



Welcome

JIM ARTHUR

The phone would ring and I'd be told, "It's Jim Arthur". I knew then that the next 20 minutes or so would be taken care of and that I'd have to be on my game.

Every conversation with Jim was like a contest, thrusting and parrying, interspersed with a chance to towel down, take instructions from the corner and move onto the next topic. If I wasn't defending myself I'd be defending others, attempting to put across the alternative view. But, of course, there wasn't an alternative view and Jim was well skilled at dismantling the considered arguments of others. If he hadn't been the foremost agronomist of his age he'd have made a great courtroom lawyer. His mind was as sharp as a tack and even well into his 80's his brainpower hadn't seemed to have diminished. That, coupled with his incredible strength of personality, was enough to carry most arguments.

I always knew when putting the magazine together which articles would cause steam to explode from Jim's ears and have him reaching for the phone. There was a long list of no-nos when it came to topics we should be covering in Greenkeeper International and he was most concerned that young greenkeepers shouldn't be exposed to articles on that list. Indeed, his ideal scenario would be for him to see every article before it reached print so he could vet, or more likely, bin. We had many conversations about this very subject and while I agreed to differ, I don't believe Jim ever did.

While there are many, myself included, who have been the subject of some less than kind comments and temporarily scratched his name from the Christmas card list it is impossible not to admire a man whose passion for the subject remained undiminished for well over half a century. If I can muster even a fraction of that passion in my 80's I shall be a very happy man. I felt, like many others, that Jim should relax and enjoy the fruits of a well earned retirement, but such a thought was totally alien to him.

He stood over the world of greenkeeping like a colossus. I would wager that if you were to listen in to any group of British greenkeepers talking about their jobs the name of Jim Arthur would be mentioned at some stage in the proceedings.

I have no doubt, despite his passing, that his name will continue to echo around Seminar Rooms and Lecture Theatres, not to mention bars, for many years to come and in his book, Practical Greenkeeping, he produced a publication which will act as his legacy, a must read for young greenkeepers for years to come.

It is the end of an era. Never again will I be told that it is Jim Arthur on the line but his philosophy on traditional greenkeeping will never be ignored or forgotten.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

GORDON BOWS OUT

Gordon Huddy, the GTC Board of Directors' Chairman, has retired at the company's AGM held on May 19. Gordon has been working with the GTC for 11 years and has spent half of that as Chairman.



Bob McLaren, who chaired the Committee during the eighties when it had no funding, was still at the helm in 1993 when the 'new' GTC was born. From 1993 much progress had been made, especially in the area of qualification reviews and development, and the introduction of work-based training was firmly in the hands of the employers and Course Managers.

Gordon took over from Bob as Chairman in 2001 and GTC Education Director, David Golding, paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman: "Gordon was the R&A Representative and that link has proved so important and his support and encouragement to the committees and staff has been tireless.

"Both gentleman, like all those representatives who sit on committees within golf, are the people who often are in the background and their work and commitment goes unrewarded and we would like to thank Gordon for all his hard work as he bows out."

Read Gordon's GTC Column, as he reflects on his time on the GTC and the enormous developments made.

SALES COMPLETE LINE UP



Karen Russell is the latest person to join the BIGGA ranks at Headquarters, as she takes on the role of Sales Administrator, bring the Association's sales team back up to full strength.

Karen, 34, joins BIGGA after an eight month stint with Barker Brooks Media, which is based in Harrogate. Karen only moved up from her beloved Bedford to Yorkshire 18 months ago to be with her husband, Allan, with the couple marrying in February 2004.

Previously to her move to the blustery winds of the north, Karen worked for multi national giant 3M for 14 years, in the Customer Services Department.

"I started with BIGGA at the end of April, so I'm now really developing into my new role. I have been looking forward to taking this job on, as it brings me back to my roots of daily contact with clients, which I really enjoyed when working at 3M," said Karen.

The BIGGA employee enjoys travelling, competing with her hubby as to who has visited the most countries, and she describes China as the most interesting place she has gone to. Her claim to fame is performing at Wembley Arena in the early 1990's at the British Youth Band Association Championships, where she played the trumpet.

INTENSE TIME AT HAWKSTONE

Hawkstone Park has made one of the first orders of the Sisis Aer-Air System, fitted to a Sisis Javelin aerator.

Paul Hyde has been Estate and Golf Course Manager for just six months but is already making his mark. During the winter the drainage system on the Windmill Course was extended and refurbished, along with several of the tees on the Hawkstone Course, but Paul's priority for 2005 is an intensive programme of aeration on all three courses.

He is a strong advocate of regular aeration and studies new techniques as they come along. "We will continue to hollow core in the autumn, and use a vertidrain a couple of times a year, but in addition, will use the Aer-Aid constantly on the greens and tees," said Paul.

