



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

RANSOMES JACOBSEN AND T H WHITE LINK UP

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd and T H White Ltd have announced that they have entered into an agreement whereby the Ransomes Jacobsen direct sales business at Redditch will become owned and managed by T H White with effect from the beginning of December.

To ensure continuity and a smooth transfer of responsibilities, all staff at the Redditch branch have been offered the opportunity to become employees of T H White. It is hoped and expected that most, if not all, will do so.

Redditch is the most southern of the three Ransomes Jacobsen direct sales branches. The other two, located at Mansfield in Nottinghamshire and Selby in North Yorkshire, will continue to be owned and managed by Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd.

"We view this as a very positive step for both parties. T H White is one of our premier dealers with an excellent reputation for sales and customer support. They will be inheriting a superb, highly equipped 14,000 sq ft facility manned by quality staff with significant industry experience," said David Withers, Sales and Marketing Director at Ransomes Jacobsen.

"We have always stated that we would sell direct if we could not find dealers that met our consistently high standards, both financially and in terms of customer support. We have now found an organisation from within our own network and I'm confident that they will continue to build upon the success established by Alan Prickett and the management team at Redditch."



ROLAWN

In 1995 Rolawn began an independent testing programme with the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), Europe's leading turf research body. Rolawn is the only turf company that submits itself to regular independent testing in this way. This is the conclusion from the STRI's most recent survey which was conducted in August 2002.

"In 2002, seven fields of Rolawn turf were examined all of which were presented to a high standard, uniform and attractive in appearance and free of weeds. There were also very few weed-grasses. In terms of weed-grasses some

7,000 spot identifications were made and within these only 4 weed-grasses (all *Poa annua*) were recorded. It would be impossible to produce turf that was 100% free of weeds and weed-grasses. However, the near impossible has been achieved in growing turf that was better than 99.9% free of weeds and weed-grasses."

"I am delighted by these findings. Rolawn have always sold on product quality and it is extremely gratifying when you get as distinguished a research body as the Sports Turf Research Institute coming to this conclusion," stated Terry Ryan, Rolawn's Sales & Marketing Director.

WAYNE VINCENT

Paul Worster and all the greenstaff at Minchinhampton Golf Club are delighted to announce the promotion of their Deputy Course Manager, Wayne Vincent, to the post of Head Greenkeeper at Cotswold Hills GC, Cheltenham.

Wayne joined Minchinhampton in 1994 as an assistant greenkeeper, straight from Cannington College Bridgewater where he studied greenkeeping on an N.D. course. He progressed to Deputy Course Manager in 1996, mainly as a result of his enthusiasm and determination to succeed. A measure of this determination has been the 44 mile round trip to work every day, including weekends, for the last nine years.

He has been an extremely popular member of the Management Team and thoroughly deserves this promotion. Wayne himself knows that this is probably the hardest step to take on the career ladder – moving from Deputy to the Head's position at another club.

"This was a real team effort. Paul put together a package showing management and budget techniques; another member of the team, Sam Kennedy, put together an ecology document, again showing all that we do at Minchinhampton," explained Wayne.

"I am so pleased that I have probably been insufferable for the last couple of weeks."

Wayne took over his new position at the end of November, and carried with him very best wishes from the membership and staff at Minchinhampton.

THE CHAIRMAN'S YOUNGEST FAN

Some 20 years ago National Chairman, Richard Barker, and Gavin Robson both started work together as Assistants at Longcliffe Golf Club and despite moving on to other clubs, both remained local to each other and are still very good friends.

However, despite Gavin being a keen and involved Association member he has some competition when the postman delivers the magazine each month as it is his six year old son, Callum, who wants it first not to read the articles but to see how many times he can spot the Chairman!

This is sometimes followed by a phone call to the Chairman to let him know the answer... but this month the roles will be reversed.

You never know, Callum, it might be your photo inside the back page in 30 years time or so.



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ALAMO BOOST FOR MCCONNEL

The buyout of a French company by Alamo Group Europe (AGE) will provide a further major boost for Shropshire manufacturer McConnell.

Alamo has acquired Fauchaux, one of France's leading tractor front-end loader and attachment manufacturers, and it will use McConnell, one of its subsidiary companies, to capture 25 per cent of the UK and Irish market for such products within a year, and dominate the sectors within three years.

"It will certainly create more jobs at McConnell - we cannot say how many at this stage - and it will lead to some substantial increases in business," said Geoffrey Davies, Managing Director of Alamo Group Europe.

"Our research has revealed scope to move into the front-end loader market in the UK. In addition, there are strong synergies between Fauchaux, McConnell and other AGE companies in Britain. This is a significant and logical acquisition which gives us a tremendous range of both front- and rear-mounted products for tractors."

Alamo will make significant immediate investments to modernise the building and machinery at Fauchaux's 15,000 square metre factory at Chartres to ensure McConnell receives the service it will require.



WINNER OF THE GREAT BIGGA BUNKER COMPETITION



Chris Smart, (left) of Mid Glamorgan Press Agency, the eighth winner of the Great BIGGA Bunker Competition, at The Open was presented with his Hayter Harrier Mower by Kim Macfie, (right) Hayter's Sales and Marketing Director, at Celtic Manor recently.

It was very much a case of "Anything you can do, I can do the same", for Chris whose wife, Kay, won one of the mowers in the same competition several years ago.

Chris' estimate of the number of bunkers raked during the Championship of 1043 was the closest to the actual number of 1078 of the media who took part in the competition. Among the entrants this year was Peter Allen, of Radio 5 Live, who entered live on the Drivetime Show on the eve of the Championship.

For the first time Hayter also provided a Hayter Harrier for the BIGGA Open Support Team and, showing more of a flair for the prediction game than the media, Steve Ultram, Course Manager of Wilmslow Golf Club, was just one out and secured the mower for his club and a bottle of whisky for himself.

Many thanks to Kim Macfie and Hayter for their support of this popular competition and to Jim MacKenzie and Celtic Manor for their hospitality.



Graeme MacDonald, Secretary of the East of England Section, receives the Toro Cup from Nigel Lovatt, Toro UK, with some of the EoE Section looking on.

HUNTER SHARE IN SUCCESS

The 34th Ryder Cup Matches recently played at The De Vere Belfry proved an absolute sensation, arguably the finest sporting event this year. The vital factor in hosting a successful golfing tournament is the quality of the course.

"Our objective was to ensure that we had the capacity to not only prepare the greens preceding the event, but to maintain the highest standards during the Tournament," said Bevan Tattersall, Courses Manager.

"We achieved this by working closely with our

own greens staff, the team from John Deere and the engineers from Hunter Grinders. We operated a 24 hour on-call system that allowed us to react to whatever situation arose and deal with it quickly and efficiently."

Hunter Grinder engineers, David Mitchison and Ian Robson, were in residence for ten days leading up to and during the Ryder Cup Matches to provide the capacity to grind and re-sharpen as many cylinders as was required to keep the grass in perfect condition. In addition to the

Jupiter 2000 already on site at The De Vere Belfry, Hunter Grinders supplied an additional Jupiter 2000 and an Orion Bottom Blade grinder, which has subsequently been purchased by the group.

"It was necessary to use top dressing to ensure that conditions were perfect," explained Bevan.

"This can result in additional sharpening requirements, so it was essential that we had the extra facilities provided by Hunter Grinders and the men to carry out the work."



Pike Fold Golf Club, near Bury, and Meltham Golf Club, near Huddersfield, were the lucky winners of the Campey Turf Care Prize Draw announced at the Campey Open Days in June.

The Head Greenkeepers of the two golf clubs were flown around their respective courses to view them from the air.

Nigel Potter, Head Greenkeeper at Meltham, was very enthusiastic about his prize.

"Aspects of the course lay-out and condition become easily apparent from the air, so I really enjoyed seeing the course in all its glory. It's a shame more Course Managers can't view their golf courses this way."

Geoff Firkbank and his daughter Lisa piloted the prize winners.

SECTION SECRETARIES' MEETING AT BIGGA HOUSE

The Section Secretaries Meeting at BIGGA HOUSE, held every 18 months, proved to be another successful and thought provoking event.

Split over an afternoon and a morning the first portion took in presentations covering the overview of the Association delivered by Neil Thomas; Operating the Legal Helpline, presented



by Debbie Emmerson, of General Legal Protection; and advice on preparing Section Accounts given by John Pemberton. Thereafter, following an introduction by Ken Richardson, the meeting was split into three groups to discuss education and training.

Following dinner, and further discussions, in Aldwark Manor Hotel Day Two started with a review of the previous day before the groups split again, to discuss "Sustaining and Strengthening BIGGA Sections" before feedback and a final question and answer session involving the BIGGA Management Team.

