



Welcome

A TRUE "SPORTING" EVENT

It has been said, and I have no reason to doubt the truth of the statement, that the Ryder Cup is the third biggest event on the world's sporting calendar, collecting a bronze medal behind the FIFA World Cup and the Olympics. I'm not sure which of the others picks up the gold, or even how it is judged. That's beside the point, however. What it means is that the biannual match, which pitches the best golfers America has to offer against Europe's finest is larger, more prestigious and produces more newspaper and magazine column inches than any of golf's four Majors.

Having been to three of them, the last in '93, I can vouch for the intensity of the competition. During the three days, and five series of games, it sometimes appears as if a point - and 14 and a half of them are needed to win the Ryder Cup - is of more value than Colin Montgomerie's weight in gold. Anyone who wins a point, or even halves his match, immediately achieves God-like status and doesn't have to buy a drink for the rest of his life!

This year may be slightly different.

No-one can surely argue with the reasons behind postponing the match last September, but it has meant that this year the build up has lacked the usual interest and speculation. That is partly down to the decision to retain last year's selected teams - another I agree with. Some players may be struggling for form 12 months on but it is the same for both sides.

What it must be hoped, and this year it must be said that the chances of it happening are greater than at any of the recent matches, is that everything is kept in perspective and the fact that, bottom line, it is just a sporting event is not lost. Not only that it is a sporting event played by the most sporting game of all.

Recently passions have run uncomfortably high to the extent that three years ago a stampede of players, wives and caddies invaded the 17th green at Brookline before the hole had even been decided. The quality of the American fight back that day was outstanding but the antics surrounding the match left a sour taste and the respective Captains, Curtis Strange and Sam Torrance, have worked hard subsequently to repair the damage inflicted upon the game that day.

Let's hope this month's Ryder Cup is a true sporting event remembered for all the right reasons, including the quality of the Brabazon course.

One man who will be hoping so is Bevan Tattersall, Course Manager at the De Vere Belfry. Bevan and his team have worked extremely hard to ensure that the Brabazon Course, which has improved as a layout almost out of all recognition, is in tip top condition and we must all hope that the Weather Gods are smiling on the event so it is seen at its best by the enormous television audience.

Good luck Bevan. I hope it all goes well for you.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

DOUG BELL

Members will be saddened to learn of the passing of Doug Bell who died in hospital on 2 August following a short illness. Doug had served as Regional Administrator for the Northern Region since September 1997. Before joining BIGGA he had been Secretary at the West Lancashire Golf Club and prior to that at Woolton Golf Club. These appointments followed 25 years spent in public administration.

During the last five years Doug had become a much respected figure in the Northern Region as well as more widely within BIGGA. Many members have benefited from his golf club visits whilst he proved a great friend and adviser to those experiencing difficulties in their lives or careers. Doug was quiet and reserved, in many ways a private man, but blessed with a dry sense of humour. His passions in life were golf and football. In the football world he served for many years as Treasurer of the Liverpool County FA while in golf his extensive knowledge of the game was there for all to witness at BIGGA events. Doug was an excellent Administrator for the Northern Region and BIGGA has lost a much valued member of staff.

"Doug Bell was a huge asset to the Northern Region and he worked extremely hard on behalf of its members. His untimely death was a great shock to everyone who knew him and he will be greatly missed," said Bert Cross, Northern Region Chairman.



HARRY DIAMOND MEMORIAL QUAICH

The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich was played over The Belleisle Golf Course, Ayr, on Sunday, July 14. The tournament was inaugurated last July as a memorial to Harry. His wife, Jessie, and his close family, Ann, Linda and Rosemary, have been deeply involved in the organisation, together with members of the Belleisle Golf Club.

The format is a Stableford Competition of foursomes with the two best scores counting at each hole. The shotgun start enhances the whole day and enables the participants to finish at the same time thereby allowing everyone to be at the presentation. The family, together with sponsors, put up the prizes for the day. The Quaich which was purchased by the family is large Scottish drinking vessel presented to the winners whereon they have their names engraved. Seven greenkeepers were invited to take part in this unique competition, three from the West Section and four from the Ayrshire Section. Unfortunately, none of us got our name on the Quaich!

The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich is a reminder of

the esteem and high regard the Club and his friends still hold to the memory of Harry. I know of no other Club who have respected the memory of their Greenkeeper in the setting up of an annual competition such as this. The attendance alone of some 130 golfers speaks for itself.

The Course was in excellent condition and the presentation was second to none. The Head Greenkeeper and his staff were greatly praised for the amount of effort they put in getting the course up to scratch for the Competition. The greens, in particular, were excellent and taking into consideration the weather we in the West of Scotland have suffered this summer, it is no less than a miracle that regular golf has been played. The seven greenkeepers who took part were invited back to the Market Inn to a buffet and to meet the Diamond family, from the very young to the more mature. The whole day was a pleasant affair and, as we said to Jessie and the girls, we greenkeepers would consider it an honour to be invited back next year.

Cecil George

PASSES ALL ROUND!

BIGGA Staff members Sami Collins (right), Education and Training Administrator and Sarah Sowerby (left), PA to Neil Thomas, have both recently passed their European Computer Driving Licence. The ECDL is a Europe-recognised qualification, comprising seven modules, which demonstrates a holder's ability to operate a computer and various software programmes. Sami and Sarah now join Brad Anderson, BIGGA's Administrative Assistant, who passed his ECDL at college earlier in the year.



NEAREST THE PIN...

Rob Gee, of Crow Nest Park Golf Club, Brighouse, West Yorkshire and part of the British Seed Houses team in the BIGGA Golf Day was the Nearest the Pin winner on the 18th hole. Congratulations Rob and sorry for missing out your name last month.

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

TEXTRON



Steve Chicken

A threat to jobs at Textron's Ipswich headquarters has receded following a review on the future viability of the manufacturing facility.

In the last few weeks Textron initially announced that the review "may potentially

place some jobs at risk" and added that "the company will be working with its workforce and relevant interested community agencies in the review. The study does not affect the Sales, Marketing, Customer Service or Engineering parts of the company".

The initial statement, by Steve Chicken, Textron Managing Director continued, "Uncertainty in the worldwide golf and municipal markets, as well as tough global market conditions, has increased the difficulties of maintaining financial performance. We need to find ways of more efficiently delivering our brands to our customers and maintain competitiveness in an aggressive marketplace."

However, despite such an ominous warning there was better news when the review was completed and Steve Chicken was able to make a much more positive announcement a few weeks later.

In the statement he said, "It has quickly become clear that we can serve our European customer base best by maintaining our current manufacturing facility, as such

the Ipswich plant will not close. We shall continue to produce the municipal and European golf-related products in the Ipswich plant. We shall continue to improve efficiencies within the manufacturing process by adopting contemporary world-class automotive practices as employed in our American factories.

This is good news for everyone associated with the company and the news was unanimously welcomed by the entire workforce and enthusiastically embraced by the local Trade Union representatives and community leaders.

"The decision to continue with production in Ipswich was strongly supported by our American parent company. We have secured the future financial success of Ipswich with an aggressive plan for the sales of our products over the coming months and years. The continued support of our dealer network, who have been particularly positive over the past few weeks, to make these plans a reality is a key factor. We intend to continue to produce top quality turf equipment for the global marketplace from the Ipswich site as well as from our facilities in the USA.

"The current range of golf and municipal products built in Ipswich today will continue unaffected with the exceptions of the Multi-mower, the T-Plex 180, the Triple 18 and the Greens Super range which will be discontinued as stocks run out during the months ahead.

"As I said in my previous statement, we remain totally committed to the Ransomes brand and to Ipswich as a base for manufacturing, selling, supporting and designing high quality products for the worldwide market."

RAIN AT ST ANDREWS

Recent excessively wet weather has had a noticeable effect on the numbers of rounds of golf being played at St Andrews Links. After last year's new record of 215,000 total rounds, this year seemed to be following the same path - until June. With 50% more rain than usual for June, the number of rounds played at St Andrews in June was down by 7% on last year, with the decrease affecting both local and visiting golfers.

Figures for the first six months of 2002 show an overall 2% decrease in golf primarily as a result of fewer visitors, as play by local golfers is up by 1%.

"The weather is clearly deterring casual golfers and last minute visitors," explained Peter Mason, external relations manager at St Andrews Links Trust.

"Even the ballot for the Old Course has been relatively quiet so golfers who are happy to play whatever the weather have a better chance than usual at this time of year of getting a tee-time."

Golfers who have ventured out in between downpours will have noticed the effect of the heavy rainfall on the courses as there has been more than the usual greenkeeping activity taking place at the world's most famous golfing venue.

"The greenkeeping teams have had to concentrate on managing the rough including invasive plants such as clover, which is more difficult to spray effectively in wet weather," explained Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent at St Andrews.

"We have had strong winds which displace the sand in the bunkers resulting in many hours spent reshaping and restoring the bunkers. The courses are more lush and greener than we would like. On the bright side, it only takes a few dry and breezy days to firm up the greens to traditional links standards."

NEW AREA MANAGER FOR SCOTTS



Gary Smith has joined the Scotts Company (UK) Ltd as Turf & Amenity Area Manager for Scotland, Cumbria and north Northumberland.

Gary began his career working as a greenkeeper in Scotland having qualified some 12 years ago. He subsequently changed role

to take on sales positions - notably for Scotts distributors Stewarts - in fertilisers and chemicals for the sports and amenity turf, local authority and landscape industries.

He is a keen sportsman, playing golf regularly and holding a black belt in Taekwon-do.

AVONCROP AMENITY PRODUCTS LTD

Avoncrop Amenity Products Limited has announced that Richard Aitken of Richard Aitken (Seedsmen) Limited has become a Shareholder and Director of the Company.

The appointment is seen as a strengthening of the two companies relationship and market positions. Both Companies have recently launched the "Award" brand of granular and liquid fertilisers and hold similar distributorships. Mr. Rod Feltham who will remain Managing Director of Avoncrop Amenity Products Limited said "This joint marketing venture will result in further developments of innovative products and services that will be offered to Turf Managers across mainland UK. The move will give real benefits to the industry, not only for our customers but our suppliers as well. We are very excited for the future".

NATIONAL TURFGRASS FOUNDATION CONFERENCE

As an entertaining addition to the National Turfgrass Foundation Conference in Southport from November 18-21, a Ryder Cup-style match is being organised for American superintendents and European greenkeepers.

A party of superintendents from some of the major courses in America is attending the Conference and will be playing in the Match on November 22. Captained by Melvin B. Lucas CGCS, past-President of the GCSAA, they hope to beat the European Team, strongly captained by BIGGA's inaugural Chairman, Walter Woods BEM, past Links Supervisor at St. Andrews. The two Captains may even look on it as a return match after an American victory in 1980 at Anaheim, California when GCSAA members played SIGGA members under the same captaincies. This could be as much of a needle match as this month's clash at The Belfry!

Sponsored by Bernhard & Co in their support of the National Turfgrass Foundation, the event should prove to be great fun, despite the inevitable competitiveness. Attendees at the Conference who would like to be considered for the European Team should contact Martyn Jones on +44 (0) 1995 670675 or Louise Clegg on +44 (0) 7759 755844 or Email: NTFoundation@aol.com.

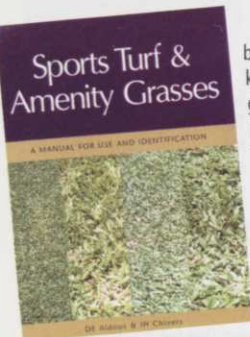
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SPORTS TURF AND AMENITY GRASS

BY D E ALDOUS AND I H CHIVERS



This recently published book extends the knowledge that can be gleaned from the BIGGA Field Guides, Grasses on the Golf Course and Grasses in the Rough. Published in Australia, the book contains most of the common cool season grasses as well as, a host of warm season grasses that might be of interest to the British Greenkeeper.

Written by David E Aldous, an Associate Professor in the School of Resource Management at the University of Melbourne and Ian H Chivers, a private consultant and grass breeder/seed producer, the book starts by

introducing ten, major cool season grasses and 16 warm season grasses.

The cool season grasses range from *Agrostis capillaris* (Brown top bent) to *Poa trivialis* (Rough stemmed blue grass) and the warm season grasses range from *Axonopus affinis* (Narrow leaf carpet grass) to *Zoysia tenuifolia* (Korean lawngrass). A list of lesser know (at least in the authors' view) cool season and warm season grasses follow which includes *Festuca ovina* (Sheep's fescue) and *Ergrostis cilianensis* (the delightfully sounding Stink grass).

Detailed instructions on the use of visual turfgrass keys follow before each grass is given an extensive description which contains: the grasses tolerance to temperature, drought, close mowing, low fertility, frost, shade, wet soil, wear and salinity; sowing, growing and mowing; plus a list of characteristics such as positives, negatives and identifying

characteristics.

Although a lot of the grasses will not be familiar to the British greenkeeper, this book would make a useful reference the a range of grasses grown in Northern Europe. It would also extend the knowledge of those wishing to learn more about warm season grasses especially those thinking of working in warmer parts of the world.

Published by Landlinks Press, the book can be ordered by e-mail to orders@edpubs.co.uk or by writing (in the United Kingdom and Europe) to Eurospan, 3 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2 8LU or in the rest of the world to publishing.sales@csiro.au or by writing to Landlinks Press, 150 Oxford Street, Collingwood VIC 3066, Australia.

The book costs £39.50 plus post and packing.
Ken Richardson

HUW'S EXCELLENCE BRINGS ITS REWARDS



It's been an exciting year for Huw Morgan, holder of the prestigious Toro Excellence in Greekeeping Award. In February, the Course Manager of The Wildemesse Club, near Sevenoaks, Kent, took up the first part of his prize: a two - week trip to the US, courtesy of Toro.

Then recently Huw was presented with the second part of his prize, a brand new Toro Workman 2100 utility vehicle for his club.

"The new Workman is a great transport vehicle. We have a pretty big course, so it's a useful addition to our fleet."

Huw's visit to America kicked off with a week at the GCSAA Conference and Show, in Orlando.

Next on the agenda was a three-day visit to The Toro Company headquarters in Minneapolis, to observe the manufacturing operation, and two days in Riverside, California, home to Toro Irrigation.

"It was quite amazing to see the Toro operation first-hand. The quality of the manufacture and the pride they take in their work is quite inspiring. I also visited some beautiful golf courses in the desert between Los Angeles and San Diego and had some very interesting discussions with their greenkeepers," added Huw.

"The reaction of everyone at Wildemesse to the award has been amazing. They are very proud of the achievement and the effort put in by everyone in the greenkeeping team - because it's a team prize, not just mine."

Our picture here shows Toro distributor Lely's Peter Mansfield presenting Huw with the keys to the vehicle.

MIDLAND REGION GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY COMPETITIONS 2002

The Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Competitions 2002, sponsored by Scotts UK Professional were held at Hartsbourne Country Club, Bushey Heath on August 7 and Beeston Fields Golf Club, Nottingham on 14 August. Club teams comprising of Head Greenkeeper, Secretary, Captain and Chairman of Green competed in a 4-ball stableford format for £200.00p worth of Scotts products and individual prizes for team members in 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The weather was superb for both days as was the welcome, co-operation and catering at both clubs.

The courses were in excellent condition, and our thanks are extended to David Stenton and his staff at Hartsbourne and David Bellamy and staff at Beeston Fields for providing wonderful playing conditions.

Hartsbourne Country Club hosted 23 teams, scores were very close with Ashridge Golf Club, led by Head Greenkeeper Jim Cassidy, winning with 83 points, closely followed by Hadley Wood Golf Club on 82 points and the host club third on 81 points.

The Kedleston Park team with Nick Martin, Scotts



There were 17 entries at Beeston Fields Golf Club with Kedleston Park Golf Club led by Head Greenkeeper David Leatherland comfortable winners on 89 points from the host club second on 86 and Drayton Park Golf Club third on 85 points. This is the fourth year Scotts UK Professional have sponsored these events in the Midland Region and our thanks are extended to Nick Martin from Scotts for his continued support.

FORMATION OF BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Bayer Environmental Science was formed recently following acquisition by Bayer of Aventis CropScience incorporating Aventis Environmental Science (formerly Rhone-Poulenc Amenity). Bayer Environmental Science is one of three major business groups within

Bayer CropScience, along with Crop Protection and Bio Science. The Bayer Environmental Science organisation will be comprised of two distinct business units: Professional Products and Consumer Products. The Professional Products business will operate in the following market segments: professional pest control, vector control and the turf and amenity business. The

Consumer Products business will operate in the consumer lawn and garden sector and will manage the sale of active ingredients and concentrates to other companies in this market.

The process of integrating the two companies has begun and will continue over the coming months. The aim is to adopt the best features and practices of both organisations. This will enable Bayer Environmental Science to fulfil its potential and be the leader in the markets in which it operates. In the meantime Bayer Environmental Science will operate through the two existing organisations.

JOHN STRATFORD JOINS GEM

Joseph Metcalf Limited has announced the appointment of John Stratford as Sales & Marketing Director. He has responsibility for all three operating divisions - Gem Gardening, Gem Horticulture and Gem Professional.

Prior to joining Joseph Metcalf, John held senior positions within the fertiliser, chemical and growing media industry and has been a consultant to several

garden and horticultural companies in other product categories.

He hopes to build on the close relationships that Gem enjoys with their customers and is particularly keen to accelerate the new product development programme, whilst continuing to offer the traditional Gem virtues of consistent quality and value for money.

TEXTRON



Alan Prickett has been promoted to the position of Textron's UK Sales Manager, with immediate effect. Reporting to David Withers, Director, Sales and Customer Support, he will be responsible for sales of Textron's extensive range of turf maintenance

equipment throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Over the past 20 years, Alan has gained extensive experience of Ransomes products in both the retail and manufacturing sectors. He joined the Jacobsen division of Textron UK in early 1997 after a career with Ransomes distributors P.A. Turney Ltd and E.T. Breakwell Ltd.

Last year he was charged with establishing Textron's branch network in the Midlands and N. Yorks, following the resignation of two dealerships covering these areas.

"Alan has done a magnificent job for us establishing the branches in Redditch, Mansfield and Selby in record time. He has the knowledge, the experience and the management skills required for this new, demanding position and we are delighted to welcoming him to Ipswich," said David.

Alan is married to Sue and has three young children. They currently live in Banbury, Oxfordshire, but will be relocating to the Ipswich area over the next few months.

HAYTER



Hayter has promoted David Sturges to Associate Director, Sales and Marketing. The appointment is with immediate effect. His responsibilities will include management of the outside sales force, maintain links with key overseas customers, oversee the development of

new products and look after specific key accounts in the UK. He will continue to report to Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director.

David has an MBA from Cranfield University and a BSc Honours in Agricultural Technology and Management from Silsoe College. He has been with Hayter since 1990, transferring from Polymark Beaver after their acquisition by Hayter. With a background in product design he has been responsible for export sales for nine years and from 1997 has also assumed the responsibility for product management. David is in his mid thirties, married with a baby son and lives in Sussex.

This appointment follows on from a major restructuring of Hayter's outside sales force earlier this year which included the appointment of a National Account Manager and Field Sales Manager.

Commenting on the new appointment Kim Macfie said, "We are delighted to be able to announce this new appointment. Our business, particularly on commercial products, has continued to grow at a very encouraging level and the appointments made this year will ensure that we not only manage that growth but also continue to build on the success of the last few years."

TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND AND A COLLEAGUE



John Taylor, an Assistant at Bradley Park, in Huddersfield, and a top international athlete died in early August from what doctors believed to have been an enlarged heart brought about by the extremely intensive training he undertook. He was just 33.

Following his death, which was reported in the Daily Mail under the heading, "Fatal dedication of man who ran himself to death" his Head Greenkeeper, David Brierley and his fellow greenkeepers wrote this tribute to their friend and colleague.

JOHN ROBERT TAYLOR -1969- 2002

John had worked at Bradley Park Golf Course in Huddersfield as greenkeeper for 15 years and was a great friend to his colleagues, a young man whose humour and spirit could be relied upon to brighten the greyest day. He was an inspiration to all who followed his great success in athletics where in Fell Racing, Cross Country and Mountain Running he represented his County, Country and Great Britain both as a Junior and Senior Athlete and was never more at home than racing up Alpine Tracks in Switzerland, his favourite venue, from the many international competitions for this Holmfirth and Bingley Harrier.

John was soon to be married to his beloved Kirsten and they had planned to build their home together in Huddersfield where he had begun to consolidate a greatly promising career in greenkeeping with studies for his NVQ Level 3 at Askham Bryan College.

At work, as in his sport John applied himself with great dedication and commitment, he had an overwhelming love of the great outdoors and was truly content at work and play. A guiding star and inspiration to those who had the great pleasure to know him. 'Joggy' was a unique man who will be sorely missed, this world has indeed lost an outstanding individual.

David Brierley, Marcus Cordingley, Andrew Chipendale, John Moonie and Martin Shaw the team at Bradley

SCOTTISH GRASS MACHINERY



Providing a dedicated sales and support function to some of the world's most famous golf courses has seen Scottish Grass Machinery increase its golf business by over 40% this year.

Over the past 12 months, Inverkeithing-based SGM Golf division, led by Divisional Manager Brian Goudie, has increased its turnover by £1 million to nearly £4 million per annum.

Of particular satisfaction to Brian is that around 70% of this increase in business has come from totally new custom.

LOUISE TOPS AT KAWASAKI

Every successful company has key individuals working behind the scenes to ensure targets are achieved and Kawasaki Motors UK is no exception.

Sales and Marketing co-ordinator Louise Topp has been doing exactly that as one of the lynch pins within the Japanese manufacturers Commercial Products Division in the UK.

Louise, who manages the day-to-day running of the division's UK sales and marketing operation has just completed ten years with the company having risen through departmental ranks from junior secretary to her present position. The service milestone is to be recognised by a special presentation.

"Since joining Kawasaki my goal has always been to get involved in the marketing side which is always exciting and challenging. There's plenty going on all the time taking part in the promotion of an ever growing product range, product launches and shows



all over the country," explained Louise.

The extent of Louise's product knowledge means she has long had her leg pulled for her ability to identify a Kawasaki generator, water pump or engine from 100 yards, often right down to the model number

OUTSTANDING OFSTED RESULTS

Outstanding Ofsted results confirm that Reaseheath College, Nantwich, is one of Britain's top colleges for sports turf management, horticulture and floristry.

The education report, released in July, identified high standards in teaching and resources, strong industry links and an adult ethos within college as key strengths. Sports turf, horticulture and floristry facilities were singled out as 'excellent', with inspectors being particularly impressed with the high standard of students' work and with the employment opportunities available after graduation

The report highlighted well-managed courses, resulting in good retention and pass rates, with frequent celebration of student success. It was also noted that students are encouraged to take additional qualifications and benefit from external visits.

Principal Vic Croxson said: "We are delighted that inspectors found the Reaseheath Experience to be as outstanding as our students know it to be. We are extremely proud of the efforts of our sports turf, horticulture and floristry students, who have consistently proved to be among the best in the country."