



Welcome

## IT'S AMAZING HOW TIME FLIES

A few months ago, during a rare moment of office time given over to reflection, I worked out that the September 2003 magazine would be the 100th I'd edited since joining the Association in April '95.

Now here it is, the 100th magazine under my editorship and in a quiet way I take some pride in having achieved my own personal century.

What it also did was make me think back to those days when I began working for BIGGA and the changes that we have seen since then.

My first magazine, June '95, featured Walter Woods who was preparing for his final Open Championship; there was an article from John Hacker, on "How a Green Committee Should be Run", and a piece on "10 Further Pitfalls of Golf Course Maintenance" from Robert Brame, of the USGA Green Section.

News included a report on a special meeting a golf club was holding "to discuss the performance of its greenkeeping staff"

A look at the Section Notes revealed the names of many members who are still working hard on behalf of the Association now. This highlights just how much a debt is due to them and how much we need new blood to come in. The more people involved the less of an imposition on individuals and the more people will enjoy their work on Association business at Section, Region or National level.

Another point which was brought home when looking at the June '95 magazine was that it was predominately black and white and that, together with the fact that Ken Richardson still looked like a relatively young man in his photograph, adds to the feeling that the June '95 magazine is now a little piece of history.

I recall one of my early trips was to Royal Porthcawl where a Support Team was assisting David Ward with the Walker Cup. Tiger Woods was still an amateur then and, unable to keep his ball on the golf course, was beaten in the singles by Gary Wolstenholme. Since then he has become the biggest thing in sport, never mind golf.

Some of the companies which were advertising in '95 are no longer, either because of a change of marketing strategy, merger or ceasing trading altogether. Ransomes and Jacobsen were still arch rivals then, as were Scotts and Levington and Miracle Professional and again, this highlights how what would be considered unthinkable changes at the time become facts of life a short time later.

Among the highlights for me over the 100 magazines have been the eight Harrogate's I've attended each one building on the one before; the Hayter Challenges and Hayter International Cups which were superb events and the opening of BIGGA HOUSE by HRH The Duke of York.

Hopefully over the next 100 issues there will be many more highlights to cover and looking back in eight and a half years time will be equally fun.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

## FUND RAISERS

Dale Robertson, Course Manager at Newmachar Golf Club, and two of his staff completed a 10 kilometre run in Aberdeen and raised £463.50 for the Archie Foundation in aid of a new children's hospital in Aberdeen.

Dale is on the left of the picture with Patrick Wood, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, in the middle and apprentice Ben Brookes on the right.



## SPORTSTURF IRELAND

All roads lead to Dublin on November 12 and 13 when Sportsturf Ireland, the largest turfgrass exhibition in Ireland is staged at the RDS venue close to the city centre. The show has recently been expanded to cover the legendary main hall of the Royal Dublin Society plus the adjacent modern Shelbourne Hall.

Sportsturf Ireland is a two-day trade show run on alternate years and is organised by the GCSAI. It covers every aspect of turf grass management from golf courses, sportsgrounds and racecourses to public parks, cemeteries and amenity areas. The show will attract turfgrass managers, golf course and parks superintendents and visitors from all over Ireland and much further afield.

As this is a unique opportunity to meet those involved in the Irish industry 'under one roof', over 90% of the exhibition space has already been allocated with most major machinery and supply companies taking part. With the show having a two-year cycle a large attendance is expected driven by the curiosity factor to see what's new in the market. It also acts as a social occasion as it is a great opportunity to meet and greet old friends from different parts of the country. Admission to the trade fair is free.

For further details about Sportsturf Ireland, the availability of exhibition space, or for a personal invitation, contact Tracy Coburn, the GCSAI's Marketing Manager, on 028 406 22655, mobile 07803 237247 or email [tracy@gcsai.org](mailto:tracy@gcsai.org)

## MAKE THE MOST OF OLD MACHINERY



Clubs looking to maximise the use of their older machinery might like to take note of the work of Norbert Lischka and his team at Falkenstein Golf Club in Germany, who converted an old Toro 3000 into a leaf blower.

"Because of the number of trees we have here and the fact that it is a very hilly course the team came up with the idea of building a leaf blower on a 15 year old Toro 3000 green machine," explained Norbert.

"We were able to use the old pedals for mowing and lifting. Therefore we bring the blower in the right distance to the surface by

going up and down, when the area is undulated. Now we don't have to walk any more and are much more effective in our use of time.

Norbert estimates that the cost to fit the blower onto the green machine was 2000 Euros (around £1,400).



## ATV SAFETY WEAR

ATV operators should always wear the correct protective equipment and this includes a helmet. In the event of an accident, the most common injury sustained by an ATV user has been found to be a head injury and helmets are therefore a 'must' and not an option!

ATV manufacturers have worked closely with the HSE on the whole area of safety on quad bikes. As a result these machines are exempted from the requirement to fit a ROPS frame and seat belt because research has demonstrated that these

vehicles are safer without them. However, good operator training is essential. This will include awareness of correct tyre pressure, speed control, body active weight distribution and correct personal protective equipment.

In a work situation an employer must provide, and the operator must wear a helmet. Failure to do so can lead to formal action by the HSE.

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