

Major American Award for Walter Woods

Neil Thomas writes an appreciation of BIGGA's first Chairman

'How fitting it is that as we celebrate GCSAA's 75th year of existence we recognise a person who was entrusted with maintaining the birthplace of golf. Walter Woods has given much to the game and the golf course superintendent profession. We are pleased to honour Walter for his lifelong commitment to golf.'

**GCSAA President
 Tommy D. Witt, CGCS**

Below: Presentation of the BEM - Walter, Lord Elgin, and BIGGA Chairman at the time, George Malcolm

Centre: Walter in younger days with Glen Campbell, Ben Crenshaw and Jack Nicklaus

It was with much pleasure that BIGGA received the news that Walter Woods has been selected to receive the 2002 Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America during that Association's 73rd International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando next February. GCSAA's most prestigious honour is presented each year to an individual who 'through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mould the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris'. As well as being the professional and golf course custodian at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Old Tom (1821-1908) was a four-time winner of the Open

(1861, '62, '64 and '67) and ranked as one of the top links designers of the 19th Century.

It is a fitting time then for us to pay tribute to Walter's services to the greenkeeping profession as well as to BIGGA. For many years now he has been regarded as one of the leading figures in British greenkeeping. Although officially 'retired', this is an incongruous term to apply to Walter as he continues in a consultancy role and is still hugely influential with his advice and guidance to greenkeepers and within BIGGA where he remains on the Board of Management in his capacity as a Guardian. When one recalls that he was BIGGA's first Chairman in 1987, it is surely testimony to his dedication and commitment that he remains so actively involved with the Association today.

I first came to know Walter when appointed Executive Director of BIGGA in 1987. My first impression was of his total enthusiasm for the cause and it did not take me long to conclude that I was to have the privilege of working with one who was at the very pinnacle of his profession. In a large member organisation, concern is for the individual and Walter stands out in this regard, ever willing to support and guide the greenkeeper, whether young or old, in times of adversity. Generations of greenkeepers have benefited in this regard as have those privileged enough to have received training under Walter's supervision. Practical training on the golf course at St Andrews where he was Links Supervisor for 21 years has produced many fine greenkeepers who now occupy top positions within the game, while Walter's work at Elmwood College in Fife was instrumental in raising the standards of greenkeeper education. He has been a major contributory force in establishing that college as one of our leading greenkeeper training colleges. Today, greenkeepers can gain first class qualifications and commensurate salaries and conditions of service. Much of the good work for this

enhancement of status can be traced back to the seventies and eighties when Walter and a few like-minded professionals grasped the nettle in leading the way as far as greenkeeper education and training were concerned. Their pioneering work led on to the structure which has produced the trained professional greenkeepers ever more apparent within the game today. In the past 20 years the greenkeeping profession within the United Kingdom has been transformed from a 'know your place' attitude to greenkeepers within many golf clubs to today when those working within the profession enjoy a status commensurate with their technical skills, knowledge, qualifications and dedication. To this changed scenario, Walter has contributed so much.

At St Andrews, Walter hosted numerous tournaments including four Open Championships and 11 Dunhill Cups and he remains an instantly recognisable figure to whom you are immediately directed on mention of his name. He is a true and worthy successor to Old Tom Morris,



Right: Two old friends and the first two Chairmen of BIGGA. Jack McMillan MBE and Walter Woods BEM

Bottom: The essential partnership - Caroline and Walter

Previous Old Tom Morris Award Winners:

- 1983 Arnold Palmer
- 1984 Bob Hope
- 1985 Gerald Ford
- 1986 Patty Berg
- 1987 Robert Trent Jones, Sr.
- 1988 Gene Sarazen
- 1989 Chi Chi Rodriguez
- 1990 Sherwood Moore, CGCS
- 1991 William C. Campbell
- 1992 Tom Watson
- 1993 Dinah Shore
- 1994 Byron Nelson
- 1995 Dr. James R. Watson
- 1996 Tom Fazio
- 1997 Ben Crenshaw
- 1998 Ken Venturi
- 1999 Jaime Ortiz-Patiño
- 2000 Nancy Lopez
- 2001 Tim Finchem

not only as a former 'Keeper of the Green' on the links of the Old Course at St Andrews, but in the legacy he will leave for the greenkeeping profession and the game of golf as was the case with Old Tom. As did his revered predecessor, he has taken greenkeeping forward albeit in different times and perhaps a world apart from Old Tom's days. However, the profession must continually evolve in line with the game and its increasing demands and expectations in relation to course maintenance and presentation. Walter is at the forefront in this regard in the finest tradition of Old Tom Morris.

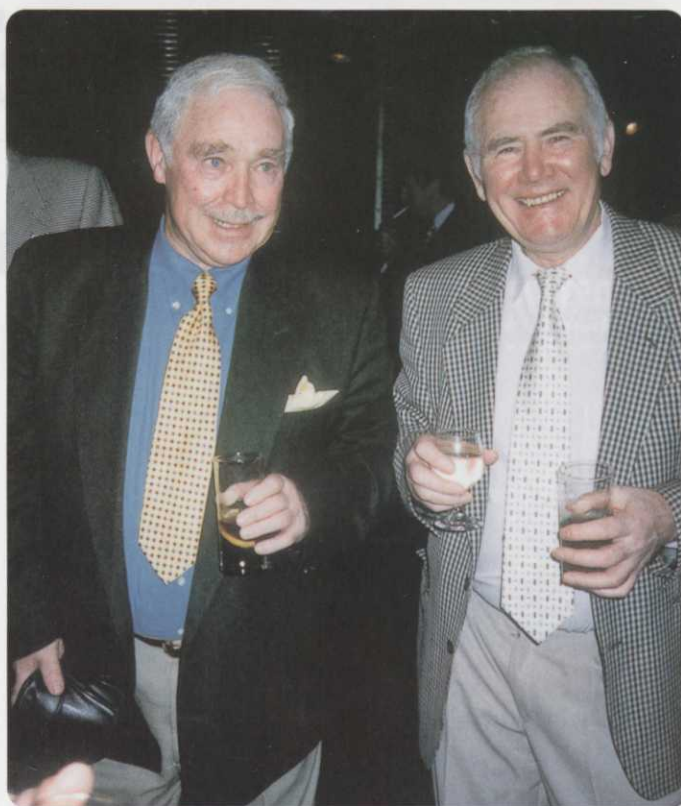
Walter had already served as President and Director of Education for the Scottish and International Golf Greenkeepers Association when he first took up the reins as the first Chairman of BIGGA in 1987. He had an unenviable task. The preceding two years, at the instigation of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, had finally seen the coming together of three previous greenkeeping Associations - the British, the English and International and the Scottish

and International to form the new British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association. These had been difficult times before the three previously volunteer led Associations finally united to form the first professional Association for greenkeepers in the United Kingdom. Walter was charged with the task of establishing the new Association and he spared no effort in this regard. BIGGA inherited 1200 members from the old Associations and today it has some 7300 members worldwide. Walter's work in BIGGA's formative years was crucial and I personally owe much to his wise counsel and leadership in those early days. We worked closely together and the embryo Association set off on a rapid growth curve. Moving through the intervening years, BIGGA today has its own national headquarters, employs 21 staff and has members in some 32 countries. As a professional body within the game of golf, BIGGA now stands shoulder to shoulder with its fellow organisations in the United Kingdom. This is a tremendous source of pride to Walter and BIGGA owes much to his drive and influence during the past 15 years.

In reflecting on BIGGA as an international Association, it is pertinent to reflect on Walter's global outlook. He has long viewed greenkeeping from a world perspective, has visited many countries and spoken to numerous greenkeeping and allied bodies on greenkeeping and his own experiences. He has spread the word abroad and I would venture to suggest that his influence stretches far beyond our own shores to many distant places.

Walter would be the last to extol his golfing achievements but they are significant. He has won many Championships, played at County level and been a scratch golfer. He has been able to bring the golfer's perspective to his role as a greenkeeper and this has been greatly beneficial both in his own career and latterly during his role as a consultant.

At home in St Andrews, the wel-



come to visitors is unsurpassed. Countless numbers of greenkeepers and their families have enjoyed the hospitality of Walter and Caroline. Guests have lifelong memories of playing the Old Course with Walter and learning much of greenkeepers and greenkeeping in the process. It is always 'open house' as far as Walter is concerned. Walter is never afraid to voice his opinions within the game of golf and has always promoted the greenkeeping profession in membership of influential committees within the R&A at St Andrews and elsewhere. His kindly and considerate manner masks a fierce determination to protect and enhance his profession. At times he may be perceived to move in 'mysterious ways' but I have long since realised that, with his intimate knowledge of all matters golf and greenkeeping and of the powers that be, his tried and trusted methods have stood the test of time and they work.

Essentially Walter has a love and passion for greenkeeping and the game of golf which come second only to his family. His integrity and concern for his fellow men are widely acknowledged and he was recognised in 1991 for his contributions to golf and greenkeeping when he received the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Now he is a most worthy recipient of the Old Tom Morris Award. Within BIGGA and the profession in the United Kingdom, there will indeed be much pleasure derived in learning that the GCSAA's most prestigious honour has been given to Walter and he joins a role call of illustrious names who have previously received this Award.

For me it has been a great privilege to have known and to have worked so closely with Walter in the development and progress of BIGGA and to have enjoyed his company and friendship throughout the years.



This month, Tracey and Susannah from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like to welcome almost 75 new members to the Association and keep you up to date on 2002 Membership news

Get the most from your membership

If you have renewed your membership or joined BIGGA this year, you will have received a Membership Pack through the post which includes information on all the benefits and services offered to you as a BIGGA Member. This pack is important and needs to be referred to if you require further information, or in the case of a full greenkeeper member, require the use of the legal helpline or need to claim from the personal accident insurance cover. A second membership pack will not be sent unless requested.

From 1st January 2002, the Membership Department are going to issue plastic Membership Photocards for all Greenkeeping Members of BIGGA. This card will be sent to you together with a renewal letter and a leaflet updating you on the benefits and services of membership to BIGGA. If you have mislaid your membership pack you will need to contact Membership Services for a replacement. We cannot send you your membership card until we have a photograph of you! Beat the rush and send your photograph to Tracey or Susannah in the Membership Services Department today! Don't forget to write your name, date of birth and membership number on the back.

BIGGA to introduce Minimum Qualification

As from 1st February 2002 all NEW applicants applying for Greenkeeper Membership will need to state on their application form whether they hold a minimum N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf qualification (or equivalent) and enclose proof of competence e.g. a copy of an NVQ certificate or indicate whether they are in training to achieve this minimum qualification. This will effect the category of membership for which the applicant is applying.

The application form, although longer than in previous years, will be easy to complete and will include guidelines. See Education Update on page 10 for further information on the minimum qualification.

Increase your personal protection benefit

As part of the Greenkeeping Membership, all Greenkeeping Members are covered by the standard BIGGA personal protection package. This provides cover for Greenkeeper Members for any accident they may have at home, work or even on holiday. Each member can increase this personal

Increase your personal protection benefit
 A simple, one-off payment could secure you up to £50,000 in increased benefits in addition to your standard BIGGA personal protection package.

During the period of insurance, a member retains a limited liability for medical costs and responsibility of any other costs which may be incurred or determined, the company will pay the amount of benefit awarded.

Claims arising from this insurance should be notified to the company immediately on receipt of the claim form which should be accompanied by a copy of the relevant medical certificate or other evidence of the accident. The company will investigate the claim and advise you of the outcome. The company will not be liable for any claim which is not covered by the policy. The company will not be liable for any claim which is not covered by the policy. The company will not be liable for any claim which is not covered by the policy.

Single membership is not available, and requires the member to be a member of the Association for at least 12 months before they can be considered for this benefit. This benefit is available to members who are not currently members of the Association.

protection by completing the tear off slip attached to the information leaflet in the membership pack. A simple, one off payment could secure members up to £50,000 in increased benefits. If any member would like further information please contact the Membership Services Department.

Important news for members

The December and January membership renewals will be mailed out in November, if you have moved and need to advise us of your change of address please contact Membership Services as soon as possible to amend your records. BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwick, Aline, York YO61 1UF, telephone 01347 833800, fax 01347 833801 or email: tracey@bigga.co.uk/susannah@bigga.co.uk

You may have heard their names mentioned in conversation, or even seen them in print, but have you ever wondered who the individuals are who help BIGGA to run so smoothly as the leading Association in the fine turf industry? Read on...



Ian Holoran

Board Member

Name: Ian Holoran

Golf Club: Middlesbrough Municipal

Association Position: National Board of Management

How long have you been a member of BIGGA? Since 1987

Where do you hope the Association will be in 10 years time?

To have an improved image, so that every greenkeeper wants to be an active member

For what would you most like to be remembered?

Apart from being a lottery winner, it would be making a contribution to running a members' Association that we can be proud of. And for the Whitelaw Bowl Golf Tournament in Cumbria

For what would you least like to be remembered?

The Section golf match with North East Section and being beaten by Jimmy Richardson who has never let me forget

Why did you take on a more involved role in the running of the Association?

To give something back after taking so much out

Name one thing which would improve the Association?

Members to have immediate access to support systems if problems arise in the course of their work

What is your claim to fame (None, not acceptable)?

Being asked to present Prince Andrew with a gift on behalf of the Association

Describe BIGGA in 15 words

Association forming a communication link for all greenkeepers. Helping to improve standards in the greenkeeping profession



Leisurewear that's well worth a look!

BIGGA now offer you a fantastic choice of BIGGA logo Leisurewear

Cutter & Buck Classic Polo Shirts complete with BIGGA logo

Available in sunflower with navy trim, and navy with cream trim for only £29.95 inc. VAT, post and packing. Sizes Medium, Large, XL or XXL available.

Peter Scott BIGGA logo Jumpers

Available in three styles:
 1. Round neck, available in navy and charcoal, sizes from 40" to 48", £34.95 inc. VAT, p+p

2. V-neck long sleeve, available in navy only, sizes from 40" to 46", larger sizes available on request. £34.95 inc. VAT, p+p

3. V-neck no sleeves, available in navy only, sizes from 40" to 46", larger sizes available on request. £29.95 inc. VAT, p+p

Sun & Rain Waterproof Suits

Available in navy consisting of a jacket with matching trousers with a drawstring waistband. Sizes from M to XXL. £59.95 inc. VAT, p+p

Slazenger Baseball Caps

Available in khaki with navy peak, one size fits all with adjustable strap. £12.95 inc. VAT, p+p

BIGGA Members Lapel Badge

BIGGA has introduced a new "Members" enamel lapel badge. Available to all members at the special rate of £2.50 inc. VAT, p+p

For further information contact Tracey or Susannah in Membership Services.

October's Monthly Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch. Our congratulations go to October's winner, Martin Mabey, Wareham Golf Club.



BIGGA welcomes ...

Scottish Region

Kevin Bunyan, Ayrshire
 Mark Carey, Ayrshire
 David A Jeffrey, Ayrshire
 Sandy Laurie, Ayrshire
 Ian McEwan, North
 Andrew W Nixon, North
 Euan Scott, Central

Northern Region

Stephen Cresswell, N West
 Anthony V Gibson, N East
 Thomas W Melia, N East
 Paul M Roberts, N Wales
 Richard Storey, Sheffield

Midland Region

Robert A Coppack, Midland
 James W Martin, Midland
 James Newton, E Midland

Malcolm O'Brien, Midland
 Neil A Robinson, Mid Anglia
 Gary D Salisbury, E of England
 John L Walters, Midland

South East Region

David Ballantyne, Kent
 Darren J Batchelor, Sussex
 Paul A Brown, Essex
 Robert S Burr, Kent
 Andrew P Butcher, Kent
 Neil M Coleman, Kent
 Roy J Eaton, Surrey
 Steven Everett, London
 Mark Foster, Kent
 Kevin Francis, Kent
 Alastair Hollingsbee, Kent
 Darren J Kenward, Surrey
 Alexander E McDermott, Kent
 Andrew Orme, Kent
 Mark A Pattenden, Kent
 Gary P Sargent, Kent

Ian Smith, Surrey
 David R Stenton, London
 Michael T Wheaton, Sussex
 Christopher Wright, Kent

South West Region

Kevin P Cailles, S Coast
 Paul J Cooper, S Coast
 Christopher P Desmond, Dev & C'wall
 Philip Duckett, S West
 Paul J Heath, S Coast
 Kevin J Hensman, S Coast
 Craig Reeve, S West
 Ian P Reeves, S Coast
 Justin M Smith, S Coast
 Barry Stevens, S West
 Wayne Townsend, S West
 Dan J Young, S West

Northern Ireland

Gerard Cooper

Republic of Ireland

Christian J O'Sullivan
 Alan Walsh

International Members

Gordon MacGregor, Germany
 Paul E Summers, Germany
 Joseph R Swing, Germany
 Donald J Bain, Norway
 Mikael Waldner, Norway
 Michael Arat, USA
 Gareth J Davies, USA
 Brian R Haum, Canada
 Rhod Trainor, Canada
 James M Farrar, Africa

Corporate Members

David P Snowden, Northern
 Ken Day, France
 Bill Bybnes, USA

Brian Goodwin, USA

Associate Members

David Storey, Northern
 Peter Helps, BB&O
 Ryan Peddle, Surrey
 A Liddiard, S West
 Kevin N Munt, S Coast

Student Members

Mark S Crossley, N West

Next month ...
 September's
 latest members