



Welcome

THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN WORK

So here we are at the final magazine of 2002. It doesn't seem more than a couple of months ago that I was listing all my new year's resolutions in the January magazine.

I was going to take golf lessons, rededicate myself to jogging and get back into the book that I started writing about 10 years ago.

Well my report card on the above doesn't make very good reading. I haven't had any golf lessons, although I did get some new clubs for my birthday which are not working too badly at the moment. I've jogged twice, although if it stops raining tonight I might make that thrice. And the book? It remains an untouched, potential masterpiece.

So there you are. That's my confession. I do feel there are mitigating circumstances though, the main one being that I happen to be living in the UK in the 21st century, a time when work increasingly seems to dominate every other aspect of our lives.

Twenty years ago the crystal ball gazers more or less promised us more leisure time by now - even a four day working week - such was the advance of the computers that were going to take much of our workload from us. But the reverse seems to be happening. Computers allow us to do much more in a much shorter space of time, but the time saved is taken up by yet more work, not the promised leisure time. The demands on us are certainly much greater than they have ever been.

I see it when I visit golf courses and people in the trade. We must always be seen to be doing more, achieving higher standards and becoming more efficient. Status Quo is not good enough, even if it is to be achieved with reduced resources. We must produce higher quality golf courses, we must grab more of the market share...

But perhaps if we did make time for golf lessons, a keep fit regime or even writing a book, we would be in a more relaxed frame of mind to tackle our day-to-day jobs and with less pressure to achieve the achievements would come all the more readily. But will we ever get the chance to test out this concept?

One man who is leaving behind all the pressures and strains of full time employment is Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter, and one of the best known and most popular men in the industry. Kim has decided to take early retirement and I know I speak for everyone in the industry, when I wish him well for the future. Hopefully, as he's not excessively old, the pipe and slippers will remain in cold storage for a while longer and we might still see him out and about occasionally.

It just remains for me to wish all Greenkeeper International readers a relaxing and enjoyable break over the festive period, and remember there's more to life than work!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

EARLY RETIREMENT FOR KIM MACFIE



Kim Macfie, one of the most recognisable figures in the fine turf industry, and one of greenkeeping's biggest supporters, has opted to take early retirement.

Kim, Sales and Marketing Director for Hayter, will step

down just before Christmas.

"Nothing stands still. In Hayter, the winds of change, (mostly gentle breezes in my recollection), are now forecast to increase markedly. The "drum beat has to be picked up", the "talk walked" etc. etc. Having been, inexorably, part of the company's philosophy for nearly 20 years, it is inappropriate for me to be part of the next stage. Consequently, I will leave the company before Christmas," said Kim.

"I have had an immensely happy and rewarding time with Hayter, due largely to the personal relationships established over the years.

I will be very sad to leave yet I will be parting with many happy memories. Hayter has an

abundance of good people to take it into the future and I wish them every success," said Kim.

Derek Boulton, Hayter Managing Director, paid tribute to Kim's distinguished career at Hayter.

"We have much to thank Kim for. Indeed Hayter's success over several decades and its market position today can be directly linked to Kim's leadership, loyalty, hard work and dedication.

"He has been the face of Hayter for a considerable time and is renowned, loved and respected throughout the industry," said Derek.

Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA commented, "I am sorry that I will no longer be working with Kim. He was the driving force behind the Hayter Challenges and International Cups in the 90s, which to this day are still much talked about by BIGGA members.

"Kim was a vibrant member of the BTME Steering Committee and contributed greatly to the exhibition's on-going success. His empathy with BIGGA's members and the profession at large was marked and singled him out as someone with whom the individual greenkeeper was immediately at ease.

"All of us at BIGGA wish him well for the future in whatever direction his retirement may take him," said Neil.

TRAINING THE TRAINER

Two train the trainer days have been hosted by the GTC recently. A follow-up to a recent successful 'train the trainer' day was hosted by the GTC last month.

In September, 11 local greenkeeping assessors attended the first part of the event, at Aldwark Manor, and were instructed on how they could improve as trainers, with a follow up at the beginning of November.

Greenkeeping assessors - normally Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers - help implement greenkeeper training in the workplace.

They were taught how to identify the trainee's needs, agree their objectives and goals and eventually help them to achieve National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications

(N/SVQs).

"Sometimes people are natural trainers and they do not recognise it. This course will help these course managers/head greenkeepers formulate what they do naturally every day," said Sue Gudgeon, the GTC's National N/SVQ Co-ordinator.

In November these assessors were asked to demonstrate how they had implemented the skills they learned in September.

"The GTC's work to promote formal work-based training started with the assessor training and the latest initiative to 'train the trainer' will again raise the profile of course managers/head greenkeepers which, in turn, will improve the skills of their staff and the condition of the golf course," added Sue.

Those of you with keen eyesight may have experienced a little confusion in Steve Isaac's excellent article in last month's magazine "Hell is a Wet Place".

Unfortunately the colour coding to both graphs has been transposed and contradicted the text. In the two graphs on page 37 the blue should have been red and the red should have been blue.

The captions to the photographs on page 38 have also been transposed.

Apologies to those people who were confused by the error and sincere apologies to Steve Isaac.

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