



Welcome

OUR THOUGHTS GO OUT TO THEM ALL

I'm a regular subscriber to the satirical magazine *Private Eye* which often carries pieces on trade publications who jump on the bandwagon of world events and tie them into the more mundane business they are involved with. For example it might have something from the British Sun Tan Oil Manufacturers Association blaming a 5% downturn in fortunes on the Tsunami of last Christmas.

It is with that in mind that I hesitate to link the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina and, as I write the impending threat of Hurricane Rita, which is on the verge of striking Texas and, for the second time, Louisiana, with the impact it has had on American Superintendents and the GCSAA itself.

The catastrophe which has already befallen New Orleans and the surrounding area is of a scale that we on this side of the Atlantic can't honestly comprehend and, with Rita vying not to be undone by Katrina, the Houston and Galveston areas of southern Texas are bracing themselves for another of nature's onslaughts.

Golf seems a trivial pursuit in such a background but it is also the livelihood for Superintendents and their staff who are left without a golf course to maintain and possibly a home to live in. Our thoughts go out to those people and we hope that some semblance of normality can return to their personal and professional lives as soon as possible.

We must also share a thought for the GCSAA who had preparations for their annual Conference and Show, scheduled for New Orleans in February, thrown into complete disarray. The GCSAA staff are currently frantically rearranging the entire event for... Houston, which is in the direct firing line for Hurricane Rita.

Heaven knows how they will cope if the worst predictions of what has currently become a Category 5 hurricane, larger than Katrina, come to pass.

Our own climate comes in for much criticism but in the main it doesn't touch the extremes suffered in other parts of the world. Sure we can have droughts and the odd hosepipe ban while, living near York, I know that flooding can cause horrendous damage to property and render the odd road impassable for a while. I also know that Birmingham, of all places, was hit by a bone fide hurricane earlier this year but by and large we don't suffer from life threatening weather conditions and certainly not on the scale experienced in New Orleans.

However, with climate change being considered inevitable by more and more experts we will no doubt experience an increase in freak weather conditions, just as the sheer enormity of Katrina and Rita should be considered freakish in the States.

It's therefore important that the authorities on the wider scale and ourselves at work and at home put planning in place for every conceivable eventuality.

Hopefully this won't see me appearing in *Private Eye* in the next few weeks!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006

The Standing Committee is recommending a 4% increase for 2006 and a copy is enclosed with this issue of *Greenkeeper International*. This figure is based on the Average Earnings figures as published in June each year by the Office for National Statistics.

"June is chosen as it enables the Recommendations to be published in early October thus enabling Golf Clubs to use it for budgeting purposes," explained Don Bailey, Committee Chairman.

Since the first issue in 1997 more and more Clubs have followed the recommendations and this

year the format is slightly revised and more explanatory notes included.

"Despite its success with Greenkeepers and Secretaries the Committee feel that more effort is needed to bring the document to the attention of committee members of Clubs, who after all sign off budgets," said Don.

In recognition of the Committee's growing remit it has changed its name to "Committee for Golf Club Salaries" to reflect the fact that next year it will be publishing similar recommendations for Secretaries, at the request of the AGCS (Association of Golf Club Secretaries).

TOPPING THE CHARTS

Chart Hills Golf Club, part of the Leaderboard Group, hosted the Ladies English Open in July with winner Maria Hjorth particularly complimentary about the condition of the course. Speaking after winning the event for the second year in succession, she complimented Course Manager, Neil Lowther, saying that she didn't think the course could look or play better than it had this year.

"Obviously we took this as a great accolade. The team here worked really hard in the weeks prior to the event and had to cope with some exceptionally dry weather. The fairways looked particularly impressive and this was due, in part, to

the new mowers we purchased recently from Ernest Doe, our local Ransomes Jacobsen dealer," said Neil.

Chart Hills, located in rolling countryside at Biddenham in Kent, had over 20,000 visitors during the three day Championship and will be the host venue until 2009.

"We're learning more and more each time we stage the event. Expectations from players and spectators will certainly keep us focused in the coming years, but with the right team and the best equipment, I'm sure we can rise to the challenge," added the Course Manager.



NEW PROJECTS

Sporting Projects has joined forces with golf architects Weller Designs to create a third company, Weller McEvoy, to service the growing demand in the UK for golf course remodelling work. While both Sporting Projects and Weller Designs will continue in their own right, any golf course remodelling work undertaken by either firm will now be handled by Weller McEvoy.

"At the Walker Cup in Chicago this year I saw an amateur golfer carry the ball 351 yards. It's not just

the country's best amateurs who are hitting the ball further. New equipment technology means many players of differing abilities are achieving greater distances, often taking existing hazards out of play and, in worse cases, weakening the challenge presented by even well crafted golf holes. Our new company Weller McEvoy will help golf clubs to restore this challenge," said Sporting Projects' Peter McEvoy.

MAKING HEALTH & SAFETY CLEARER

BIGGA organised and hosted a joint Health and Safety meeting with the Association of Golf Club Secretaries in September, in an attempt to devise a universal Health & Safety policy and clear the murky issues surrounding this complex subject.

Greenkeepers and BIGGA officials united with AGCS representatives and secretaries to thrash out the major concerns within the area. Involved in the meeting included AGCS National Secretary, Keith Lloyd, and Senior Administrator, Gill Bridal, along with Past BIGGA Chairman, Andy Campbell MG,

and Course Managers Les Howkins, Gavin Robson and Tony Smith.

"Health & Safety has become one of the major issues within the golf industry. Along with the AGCS we hope to create a set of standard Health & Safety guidelines that clubs can work to. This will clear any confusion within the subject and make both the greenkeepers' and secretaries' job that bit easier," stated BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton, who was also involved in the meeting.



WHO ARE THE UNSUNG HEROES?

Terrain Aeration's Unsung Heroes, Karl Fulford, Head Groundsman at Abbeydale Sports Club, Sheffield and Mike Symons, Head Greenkeeper at Bovey Castle Golf Club, were on hand at Saltex to open nominations for this year's awards, which will send the winners on holiday to the South of France.

"The awards were designed to highlight the hard work and dedication that goes on day to day to maintain our sports fields and golf courses. There are scores of unsung heroes out there,

greenkeepers and groundsman who deliver much more than the job description specifies and they're often taken for granted. The idea behind these awards is to help redress the balance," said David Green, Terrain Aeration's Managing Director.

Anyone who would like to nominate a greenkeeper or groundsman as Unsung Hero for 2005 can obtain a nomination form from Lynda Green, tel: 01449 673783.



PRING MAKES IMPRESSION



Nigel Pring, a former Somerset county golfer who learned his craft at Wells Golf Club, has made a great impression since taking over from Chris Milsom as the new Head Greenkeeper at Farrington Golf Club.

Pring, 46, was always a favourite because of his wealth of experience. He was first Head Greenkeeper at Wells, where he started in 1982 after being a club member. But he moved on to Padbrook Park at Cullompton, in Devon, in 1989 and then to Oake Manor, Taunton. He later spent time developing The Players Club, near Bristol, until becoming a salesman for a company selling machinery to golf and sports clubs in Somerset.

"This opportunity to produce the golf courses at Farrington to a standard we can all be proud of was too good to miss," stated Nigel.

PROMOTING FROM WITHIN

Three of Rolawn's Depot Managers have been promoted to the new position of Senior Depot Manager. These appointments are seen as the key to the next stage in the development of Rolawn's depot network that stretches from Edinburgh and Glasgow in Scotland through the North East and North West of England into the Midlands and the South East down to Southampton.

The new roles have been taken up by Alistair Matheson in Scotland, Jason Kewen based at Solihull and John Carter operating from Sunningdale. All are experienced Depot Managers and each new appointee will take operational responsibility for the depots in their regions.

In addition Allison Holmes, Rolawn's Operations Support Manager based at the York Head Office, will take responsibility for Rolawn depots in Warrington Newcastle and York.

"I am delighted to be able to fill such important roles from our existing staff base which is testament to the quality of personnel we have at Rolawn," commented Philip Cuthbert Commercial Director.

BISHOP HITS 50



John Bishop has celebrated an incredible 50 years' service in greenkeeping. If that achievement wasn't impressive enough, those entire 50 years have been spent loyally at one club.

John has spent his entire career working tirelessly at Tandridge GC, in Surrey, where he has worked through the ranks to take the position of Course Manager. John, who will retire next year, was actually born right across the road from the golf club and was presented with champagne by the Surrey Section at the recent Cresta Cup, held at Tandridge, to mark the wonderful achievement.

WRAP SEMINAR

WRAP is hosting a seminar session at the STRI Headquarters in Bingley on October 20.

Entitled "Compost for Sports and Amenity Turf - Results from Technical Trials" the seminar will educate people how to use compost effectively in a range of maintenance applications and discover the results of a series of demonstration trials into turf growing and maintenance using composted materials

For further information contact Emma Ricketts
Tel: 01295 817891 or email:
emma.ricketts@wrap.org.uk.

NEW MAN FOR LLOYDS

Lloyds has appointed Duncan McGilvery as their Area Sales Manager for the north of England and Scotland.

In greenkeeping for over 35 years Duncan was Course Manager at Letchworth Golf Club for 11 years and more recently at Potters Bar Golf Club where he spent seven years. He has also spoken at many Seminars and Education Conferences.

"Duncan has been a user of our equipment for many years and has a wealth of experience in its use. His managerial and communication skills will be a valuable addition to our team as we continue to develop our sales with an ever increasing range of equipment," said Managing Director, Clive Nottingham.



BANSTEAD LIFT BOWL

The Final of the Surrey Bowl, played at Foxhills Golf Club, took place on September 1. The Finalists were Barry Robertson and Gary Rowe, from Banstead Downs, against Simon Kirkham and Darren Woodward, from West Surrey.

The lads from West Surrey, who were last year's winners, took an early lead with Simon Kirkham

excelling. Gary Rowe clawed Banstead back into the game and finally won it with a great 20 foot birdie putt on the 17th green to win 2 and 1. As always, the Bernard Hunt course at Foxhills was in fantastic shape. The sponsors again were Surrey Power Machines and TYM tractors.



The Surrey Bowl Final cast

NEW STRATEGY

Six months after its acquisition of Hayter, Toro has announced news of its future distribution strategy for the sale of Toro and Hayter professional golf, sports and grounds turf maintenance equipment in the UK.

From November Lely will concentrate on serving the professional golf and sports turf markets, while Hayter will focus on its core local authority markets. Lely will continue to provide full life parts and service support to local authority customers for all products sold by them prior to that date.

"Both the Toro and Hayter brands are very strong and important to their respective customer bases. Therefore, as we go forward, our strategy must allow us to focus the talents and expertise of both Hayter and Lely dealers in the markets where they have greatest opportunity to excel," said Dennis Himan, Toro's Vice President and General Manager for International Business.

Lely UK has also appointed Julian Copping as Retail Sales Manager for East Anglia. His aim is to grow Toro business within a wide range of turf care markets, including golf.

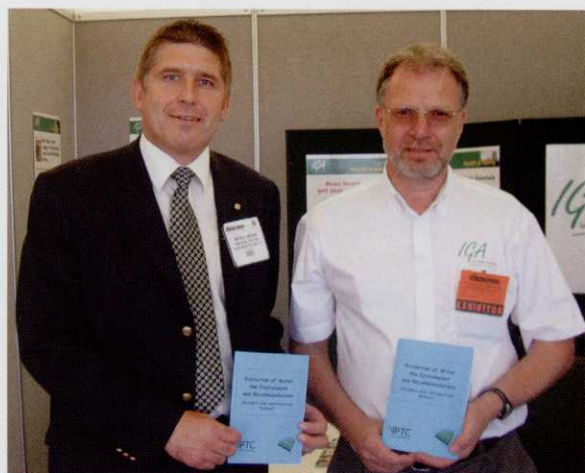
Julian, 41, brings with him a great deal of experience in the turf care machinery market. In his last position he spent six years as professional horticulture sales representative with dealer Earnest Doe & Sons Limited. Prior to that he worked at Ransomes for 16 years, starting as an engineering apprentice in the factory, moving on to become a sales demonstrator for the UK and Europe and then spending eight years as area manager looking after dealers in the south east.



BASIS ADD POWER

BASIS has launched a new qualification - POWER - Protection of Water, the Environment and Recommendations.

The new two and a half day course is aimed at contract specifiers, managers, foremen and supervisors of amenity situations where pesticides are used. It is especially designed for those specifying which products are to be used and who have responsibility for pesticide application while not actually applying the products used. The qualification was launched on the Ian Gower Associates stand at Saltex.



GCSAA MOVE SHOW TO HOUSTON

In the wake of the destruction in New Orleans caused by Hurricane Katrina, the Golf Industry Show will be conducted in Houston in February 2006.

The GCSAA and the National Golf Course Owners Association conferences and Trade Show were due to be in New Orleans in accordance with its east-central-west rotation of Orlando-New Orleans-Anaheim/San Diego but an early decision had to be made to move following the events in Louisiana.

The dates will remain the same as were planned with the GCSAA Education Conference on February

6 - 11, the NGCOA Solutions Summit 8 -10 and the Golf Industry Show 9 - 11.

"Our first concern is with the people of the gulf coast. Our intent was to conduct the activities in New Orleans if at all possible. However, with New Orleans officials announcing the cancellation of all convention activities through March, it forced us to select an alternative location. We found that Houston offered the necessary housing, meeting and trade show space and enabled us to keep the same dates we had for New Orleans," said GCSAA Chief Executive Officer, Steve Mona.

GREENKEEPERS TOP THE ORDER

The Scottish Amateur Golfers Order of Merit was won by the new Scottish Amateur Champion, Glenn Campbell, who finished 90 points ahead of John Gallagher of Swanston, the man who finished runner-up in this year's Amateur Championship at Royal Birkdale.

Both men are greenkeepers, Glenn working at Murrayshall in Scone and John, although he is currently playing full time golf, at Swanston.



Glenn Campbell, right

WREKIN WIN

The final Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Golf Day, sponsored by Scotts (UK) Professional, was held at Wrekin GC on August 18 in what is the club's Centenary Year. 15 four man teams, comprising a BIGGA member, Club Secretary, Captain and Chairman of Green, competed on a beautiful sunny day on the very hilly venue, which had been superbly prepared by Richard Beacham and his staff.

All involved were made very welcome by the Wrekin GC staff and members. Oswestry GC came

out winners with 83 stableford points, closely followed by the local team from Wrekin GC with 82 points, with Beedles Lake GC in third place on 80 points

The Midland Region's thanks are extended to Wrekin GC for hosting the event, Scotts for their continued sponsorship, and all 15 golf clubs who entered to make the day successful. Details of the 2006 Midland Region Golf Management days will be in the Greenkeeper International next spring.



The Oswestry GC; L-R, Secretary, Peter Turner, Club Captain, Bob Goff, Greenkeeper, Tom Jones, Mark Rayner, Scotts, and Peter Larter, the Midland Regional Administrator

CANN DO



Groundscare tractor manufacturer, McCormick, has a new man in the south west. Steve Cann, 37, has been appointed Area Manager, covering a territory that takes in south Wales and south west

Cornwall across to Berkshire and Dorset.

Steve knows the area well, having began his career in the service department of RSM Beare, the McCormick dealer in Devon. He spent the past three years covering much the same territory as product support engineer for an implement manufacturer.

"Sales is a new field for me but I think my sales service background will stand me in good stead as my Area Manager role largely involves helping dealers explain the technical and performance features of McCormick tractors. Having worked on Doncaster built tractors for some years I know them inside out, although today's models are more advanced than their predecessors," stated Steve.

CLUB SOLD

Strutt & Parker have sold Frodsham Golf Club, near Chester, to the owners of nearby Northop Golf & Country Club. The club had been offered with a guide price of £1.9 million and attracted strong interest from a wide range of interested parties.

Charles Greville-Heygate, a partner in the Leisure & Hotel department which handled the sale said: "I was not surprised by the interest. It was a very attractive and popular course, with a strong membership base. The two courses should work together well and benefit the management and membership of both."

CRAGGS PLEASED AT CHANGE

Vic Craggs has joined specialist irrigation and drainage company North Staffs Irrigation. He'd been Head Greenkeeper at Mellor & Townscliffe Golf Club since 1986. He lives in Stockport and will undertake service and installation work in the North West.

Commenting on his appointment Vic said: "After 20 years in greenkeeping I was ready for a change and I'm really pleased to have joined North Staffs."



STEWART VISITS SHERRIFF

On the eve of the historic final Test Match at The Oval former England Captain and Surrey favourite Alec Stewart visited Saltex, courtesy of Sherriff Amenity.

The wicketkeeping batsman made the trip to present John Vaughan-Davies, a member of the Surrey Groundsman Association, for having completed a year on the Association's mentoring scheme, which is sponsored by Sherriffs. He also took time to sign copies of his autobiography for cricketing fans.

As usual the Sherriff Stand was overflowing with visitors catching up on the company's products while at the same time sampling Johnny Beck's famous pies and pasties.



Alec with Sherriff's Kevin Whitby, the man responsible for setting up the visit

NEW FACES

STRI have introduced new faces to their southern turfgrass advisory team, with retirements and promotions bring about three staff changes.

Steve Gingell, the Thames Valley Regional Adviser for the past four years, has been promoted to lead the southern team as STRI's new Area Manager for Southern England and South Wales. Philip Armitage joins STRI from a management position with Glen Farrow, the irrigation company, where he worked in a technical advisory role. Philip has an honours degree in Turfgrass Science and a Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management.

John Lockyer has joined STRI from Spain, where he was working as a golf Course Manager. John, who has a Masters degree in Sports Turf

Management, has worked in the industry for 15 years, including time as a lecturer in turfgrass, soil and plant sciences and supervisory management. John will be covering Central Southern England.

The fourth member of the team is Stella Rixon. Stella has eight years' experience in the industry and has worked as an STRI Regional Adviser for three years in the Thames Valley and Kent and is an honours graduate in Biological Sciences, with a specialism in Ecology.

STRI has also been awarded funding worth more than £25,000 by WRAP - the Waste & Resources Action Programme - to carry out two sets of trials assessing the use of processed sand on artificial and winter sports pitches.

SILVERWARE AT THE READY

This is the band of happy silverware winners at the autumn tournament played at Prestbury Golf Club. Left to right: Alan Donlevy, aggregate winner & Nearest the Pin, Eddie Ainsworth, nett winner, John Mcgloughlan, gross winner, centre Anthony Davies MG, N/W President, Brian Turner, Vets winner, Gary Burgess, Longest Drive.



Many thanks go to Prestbury GC for allowing courtesy of the course and, of course, Anthony Davies and his staff for a superb course. The AGM and President's Cup will be at Wilmslow Golf Club on December 1. Coffee and bacon baps from 9.30am, Tee from 10am, all bring along a bottle.

SILVER SHEPPARD

Tony Sheppard, Production Supervisor at grinding specialist Bernhard and Company, has celebrated 25 years of service with the company.

Joining in 1980 as an apprentice, with the then Atterton & Ellis, initially he was responsible for fitting and turning. Next came university and, at the same time, he helped to construct the parts that would become Bernhard grinders.

From a position in assembly Tony rose through the ranks to his current role. Enjoying the opportunity given by the company to travel to Exhibitions and Shows, Tony counts his travels to the Grand Canyon in America as a very memorable highlight in his career.

Presenting a token of Bernhard's appreciation for his loyal service, Tony was wished a further successful 25 years in both grinders and football.



Tony Sheppard is presented with a gift by Peter Wood, General Manager, to celebrate 25 years

NOWELL STAKES OUT HIS TURF

Turf grower Inturf has appointed Dave Nowell as Manager of their new York Turf Centre located at the company's Wilberfoss head office. Dave, who joins with an impressive amount of sales and marketing experience gained with companies like Nestle, was drawn to Inturf by the opportunity to make his own mark in a company that is expanding rapidly.

"Inturf already has a superb reputation in the world of top sporting venues. It is now making a similar name for itself in supplying turf to gardeners and amenity landscapers. The opening of the new Turf Centre here gives me the opportunity to grow this part of the business and to be part of a continuing success story," said Dave.

