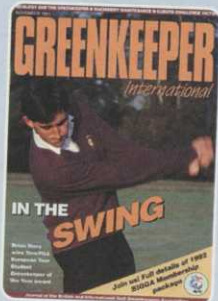


A LOOK BACK TO A DECADE AGO

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."