



Welcome

## LET'S LOOK AFTER OURSELVES

I read a column recently in the excellent American Golfdom magazine by Joel Jackson who was commenting on the number of American Superintendents who were being lost to ill health way before their time.

He said he knew of one who worked long hours, smoked but who hadn't been to a doctor for a check up in 24 years. Joel commented that he saw the irony of Superintendents taking care of their golf courses better than they took care of themselves.

The truth is that there is a particular breed of person who places work ahead of every other aspect of their lives. For the unfortunate few the consequences are shocking.

Pride in professional performance can come before a personal fall and it would appear that Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers often fit into the category of people who don't just go that extra mile to do a fine job, they complete a marathon - often from dawn to dusk and often for seven days a week.

And do you know what? There will still be a section of people who would still not be satisfied and demand more.

Of course we now live in a time of the Working Hours Directive when European legislation has been passed to ensure that people are not pushed beyond their limits. I applaud this as the correct way to go but probably like you I don't think that the Working Hours Directive applies to me. I've got deadlines to meet and if that involves jumping in a car; driving to the other end of the country; conducting an interview; jumping back in the car and driving home, arriving well into the evening so be it. If I had to turn a one day job into a two day job to meet the Directive I'd see that as complicating my life. Adding stress not removing it.

In your case, if you've got an important tournament coming up and want the course to be at its best you might want to put in a push in the weeks running up to it starting earlier and finishing later to ensure the course looks its best. Treating it as just another day is opening you up to criticism and with that comes stress.

In Britain, making reference to the Working Hours Directive, or even, in some cases knocking off at the appointed hour, and you are made out to be some kind of wimp who can't hack it in the thrusting world that is modern day Britain.

However, common sense and the spirit of the Working Hours Directive, if not the detail, must begin to prevail. It is imperative that we look after ourselves and, perhaps more importantly, those around us much better. Working ourselves into the ground is not the answer.

I'd be prepared to wager that by doing so we'd end up doing our jobs better as a result! A satisfying by-product.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

## ALLAN MCDUGALL

The Greenkeeping Fraternity, both north and south of the border, was shocked by the recent sudden death of Allan McDougall at the age of 44, especially as it was only months since he buried his father, Bob. Both Allan and Bob put a lot into the Association, particularly in the early days of BIGGA, supporting Tournaments, seminars and other events.

Allan's career started under Jimmy Kidd, at the Glasgow Golf Club (Killermont), before taking up the position of First Assistant at Cawder Golf Club. He then moved on to become head man at Eastwood Golf Club before progressing to Stirling Golf Club. His next move was to Sandwell Park in the midlands before heading to Northern Ireland and Roe Park Golf Club then returning to take up the



position of Course Manager at the Royal Mid-Surrey, which he enjoyed so much.

No matter where he worked he made friends and we shall all miss those "catching up" moments at BTME. His life enriched many people's lives. We should not cry because it's over but smile because it happened.

He shall be missed by his friends, many from home and overseas, who attended his funeral, including The 'Machrie Misfits' of which Allan was President this year.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to his wife, Janette, and his family, Mandy and Bobby, who is carrying on the family tradition of greenkeeping, as well as his mother, Jean, and brother, Donnie.

## ROLAWN

Anyone passing close to one of Rolawn's turfing nurseries may be staggered to see the giant 21 gang mowers being used to cut the fields.

Developed and built by the company itself the mowers fold up onto a manageable road using size, but expand when working to be able to mow 60 hectares per day, which is the equivalent of 60 football pitches.

"We currently have four of the 21 gang mowers, a fifth one is under construction and a sixth one is planned," explained Terry Ryan, of Rolawn.



## AU REVOIR BEN



Ben Petitjean, Sales Manager Barenbrug UK, is to return to his native country to take up the position of Commercial Director of Barenbrug France. He will be responsible for the commercial policy of the company in consumer, amenity and forage product groups.

Ben joined Barenbrug UK in July 1996 as Area

Manager for the Midlands and East Anglia. Quickly mastering the English language, he soon built up a loyal customer base throughout his trading area.

"During the last few years, Ben has taken on overall responsibility for our amenity business," says Paul Johnson, Managing Director of Barenbrug UK. "He and his team have increased our market share across the board substantially."

"All Ben's colleagues wish him every success in his new post, and, as he is staying within the Barenbrug Group, it is very much a case of 'au revoir' rather than 'goodbye'."

## PASSES ALL ROUND



Two members of the BIGGA Headquarters staff have joined the growing band of staff who have attained the European Computer Driving Licence.

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, is pictured with Rachael Foster and Gemma Lee with their qualification certificates.

Email press releases and new product updates to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)