



Welcome

A VERY SIGNIFICANT MONTH

In years to come July 2002 will be recognised in the BIGGA annals as one of the most significant months in the development of the Association.

That was the month when the ClubHouse Exhibition was purchased by the Association and joined with BTME to create a "Super" week at Harrogate each year.

Now it may pale into insignificance alongside the other transfer which occurred that month - that of Rio Ferdinand from Leeds United to Manchester United - but within our particular industry it may just create a similar impact.

Hyperbole? I don't think so, and if you consider the facts I think you may agree.

Next January 21-23, Harrogate will be the place to visit for everyone concerned with golf on the non-playing side. Now, to the layman, that may sound a little daft, but if you take the golf professionals and the club and ball manufacturers out of the equation there is still a vast amount of "golf" to consider.

Through BTME the golf course side has always been well catered for, with machinery, agronomic aids and products, advisory services, indeed everything required to ensure that the golf course can be maintained to the highest possible specification.

Now ClubHouse, which will be housed in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre, will provide exactly the same opportunities for those seeking the latest information and product advice on what goes on inside the clubhouse.

For those people with overall responsibility for both sides of a golf club's management Harrogate will provide a unique "one-stop" shop for all their professional needs, while Club Owners, Managers and Secretaries will be able to accompany their Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers to Harrogate and extract just as much from the week as their colleagues.

The much vaunted "Continue to Learn" programme which runs during the week will be augmented to ensure that educational opportunities are also available to clubhouse, as well as golf course staff.

As I said it is a hugely significant development within our industry and I hope that, as BIGGA members, you can take pride in what your Association has achieved on behalf of the golf industry in general.

While I am in the business of issuing good news I'd like to thank Bernhards for the continuation of the very successful Bernhards Scholarship programme for a third year. Over the last two years it has seen 20 BIGGA members attend first the Canadian Conference and Show and last year the GCSAA Show to develop their knowledge and experience as greenkeepers. Next year the 10 successful candidates will again travel to the GCSAA Show and will return full of new found knowledge and ideas. Thanks to Stephen Bernhard and his team for making this possible.

Finally I'd like to congratulate Colin Irvine and his fine team for the truly stupendous condition in which they presented Muirfield for the 131st Open Championship. It was absolutely fabulous and did so much to represent the greenkeeping profession to the highest possible standard.

Scott MacCallum, Editor



We reported on the Volvo PGA Championship Support Team last month but we are now in possession of photographs of the team with the Champion Anders Hansen, together with a picture of Anders with Chris Kennedy.

IT'S A PENALTY!

It was the final practice day before the PGA Volvo Golf Championships at Wentworth and what was going on? Football on the fairway?

Well, seeing is believing and history was made that day when Shoot for a Million, the exciting new penalty shoot-out competition, set up a full-sized goal post in the picturesque setting next to the 18th hole of Wentworth's East course.



The greenkeepers, who had already entered a team in this competition, were the first to test their skills.

Golfers were intrigued by the spectacle and were soon lured down to take a few shots and to enjoy the tremendous feeling of putting the ball in the back of the net. Among others who joined in were Aaron Baddeley, the young Australian Pro, Jamie Spence and his caddie, Janet Squire.

In goal was Nick Beasant, whose father, Dave, was the first goalkeeper ever to save a penalty to win his team the FA Cup.

Shoot for a Million is open to anyone over the age of 16 who fancies their chances to test their penalty skills in teams of six with the ultimate prize of £500,000 to be won in a televised pre-Christmas final at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. With 10% of all entry fees going to the Variety Club of Great Britain it makes it not only a fantastic fun competition to be involved in but a worthwhile one too.

To enter the competition and for more details on when and where you play, event news and updates, visit the Shoot for a Million website at www.shootforamillion.net or telephone for an entry form: 0870 442 1451

TEXTRON PROMOTION

David Withers has been promoted to the position of Director, Sales and Customer Support, with immediate effect.

He will take responsibility for Textron turf sales and distribution throughout the world, excluding North America, focusing on the market leading Ransomes and Jacobsen brands.

In addition to responsibility for turfcare sales, David will also be appointing a new Customer Support Manager to ensure that customers receive the best possible assistance and attention. It will be a cross-functional role with a commercial rather than technical emphasis, and very strongly committed to customer satisfaction.

A new UK Sales Manager will also be appointed.



EIGA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects was held this year in Vilamoura, Portugal.

Peter Harradine was elected President, succeeding Simon Gidman, and Alain Prat was elected Vice President.

During the AGM the recipient of the Toro Student Golf Course Architect of the Year Award was announced as Rolf-Stephan Hansen. The Barenbrug Award was awarded to Steve Pope.

The three-day event included a Continuing Professional Development Seminar. The topics covered included ecology, architecture and the commercial aspects of golf and EIGA welcomed speakers from two of their sponsors, Toro and Textron, as well as their own members and Antonio Henriques da Silva, Managing Director of Lusotur Golfes SA.

Email press releases and new product updates to: scott@bigga.co.uk

BILL BYTES THE BULLET

Bill Paterson is Head Greenkeeper at Beaconsfield Golf Club. He started work as an apprentice greenkeeper in 1964 and was one of the first students to study for the newly formed City and Guilds qualification in greenkeeping.

Throughout his career he has been fortunate enough to work for clubs who realise the importance of continual training to keep abreast of the latest legislation and improved practices.

"I have certificates for everything from first aid (to save things) to spraying (to kill things)," said Bill.

But the one skill he never learned was how to use a computer.

"My wife and two children have been using them for years and when I asked them to show me how they worked they used to say that it was much quicker to do the job for me. I just dictated my report or whatever it was and they did the clever bit with the machine," said Bill.

In January 2000, he tried the computer skills course at The Learning Experience in Harrogate, but found there was too much to take on board in two days – "I couldn't even use the spell checker!"

But Bill was determined not to give up, so when he came home he found an evening course run by

Buckinghamshire County Council called "A Gentle Introduction to Computing for Older Students".

"I phoned up and asked whether, at 52, I was too old. The young lady at the other end of the phone giggled, said that I wasn't and immediately signed me up. I turned up at my first class expecting to be with a bunch of twentysomethings only to find that I was the youngest in the class – by some years!

"There was a husband and wife with a combined age of 150 and an old boy of 86 who was writing a book and wanted to use a keyboard because his hands were too shaky to hold a pen."

He soon became 'Young Bill' and for the next 10 weeks had the time of his life learning about keying-in, saving, printing, cutting, pasting, copying and numerous other aspects.

The following year he again tried the Harrogate course and this time ended up using spreadsheets, graphs, file management, databases and PowerPoint.

"I now use my computer to produce reports, articles



for the club newsletter, presentations and for record keeping as well as for reading Hazard Data Sheets and information from suppliers."

Club Secretary Keith Wilcox added "Bill's enthusiasm has always been first class and his new-found skills are a bonus. He can present reports in a professional and businesslike way and this all projects a good image for the club."

Bill concluded, "You're never too old to learn, and you meet some smashing people while you're at it. If old 'Young Bill' can do it, anyone can!"

OSPREY WATCH

One of Britain's rarest birds is a regular visitor to Piper Dam Golf Club, near Dundee, and Head Greenkeeper, Gordon Mitchell, has become very used to watching them "Ospreys have been using Piper Dam, near Dundee, for about 30 years for feeding only as the dam is ideal and stocked regularly with Brown and Rainbow trout," said Gordon.

In 1997 Piper Dam constructed an 18 hole golf course around the dam and this was opened in August '98 and although there was all the activity normally associated with a golf course it did nothing to affect the Ospreys behaviour or pattern of feeding.

"In '99 the Directors of Piper Dam, Tom Smith, Phil Mullholland and Murdie Smith decided to erect a nest and Osprey Centre so that the birds could be studied and also give visitors the chance to see these magnificent birds," explained Gordon.

"That year a pair of birds took to the nest and although no eggs were laid the thought was that perhaps the female was too young and this same pattern was followed for the next two years."

"However this year a new pair of birds arrived and

ousted the resident pair, who had worked hard at improving the nest which had been provided for them to the extent that they stole divots from the fairway to line it."

The new pair also improved the nest and in May there were three eggs which hatched in June.

"Sadly two of the chicks were lost, possibly because of the weather but we now have one thriving chick."

The nest is about 150 yards from the 18th tee and security is extremely tight and the nest is monitored 24 hours a day seven days a week with cameras and a very sophisticated alarm system.

"I will never get tired of watching them catch fish in the dam and feel very privileged to be able to observe such stunning birds," said Gordon.

HSS

HSS, the UK's largest equipment hire group, has appointed Steve Hailing as divisional manager of HSS Ground Care.

Steve Hailing has worked for HSS since 1992 and joins HSS's GroundCare division having previously set up the company's Lift and Shift trailer hire service.

"Everyone from the enthusiastic DIY gardener to the professional groundsman or greenkeeper can hire a range of specialist equipment from HSS GroundCare to get the job done," said Steve.



DIVING FOR GOLF BALLS

Recovery of lost golf balls from golf course water hazards is covered by health and safety legislation, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) points out as the golf season hits its peak.

Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers have a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all their employees, and that persons not in their employment are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.

This includes other contractors working on or visiting the golf course as well as members of the public.

The guidance on the general health and safety topics are in HSE's booklet: Health and Safety in Golf Course Management and Maintenance.

"This guidance does not have a specific section on the recovery of lost golf balls from golf course water hazards. However, a general risk assessment of any

water hazard associated with the golf course should have included risk control measures to prevent foreseeable incidents like drowning," said Nigel Hammond, acting head of HSE's Local Authority Unit.

If the recovery of lost golf balls requires the use of divers who are at work then the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 apply and an Approved Code of Practice for Commercial diving projects inland/inshore gives further practical advice on how to comply with the regulations.

If the divers are not at work then the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 still applies and a similar duty of care standard would be expected.

NEW MAN AT THE NEW

Euan Grant has been appointed Head Greenkeeper on the 107-year old New Course at St Andrews Links Trust. He was selected from around 50 applicants. In his new position, he will be responsible for a team of seven greenkeepers who maintain the New Course, which in 2001 was rated among the top 50 golf courses in the UK by Golf World.

Coming from a greenkeeping background, Euan, 32, has worked on several

different golf courses in the UK. His previous job was as Head Greenkeeper at Marriott Forest of Arden Golf & Country Club. Before that he was responsible for building two 18 hole golf courses for Westerham Golf Club and Happy Valley Golf Club.

As a student, Mr Grant was awarded Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award in 1994.

"We are delighted to have found a candidate with so much experience and a good eye for detail," said Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent at St Andrews Links Trust.

"Euan has very good course presentation skills and is used to managing large teams. We are looking forward to his contribution to greenkeeping at St Andrews Links."



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MOX UK

Mox UK has set up a division for the operational hire of grasscare products.

Heading up the division is Ray George, Product Development Manager (Grasscare).

"We are delighted that Ray has joined us. He brings with him a wealth of experience in the hire and the grasscare industry as well as significant management skills. With his knowledge, enthusiasm and drive, he will play a major role in Mox UK and contribute greatly to our expansion plans," said Campbell Young, General Manager for Mox UK.



JOHN DEERE

John Deere has appointed three people to the new territory based position of area manager, parts & service sales (AMPSS), reporting to parts marketing manager James Morley.

Clare Brindley and Philip Selby, appointed from within Deere Limited, and Andy Rostron, from Vapomatic, are primarily responsible for promoting parts sales through the John Deere dealer network. They cover both the agricultural and commercial & consumer equipment (C&CE) business divisions, and work closely alongside the existing sales and service field teams.

They also provide support for all types of after-market sales, including PartsCountry, merchandising and PREP (parts retail environment preparation), as well as service programmes such as PowerGard, which also involve dealer development.

Clare joined John Deere in 1998 after several years' commercial experience in the textiles business. She has worked in the credit department and as parts marketing assistant. She covers the south of England.

Philip joined John Deere in 1977 and worked his way from warehouseman, through the parts and complete goods departments to his last position as team leader in complete goods. He looks after central England, Wales and the whole of Ireland.



SISIS

Sisis has announced that the Sisis Rotorake 600 combined thatch remover and linear aerator now has "Registered Design" protection status.

Export sales of this new machine continue to grow. In addition to the many sold in Britain, users can now be found in USA, Canada, South America, Egypt, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, France, Ireland and even Papua New Guinea.



THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Scottish National Championship at West Linton Golf Club, south of Edinburgh, was an outstanding success. The quality of the golf played by certain members at least was matched by the magnificent condition Course Manager Chris Yeaman and his team had produced the course, the hospitality of the club and staff, and the organisational acumen of Peter Boyd, the Scottish Regional Administrator.

West Linton is the home course of former Open and Masters Champion, Sandy Lyle who is a regular visitor to the club and it is no exaggeration to say that he certainly would not have been unhappy to have posted the winning scratch score of 71 which Robert Patterson, of Royal Aberdeen, made to win the SGGA Challenge Cup and be crowned new Scottish Champion. In conditions which ranged from beautiful sun to torrential rain, Robert was more than a match for anything and fully deserved his victory.

The Friendship Trophy for Best Nett went to Steve Nicol, of Winterfield, with a score of 71, winning on the better inward half.

The prizes were presented by Scott McKay the West Linton, Vice Captain, who expressed his and the club's pleasure at hosting the event and promised everyone a warm welcome should they decided to make a return visit.

Results SGGA Challenge Cup, Scratch, Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, 71; Friendship Trophy, Best Nett, Steve Nicol, Winterfield, 71 (bih); Ransomes



Trophy, Cat 1. 1. George Mitchell, Newmachar, 71; 2. David Leith, St Andrews, 73 (bih); 3. Daniel Murray, Dalmahoy, 73. Patisson Trophy Cat 2. 1. Stephen Brown, Newmachar, 75 (bih); 2. Dale Norquay, Irvine Bogside, 75; 3. Chris Yeaman, West Linton, 77. STRI Trophy Cat 3. 1. Mark White, St Andrews, 74; 2. Albert Amott, Lochore Meadows, 81; 3. David Mowatt, Glasgow, 83; Dick Aitken Trophy Best Head Greenkeeper, George Brown, Turnberry, 73; M&M Trophy Best Assistant, Robbie Breingan, Muchart, 73 (bih); Souther Trophy Best Apprentice, Ben Brookes, Newmachar, 91; SIGGA Trophy Best Veteran, George Thompson, Goswick, 75; St Mungo Cup Team Trophy, North - G. Mitchell, S. Brown, R. Patterson, G. Lornie; Trade, Ian Henderson, Golf Finance, 71; Guest, Scott McKay, West Linton, 75. Nearest the Pin, Ronnie Frame, Rigby Taylor and Longest Drive Daniel Murray, Dalmahoy.



NEW DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR

BIGGA's new Design and Production Editor is 27 year-old Marie Whyld, who took up the post at the beginning of July.



Marie has extensive design experience and joined the Association from a Consultancy in Pontefract. Prior to that she worked in her home town of Derby where she designed material for among others Derby County FC and the David Lloyd Racquet Centre. Two

other well known names for whom Marie has undertaken work are Sainsbury's and Harvey Nichols, whose gift vouchers she designed.

She was born in Nottingham and went to school in Bromsgrove in Birmingham before attending Derby University where she completed a Foundation Course in Art and Design and then Wigan and Leigh College where she took a Graphics and Communication Design HND.

She now lives in Ellerton, south of York, with her boyfriend, Johnny - also a graphic designer - where their interests in the two "Gs" gardening and golf keep them occupied.

"I'm looking forward to working on the magazine, the website and all the other BIGGA promotional and educational material," she said.

BIGGA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2002

Hillside Golf Club – 30th September

Hesketh Golf Club – 1st October

Only a very few more entries can be accepted. If you want to play book today!

Contact Sarah for further information: 01347 833800