



Welcome

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Over the last decade we have all learned of HRH The Duke of York's love of golf and while you can't equate it with the impact Tiger Woods has made on the popularity of the game, he has certainly raised its profile in some areas of society.

He was also good enough to come to Aldwark and officially open BIGGA HOUSE five years ago this month. My how time flies.

Well, last month the profile of the game was given a further boost when the Duke drove in as Captain of the R&A for the next 12 months.

R&A Secretary, Peter Dawson, said it was the best drive he'd ever seen down the famous 1st on the Old Course and within moments those very words were being beamed across the wires and turned into quotes in newspapers, magazines and websites, together with pictures of the Duke's well balanced follow through. If anything could highlight the impact the new R&A Captain will have over the next year that was it.

With playing numbers not increasing at the expected rate and golf clubs involved in battles to secure prospective members, a lifting of the profile of the game is just what the doctor ordered. Photographs of the Duke playing golf will no doubt appear in the likes of Hello and OK magazines again and it might give those people who had contemplated giving the game a go, but done nothing about it, a nudge into visiting their local club or driving range.

Let's face it, for those of us who make our living from the game, however directly or indirectly, any leg up golf gets is a bonus. Our sector of the industry is not huge and any more money that can be brought through the doors is most welcome.

A new member means your club has a cheque to bank, which in turn means when you come to need a new piece of machinery the money will be there to spend. When you do, the company from which you have bought will have more money and they might feel inclined to give their profile an injection by taking out an advert with Greenkeeper International, or becoming a Golden or Silver Key supporter of our Education and Development Fund or increasing their stand space at Harrogate.

When that happens we have more resources to improve the benefits we offer BIGGA members and provide additional education and training courses and resources, which means you're better placed to do a better job back at your golf clubs. If your courses are looking tip top you are better placed to attract more new members. Many more members and the club will be in a position to add to its greenkeeping staff and then BIGGA will have more potential members which gives the Association more clout when we come to talking to the industry, or even companies from outwith the industry.

I suppose, stealing from The Lion King, it's the Circle of Life!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

TORO MATCH-UP

The benefits of the Toro Student of the Year Award have long been known to those people who have been lucky enough to have become involved at any stage of the competition but for the 2001 winner, Andrew Pledger, they have been greater than most.

Andrew won his Award in the final year that the competition was run alongside the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping, and his fellow victor was Huw Morgan MG, Course Manager at Wildernesse Golf Club in Kent. It was the first time that the two men had met and their friendship grew over the following months and in particular during the time when both were in the States - Andrew as part of his

Scholarship Award at the University of Massachusetts and Huw during his winner's trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando.

During this time Huw had been looking at his own staffing issues and felt that Andrew was just the sort of person he'd love to have as his Deputy. So on the taxi journey back to Orlando International Airport he offered the job to Andrew, who, at the time was number three at The Hertfordshire Golf Club.

"He was a bit taken aback to be asked but two or three weeks later he accepted and started as joint Deputy Course Manager with Grant Elliott, the following January," explained Huw.

"It has been a great move, Grant is excellent at construction work and Andrew, who has customer care experience from his time as a Sainsbury Manager is great at talking to members in the clubhouse, while his attention to detail out on the

golf course is superb," explained Huw.

"I can't thank Toro enough. Not only did we get a great deal out of winning the competitions but they acted as matchmaker too. We would never have met if it hadn't been for Toro."



Andrew seated with Huw standing

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year prize of an intensive seven week turf management course in Massachusetts, visits to the GCSAA Conference and Show and Toro Headquarters was a huge boost to Andrew.

"It really brought me on to another level and opened my eyes to what could be achieved. When I came back I really wanted to use the information that I'd learned," he said.

"I'd had corporate experience at The Hertfordshire but I really wanted experience at a members' club and what better club than the Wildernesse for that and working with such a dedicated, open minded Course Manager as Huw has been great.

"If it hadn't been for the Toro Awards we wouldn't have met and I wouldn't have had this opportunity," he said.

WELL DONE NEIL!

What do Paul Lawrie and Neil Woolfrey, Course Manager at Great Lever & Farnworth GC, have in common?

Well, they are both Carnoustie Champions. Paul, as we all remember, won an amazing Open Championship over the famous old links in 1999 and earned himself a place on Greenkeeper International's front cover as a result. Neil has just won the Carnoustie Amateur Championship, or as it is better known The Craw's Nest Tassie.

The event attracts players from all over the world and this year had a field of 365.

Neil, a 2 handicapper at Brightmet GC, in Bolton, had to survive two rounds of qualifying. One over the Championship course and another over the Burnside course, before going into the 64 man knockout stage, all played over what is widely regarded as the toughest course in golf.



"During the matchplay stages I beat two past champions from the Carnoustie Club and in the final beat a player off +2 handicap, by two holes.

Ironically he was also from Bolton and I was the first ever winner to come from the North West.

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

PRACTICAL GREENKEEPING

Second edition

By Jim Arthur B.Sc. (Agric.)

Published by The Royal & Ancient
Golf Club of St Andrews 2003-08-18
ISBN 0 907583 12 1

The first edition of Practical Greenkeeping was produced in 1997 to fill a huge void in practical knowledge in a format that could be easily understood at all levels. Jim Arthur's experience, advising more than 550 golf clubs in Britain and Europe and acting as consultant agronomist to the Championship Committee of the R&A, made him the ideal man for the job.

His no-nonsense, down-to-earth approach conveys his message loudly and clearly. Golf courses can flourish by following traditional methods that are the most simple and most effective, both in terms of condition and cost.

The second edition of this essential book contains much new material in the form of appendices to chapters, bringing the debate right up to the minute in terms of new regulations on pesticides and fertilisers and restrictions on the use of water. Now, more than ever, the sound traditional advice in Practical Greenkeeping is vital to all those involved in the preparation of golf courses.

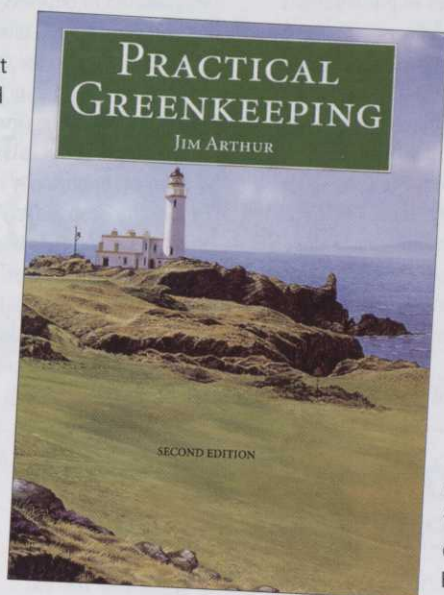
New generations of student and trainee greenkeepers will find the content of this book invaluable and it will also stimulate much debate and provide encouragement for experienced Course Managers.

As Jim Arthur points out: "Pesticides are predictably going to be progressively banned or unavailable, so high input methods involving massive corrective or preventative chemical control systems will collapse. The only solution is to swing back to austere methods which favour our traditional grasses as well as our traditional game, while costing far less and carrying fewer associated problems."

No golf club green committee should be without a copy of this book. The future health and prosperity of golf courses throughout Britain and Europe could be ensured by following the

sound advice crammed into these pages.

Practical Greenkeeping is available from the R&A website (www.randa.org); from the STRI Bookshop (www.stri.co.uk); from the distributors Gazelle, at White Cross Mills, Hightown Lane, Lancaster, LA1 4XS (tel: 01524 68765); and all main booksellers. Jim will also be happy to post signed copies to students and fellow enthusiasts (tel: 01395 442966). The price is £29.95 hard back post free, copiously illustrated 312pp.



YES MINISTER

The GTC's David Golding has been in correspondence with Alan Johnson, the recently appointed Government Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education regarding the "on-going statements regarding 'Mickey Mouse' degrees such as Golf Course Management" as reported to have been made by Mr Johnson's predecessor, Margaret Hodge.

Greenkeeper International has also been critical of Chris Woodhead, the former Chief Inspector of Schools, who regularly appears on the media using Golf Course Management as an example of "Mickey Mouse" courses.

In his letter to Alan Johnson, David states: "We as the industry body have invested heavily in working with our SSC and Awarding Bodies to ensure the range of courses/qualifications are appropriate for employers and student greenkeepers.

"Whilst 90% plus of students are registered on N/SVQ's several of the more academic students prefer the HE route and this we believe is important for the future maintenance and management of our golf courses.

"It is therefore unhelpful when publicly Mrs Hodge undermines our efforts."

In his reply Alan Johnson says: "You raise some concerns about perceptions of certain courses, and specifically about comments attributed to my predecessor Margaret Hodge. Much was made of Margaret's comments at the Institute for Public Policy Research seminar earlier this year. However, she deliberately did not name any particular course or type of university but was instead referring to any course where the content is perhaps not as rigorous as one would expect and where the degree itself may not have a clear purpose or relevance in the labour market. The comments were made in the context of ensuring that the expansion of higher education is both relevant and appropriate to meet the needs of learners and employers. This was a key message in our recent White Paper, The Future of Higher Education, where we underlined our support for diversity in higher education and for the skills and qualities it develops in those who take part."

David added that while there were no reassurances in Mr Johnson's letter regarding the future of turf HE qualifications, the Government are now certainly aware that the turf sector is determined that golf club employers and turf students have a range of qualifications based on employment opportunities from apprentice greenkeeper to the agronomist.

LDCA SEMINAR

The next LDCA Sportsturf Drainage Seminar and Demonstration will be held on 13 November. It will take place at the impressive facilities of the Sport England National Sports Centre, at Bisham Abbey, in Berkshire.

The morning session will include talks on drainage design, installation and maintenance of sportsturf facilities, presented by a team of well respected figures in the national turf industry.

A valuable part of the day is the afternoon working live demonstration. This shows systems of drainage and secondary treatments being installed with a range of different types of machinery and equipment.

Further information and booking form can be found on the LDCA website www.ldca.org or from the LDCA Secretary Tel: 01327 263264 Fax: 01327 263265 or email: secretary@ldca.org

Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



With reference to the article 'The SMART way to manage disease' by Dr. Ruth Mann of STRI, BAYER Environmental Science have kindly pointed out that iprodione is, in fact, a multi-site fungicide (in that it affects more than one biochemical process in the pathogen). Iprodione is the active ingredient of Chipco Green and not Rovral Green as stated in the article.

SGM OPEN WEEK



'Groundcare and the Environment' was the theme of a special Open Week staged recently by Scottish Grass Machinery at its Inverkeithing Headquarters in Fife.

Over 300 hundred groundcare professionals from local authorities, golf clubs, sports stadia and the landscape industry attended the event held over three days in August.

They were treated to a series of presentations centred around the increasing influence of environmental issues on the groundcare business.

Expert speakers included Steve Chicken, Alan Prickett and Richard Tyrrell, all from Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, Barry Ohrman, Calor Gas Ltd; Jim Maloney, Envirosafe; Jimmy Kidd, The Gleneagles Hotel and John Caven, Meldrum House Golf Club.

Many of the latest models of environmentally friendly equipment were also previewed by Scottish Grass Machinery at its purpose built demonstration facility. These included Ransomes 2130 LPG and Jacobsen E-PLEX.

The Open Week also offered the opportunity for

Scottish Grass Machinery to introduce its customers to its brand new £250,000 workshop facility which has doubled workshop space at the Inverkeithing HQ to 20,000 sq ft.

During the Open Week, Scottish Grass Machinery underlined its credentials as a successful family business when the new workshop facility was declared open by Kerr McInroy, the three year old grandson of business founder, David McInroy and son of managing director, Steven McInroy.

Commenting on the Open Week, Steven McInroy, managing director, Scottish Grass Machinery said, "The Open Week has become a regular fixture in our calendar because it provides an excellent opportunity to gather together many of the industry's top players in Scotland, to discuss the latest trends and to look at the latest equipment coming on to the market. As with many other industries, environmental issues are moving rapidly towards the top of the agenda in groundcare and it therefore seemed a natural choice as the theme for this Open Week."

GREENKEEPING MASTERCLASS DECEMBER 3 & 4

Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers will be heading for Woodhall Spa in December for the next event in the highly successful series of Greenkeeping Masterclasses. The Masterclass is a technical conference which aims to keep Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers right up-to-date with specific agronomic and environmental theory and practice as well as the wider picture in relation to these subjects.

Provisional Subjects and Speakers for December:

European Perspective on Pesticide Regulations, Steve Isaac, Secretary to the R&A Golf Course Committee; Update on Biologicals, Stella Rixon, STRI; Grasses for Golf, Dr Andy Newell, STRI; Waste Water Re-cycling, Tim Early, Waste2Water; Agronomy, Andy Cole, PSD Agronomy; Management & Communications, Kerran Daly MG, Gog Magog and Duncan McGilvray, Potters Bar.

Booking forms will be sent out in early October and further information will also appear at www.englishgolfunion.org/roadshows

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGIONAL SEMINAR

November 19 & 20

Speakers will include David Garland of the European Tour, The National Chairman, George Brown, Kerran Daly, the inimitable Frank Newberry and English Amateur Champion Richard Finch.

Programmes were sent out in September. Please contact your section secretary if you have not received one. Enquiries telephone Paula Humphries on: 01288 341418.

ONE DAY GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT SEMINARS

A series of one-day golf course management seminars organised by the EGU's Golf Services and County Unions are scheduled for this autumn.

The seminars will cover a wide range of topics for Course Managers, Greenkeepers, Secretaries, Managers, Owners and Chair of Green.

The programmes will be delivered by expert speakers and include on-course agronomy and ecology discussions, machinery demonstrations, finance, climate change and course design and alteration.

VENUES AND DATES:

- 15 Oct - The Wiltshire
- 16 Oct - Tavistock Golf Club, Devon
- 22 Oct - Chelmsford Golf Club, Essex
- 23 Oct - Gog Magog Golf Club, Cambs
- 4 Nov - The Oaks Golf Club, Yorks

Booking forms were sent to Golf Clubs in early September and further details of the programmes and speakers will be available on our website at: www.englishgolfunion.org/roadshows

BIOSEED BOWL TROPHY 2003



The final of the Bioseed Bowl was recently played at the superb Foxhills Golf and Country Club in Ottershaw, Surrey.

The final was a keenly contested affair which was won by 2 holes, by Steven Weir and Scott McMurray (Wentworth) over Roger Tydeman and Kevin Humphreys (Croham Hurst).

A meal was followed by the prize presentation. The winners receiving free entry to the BIGGA

National Championship as well as £100 spending money. The runners up each received an £80 golf gift voucher.

Kind thanks go to David Smart of Bioseed for generously sponsoring the event.

Picture above Left to Right: Weir and McMurray, winners; David Smart, Bioseed; Anthony Freeman, Surrey Chairman, Tydeman and Humphreys, runners up.