

## YOUR LETTERS ARE NEEDED!

Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

### Sponsorship Thanks

In January I started my new job at Colne Golf Club, which I am enjoying. I have also had to catch up in my academic studies at Myerscough College, due to the lost time since being made "redundant", as well as preparing for the birth of my second child.

This is just a short letter to thank you for awarding me sponsorship for my continued attendance at Myerscough College to complete my third year of the HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management course.

As you can imagine at the time that I contacted you, shortly after leaving my previous employer, the prospects of me being able to continue with the course were looking remote, due to the financial circumstances. This would have meant that the previous two years of study would have counted for nothing.

However with the generous sponsorship by Ransomes Jacobsen to continue to support students from all backgrounds in various stages of career development, and BIGGA awarding me this sponsorship, it has been possible for me to continue with the course.

Not only has this sponsorship allowed me to continue with my studies, with today being my final exam, the college has nominated me for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank yourselves and BIGGA for awarding me this sponsorship, as well as a huge thanks to Ransomes Jacobsen for giving all students from different circumstances the opportunity to better themselves and the industry we continue to serve to the best of our professional ability.

Keith Scruton

### Education Process

I've just read the editorial in the latest issue of Greenkeeper and I couldn't agree with you more. In fact I have issued an invitation to the Today Programme to visit us here at Myerscough College to let them see exactly what our Sportsturf Degree students get up to.

However the industry as a whole needs to do more to change the whole way in which greenkeeping/groundsmanship is viewed. To this end my Sportsturf staff and I at Myerscough have embarked on a series of seminars based at regional Sportsturf venues - The Reebok Stadium/Preston North End (02/03) and planned for 03/04 are events in Manchester/Liverpool (Manchester Stadium/Anfield) to which we have invited schools/college careers staff to get an insight into the industry.

At these events we have had leading sportsturf professionals, our own students and some of our staff setting the scene with regard to careers and education/training in sportsturf.

To date they have been well received and we hope to continue this success.

Clearly there will not be an overnight change in attitude.

However isn't this kind of an activity just what BIGGA/GTC/IOG etc should be doing on a national scale? We are very good at talking to ourselves but we need to convince a wider audience - especially the Today audience!

Colin Stanfield  
Programme Leader Sportsturf  
Myerscough College

### Well Done!

I would like to congratulate my husband Shaun McMillan, Lochore Meadows Country Park Golf Course, on passing his SVQ Level 2. All the family are very proud of him.

Special thanks must go to Albert Arnott, Shaun's Assessor and Scribe, for all his help. Shaun is due you a drink or two.

Carol Anne McMillan  
Via Email

## Whispering Grass

Are you in possession of a juicy piece of gossip and are just dying to tell someone? Or have you just moved job and want to pass on the good news?

A typical example appeared in a recent Around the Green column:

*Who was the person who thought he'd overslept on hearing The Counterfeit Stones playing Honky Tonk Woman in the Majestic Hotel during Harrogate? He jumped up, got himself dressed and down to the ballroom only to discover it was the sound check!*

Let us at Greenkeeper International know and we'll spread the word. Names could be withheld to protect the innocent... or not so innocent!

The Editor will need to know your name, and in specific cases discrete checks made, but he will protect his sources. Just email your info to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk) titled Whispering Grass.