



Welcome

DIRECT THAT PASSION CONSTRUCTIVELY

In recent years there has been the explosion of what can only be described as a modern day phenomenon - the internet chat room or bulletin board. They have become an accepted part of everyday life and there can't be an organisation, in any walk of life you care to mention, that doesn't give its members the opportunity to communicate with like minded colleagues. We have had one on the BIGGA website for the last few years and a number of members link up with each other on it to share problems and uncover solutions.

For every website and bulletin board set up by a recognised organisation there are others administered independently, and very good many of them are to.

It does mean that there has never been a greater anonymity to be heard or, to be more accurate, read.

That's great because what could possibly be wrong with frank exchanges of views between like minded people and, as I have already mentioned, sharing problems and finding solutions.

Well, in the main not a great deal... if it is done responsibly. The problem is that some of the people who air their views do so beneath a cloak of anonymity, using pseudonyms or no name at all. I would imagine that it gives them the confidence to air their views in whatever directions they wish. Again, in itself, that's not a problem.

Except, and here comes the rub, much of what can be said by these people is inaccurate. Indeed it would be fair to say that much of what is said is downright wrong, based on patchy information, hearsay, or, more often than not, no accurate facts whatsoever.

Some of this is of little consequence and, occasionally, the "author" is corrected in a follow-up message, but quite often the misinformation can be potentially very damaging, not to say libellous.

As a journalist no-one is more in favour of the power of free speech than me, but I also know that with that power comes a responsibility. In conversation, a little piece of gossip is often good for the soul but as soon as something is written down, whether it be in a book, magazine, newspaper, or website bulletin board, and can be read by others, it takes on added significance.

The people who take the time to post messages on bulletin boards are obviously extremely passionate about their chosen topics and it is obvious that what they are saying means a great deal to them.

However, that time and passion could be more usefully spent becoming better acquainted with their subject so that when they do go on-line what they say has the benefit of being based on accurate information. Then perhaps it might offer up some constructive ideas from which everyone can benefit.

And if that were the case there would be no need to hide behind a pseudonym.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

EGU COURSE PROGRAMME

The Golf Services Committee of the English Golf Union has once again put together an excellent programme of seminars on Golf Course Management this autumn.

Six Seminars/Workshops have been organised at clubs around the country for Club Secretaries, Managers, Owners and Chair of Green. The programme at each venue will cover Agronomy, Ecology, Course Design, Health & Safety and Greenkeeper Education & Training. Venues have also been selected this year to allow a focus on selected subjects.

15 Oct Sandiway Golf Club, Cheshire, Agronomy & Woodland Management; 17 Oct Drayton Park Golf Club, Staffs, New Green Construction & Management; 22 Oct Gillingham Golf Club, Kent, Agronomy & Course Design; 29 Oct Minchinhampton Golf Club, Gloucs. Agronomy & Course Design; 11 Nov Porters Park Golf Club, Herts Agronomy & Ecology; 12 Nov Broadstone Golf Club, Dorset, Ecology

GREENKEEPING MASTERCLASS

The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa 4 & 5 December

Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers have the opportunity to visit the National Golf Centre for an intensive programme, which will take an in-depth look at certain aspects of Agronomy, Ecology and General Management.

Invitations are being sent to Clubs for the Seminars and Masterclass and full details of the programmes, speakers and an application form will also be available on the Golf Services pages of the EGU website at www.englishgolfunion.org.

INTURF

Inturf, the specialist growers of cultivated turf, have promoted Simon King to the position of Regional Coordinator for Lincolnshire, East Anglia and Cambridgeshire. He previously worked at Inturf's nursery in York, and his appointment reflects the ongoing strong growth in the company's business.

Simon has worked at Inturf for several years, interspersed by a spell working on a turf farm in the USA. He headed back east to the UK and Inturf three years ago, and hasn't looked back since.

In his new role, Simon will be visiting Inturf's customers on a regular basis, and so it was perhaps appropriate that he spent most of his first week in the job at Saltex.

Inturf have also promoted Ian Collett to the position of Sales Manager.



JOHN DEERE SUPPORTS BIGGA

Following the outstanding success of the inaugural John Deere Team Championship in Great Britain and Ireland during 2002, John Deere and BIGGA have announced that the National Education Conference and workshop programmes to be held during the 2003 BTME and CLUBHOUSE Exhibitions will be officially supported by the John Deere Team Championship.

"BIGGA is very pleased to receive this support at our major national event. Both the Conference and Workshops are long established and eagerly anticipated each year by our members. Support from the John Deere Team Championship will enable the Association to continue to deliver excellent speakers and experts on the respective programmes," said BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

NORFOLK TURF MACHINERY

Norfolk Turf Machinery have been awarded the franchise for Toro Commercial Products in Norfolk.

Larry Pearman, the Toro Area Sales Manager, said, 'We chose NTM because they are the up and coming turf machinery specialists in Norfolk with a strong sales record under Richard Fulford. They have come a long way in the past three years and can provide excellent sales and after sales service through their three Depots at Attleborough, North Walsham and Sculthorpe near Fakenham. We are looking forward to having a good partnership with NTM.'

NFM Managing Director Steve Kittle said 'We feel very honoured to be entrusted with such a major international franchise as Toro. This range of machinery complements our existing portfolio which includes Kubota, Etesia, Scag, Charterhouse and Dennis.'

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