



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 MCDOUGALL

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

WATCH OUT FOR BOGUS CARDS

Police investigating a theft have come across a BIGGA membership card included among a number of stolen store cards.

The card, pictured here, is an obvious counterfeit but carries enough relevant information that might persuade an unsuspecting Secretary or Club Professional to give courtesy of the course.

If anyone does come across a card they feel is suspicious here are some points to look for:

1. There is no such thing as Gold Key Associate Membership;
2. Cards are valid for one year and wouldn't be valid for more than a year.
3. BIGGA membership cards do not say "Free golf on this card".
4. BIGGA membership cards are now all in credit card form with the photograph printed onto the plastic.

If anyone does come across cards displaying this, or similar information, they are asked to contact BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800 immediately.



NEW MEN AT TURFTRAX



TurfTrax, the Bedford-based turf, soil and grounds management consultancy, has appointed two new consultants.

Located in the Swindon/Cirencester area, Noel MacKenzie will provide agronomy

advice in support of the company's construction projects in S England and S Wales.

Noel joins TurfTrax from Grass Science where he was a senior agronomist and involved in in-depth resource and recruitment management for golf clubs and local authorities. Prior to this he worked with the STRI as a sports turf consultant in London

and the Home Counties.

James Welsh specialises in plant and soil interactions and has previously worked at Cranfield University on projects as diverse as electromagnetic scanning and interpretation, and precision farming.

Dr Welsh will work as a technical consultant, from the company's Bedford Offices' on drainage and pitch construction projects as well as turf agronomy.

"Both appointments further reinforce our turf management arm," says TurfTrax Managing Director, Justin Smith.

"While specialising on construction and renovation, we are now increasingly asked for and provide a strong aftercare package. This ensures our customers adopt best-practice management to ensure strong, healthy turf growth."

NAME CHANGE

Independent irrigation consultants, Wardle Consulting Engineers Ltd. have announced that they have changed their company name to Irriplan Ltd.

"The new name is part of an overall plan to revise the marketing and structure of the business and the name Irriplan has been chosen to better reflect our core business of irrigation planning, engineering, design and implementation," explained company founder Giles Wardle.

"Over the nine years since inception, the company has grown in reputation and with

Carnoustie, Royal Lytham, Turnberry, Gleneagles and Queenwood among our clients the company is firmly established as one of the UK's premier irrigation consultancies. Now the company needs to build on that success and the name change is the first step in a plan to re-structure and expand the business to new markets."

In tandem with the name change the company announces the setting up of a franchise for Scotland and Ireland. Irriplan Scotland is to be operated by Phil Langdon, former projects director of Wardle Consulting Engineers Ltd.

BIGGA'S LATEST RECRUIT...

23 year-old Katie Davies is the latest recruit to BIGGA HOUSE having taken on the role of Sales Administrator in the Sales Department.



Katie joins the Association from her role as Consumable Sales Manager for Dalesauna Ltd, a Harrogate company which sold chemicals to the leisure industry for use in swimming pools.

A native of Harrogate, Katie studied Primary School Education at Chester University before deciding on a change of career direction.

Listing her hobbies as socialising and good food and wine she boasts two fine claims to fame. At the age of six she won a talent competition at Pontins for her rendition of the old Spitting Image favourite "Hold a Chicken in the Air" while four years ago she was voted the "Sexiest Voice in Yorkshire" by the listeners of Galaxy 105 radio station.

GREAT PERFORMANCE

Scottish greenkeeper Glenn Campbell did the profession proud during the recent Amateur Championship at Royal Troon.

Glenn, 30, who works at Murrayshall GC, in Scone, Perthshire, under Ian MacMillan MG, reached the quarter finals of the event before eventually losing out.

Blaigowrie member Glenn, who at one time boasted the lowest handicap in Britain at +5 but was on +3 at the time of the Championship, received quite a bit of publicity during his run on three counts. One was for sharing a name with the American country singer, the second was for his hatred of practice and not hitting a ball in warm up all week and, finally as being the only one of the last eight who had a full time job.

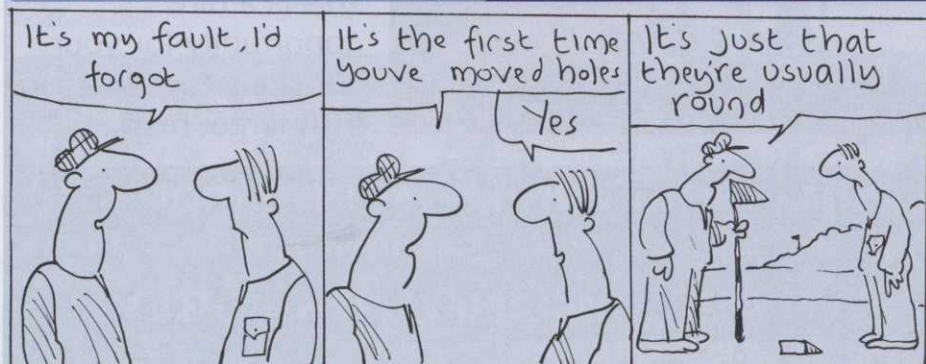
STAFF REACH THE MILESTONE



Three members of the BIGGA Headquarters staff celebrated 10 years with the Association recently. Pauline Thompson, Sami Collins and John Pemberton each reached the milestone and were congratulated by Executive Director Neil Thomas, who himself is the longest serving member of staff having 16 years under his belt.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year www.tonyhusband.co.uk





After a comparatively dry Wentworth and an exciting finish Volvo-PGA winner Ignacio Garrido is pictured here with Chris Kennedy Course Manager and the volunteer Greenkeeping Support Team.

EXPANDED ROLE FOR LELY

The Toro Company has appointed Lely (UK) Limited to distribute its consumer products in the UK.

Effective from September 1, the development will see the distribution of all Toro consumer products move from the American company's offices in Bournemouth to Lely's base in St Neots, Cambridgeshire.

Toro says this change is in line with its business model to have its entire product range distributed by one distributor. Lely has distributed Toro Commercial equipment, such as professional turf mowers, aerators and utility vehicles, since 1983. And last year it added the distribution of Toro irrigation products to its Toro portfolio.

"This development is in line with Toro's goal of supporting its valued dealers with the world's finest consumer lawn care products and to provide them with the highest level of customer services. Lely UK has been the distributor of Toro commercial machinery for almost 20 years and irrigation

products for just over one year," said Dennis Himan, Toro's Vice President and General Manager International Business.

Lely has begun the process of setting up a new business unit for consumer products, which comprise Toro pedestrian recycler mowers and Wheel Horse riding mowers and tractors, as well as associated hand-held products like trimmers and vacs.

Lely UK Managing Director, Graham Dale, welcomed the move to expand the Lely-Toro partnership.

"Lely is delighted that Toro is entrusting us with yet another important part of its business. We are formulating our plans to provide a full sales and technical support service and it's our intention to include key staff appointments of current Toro staff members as well as new appointments. The Toro division of Lely UK is a major part of our overall distribution business," said Graham.

RANSOMES JACOBSEN SEMINAR AT DONNINGTON VALLEY

A seminar to recognise and celebrate the work of the recipients of BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen was held at Donnington Valley Golf Club last month.

In keeping with Ransomes Jacobsen's aim to be the environment friendly company in the industry, the seminar had an environmental theme and took in a number of papers covering those issues.

Richard Hayden, of the Institute of Technology, Tralee, discussed environmental management systems and the progress that has been made in producing fuel from domestic waste.

Dean Cleaver, of FEGGA, outlined the Federation's work in producing a Blueprint for Sustainable Golf.

David Withers, of Ransomes Jacobsen, spoke on Environmental Golf & Greenkeeping, while Barry Ohrman, of Calor Gas, reported on his company's alternative fuel.

David Stubbs, of the Committed to Green, updated the audience on the work of the programme while after lunch Ken Richardson, BIGGA, described the various routes open to greenkeepers hoping to further their careers.

The seminar closed with a paper from Peter Jones, of Peter Jones Associates, who is one of the recipients of a scholarship award and he spoke on the research work this had enabled him to undertake at Cranfield University.



ONLY 7 MONTHS TO GO...

TUESDAY
20 JAN

WEDNESDAY
21 JAN

THURSDAY
22 JAN

ZIC - International Irrigation Consultants

MJ Abbott Ltd

Advanta Seeds UK

Aebi & Co. AG

AFT Trenchers

Air-Eze Ltd

Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd

Allen Power Equipment Ltd

Alllett Mowers

Allied Turf - Tech

Amenity Land Services Ltd

Amenity Technology

Angus Horticulture Ltd

Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd

Askham Bryan College

Association of Golf Club Secretaries

Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd

GW Axup & Co Ltd

Barcham Trees

Barenbrug UK Ltd

Barrelfield Golf Ltd

Bathgate Leisure

Bayer Environmental Science

Berkshire College of Agriculture

Bernhard & Co Ltd

Bioseed Probiotics Ltd

Blec Landscaping Equipment Co. Ltd

BMS (Better Methods Europe Ltd)

Boughton Loam Ltd

Bowcom Limited

Boyd Golf

British & International Golf

Greenkeepers Association

British Seed Houses Ltd

Campsey Turfcare Systems

Cebeco Seeds

Charterhouse Turf Machinery

Club Car - Ingersoll-Rand

Complete Weed Control

Cooper Clarke Group Ltd

Course Care

DENNIS

Eagle Promotions Ltd

Earthquate Turfcare Ltd

East Riding Amenity

Ecosolve Limited

Elmwood College

English Golf Union

European Institute of Golf Course Architects

European Turf Technology Ltd

European Turfgrass

Fairway Credit

Farm & Garden Machinery

Farmura Ltd

Fleet (Line Markers) Ltd

Floratine Products

FMW & Distinct

Gambetti Barre UK Ltd

Garfitts International Ltd

GCSAA

Gem Professional

Glen Farrow

Golf Finance Ltd

Golf Management Europe

The Golf Sign Company

John Greasley Ltd

The Greenkeepers Training Committee

Greenlink International Ltd

Greenscape (UK) Ltd

Groundsman Industries Ltd

Hardi Limited

Hayter Ltd

Haztek International

Headland Amenity

Humate International Inc

Hunter Grinders Ltd

Huxley Golf

ING Lease

The Institute of Groundsmanship

Inturf

Irrigation Control Ltd

David Jenkins Turfcare Equipment Ltd

John Deere Limited

Johnsons Sport & Amenity Grass Seed

Kubota (UK) Ltd

Lastec UK

Lewis Equipment Ltd

Lindum Seeded Turf Ltd

Links Leisure

Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd

Logic Irrigation

Logocloth

Major Equipment Ltd

RC Marble & Sons Ltd

Massey Ferguson (AGCO)

Maxwell Hart Group

Maxxis International UK

McCormick Tractors International Ltd

Merrist Wood College

MJT Contracts Ltd

Mox UK Ltd

Myerscough College

New Holland

North Staffs Irrigation

Nu-Gro Corporation

Ocmis (UK) Ltd

Pentagon Amenity Marketing Ltd

Power Seeds UK

Proturf Ltd

PSD Agronomy

Rain Bird Europe

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd

Rigby Taylor Ltd

Rufford Soil Technology

Ruston's Engineering Co Ltd

Same Deutz-Fahr UK Ltd

The Scotts Company (UK) Ltd

Sheltons Sportsturf Drainage Solutions

Sheppy Humber Palmers

Silesia Grill Systems

Simon Tullett Machinery Co Ltd

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd

Speedcut Contractors

STRI

Supaturf Products Ltd

Swan Golf Designs Ltd

Swan Plant Services Ltd

Symbio

Tacit

Talbot Farm Landscapes

Tenax UK Limited

Terra-Vac

Tildenet Ltd

D W Tomlin

Tonick Watering Ltd

Toro Commercial and Irrigation Products

Toro Products

Tower Chemicals Ltd

Trelleborg Wheel Systems Ltd

True Surface Rollers

Turf Masters

Turfcare Group

Turfmech Machinery Ltd

Turftrax Ground Management

Tym Tractors

Verde Sports Ltd

Vitax Ltd

Warwickshire College

Waste2Water Europe Ltd

WBB Minerals

White Horse Contractors Ltd

Ken White Signs

Wiedenmann UK Ltd

Wolf Proline

Yamaha Motor UK Ltd