



Welcome

PUSH THE BOUNDARIES

If I were to list the names Michael Weir, Jim Furyk, Ben Curtis and Shaun Micheel what would they mean to you? Now I'm pretty sure the golfers among you will be able to say that they are the winners of golf's four majors in 2003, but you have to admit that it helps that the names are listed together and in order.

If the names had been thrown at you at the beginning of the year I'm sure you would have heard of Jim Furyk, he was after all, already a Ryder Cup player and you may have known Michael Weir, as he had won the 2000 American Express Championship at Valderrama and was one of a very small band of top quality left handers. However, I'd bet bucket loads that Ben Curtis and Shaun Micheel could have walked past you in the clubhouse without a second look. They probably still could!

Talking of betting it would be interesting to learn what a 10p accumulator would have reached on a successful prediction of the 2003 Major Winners. Having said that I don't think you would have believed your crystal ball. Let's face it, no Tiger, Ernie, Phil, Vijay or Sergio, you've got to be kidding?

I'm equally sure that this time last year Ben and Shaun didn't have "Win a Major Championship" as one of their goals for 2003.

And I suppose that should be a lesson to us all. We may not know what we are capable of and it may be that if we were to push ourselves forward and accept challenges we might not be found wanting. Holding back because we might fail or, worse, be found out, is a failing we succumb to all too often as unfortunately we seem to think it's better to have abstained than to have tried and failed.

I find with the magazine that often people with a great tale to tell are reluctant to put pen to paper or digit to keyboard. Don't be. If what you want to say is worth saying we'll find a way of making it publishable. It's the same in other areas. Why not enter your club in the Environment Competition? What's the worst that can happen? I'll tell you. You don't get through the first round of judging but you will have spent time considering and assessing your club's current environmental projects and needs which must be a good thing. Why not investigate the Master Greenkeeper programme? You may have to collect a few more credits before being able to move to the next stage but by doing so you are already setting out on a voyage of self improvement. It's the same with preparing to move on in your career. Putting in the work will open doors.

The point is, as Ben and Shaun found out this year, you won't discover the limit to your expectations if you don't push them and you might have an awful lot more inside you that you ever believed.

The great thing is that trying doesn't do any harm but a great deal of good.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

RETIREMENT AFTER 51 YEARS

Etesia's UK Sales & General Manager, Robin Taylor, is retiring, following a career spanning 51 years devoted to the agricultural engineering and outdoor power equipment industries.

He joined Etesia in 1991, initially as Southern Area Manager before becoming Sales Manager and eventually rising to his current position. At that time Etesia was a new manufacturer which had entered the highly competitive UK garden machinery market just three years earlier.

"In those days, Etesia's UK operation mainly consisted of just me and a van covering the whole of the country, appointing dealers and doing demonstrations. We had just one product – the Hydro 100 ride-on mower. The machine had been developed as a result of extensive research and development – its unique feature was that it would cut and collect without clogging...even in the pouring rain! Some days I got very wet demonstrating - but the mower performed so well, it virtually sold itself!" recalled Robin.

For the past 12 years Robin has been responsible for firmly establishing Etesia. "Etesia owes a great debt of gratitude to Robin for his hard

work and diligence in setting up and expanding our UK operation. His wealth of experience, tenacity and tireless energy over the years have contributed to Etesia's success and recognition as a leading brand, especially in the commercial sector. We wish him a well-earned and very happy retirement," said Managing Director, Patrick Vives.



WORTHWHILE TRIP



As part of the planned expansion programme into Europe, Hunter Grinders were exhibiting for the first time at the Elmia Park & Golf Show in Jonkoping, Sweden. The show proved one of Hunters most successful and ended with Golf Maskiner, the well known distributor of grass care machinery, being appointed to handle Hunter products in Sweden.

Peter Jonsson, Managing Director of Golf Maskiner was pleased with the development.

"We like the product very much and can see a very healthy market in Sweden. Following discussions with the Company, we are confident that Hunter Grinders can offer us the sales and engineering back up that only comes from trained experienced staff. Since the show we have already confirmed three sales and anticipate many more for the coming year."

The enthusiasm for the Hunter Grinders machines was attributed to a number of factors

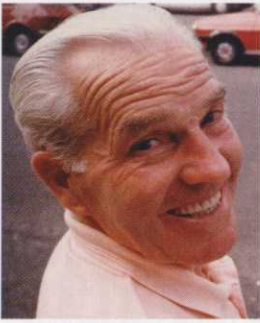
such as the rapidly expanding golf market in Sweden.

Many of the greenkeepers who attended the show were surprised and delighted to see another grinder manufacturer who advocated relief grinding as the preferred method for sustained accuracy and sharpness. They were also impressed with the robust construction of the Jupiter 2000 and the fact that it will relief, spin and sharpen cylinders and bottom blades on the one machine.

"We went to Sweden with a completely open mind" said Keith Cann-Evans, Managing Director for Hunter Grinders.

"The hands on knowledge of the visitors to the show and their well-founded enthusiasm for relief grinding was impressive. We are looking forward to establishing ourselves very quickly through Golf Maskiner as the leading supplier of mower grinders in Sweden."

HUGH MARSHALL



BIGGA Life Member Hugh Marshall has died after a short illness. He was 82.

Hugh began greenkeeping at East Kilbride GC and moved to England in 1962 when he became Head Greenkeeper at Cleckheaton & District GC. Six

years later he moved to Alwoodley GC in Leeds where he remained until his retirement in 1988.

As a Northern Committee man for many years Hugh was a staunch supporter of the Association and a regular in national BIGGA golf matches where he was often in the prizes.

In his retirement he returned north of the border to Ardossan where he remained until his death.

He leaves his wife Ann, daughter Fay, son Peter, a former greenkeeper at Moorallerton GC and now working in the trade, and four grandchildren; Craig, Scott, Ann and Elizabeth.

GRINDING A RESULT

At a recent Bernhard's demo day Jim McKenzie, Courses Manager of Celtic Manor and Stephen Bernhard joined forces to show the benefits of sharpening and promote non-contact cutting as the way forward.

"What we are trying to achieve is to get the mower to cut like a scythe," said Stephen, Managing Director.

"Before Mr Budding introduced the mower this is how all grass, including golf greens, was cut.

"Our concept is to sharpen the mower and set the blades with no-contact so they function like a scythe. Critically this ensures the grass is cleanly cut like a scalpel."

Jim backed up this theory.

"Grass is a much better quality. On the agronomic side less damage is caused to the grass so it makes less demand for water and fertiliser. Importantly this makes the recovery process quicker".

"Machinery-wise we are making huge savings as we need less spare parts for our mowers.

With less mechanical stress there is a reduction



in fuel, reduced engine wear and overheating hydraulics. This definitely saves my staff time and me money over the old method," said Jim.

"Setting up the mower with contact is like driving a car with the hand brake on," said Stephen.

"With metal rubbing on metal it is only a matter of time before the blades become dull and lose that critical sharp cut".

"A contact set up means the blades drag the material across its surface, which has the effect of making the grass bleed. This makes the grass far more susceptible to disease, it requires more water and loses definition as it actually grows more rapidly to try and recover."

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



Eamonn Wall & Co, has promoted Mark Gordon to the position of Associate Director.

Mark, 31, joined the firm in 1997 and has been operating successfully since then throughout England, based centrally in

Nottinghamshire. After graduating from Aberdeen University he gained a few years practical experience in the woods and on large contracting projects. He became a Chartered Forester in 2002 and now co-ordinates the firm's English team providing its existing and new clients with a complete woodland consulting and contracting service.

He is a keen arboriculturist and woodland designer who uses modern technology to promote successful landscape management. He is based at the firm's Retford Office.

BACK IN EUROPE



Barenbrug has appointed Gerard van Klooster as Product Development Manager for Europe.

For the last three years Gerard has been Research Director for Barenbrug USA, where he set up a testing

facility and research department in Virginia.

Previously he spent 10 years as head of the company's Dutch research department. He will now be based at Barenbrug's headquarters in the Netherlands, with responsibility for the process of innovation and product development of grass species, varieties and specific mixtures. He will also play an active role in the introduction of new products for the international market.

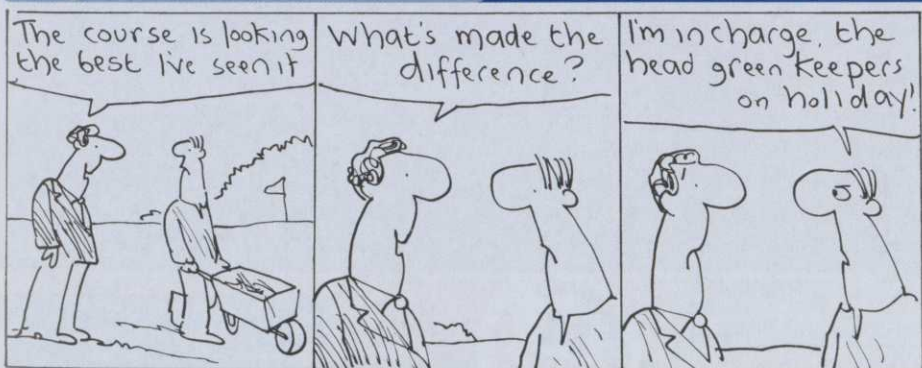
"I am delighted to be working for Barenbrug in Europe again, and to have an exciting new challenge of developing new products," said Gerard.

"Developing new varieties is a fascinating process, and it's so interesting to work with new species such as crested or tufted hairgrass. At Barenbrug we continually look at new species as they can help us to give the customer the solution to their problems," said Gerard.

Commenting on the appointment, Barenbrug UK Managing Director, Paul Johnson said, "Having Gerard on board is an important addition to Barenbrug's UK operation. The expertise and advice he can provide will help to continually improve the total package of services we offer to UK customers."

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PACE OF PLAY WORKSHOP

Slow play on the golf course is recognised as an issue facing golf course managers worldwide. A unique three day workshop has been developed at St Andrews Links to look at practical ways of improving the pace of play on the golf course.

As the largest public golf complex in the world with over 200,000 rounds of golf a year, the impact of pace of play presents a continual challenge. The Trust has taken successful measures in recent years to improve performance on the Links and has developed this workshop in order to share expertise.

The workshop is an opportunity to exchange experiences and look at practical solutions to improve the pace of play. Aimed at Course Managers and Directors, it is being held at St Andrews Links with involvement from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in February 2004.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE



▲ Felix Peters

Former rivals Imants and Redexim, two of the world's leading manufacturers of aeration and decompaction machinery, have announced a strategic marketing alliance.

The union brings together two companies with a vast wealth of knowledge and experience in the manufacture of specialist turf care equipment.

"We have been considering our strategy to target the world markets for some time now. Imants have been highly successful in Europe for many years, but we fully recognised our limited impact in the USA and the rest of the world. This joint marketing venture will give us immediate access to Redexim's worldwide dealer network and will enable us to pool our unrivalled experience in design and development of high quality turf machinery for the mutual benefit of both companies," said Felix Peters, Managing Director of Imants, based at Reusel in Holland.

The Imants rotary decompactors and the Rotoknife slitter/aerator will be marketed as own brand by Redexim, alongside the very well established and highly popular Verti-Drain aerator. However, Felix is quick to point out that the UK, Ireland, Holland and other well-established markets will be specifically excluded from the deal.

"Imants is a highly innovative and progressive company and therefore, direct contact through our own extensive dealership network is essential to us as many significant improvements and design changes are customer driven at Imants," he said.

Imants will continue to manufacture the rotary decompactors and Rotoknife at its manufacturing facility in Reusel. The machines will then be shipped to Redexim HQ in Zeist, Holland, for distribution to its dealers throughout the world.

Redexim already market a wide variety of machines on an international basis including Verti-Seed, Rapid Core, Turf Tidy and the Rink range of top dressers.

RUNNING MAN



Hot on the heels of Eric Barber's World Championship winning performances as featured in last month's magazine comes news of another feat of endurance.

Steve Suttle, Head Greenkeeper at North Foreland Golf Club in Kent, completed the London to Brighton Road Race in seven hours, 35 minutes and 49 seconds to finish 16th but missed out on a silver medal by a mere 49 seconds. It was the 10th time 45 year-old Steve has completed the 54.1 mile race with his best time coming in 1988 when he posted six hours, 42 minutes and 25 seconds while his best finishing position was 7th in 2001.

Any disappointment he felt in missing out in the medals disappeared however when the team scores were added up and it transpired that Steve's team, Thonet Roadrunners AC, had won the team trophy. The Len Hurst Belt is 100 years old and is the most prestigious trophy ever won by the club.

"It compares to a non league club winning the FA Cup," said Steve.

While the London to Brighton distance is the equivalent of two marathons Steve is also quite adept at the "shorter" marathon distance with a best time of two hours 46 minutes and 50 seconds while only last September he ran three hours, three minutes and 23 seconds.

WELSH RFU CHARITABLE TRUST GOLF DAY

South Wales Section's local Toro and Massey Ferguson distributor Ted Hopkins & Son contributed to the Welsh RFU Charitable Trust Golf Day which was held over the new Welsh National course at the Vale of Glamorgan Resort by sponsoring six teams of four people.

Pictured below is the winning team of Peter Lacey, Steve Mills, Tim Lawrence, AGCO, and Jamie

Probert, receiving their first prize of golf bags from the Chairman of the Coors Brewing Company.

In the background (back left) is former Wales and Llanelli international, Rupert Moon.

The charity raises money for those people injured as a result of sporting activities and the day raised over £5000 for the cause.



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ANY IDEA?

During the hot summer months a small number of lady members at Bridgnorth Golf Club in Shropshire contracted a severe rash on their legs - between their ankles and knees. This rash has proved to be particularly persistent and is still in evidence some two months after it first appeared.

"All the ladies in question wore long trousers - it was on one of the few rainy days in August. As far as we are aware only six ladies have been affected and we have no reports that any of the men have suffered a similar rash.

Clearly chemicals/ fertilisers are the first place to look but non had been used for a fortnight prior to this incident," said Gordon Kelsall, the Club Secretary.

"We wonder if any of your readers have had any similar experiences during the hot summer months. We would be very interested to hear from any clubs who have had similar problems," he said.

Gordon Kelsall, Hon. Secy, Bridgnorth GC, Stanley Lane, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 4SF.

NEW VENTURE



Rob Lupton, former Northern Region Administrator and Northern Section Chairman has teamed up with the IdealsUK Group, to expand their business in the south east. Working from Essex/Suffolk Rob will be

selling to the industry such items as workwear, health & safety equipment, workshop tools and equipment.

"We will basically be a one-stop shop for anything Greenkeepers may require - using my 35 years of experience to assist in any way I can," said Rob.



REAR OF THE YEAR

Chris Yeaman, Course Manager at West Linton Golf Club, near Edinburgh, is a popular man around town. Well he is with the older women, with whom he is now known as "Rear of the Year".

Chris made a starring appearance in the town's 'Calendar Boys' calendar - the male version of the famous WRI nude charity one which became the film Calendar Girls.

Appearing in all his glory, except for a pair of socks and golf shoes, in September, Chris is pictured tending the flag and his rear end has come in for some favourable comments from the townswomen. In fact he is regularly asked for his autograph.

The calendar, which features 50 West Linton males, is raising money for breast cancer and such has been its popularity Chris has appeared on GMTV in nothing but his birthday suit - fortunately shielded from full view - and interviewed by none other than Eamonn Holmes.

"The interest in the calendar has been amazing and we are delighted with how much money we've been able to raise," said Chris' wife, Carol, who added that the idea for the calendar had come before the famous WRI one had become known about.

Chris, who was on a golfing holiday with his son in Portugal when Greenkeeper International called, presumably to get away from the media attention, is joined in his picture with some of the West Linton members, two of whom didn't discover they would be posing nude until they were actually on the green.

"Two dropped out and they went to the clubhouse and asked if anyone wanted their picture taken. The two volunteers didn't know what they had let themselves in for," said Carol.

The caption for the picture reads "Nine ball at sunset".

"The local sheltered housing residents have asked Chris to go along and sign autographs for them. As long as he wears only his underpants," joked Carol.

Calendars are in short supply but if anyone wishes one they can be obtained by contacting Chris or Carol. Tel: 01968 661313. Cost is £6 with £5.50 of the proceeds going directly to breast cancer charities.



PREPARING FOR 2006

The Royal Liverpool Golf Club (Hoylake) has signed an agreement with Toro to help prepare its famous links course for The Open in 2006 - 39 years after it last hosted the championship in 1967.

After assessing a number of different manufacturers, the club has signed a five-year deal with Toro that will see the company's turf maintenance machinery used exclusively in the run-up to The Open. All the club's course machinery will be replaced within two years.

"We have used some Toro in the past, but with The Open coming up we needed to find one manufacturer which could give us the best deal for both high-quality machinery and support. We took 12 months to assess Toro against other manufacturers and it came out top for ease of operation, maintenance, quality and value for money." said Links Manager, Derek Green.

The deal covers a wide range of equipment, including greens, tees and fairway mowers, as well



as the Sidewinder units with sideways-shifting cutting units for surrounds and aprons and Workman utility vehicles.

As the second oldest golf club in England, the Royal Liverpool is a leading example of traditional

golf at its best. The 18-hole championship links course on the Wirral, also home to the Amateur Championship, is eagerly looking forward to the 2006 Open.