2002

Please note that from January 1, 2002, BIGGA Membership Subscription Rates will be as follows:

Job title	2002 rates
Course Manager/ Head Greenkeeper	£85
Deputy Course Manager/ Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£67
All other Greenkeeping staff aged 21 years and over	£54
Greens staff aged 20 years and under	£33
International Greenkeeping Member	£63
Full-time Students	£18
Associate Member	£60
Corporate Membership (up to 4 trade members)	£180

Myerscough College Annual Turf Conference postponed

This year's Myerscough College Annual Turf Conference 'In Pursuit of Excellence' has been postponed due to the events that occurred in the United States of America on September 11th. The continuing unstable situation affects all overseas visitors adversely and was seen to be an unnecessary journey at this difficult time.

The Conference was due to be held at The Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool on the 12th to 15th November 2001.

Myerscough College will endeavour to re-arrange the Annual Turf Conference in the spring of 2002.

For further information, please contact Myerscough College on 01995 642222 or via email: turfconference@myerscough.ac.uk

BIGGA on the move at Scotsturf

In the October edition of Greenkeeper International, it was stated that the BIGGA stand at the Scotsturf Exhibition, 6-7 November, would be situated on the East Balcony. This is not the case and visitors to the exhibition will be welcome at the stand's new location of C28, where Cheryl and Susannah from BIGGA will be promoting the benefits of membership, BTME, The Golf Club Show and Greenkeeper International.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year www.tonyhusband.co.uk

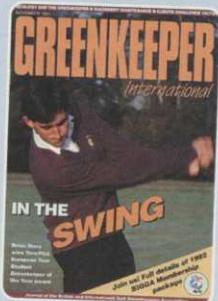


A LOOK BACK TO A DECADE AGO

Back Lapping

FROM GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Take a time-honoured look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



NOVEMBER 1991

Greenkeepers and Superintendents Tournament

Fulford Golf Club in York was the location for the seventh Ransomes International Greenkeepers and Superintendents Tournament, when Canada snatched victory by one point from the United States with England third, two further points away. Remember the players? The Canadian squad comprised Tom Charters, Bob Heron, Doug Meyer and Robbie Robinson with manager Ken Olsvik. Representing the USA were Ed Walsh, Roger Null and Frank Moswell. England's team, managed by Past BIGGA Chairman Ivor Scoones, included Mike Hughes, David Wood and Mark Diment. Scotland, as did Wales, finished joint 7th, and Elliott Small commented 'we seemed to be seeing borrows which weren't there and lipped a lot of holes'.

ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award

Five well-known BIGGA members were competing for the prestigious ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award - Richard Barker, Laurence Pithie, Timothy McCreadie, David Whitaker and Arne Van Amerongen. And the winner ... David Whitaker. Meanwhile the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year was named - Brian Story from Silloth on Solway Golf Club.

Night time golf at Aldwark

Night time golf came to Aldwark Manor when an invited audience saw the chemically illuminated golf balls struck, with various plastic covered lights of a similar nature used to aid the golfers sight. Greenkeepers were reported as far from happy with twelve or more hours of golf during the summer and the problems of overplaying and compaction. Added to this was the problem of footprinting on delicate and perhaps frosted greens and, of course, divot replacement. Overall impression? A bit gimmicky and not for the serious golfer.

Key appointment for CWC

Complete Weed Control has appointed Richard Minton as Business Development Manager.

Richard is a well known face to many greenkeepers up and down the country from his attendance at the Greenkeeper of the Year competition and National Tournaments when they were supported by his company.

This new post involves provision of technical and practical support for the 40 plus national franchise network including advertising and promotional activities, development of new market areas and the formulation of training initiatives aimed at enhancing overall business performance.

Richard, who joins the company with a sound background of over 12 years in the industry and has professional credentials of BASIS, BAA part 3, FACTS and NPTC, is looking forward to the challenge this new role will offer. Formerly UK Sales Manager for Scotts Turf and Amenity, Richard brings with him an impressive portfolio of business achievements.

"I am joining Complete Weed Control at an exciting time for contracting. Due to the imposition of legislative restraints, the need for professionally qualified contractors is vast and offers tremendous market potential for our company. Complete Weed Control has always set the highest standards and my aim is to ensure that quality remains a key focus for our service provision," said Richard.

A key area for business development will be promotion of CWC's WeedIT machine. Launched in 1997 and winner of 'The Best New Landscape Product' at SALTEX 97, WeedIT offers major environmental benefits through targeting only the weed for treatment, thus ensuring the minimum use of chemicals.

Managing Director, Roger Turner, said of the new appointment:

"We are exceptionally fortunate that Richard has joined our ranks and are confident that his professional knowledge and expertise will complement our successful weed control business."

Carnoustie renews Toro partnership



Carnoustie has renewed its three-year partnership with Toro in a deal which has seen Course Superintendent John Philp replacing his entire Toro fleet, apart from nine of his Greensmaster greensmowers. The new kit was put to good use straight away in preparation for, and during, the recent Dunhill Links event. "Overall Toro still has the machines with the right pedigree and has offered us another excellent deal with the right support so I am delighted to continue our relationship," said John. Pictured are: John Philp centre right, with from the right Gordon Skea, of Toro dealer Allan Gammie, distributor Lely's George Macdonald and Les Gammie with Carnoustie greenkeepers.

Portugal venue for EGD annual meeting

The European Golf Distributors held their 8th Annual Meeting in Porto, Portugal during October, with members from eight different countries present. Principals of Amenity distributors from throughout Europe make up the group, whose objective is to share information, market trends and product development.

A wide range of topics were discussed, including the adverse weather conditions last winter and how it affected the amenity market throughout Europe and as a group how they can further the excellent technical service offered to the benefit of customers throughout Europe.

For further details contact Rod Feltham, Secretary, European Golf Distributors 01934 820868.

Scotsraig appoint George to new role

Scotsraig Golf Club has appointed George Paterson as its first Course Manager. George, who takes up the post in December having fulfilled his notice from his position of Course Manager of Sligo Golf Club in north-west Ireland, was previously Head Greenkeeper at Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC in the north of Scotland.

"We are confident that George will be an excellent addition to the management team at Scotsraig. He is very ambitious and dedicated to his work," said Club Secretary Barrie Liddle.

He will inherit a new full irrigation system which has recently been installed on the Final Open Qualifying Course.

George, 34, is a one handicap golfer and is married to Annie with two children Leah, 6, and Gregor, 2.

Conference set to be resounding success

Textron, principal sponsors of the inaugural Turf Care Conference to be held at the Gleneagles Hotel from November 18-20, has reported that the event is now fully booked and looks set to be a resounding success.

Over 120 delegates will be attending the conference, which is the brainchild of Jimmy Kidd, Golf Courses and Estates Director at the world-renowned resort complex. The format has been designed to appeal to, and address issues, facing both business entrepreneurs who wish to build a golf course as well as those already involved in the industry.

"This three-day conference is the ideal forum for representatives from all areas of the course construction and maintenance sectors to meet and expend their knowledge and understanding of each other's role. We are absolutely delighted that demand for places has outstripped supply and this bodes well for the future of the event," said Jimmy.

Peter Bell, Marketing Director of Textron was equally delighted with the Conference's impending success.

"As principal sponsor we are equally thrilled with the response from delegates. Through the hard work of Jimmy and his staff, this inaugural conference looks set to become an annual event with delegates and speakers attending from all parts of the globe. This international perspective will ensure that all participants can exchange views and discuss issues that affect this burgeoning industry," said Peter.

New title for Gordon

Following a decision by the Links Management Committee Gordon Moir, who oversees the management of all six St Andrews Links courses, has had his job title changed to Links Superintendent.



Previously Head Greenkeeper of the Eden Course, Gordon, a past Chairman of the Scottish Region and National Board of Management member, took up the post last October inheriting the all-encompassing title of Links Manager but it is hoped that the new title will highlight the focus of his responsibility which is the management and maintenance of the courses.

"With his background and ability, Gordon is ideally suited to his role," said Alan McGregor, General Manager of St Andrews Links Trust.

"The job is one of the most significant in greenkeeping worldwide and I am confident that Gordon will help ensure that St Andrews Links raises its reputation as a world centre of excellence."

Grade A Club benefits for Dartmouth G&CC

Membership of an innovative club is helping Dartmouth Golf and Country Club Course Manager Terry Farkins supplement his annual staff training budget. Soon his in-house training library will boast the full range of BIGGA greenkeeper training videos. Terry employs eight full time staff and one casual worker at the 27-hole golf and hotel complex situated at Blackawarton, near Totnes in Devon. Investment in training has always been a priority for both Terry and his employer BBC Director General, Greg Dyke, who owns Dartmouth G&CC.

"We are constantly looking to move our greenkeepers up the NVQ qualification scale. At the moment, half our staff are qualified and the rest are keen to progress right up to NVQ level three. We run regular in-house training days and attend short courses where appropriate," said Terry. In fact, Terry is so committed to continued career education that he plans to set up his own library within the course



workshop area, and introduce a personal computer so that staff can regularly access the Internet for information.

"Ultimately, I'd like to undertake 90% of the training in-house and this means investing in educational materials. The British Seed Houses training credit scheme is an excellent idea has been well received by

both the staff and the company. We've redeemed our first batch of points and will be using the money to build up a library of BIGGA training videos," he revealed.

As a member of the British Seed Houses Grade A Club, Terry has built up his points as a loyalty bonus based on the on-going seed business he has done with the company.

Estimated £60k damage caused by vandals

Five greens were decimated overnight in an act of mindless vandalism at Llanymynech Golf Club when weed-killer was thrown over them.

The greens will now need to be rebuilt and new turf laid at a cost of approximately £10,000 to £12,000 per green.

Course Manager Allen Lewis could not believe his eyes on the morning of September 18 when he was alerted by a member of his staff to a white powder on the greens. This is now thought to have been Sodium Chlorate.

In the following three weeks the greens changed to yellow then white and finally brown as the grass covered died off over 60% to 70% of each green.

Officials at the club can think of no reason why anyone should want to do such a mindless act. The golf course is situated on the top of Llanymynech Hill with three greens in England and 15 in Wales.

Turfgrass Seed 2

TURFGRASS SEED 2002
SECOND EDITION

STRI

Published by STRI, BINGLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE, BS18 1AU, ENGLAND

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STRI has produced a second edition of Turfgrass Seed 2002.

The new booklet has revised information describing the performance of perennial ryegrass cultivars for use in winter games pitches.

For further details telephone: 01274 565131.

Top marks given to Thiefbeaters

Thiefbeaters has launched the Thatcham Permanent Security Marking and Database registration system.

Designed to protect valuable vehicles and equipment, Thiefbeaters acts as a theft deterrent. The new system can be applied to a wide range of landscaping and amenity items, including mowers, chippers, tractors and hand tools.

It works by applying unique alphanumeric numbers, electronic

tags and microdots to the structure and fabric of an item. This identification put in numerous overt and hidden locations, make it impossible for the thief to conceal, or remove the identity and legal ownership of the property.

Full details of the property and its unique markings are held on a national database which the police can access in the event of a theft.

Further information can be obtained Tel: 0870 794 0111.

Latest brochure now available from Tonick

The new, full colour brochure from Tonick Watering features a comprehensive range of irrigation control products and accessories for golf course, sports grounds, garden centres and landscapes.

The range includes decoders with programmer/testers, irrigation controllers, lightning protection modules, field-wiring connection and fault-finding kits.

The text provides useful technical information for both greenkeepers and installers.

All of the products described are designed and made in the UK by Tonick Watering and most items are available from stock.

The brochure is available free, on request, telephone: 01269 832325.

Andrew joins Advanta Seeds UK



Andrew Hodgskiss has joined the Advanta Seeds UK amenity sales team, to support the Advanta "MM" and "Designer" distributors, and their customers, in East Anglia and the South East.

Based in Ely, Cambridgeshire, Andrew has many years experience working in the grass seed business, selling to local authorities, major turf growers, architects and other landscape specifiers, as well as private sports and golf clubs.

High flotation tyres from Nokia

New Nokia high flotation tyres - yes that's Nokia - are helping to reduce the round pressure of the Carraro TRX 8400 tractor, which is a 74hp machine weighing 2100 kg, to 6 psi. The Nokia tyres, which fit comfortably into the Carraro tractor's frame, boast a lifespan which is typically equal to or greater than the vehicle to which they are fitted.

"Even when the TRX is working with one of the larger Verti-Drain deep aeration machines mounted on the back, it still creates less disturbance to the grass than an empty turf utility vehicle moving personnel around," said Dustin Houghton,

Head Greenkeeper, at Seaford Head Golf Club, who purchased a Nokia shod machine recently.

Like other Carraro tractors, the driving position and controls are fully reversible. This means that attachments can be fitted at both front and rear, and the operator can switch from using one to the other almost instantly.

This saves time and boosts productivity, with various tasks being carried out quickly and efficiently, without damaging the turf.

Carraro tractors are distributed in the UK by Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd.

