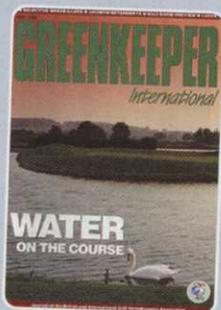


A LOOK BACK TO A DECADE AGO

Back Lapping

FROM GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Take a time-honoured look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



MAY 1992

This month we look back on one of BIGGA's most successful conferences - the National Education Conference which in 1992 was held at Cirencester Agricultural College.

The ambitious programme covered seventeen presentations from no less than fourteen speakers and as the magazine reported, called for strict adherence to timing. Greenkeeper contributions were much in evidence. Royal Liverpool's Derek Green presented a paper on 'Dry Patch'. In his typical droll humourous style he told of the 180 hydrophobic acres on the links of Hoylake, with some 50-60% of Dry Patch on any one green which appeared in a mosaic pattern. The theory was suggested that Dry Patch might be exacerbated by sand top dressing applications necessary with increased play, though Derek was at pains to point out that his links greens were not pure sand, rather a 80-20 mix with dirty sand and crushed shell. Dry Patch at Hoylake was certainly no recent phenomenon either, for old records revealed that the problems were first noted back in 1920.

Laurence Pithie spiced an altogether fascinating talk with his own highly professional slide presentation in talking of 'Golf Course Development' from his own individualistic viewpoint, enlivening the proceedings with shots of course construction disasters that would have made Harry Colt turn in his grave.

It was Bernard Findlay, Course Manager at Portstewart Golf Club, who, in the final presentation, set the seal of excellence on the Conference. Bernard had actually built a seaside links course from scratch, had the scars to prove it and the pictures to back up his experiences. The magazine reported that Bernard had begun the day as a greenhorn presenter, modestly murmuring about his inexperience, and finished as the star of the Conference, a perfect role model for other greenkeepers - indeed all platform presenters - to follow in the future.

The report concluded that if BIGGA can produce such worthy speakers from within the ranks, it is a great credit to the profession and augurs well for the future of greenkeeping.

Kevin meets Portuguese Greenkeepers Association

Kevin Shaw (right), European Sales Manager for irrigation pump system manufacturer Flowtronex Europe, meets up with Simao da Cunha, President of the newly-formed Association of Portuguese Greenkeepers, pictured on the Old Course at Vilamoura, Algarve.

Flowtronex pumping systems already form the backbone of irrigation systems for the growing number of golf and leisure complexes on the Algarve, one of Europe's favourite destinations for golfing holidays and tournaments.

Kevin, who took up full time residence in the Algarve last summer to head up the company's Sales and Service Centre, was on hand to hear about the new Association of Portuguese Greenkeepers.

"Many people have welcomed the idea. Its backbone is a website through which members can communicate and pick up information - most greenkeepers now have access to a PC and this avenue seemed an obvious choice," said Simao.



"Companies involved in the business will also be able to promote their services, giving greenkeepers

easy and fast access not only to the latest technical information but also a wide range of services," he added.

Martyn joins Lindum in South Wales

Lindum Turf has expanded its operation into South Wales, following the appointment of Martyn David as the company's new distributor.

Martyn, who was born in Llanharan and has 20 years experience working for the family landscaping company, will enjoy sole distribution rights for the full range of Lindum turf conventional, washed, large and small rolls and squares - from Chepstow to Carmarthen. He will also be offering the full Lindum Plant Nutrition service, following extensive training at Floratine Products Group's head office in Memphis, USA.

Having formed his new company, Premier Turf, to handle the Lindum distributorship, Martyn who approached Lindum's Managing Director, Stephen Fell, at last year's Saltex, says that he was ready to branch out on his own, and was



impressed by the quality of the Lindum range.

Stephen Fell said that it was vital to find someone who knew the territory.

"Martyn has lived here all his life. He is the ideal person to promote Lindum Turf in South Wales."

Stephen is lucky De Vere winner

Stephen Hartshorn, Course Manager at Heyrose Golf Club, is the lucky winner of the De Vere Hotel Weekend Break competition.

Steve, whose course coincidentally featured in last month's magazine, correctly answered the three golf posers. They were 1. Tom Watson was the man who defeated Jack Nicklaus

in the famous head-to-head Open at Turnberry in 1977; 2. Tony Jacklin won The Open in 1969 and 3. 1930 was the year in which Bobby Jones completed the Grand Slam of US and British Amateurs and US and Open Championships.

Steve, and his wife, have decided to use the prize to stay at The De Vere Belfry.



Erica joins Turfgrass Growers Association

The Turfgrass Growers Association has appointed Erica Nicholls to the position of Business Development Executive.

Working alongside the TGA's Chief Executive, David Clarke, Erica's principal remit is to help build and extend the association's income streams, enabling the TGA to sustain the continued growth in its activities, influence and profile across the United Kingdom, Ireland and further afield.

In addition to expanding the TGA's range of professional services and activities, Erica will be seeking to increase the number of turf producers and industry suppliers belonging to the association. She is aiming also to build on the valuable financial,

practical and educational input resulting from the TGA's training courses, turf shows, seminars, conferences and publications.

Among her first activities for the TGA are the organisation of a series of half-day training courses being held during April, May and June for suppliers, specifiers and installers of cultivated turf and the planning of the TGA's inaugural turf conference, scheduled to take place at the East of England Showground, Peterborough, on October 24 this year.

Erica brings to her new post a wide range of experience gained in conservation, marketing, IT and public relations. Living near Ipswich, Suffolk, she sings in a local rock band during her spare time.

