



## Welcome

### A POSITIVE YEAR AHEAD!

This year seems to have flown by in the blink of an eye - a sure sign of getting older!

And what a monumental one it has been in global and in greenkeeping terms. It started with the aftermath of the shocking Tsunami while during the year we had Hurricane Katrina, which ripped the heart out of New Orleans, closely followed by the devastating Earthquake in Pakistan. In this age of the terrorist attack they are a sharp reminder of the power of nature.

Closer to home we had the sad passing of Jim Arthur, perhaps the best known man in British greenkeeping and certainly the most controversial, while we also lost Derek Green, less than 18 months before he was due to welcome The Open Championship to his beloved Hoylake. Jim and Derek were close friends and you can be sure that high above the clouds they will be taking a keen interest in the goings on at Royal Liverpool.

We must hope that 2006 will be memorable for more positive reasons.

Hopefully that will begin with Harrogate Week 2006 for which preparations at BIGGA HOUSE are at an advanced stage.

It's not betraying any confidences to say that we at Headquarters are all firmly of the opinion that everything possible has been done to ensure that those who attend, whether they be delegates or exhibitors, get the most from their Harrogate experience.

Not a stone has been left unturned in making sure that every educational need has been catered for. For example well over 200 hours of education and training has been laid on, the most there has ever been and it is tailored to the needs of turf professionals at varying stages of their career. In the Halls, the BTME and ClubHouse Shows continue to provide much to tempt greenkeepers and secretaries alike by way of new products or machinery to enable you to do your job more effectively.

Harrogate, in the third week in January, is certainly the place to be if you want to get ahead. The Exhibition Halls, lecture theatres, bars and restaurants are usually awash with industry gossip and if you want to know which job has become available because the Course Manager has moved on to a more prestigious club you don't have to be anywhere other than a 400 yard radius of Harrogate International Centre.

Oh yes, and if you decided to investigate career advancement the Careers' Fair, sponsored by Toro, is the perfect place. Not only can you see what jobs are available, you can brush up your CV and hone your interview and negotiation skills under the watchful eye of trained experts so you have the edge when an opportunity presents itself.

As I said, no stone has been left unturned in making sure that Harrogate Week 2006 is just right for you.

Have a great Christmas and I'll hope to see you at Harrogate in the New Year.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

### RACING FOR RESEARCH

Tony Hunter, greenkeeper at Cherwell Edge Golf Club, Oxfordshire, is searching for sponsors as he plans to race for Cancer Research. A former competitor in the British Rally Championship, 20 years on he has been offered the opportunity to race again, this time in the Formula Renault Clio Kupa Series.

After guest driving for Proaktiv in only a handful of races in 2005, the greenkeeper finished second in the International Drivers' Section. That impressive display earned Tony the chance to race in the famous 2006 Series. After being diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a form of cancer, four years ago, Tony has now recovered and will raise money for Cancer Research during the tour.

While the Clio racing car is provided, Tony urgently needs to raise funds to actually race

and is currently seeking much needed sponsorship. With the Series being covered by various media throughout Europe, the greenkeeper is hoping to attract one or numerous sponsors to ensure he can race for the deserving charity.

Any interested, potential sponsors can contact Tony for more details on 07850 099009 or email [broughthel@aol.com](mailto:broughthel@aol.com).



### RANSOMES STUDENTS GRADUATE



Peter Cross

The late summer months have witnessed students the length and breath of the country donning mortarboard and gown as they celebrate their graduation from College or University. Included in these wonderful celebrations are the students who have been fortunate enough to be involved within the Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship scheme.

Judith Colley, Peter Cross and Tobias Hartman, all from Myerscough College, David Tomlin, Merrist Wood College, Tommy McFadden, Elmwood College, Mark Wilshire, Pencoed, and Paul Garman, Writtle College, have all received their relevant

rewards for their hard work and study thanks to the BIGGA scheme greatly supported by the manufacturing giant.

The Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Scheme has helped fund many aspiring greenkeepers though their study and aided them in competing their ambitions of becoming fully qualified greenkeepers.

"Once I completed my Higher National Diploma I decided to stay on at college for one more year and gain my BSc in Sports Turf Science and Management. This decision was helped by the aid of being given a Higher Education Scholarship from BIGGA with support from Ransomes Jacobsen. I'd like to thank BIGGA and Ransomes Jacobsen for the support I received. Also my mentor Stefan Antollik, Neil Metcalf, who supported me during my placement at Royal St George's and, lastly, Stewart Brown, my senior lecturer at Writtle College," said Paul Garman, who is now a full-time assistant greenkeeper at Royal Liverpool Golf Club.



### FORMING A PARTNERSHIP

ProLink Solutions, a world provider of Global Positioning Satellite systems for golf courses, has, through its key distributor Elumina, been named the official GPS partner of the PGAs of Europe. The PGAs of Europe will promote Elumina and the ProLink system to its 12,000 members in 34 countries and individual courses seeking GPS systems.

"The PGAs of Europe welcome ProLink and Elumina to their family of sponsors and supporters. We believe that we only associate ourselves with the best and leaders in their field and both ProLink and Elumina are certainly in this category," said Sandy Jones, Chairman of the PGAs of Europe.