



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.



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 Antolik, 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.

UNLOCKING THE MAGIC

Novozymes Biologicals held an Introduction visit at its production plant in Denmark in November, as the company seeks to extend its sales in the UK. The trip flew members of Amenity Land Services, who sell Novozymes products, to Copenhagen, where they were joined by sports turf professionals from Norway, Sweden and, of course, Denmark, including fellow sales people and members of the Danish and Swedish Greenkeeping Associations.

The two day itinerary was designed to increase the knowledge and understanding of Novozymes and its biological turf care products, which are used vastly in Europe and America, while becoming more popular within Britain. Novozymes A/S supply over 40% of the world's demands for industrial enzymes and have a \$600 million plus annual revenue. The company supply the Household, Industrial and Commercial markets, with their enzymes typically being used in such things as chemical toilets, lakes and ponds, drain lines and septic tanks.

Novozymes Biologicals, whose slogan is 'Unlocking the Magic of Nature', has been producing micro-organisms for over 30 years and after buying out Sybron Chemicals in 2001 and the well known Roots Company in 2003, their attention has been focused on turf. The company offer biological answers to greenkeepers' needs, which include products such as Turf Food, Lake Relief,

EnoRoots and Stand Up.

The first of the two day programme involved an outline of Novozymes, presented by Thierry Pradier, Sales & Marketing Manager Plant Care Europe, who had made the journey from France. An afternoon laboratory tour was followed by a talk from Hugh Frost, Technical Manager UK, on Plant Care Technology and the Roots Product Range for sports turf. Here Hugh highlighted the science behind the biological products available to UK greenkeepers.

The second day saw visits to Kalundborg Golf Club and Skovbo Golf Club, two courses that use the Novozymes range. Kalundborg is a research course for the company and here Anne Mette Dahl Jensen, Danish Institute of Agricultural Science, presented results from trials held at the club. Skovbo is a five year old course and boasts 100% fescue greens. With a massive 75% restriction on the use of fungicides, Danish greenkeepers have found the use of biological products vital in their quest to maintain their courses.

"The visit was designed to further explain and highlight our products to the people selling them. They can then relay this information to the customer and point out the benefits of using biological products on sports turf. I think the trip has been very effective in doing this as we look to expand in the UK," said Hugh.



GTC BACKS HARROGATE WEEK

The GTC is encouraging greenkeepers and their employers to get the most out of Harrogate Week 2006, including an impressive education programme.

Harrogate Week, which starts on January 22 2006, is the place to be to discover new and innovative ideas. It has an outstanding training, workshop and seminar programme, which the GTC is supporting. There is also a Careers Fair, Job Shop

and Forums running throughout the week.

"We are delighted to be supporting the education element of Harrogate Week. While people might think that the BIGGA's BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions and education programme are just for greenkeepers, I would recommend that employers consider attending because there are many workshops and seminars to benefit from," stated David Golding, GTC Education Director.

NEW CHALLENGE FOR CHIVERS



Chivers Sport & Landscapes (CSL) has started trading and will specialise in the construction, management and maintenance of high quality sports surfaces. The family run company, founded by

Martin Chivers, former Head Groundsman at Fulham FC, pride themselves on the level of skill in fine turf that they have achieved through years of experience within the trade.

"This is something that I have wanted to do for many years and now I can give others the quality services I have trained to do for many prestigious companies in my career so far. The times ahead are very exciting and I look forward to many more years of the same," said Martin.

SHEFFIELD HELP HOSPITAL

BIGGA Sheffield Section President, Neil Maltby, presented a cheque for £500 to Rachel Thorpe, from Weston Park Hospital, donated by the Sheffield Section recently. The money goes to the Million Rose Appeal Charity, which is for a new day and stay ward for chemotherapy patients. This will be created by totally refurbishing an unused ward within the hospital.



Sheffield Chairman Neil Maltby, right, hands over a large donation to the hospital

LECTURER HEADS FOR THE STARS

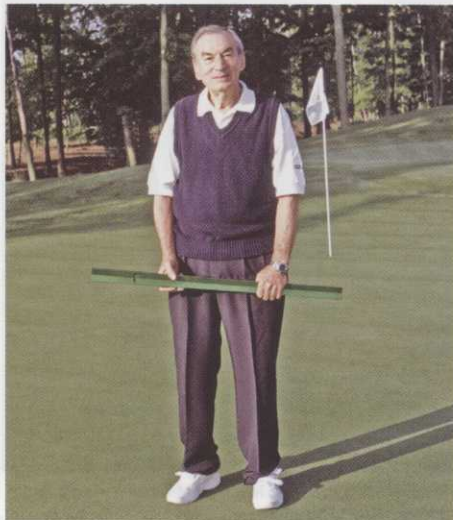


Andy with TV presenter Penny Smith

An Oaklands College lecturer beat off stiff competition from thousands of college tutors all over the UK to be short listed for the title of Further Education Tutor of the Year 2005 in the prestigious STAR Awards competition run by the Department for Further Education.

Andy Wight spent 12 years as a horticulturalist and Groundsman before bringing his skills to Oaklands College, where he has been an inspiring tutor to learners and trainees at the St Albans Smallford campus for over a decade. Andy is nationally recognised as a leading trainer by Lantra (LBI Sector Skills Council) and the GTC. This year Andy has also been awarded a City & Guilds medal for Excellence for his outstanding contribution to the Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care sector and was described by judges as "an enthusiastic champion for the sports turf industry."

"I am delighted to have been short listed from the thousands of entries. It is an honour to be considered for the title of Tutor of the Year," said Andy.



COURSE CONSTRUCTION DOES 360

Barreffield Golf and Barreffield Construction, two of the UK's golf course management and construction companies, have announced their merger to form one organisation - 360 Golf.

The creation of 360 Golf will place both companies' expertise under one brand, allowing a single senior management team to offer a portfolio of solutions to the golf industry - featuring a full range of golf management, design and construction and consultancy services.

"This is an exciting development for a company which has been supplying successful and innovative business advice to the European golf market for 15 years. By forming one new company, we expect 360 Golf to grow even faster and it makes

it easier for the senior management team to market our services," stated 360 Golf Director Melvin Thomas, one of the founders of Barreffield Golf.



360 Golf Directors, L-R, Mel Thomas, Robert Clive and Peter Townson

NORRIE WHYTOCK TROPHY

It's was that time of year again when the Sections made their way to Auchterarder Golf Club as they fought for the Norrie Whytock Team Trophy. The nine year old tournament has been won six times by the North Section, so the others were desperate to wrestle the Trophy from them.

This was not the case however, as the North Section once again ran out the winners with 93pts. In second place was the East Section on 91pts, with the Ayrshire Section also scoring 91pts but the East won on a count back with the best fourth score counting. Mention should be made of Steve Higgins, scoring 40 of Ayrshire Section's points, but unfortunately not enough to earn a place in the prize list.

The North Section team comprised Team Captain, John Geddes, McDonald GC, 25pts; Neil Kidd, Keith GC, 34pts; Dean Mitchell, Cruden Bay GC, 28pts; Mark Main, Moray GC, 31pts. The runners up, East Section, team comprised

Team Captain, Stuart Crawford, Kenneth Main, Steve Nicol and Stuart Martin.

The Scottish Chairman, Iain Barr, proposed a vote of thanks to Bayer and David Drummond for their support in sponsoring and providing the excellent prizes. The Association is grateful to them and look forward to continuing the relationship in the years to come.

Iain also passed on thanks to the Captain and Committee for granting use of the facilities and courtesy of Auchterarder Golf Club. Warm praise was due to the green staff and Head Greenkeeper, Archie Dunn, for the superb condition of the course.

Next year's event will once again be played over Auchterarder Golf Club on August 23 2006.



The successful North Section with Chairman Iain Barr, middle

DOCTOR SET TO RECEIVE AWARD

Joseph M. Duich, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Turfgrass Science at Pennsylvania State University, has been selected to receive the 2006 Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The award will be presented during the Opening Session of the 2006 GCSAA Education Conference, February 9 2006.

As GCSAA's most prestigious honour,

the Old Tom Morris Award is presented each year to an individual who "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mould the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

In a break with tradition, the GCSAA Board of Directors has selected an honouree who has influenced the game of golf through long hours spent in university classrooms and laboratories in addition to some time on the links. Duich has devoted a lifetime to improving the game of golf by breeding new turfgrasses and teaching hundreds of future golf course superintendents and turfgrass researchers.

CHARTERHOUSE TEE OFF

A golfing foursome from Charterhouse Turf Machinery has helped raise £5,750 for two baby care hospital facilities in the south west of England.

The Charterhouse team comprised Lee Strutt,



The Charterhouse team, L-R, comprised Lee Strutt, John Ryan, Paul Bacon and Nick Darking

John Ryan, Paul Bacon and Nick Darking. They were among 22 grounds care equipment manufacturers and dealers who participated in a Memorial Golf Day at Caversham Heath Golf Club, Berkshire.

The event was staged in remembrance of Taylor James Moore, a newborn baby who sadly died in August. Funds raised from entry fees, a raffle and an auction during the Golf Day have been donated to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at St Michaels Hospital in Bristol, and the Special Baby Care Unit at The Great Western Hospital in Swindon. These will put the money towards new specialist equipment.

"We were delighted that so much has been raised for such a good cause. It was nice to actually be able to play golf - usually we visit golf courses to demonstrate Charterhouse machines," said Nick Darking, Sales Manager.

A WIN FOR THE EAST

The East of England Greenkeepers claimed a superb victory over the Secretaries at Woodhall Spa recently. A resounding win to the BIGGA Greenkeepers was sealed by Mr Firman and Allan Walker, who came back from the death from 5 down with 6 to play to claim the match. For more details see Around the Green.



Walker, left, and Firman celebrate victory

TURNING TO SALES



23 years' experience of greenkeeping make Mark Leman ideally suited for his new role as an Area Sales Representative with turf machinery

specialists Campey Turf Care Systems. Mark will have responsibility for an area that includes the south west of England, the south Midlands, South Wales and Ireland.

For the previous nine years, Mark has been Course Manager at Henbury Golf Club, near Bristol, so he fully appreciates the demanding workload of modern turf professionals and the need for high work rate equipment. Away from work, Mark's hobbies include motor cycling, snooker and, not surprisingly, golf.

FOUR!



L-R: Toro's Larry Pearman, Simon Hodsdon, MD of the four clubs, John Colebrook and Steve Vogels, John Shaw Machinery, and Matt Macklin, the group's Course Manager, with the Woldingham greenkeepers.

Toro dealer John Shaw Machinery has won a five-year Toro machinery deal with four golf courses owned by Ron Noades, past chairman of both Brentford and Crystal Palace football clubs. The courses are at Surrey National GC, Woldingham GC, Westerham GC and newly opened nine holer, Godstone.

"We are very pleased to have won this order, particularly as the main selection criteria focused on customer support and service levels, as well as equipment performance. We look forward to working with and supporting the greenkeeping teams over the coming years," said Steve Vogels, John Shaw Machinery Executive Director.

NEW DIRECTOR AT TURFMECH



Carl Grattage

Carl Grattage has been appointed Finance Director of the Turfmech group of companies. He takes over from Sabine Jarrett, who has been responsible for the company's financial affairs for the past 15 years and now will be taking more of a back-seat role in a company

that she and her husband, Austin, founded in 1990.

Graduating in accountancy and finance from Lancaster University, Carl qualified as a chartered accountant in 1994 while working for KPMG in Manchester. Prior to joining Turfmech, he had been financial controller and finance director for major companies in the manufacturing sector, including GKN Automotive.

Meanwhile James Till has marked six years' service with Turfmech by gaining a Graduate Diploma in Purchasing and Supply. Equivalent to achieving an Honours Degree, the award has enabled James to become a member of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply. With a Certificate and, now, a Graduate Diploma under his belt, James has risen to the position of Operations Coordinator for the manufacturing arm of Turfmech.



James Till

EXTENDED PRACTICE

Work has got underway on an extension to the St Andrews Links Golf Practice Centre which will incorporate a golf academy equipped with the latest digital analysis and ball-tracking technology. Muirfield Construction has been appointed by St Andrews Links Trust as the lead contractor to carry out work on the GPC extension.

The new construction will be built on land to the west of the existing GPC

building and will incorporate the new golf academy, the R&A's external ball testing centre and a club-fitting facility. It will also see the creation of an additional 14 indoor bays, taking the total to 51.

"Golf teaching and technology have taken huge strides forward. We have embarked upon this extension to ensure that the St Andrews Links practice centre remains at the forefront and provides world class golf tuition," said Alan McGregor, General Manager of St Andrews Links Trust.

The centre will remain open throughout the construction period. It is due to be completed next spring.

KENDALL TO COORDINATE



Rhian Kendall has been appointed as Marketing Coordinator for the Tractor and Groundcare division of Kubota UK Ltd. Based at the company's headquarters at Dormer Road, Oxfordshire, Rhian's principal role is to support Sales and

Marketing Manager, David Roberts, in raising awareness and appreciation of the Kubota product ranges.

"I am already planning a more prominent role for e-commerce as a means of highlighting and strengthening Kubota's long-term position. Kubota has a superb product range backed by first-class customer service and support, and it is my job to ensure that these facts are known by the maximum number of potential customers," commented Rhian.

A ROYAL VISIT

His Royal Highness The Duke of York visited the Sports Turf Research Institute in November accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant for West Yorkshire, Dr Ingrid Roscoe. The royal visitor was greeted by Dr Gordon McKillop, STRI's Chief Executive, along with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Dr David Marsh and Mr Ian Campion. Local dignitaries were represented by the Lord Mayor of Bradford and the Leader of Bradford Council, Margaret Eaton.

His Royal Highness was keen to learn more about STRI's work, in particular the key roles turf science and new technologies in design and construction now play in supporting today's constant demands for sustainable, high quality sports surfaces and golf courses. Before stepping out onto STRI's extensive trials grounds, The Duke of York spent time in the Construction and Development Departments.

CELEBRATION



Antony Newland, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Tavistock GC with wife, Tracey Evans. Tracey is the daughter of Steve Evans, Course Manager of Yelverton Golf Club

BOBCAT DEALERSHIP

Barloworld Handling Ltd has been appointed as the new Bobcat dealer in London, Hertfordshire, Kent and Sussex. Barloworld has earmarked substantial investment in new Bobcat equipment and recruited additional sales and service personnel to run the new dealership. It complements the company's existing Bobcat dealership in East Anglia, covering Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

"We are delighted to have appointed Barloworld as the new dealer for this important part of the UK. Barloworld has an excellent track record as a Bobcat dealer in East Anglia and is totally committed to maximising customer value

through ongoing investment, continuous improvement and service excellence," said John Burton, Regional Manager for Bobcat in the UK and Ireland.



FINISHING THE JOB

Remedy Oak's new golf course, in Dorset, is in the last stage of completion as the final touches are added to the championship course. For the Project Management, Trevor Smith, this is second new

build golf club that he has started from scratch. Between 1993 and '98 he managed the creation of Canford Magna Golf Club's 45 hole golf complex.

"They say that if an aircraft looks right it flies right - well we are putting the finishing touches to Remedy Oak now but it looks as though it has been established here for years. Everyone involved can be very proud of the achievement," said Trevor.

Trevor started his career as a trainee greenkeeper in 1969 having studied modern turf management at Bingley. His interest in golf course development started at Bramshaw GC, where he was asked to remodel the course.



AMENITY FORUM FIRST

Safeguarding the environment, complying with regulations and following best practice are the themes for the first conference organised by the Amenity Forum. 'The Weed and Pest Control Challenge' takes place on March 1 2006 at Warwickshire County Cricket Club's Edgbaston ground in Birmingham.

"Regulatory compliance and standards of weed and pest control in the amenity have been criticised in a number of recent reports. Senior managers in

the amenity sector have a duty to protect the environment, and those with responsibility for pesticide use, need to understand the regulations and ensure their staff and contractors comply with the law and follow best practice. This conference will be a great opportunity for all the stakeholders in the sector to discuss the issues around environmental protection," said Jon Allbutt, Chairman of the Amenity Forum.