



## Welcome

### A WARM GLOW BUT NO MORE

Well, did you follow the Ryder Cup? After two days of listening to the excellent coverage on Radio 5 Live I succumbed and tracked down the Sky television coverage in my local health club for the final evening – for us poor terrestrial TV beings it does lose a little impact not seeing it live – and I thought it was wonderful.

A huge winning margin in the end but still just enough of doubt to keep us on the edges of our seats until Monty did what Monty does when he is representing Europe.

Almost as soon as Bernhard Langer raised the Cup aloft we got the same old question from the pundits and commentators. What will this mean for European golf? It was the same when we won curling gold in the Winter Olympics and when our mixed doubles did well at badminton in the Athens games.

What will this mean for curling and badminton? Would everyone be heading to the nearest ice rink, not with skates but with one smooth soled shoe and a broom, or badgering the local village hall to mark out a court and invest in a net?

It was the same when England won the Rugby World Cup. We were going to be getting more youngsters wearing rugby shirts bearing the number 10 practicing goal kicking than football shirts carrying the number seven honing their free kicks.

Well we're a year on from that triumph in Sydney but there are still far more Beckham shirts in the high streets of Middle England than the slightly thicker one's bearing the name of Wilkinson.

We all know that in the short term we get a nice warm glow from such wins but in the long term they mean very little indeed. In many ways rightly so.

If golf was going to receive a huge boost because Europe won the Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills, in Detroit, the reverse would have to be true as well. If we'd been hammered 18.5-9.5 would golf have gone into the doldrums for a while? Would people have stopped turning up at clubs? Would people be selling their Pings and Calloways and looking to take up curling, badminton or rugby union instead? Would the revenue streams at clubs begin to dry up and cutbacks become the order of the day? Would jobs go? To begin with those of greenkeepers but then that of the Editor of Greenkeeper International because without a strong profession there would be no funding to produce a greenkeeping magazine.

Thankfully, for you and me, the answer is no.

Having 12 players, or in the case of the US 11 players and Tiger Woods, battling it out for points over a magnificently presented course provides huge drama and no little excitement but having our own futures dependant on the outcome is another matter all together.

Let's just enjoy the fact that for the moment we are on top and can send emails to our American friends with the short but pithy message "Na, na, ni, na na!"

Scott MacCallum  
Editor

### DARREN AND SIMON WIN SURREY BOWL

The Surrey Bowl knockout final was held at Foxhills Golf Club on September 1.

The finalists were Darren Woodward and Simon Kirkham, of West Surrey Golf Club, both playing off 7 handicap, and John Mathis off 1 handicap, from Southwood Golf Club, and Brian Turner off 3 handicap, from Sunningdale Golf Club.

In a keenly fought final, on a lovely summer's day (at last), Darren and Simon eventually ran out the winners by 3 and 1.

Congratulations to Darren and Simon but also to the runners-up John and Brian because it takes two teams to make a final.

I would also like to thank Dave Langheim and Dave Wyborn the two Course Managers and all the staff at Foxhills for all their help with the event, and giving us a course in great condition considering the weather of late. Thanks also to Lee West for running the event, and good luck in the new job.

Lastly, and a very big thank you must go to Bob Norris of TYM Tractors who stepped in at the eleventh hour to sponsor this event, thanks very much Bob and I hope we will be able to continue with your sponsorship again for next year.

Anthony Freeman  
Surrey Chairman



Winners of the 2004 Surrey Bowl Darren Woodward and Simon Kirkham (left) with runners-up Brian Turner and John Mathis.



Section Chairman Anthony Freeman (left) receives a cheque on behalf of the Section from Bob Morris of TYM, the Tournament's sponsors.

### ADDING A NEW FACE TO HQ STAFF

September saw BIGGA welcome a new employee. Steve Coates has joined the Association in the position of Assistant Accountant, where he will work with Tony Cocker.



Steve, 25, has previously worked at both DuPontSA, in purchase ledger, and at Pearsons & Ward, where he was a legal cashier.

Between these two vocations Steve was employed by Pocklington Coachworks. The firm built coaches and support vehicles for major Formula 1 teams including McLaren, Williams and Toyota, and also for Foggy Petronas, home of four times World Champion Carl Foggaty.

Steve studied at the University of Sunderland, where he gained a 2:1 in Geography and Business Studies. Currently he is studying for his AAT, where he is at the technician stage. An ambitious individual, after passing his AAT Steve plans to go for his ACCA.

Steve is engaged to childhood sweetheart Emma, and they currently live together in Pickering.

It's been an exciting month for Steve and Emma, as well as his new job they have also celebrated a new arrival to the family. Their toy poodle, Kerry, has recently given birth to pup Betty.

### RECYCLED GLASS 'PROVED' TO HELP

The Sports Turf Research Institute found that replacing traditional sand on the golf course with sand derived from recycled glass improves the chances of those drawn to the bunker.

The two-year project found that the recycled glass sand provides a better performance level with a firmer footing underneath. For golfers, it means less plugging of the ball, a steeper angle of repose and reduced slumping, say WRAP.

Laboratory tests carried out during the trial showed that the recycled glass conformed to all necessary performance requirements, it said, and is capable of complying with United States Golf Association specifications.

WRAP said the glass-sand also proves beneficial for greenkeepers when used as a top dressing around divots, as it can blend into the ground better than traditional sand.

Andy Dawe, WRAP's materials sector manager for glass, said, "The trial undertaken by the STRI has been successful, confirming recycled glass derived sand is a quality alternative to traditional sand."

"At the same time, it offers greenkeepers a sustainable quality product, as well as a way to demonstrate their environmental awareness and responsibility," he added.

WRAP – the Waste and Resources Action Programme – has targets to directly facilitate the recycling of an additional 150,000 tonnes of glass into higher value markets by 2006.



## NEW SCOTTISH DEALER FOR RANSOMES JACOBSEN

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, the Ipswich based turf maintenance equipment manufacturer, has confirmed that Fairways (GM) Ltd will succeed Scottish Grass Machinery Ltd as the distributor for Ransomes Jacobsen products in Scotland with effect from 8 November 2004.

The Fairways Group is an established, family-owned business based at West Yonderton, close to Glasgow airport. Its major subsidiary companies are: Sportsgrounds Ltd, Sportsgrounds Machinery (a division of Sportsgrounds Ltd) and Wiedenmann (UK) Ltd.

David Withers, Sales and Marketing Director at Ransomes Jacobsen said, "We are delighted to confirm the appointment of Fairways GM as our new dealers for Scotland with effect from 8 November.

"The Fairways Group is a well-run and very professional business and I have great confidence that they will help us with the continued growth of the business here in the UK.

"The experience of the group and their commitment to the turf sector will ensure the delivery of outstanding service to our customer base in Scotland. We warmly welcome them to our dealer network."

Managing Director of the Fairways Group, David Rae added, "This appointment is a significant step for Fairways and we are equally delighted to be joining the dealer network of such a major player in the international turf care industry.

"To ensure the smooth transition of service for Ransomes Jacobsen customers we are currently sourcing and equipping additional depots in the west and east of Scotland and recruiting and training staff in readiness for 8 November.

"We bring a reputation for outstanding service and after sales support and look forward to building lasting relationships with existing customers and new prospects."



David Rae, Managing Director of Fairways (GM) Ltd.

## NEW FUNGAL DISEASE DISCOVERED

The fungal disease known in the US as Rapid Blight has recently been identified on a golf course in the UK. Rapid Blight is a disease that was first observed in California in 1995 and has since been seen in 11 other States across the US.

Initial symptoms on affected turf include water soaking of the leaves in small, irregular shaped patches. As the disease progresses, the affected areas coalesce and the infected plants eventually die. The damaged turf has been described as looking like a cross between Take-All patch and Fusarium patch.

Initially, the causal agent of this disease could not be determined. However, in 2003, Dr Mary Olsen and her team at the University of Arizona, isolated a species of *Labyrinthula* from turfgrass plants showing symptoms of the disease and have since confirmed that this pathogen is the cause of Rapid Blight.

Until this identification, all known reported species of *Labyrinthula* have only caused damage to plants in marine environments and salt-water estuaries.

The *Labyrinthula* pathogen is unlike any other previously described turfgrass pathogen. It is not a fungus and shares few, if any, characteristics in

common with the fungi generally accepted as causing disease on cool-season turfgrasses.

In all cases to date, Rapid Blight has developed on swards that have been irrigated with water with high sodium and bicarbonate levels (high salinity). Bentgrass, meadowgrass and ryegrass all appear to be affected by this disease but so far, fescues have appeared to be tolerant.

Rapid Blight disease has now been identified as developing on several greens on one golf course in the UK, following receipt of turf samples for analysis by Dr Kate Entwistle at The Turf Disease Centre. Kate confesses that, "Identifying turfgrass diseases is always a challenge and sometimes, it can take a large amount of detective work to finally confirm the cause of any damage.

"With this disease, however, the challenge was much greater. I had identified the presence of this unusual organism in all of the infected plants removed from the turf sample, but I had never seen anything like it before, apart from in printed articles. I read more about this new disease when I had heard of it in the US.

"Subsequently, I contacted Dr Olsen for support and eventually confirmed that what I was looking at was in fact the causal agent of Rapid Blight. I would like to thank Dr Olsen for all of her help to date and look forward to working with her in the future to learn more about this new disease".

Kate, who is a visiting Fellow of Cranfield University (Silsoe), has contacted the University about this new disease and work is in progress to study the pathogen more closely.

Kate says, "Colleagues at Cranfield are as excited as I am about this new discovery and I would like to thank them for their support and encouragement in working on this new disease. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the Course Manager for initially sending the sample to me for analysis and subsequently for his time and willing cooperation in providing maintenance details and information to support our studies. His help is very much appreciated".

Information is available on the internet about this disease and you can contact Kate on 01256 880246 or email her at [Kate@theturf-diseasecentre.co.uk](mailto:Kate@theturf-diseasecentre.co.uk)

### Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year [www.tonyhusband.co.uk](http://www.tonyhusband.co.uk)



## NEW NAME FOR ETT

European Turf Technology Limited has become Environmental Turf Technology Limited.

Managing Director, Richard Lawrence commented, "We have seen massive growth throughout the world.

"We have become the largest supplier of specialist turf nutrients to the Middle East and the Caribbean, as well as a major supplier to mainland Europe.

"This coupled with our commitment to a proactive environmental policy made the choice of a new name obvious."

## NORTHERN HOST GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY EVENT FOR THE FIRST TIME

The Golf Management Trophy event is an invitation team event sponsored by Scotts UK Professional. It is open to golf clubs in the Midland and Northern Regions of BIGGA, and has been running successfully in the Midland Region since 1997; this is the first year the event has been staged in the Northern Region.

The format - which is a Fourball Stableford (best two to count) - is aimed at bringing together the various management elements of golf clubs with the opportunity to win equipment for the golf club plus individual prizes.

Teams comprise a greenkeeper, who must be a member of BIGGA; Golf Club Secretary or Manager; Club Captain or Vice Captain and Chairman of Green or a Member of the Club Committee.

This year's Midland Region events were held at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club on July 22, and Dunstable Downs Golf Club on August 12. 24 teams entered each event, with Chilwell Manor Golf Club victorious at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, and Brickendon Grange Golf Club being the victors at Dunstable Downs Golf Club.



Childwall Golf Club; (L-R) David McAvoy, Head Greenkeeper, Alan Rawlinson, Chairman, Peter Bowen, Manager and Jeff Randles, Chairman of Green.

The inaugural events in the Northern Region were held at Teesside Golf Club on August 12, when 10 teams entered, and Carden Park Golf Club on August 23, when 16 teams played.

The winning team at Teesside Golf Club was Hornsea Golf Club, and Childwall Golf Club won the Carden Park event.

A big thank you from BIGGA to the four host clubs this year and also to all the golf

clubs that entered teams.

Our thanks also go to Scotts UK Professional for sponsoring these four events, and plans are underway to run similar events at different venues in 2005.

■ If your club would like an invitation next year, please contact Peter Larter, Midland & Northern Regional Administrator, telephone number: 01476 550115

## UNIQUE CHANCE FOR STUDENTS

Garside Sands, part of Aggregate Industries plc, is offering Sports Surface Technology students the unique chance to compete for a new scholarship.

All potential full-time students wishing to enrol on the Cranfield MSc will be given the opportunity to gain a study scholarship provided by Garside Sands.

This offers an outstanding way for a student to develop their personal understanding of sports surfaces on this scientific course, as well as working closely with one of the leading suppliers of sports sands in the country.

The scholarship will cover student fees and contribute towards living expenses.

In return, the student will work with Garside and the University academics to develop a personal research project to further enhance existing research and development programmes already undertaken by the business.

Colin Parke, General Manager of Garside Sands, said, "We developed this initiative in order to better understand the specific needs of the different sports markets through closer liaison with key industry professionals.

"This will enable us to develop specialist product ranges that meet the exacting specifications of the sports industry as well as providing funding for the sectors future talent."

The scholarship will be open to any full time student accepted onto the MSc programme in Sports Surface Technology for the coming academic year - October 2004.



Barry Heaney, (right) receives his crystal rose bowl.

## TOKEN OF GRATITUDE FOR BARRY

The Sheffield Section have presented Barry Heaney with a crystal rose bowl in appreciation of his commitment and service to the Section and BIGGA as a whole.

Barry was presented with the crystal rose bowl at the Section's Annual Tournament, which was held at Sickleholme Golf Club in July.

Barry's long and loyal service to the Section, BIGGA and greenkeeping in general has seen him take on almost every role possible.

These include Treasurer, Competition Secretary, Chairman, President and, of course, National Chairman in 1995.

Barry has always emphasised the importance of greenkeeper education and training and thus he has also sat on numerous BIGGA training and

education committees.

He has recently retired from his post of President in order to enjoy his other interests and spend more time with his family.

"As Barry takes a less active role in the Association to allow more time for his family, we send him and his wife Joan our very best wishes," said Gordon Brammah, Section Chairman.

"Barry has worked extremely hard on behalf of the Association at Section, Region and National level and we have all benefited from his advice and vast experience," stated John Pemberton, BIGGA Chief Executive.

"On behalf of the entire Association I wish him all the best for the future and hope he truly enjoys his well earned rest."