



Welcome

SOME OF FOOTBALL'S PROFILE PLEASE!

Every two years I tend to question the decision my wife and I took some 16 years ago to move south for what at the time appeared better career prospects. Why every two years?

Well, I supposed I can trace it back to 1996 when "Football came Home", with the European Championships being played in the country I now call home. The excitement was palpable in every street, in every town. England were going to become European Champions! They played well but lost out on penalties in the semis.

Every two years since, England have been going to become World or European Champions on alternate two year cycles and the hype has grown and grown.

Now, we're there again and England, with or without Wayne, are going to become World Champions and everywhere you go you see cars festooned in St George flags, posters in windows and potbellied people wearing three lions on their shirt. Indeed you have to fight your way past St George inflatable hammers, fridges, frisbees, tee shirts and mugs to buy a tin of beans in the supermarket.

I often ask if I can buy a Scotland mini fridge or Scotland underpants to be met with a condescending smile from the shop assistant. Don't get me wrong, I'll admit there is a large amount of jealousy there, even if my own team has turned a corner and recently came home with some silverware, the prestigious Kirin Cup - "Scotland Win Trophy Shock". I just can't help feeling it's a little overdone and expectations are inflated to the extent that if England don't win - and only once have they not come up short - it must be someone's fault. A dodgy referee; the Hand of God; managerial incompetence; the lottery of a penalty shootout. Would it be heresy to admit that the opposition were just superior?

Having said all of the above wouldn't it be great if, just occasionally, golf could attract such an overwhelming place in the consciousness of the populous? Let's face it cricket managed it last year with the Ashes. If a new British golfing superstar were to emerge from an inner city housing estate and capture the hearts of the nation, golf would become hip overnight. At one fell swoop we would see kids swinging golf clubs in parks and putting along the pavements while posters of the new golfing hero would appear in the bedrooms of boys and girls alike.

Something similar did happen in the late '70s and early '80s with Seve Ballesteros, who was quickly followed by Bernhard Langer, Sandy Lyle, Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam who won Majors and Ryder Cups. On the back of it came a huge golf explosion but that was over 20 years ago.

We could do with another popularity injection and for your clubs to have new golfers battering at the door demanding memberships. I'm sure there is much you could do with the larger budgets which would surely come your way.

I hope all BIGGA's English members enjoy the World Cup, but please remember the rest of us!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

NEW ASSISTANT EDITOR AT BIGGA

Melissa Toombs has joined BIGGA as Greenkeeper International's new Assistant Editor.

A graduate of the University of East Anglia, in Norwich, Melissa has a degree in Media Studies having previously studied at the University of Kent, in Canterbury, where she gained an HND in Media Production. Prior to this, she also achieved an Advanced GNVQ in Media Communications and an A Level in Sociology, at Canterbury College.

Melissa spent her formative years in Newington, near Sittingbourne, in Kent, having been born a little further north in Kettering.

Her journalistic career began at the Kent Regional Newspaper Group, where, among other things, she wrote theatre and travel reviews as well as covering football and cricket matches. Among her illustrious interviewees have been actor, Hugh Laurie, and actress, Brenda Blethyn,

She moved to Yorkshire recently with her boyfriend, Richard, himself a Sports Journalist, who joined the Press Association, in Howden.

A gym addict, Melissa is also a keen film goer and follower of current affairs.

"I'm delighted to be joining BIGGA and Greenkeeper International where I look forward to expanding my knowledge of golf and meeting many of the BIGGA members," said Melissa.



TURF GROWERS TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO ADDRESS WATER SHORTAGE

Members of the Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) have united to address the drought problems which are likely to affect, not only themselves, but their customers too.

The association has formed a steering group to call for an exemption from any hosepipe ban for newly laid turf and to look at practical steps it can take to protect growers and reassure end-users.

"Although there are no current restrictions on water usage other than in the South-East, we recognise that water shortage is an issue which will affect everyone involved in the turf industry in the future. That's why we're taking proactive steps now to address it," commented TGA Chairman Stephen

Edwards. "In the short term, we're looking into the use of recycled water and water-retentive soil conditioners. In the longer term, growers are working with leading seed companies in the development of new, drought-resistant turf grasses which require less water both at the time of planting and throughout the life of the turfed area."

In the meantime, TGA members will be supporting and advising gardeners, landscapers, sportsturf managers and contractors who are buying and laying turf. A 10-point guide to choosing, storing and laying turf in dry weather is now available on the TGA website at www.turfgrass.co.uk.

NEW RECRUIT IN SALES



Marketing and exhibition professional, Lisa Rayson, has been contracted by BIGGA to work on Harrogate Week 2007.

Lisa, who has previously worked with Dunlop Slazenger, Nike and

Riley Snooker in the sports sector, is working within the existing sales team whose focus is to bring a new and broader appeal to the marketing and selling of BTME, Clubhouse and Continue to Learn.

"The strategy for 2007 is to bring a fresh impetus to Harrogate Week with a view to increasing the audience and exhibitor reach to include generic turf, sports and amenities alongside the traditional core interest of golf greenkeeping."

Lisa was inspired to work on behalf of the Association, by the desire to help develop an even greater awareness of the levels of professionalism, required in amenity turf management.

"The education programme, Continue To Learn, brings professionals together to create a forum of mutual respect. The exhibition is the UK's premier Turf Professional and Sports Club Management event and in 2007 we are broadening the product and service interests for a wider appeal to visitors and exhibitors at what is already a highly successful show," said Lisa.

CALLING ALL BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS!

A quick reminder that the BIGGA Photographic Competition closes at the end of June. This still leaves ample opportunity to snap your course in its spring finest.

Anyone wishing to enter should send their pictures to Scott MacCallum at BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF or email them to scott@bigga.co.uk. The photographs should be in print, slide or disc format. Digital pictures should be at least 300psi and at least seven inches by nine inches in size.

Successful photographers will have their pictures selected for the 2007 BIGGA Calendar and the overall winner will receive a special prize. Happy snapping!

MANUFACTURER AND DEALER SPONSOR BIGGA REGIONAL FOOTBALL MATCH

Surrey and Sussex BIGGA Section's, recently played an eagerly awaited football match at Colliers Wood Football Club.

Sponsored by Grounds care equipment manufacturer, Ransomes Jacobsen and their local dealer, Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd, both teams arrived for the floodlit game with huge enthusiasm. Playing on a first class pitch, with hardly a blade of grass to cover the gravel, Surrey managed to establish a 3 - 0 lead by half time. Sussex failed to make a come

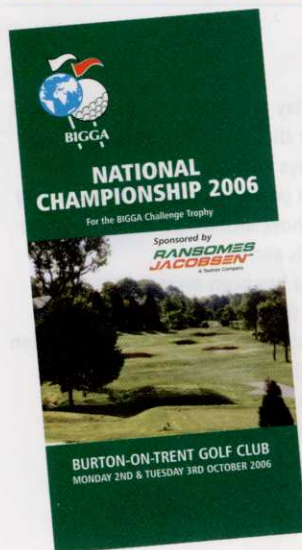
back in the second half while Surrey went on to score a further two goals winning 5-0.

It was a fun, if somewhat tiring evening for some of the not-so-fit players, but the bar takings showed a healthy profit. The Surrey team went home with an engraved trophy, courtesy of the sponsors, while the Sussex team eventually departed vowing to avenge their defeat as they climbed aboard their coach for the journey home.



Surrey (in white) and Sussex (in yellow) BIGGA Section's, looking rather tired after their grueling game!

BIGGA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



That time of year is upon us once again, when fellow greenkeepers and trade members play golf and socialise with old and new friends. Yes, you've guessed it, the BIGGA National Championship is back.

Sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, the two-day event will take place at Burton-on-Trent GC, Burton-upon-Trent on Monday, October 2 and Tuesday, October 3.

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion.

Many members will be aiming to get their hands on the trophy this year, so expect some tough competition!

An information leaflet and entry form is included in this issue of Greenkeeper International. If you have not received this entry form in the magazine or require further information on the BIGGA National Championship please contact BIGGA HQ.

HANDING OVER THE REIGNS

One of the most respected personalities in UK turf production has retired. Derek Edwards of Inturf, who started his career in horticulture 40 years ago, plans "a little consultancy



and a lot of relaxation" after handing over the reigns to his twin sons Alex and Stephen, in 2003.

"I started as a glass house manager growing cut flowers, then moved to PBI to develop and test new chemicals and worked in sports turf irrigation throughout the world, before finally moving into turf grass production and establishing Inturf in 1985," said Derek.

Over the years Inturf has developed a reputation for innovation in the production, distribution and installation of its turfgrass products.

"We took the lead in establishing the Turfgrass Growers Association to help drive standards in the industry up - and I am proud to have been its first Chairman," claimed Derek.

In the early years of the business its focus was almost entirely on sports turf, forging long-term relationships with just about every premiership football club - the FA itself for Wembley, Lord's Cricket Ground, The All England Lawn Tennis Club, and most of the UK's leading golf courses. The company's activities have also extended overseas with contracts throughout Europe and the Middle East.

"I can look back on a lot of success and a lot of fun. The best thing though is that I believe strongly that, for Inturf, the best is yet to come."

FOREST HILLS APPOINTS NEW GREENKEEPER

Richard Evison, has recently been appointed Head Greenkeeper, at Forest Hills Golf Club, Botcheston, Leicestershire.

Richard, 30, began his greenkeeping career in 1992, when he joined Sherwood Forest Golf Club on a YTS. Richard was no stranger to the industry, he became interested at an early age, mainly because his dad, John Evison, was Head Greenkeeper at Gainsborough Golf Club.

Richard brings over 14 years greenkeeping experience with him to Forest Hill Golf Club and is looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

NGCCA BACKS CALLS TO CHANGE RIGHT-TO-ROAM LEGISLATION



National Secretary for the NGCAA, Michael Shaw, wants designated access points for non-golfers

The National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association (NGCAA) is backing the Scottish Golf Union's (SGU) call to change the right-of-way legislation.

Since the 2003 Land Reform Act was passed, ramblers have had enhanced rights-of-way across Scotland's courses,

a change in the legislation will endorse that non-golfers stick to footpaths and off course fairways and greens.

National Secretary for the NGCAA, Michael Shaw, comments: "There are many health and safety issues associated with giving unrestricted access to non-golfers, not least the risk of serious injury caused by a golf ball being mis-hit or driven off line. There are other issues including the potential for serious damage being done to the course, which could cause a person to trip or fall and for example, the unpleasant issue of dog mess left behind by irresponsible dog walkers - a known health and safety issue."

The NGCAA is in agreement with the SGU and proposes that non-golfer access is managed, rather than completely restricted. Shaw continues: "Designated access points for non-golfers should be determined and safe pathways clearly marked. Simple measures such as these would enhance safety for both golfers and non-golfers."

The NGCAA aims to reduce the risk of needless accidents and to continue to attract golfers to Scotland's courses.

TOP DRESSER FOR SPEED AND EFFICIENCY

Opened in 1993, Wharton Park is a high quality, 18-hole championship length golf course, constructed to USGA standards and situated in a parkland setting within the rolling Worcestershire countryside.

Course Manager, Neill Smith has recently taken delivery of a Turfco WideSpin top dresser, mounted onto a Cushman Turf Truckster, to aid his turf maintenance regime at the Club.

Graham Willetts, a Director at Wharton Park, who works closely with Neill on all greenkeeping matters said: "our previous machine wasn't the spinner-type, which resulted in large quantities of sand being deposited on the greens and sometimes they were out of play for as much as a week! On Neill's recommendation

we have gone for the little and often approach and the WideSpin allows us to do this. It can put down anything from a fine dusting, to a really heavy application. With the little and often approach, our golfers don't really notice that we've top-dressed! We now have the flexibility to get out on the course as and when we want to - quickly and with minimum disruption."



JCB GROUNDHOG TEES OFF AT TOP SCOTTISH GOLFING VENUE

The new JCB Groundhog is now a familiar sight on the fairways of the Strathpeffer Spa Golf Course, situated in the Scottish Highlands. It is one of the first JCB Groundhog utility vehicles to be delivered and sales of the latest addition to the range have really taken off.

The challenging landscape of the 40 hectare, Strathpeffer, is no problem for the yellow and black newcomer.

Head Greenkeeper Mike Wilson said: "We evaluated the JCB against the competition and we were immediately impressed by the performance and agility of this rugged utility vehicle. The JCB Groundhog was the most suited to our golf course.

It was the easiest and most comfortable to drive and has the performance to tackle all our terrain."

The keys were handed over by JCB Groundcare dealer, Frank Nicol Farm and Garden Machinery Sales Director, David Nicol, who said: "We're delighted with the reception the JCB Groundhog has received. It's proving a tough and versatile vehicle, which our customers in the Highlands demand."

The JCB Groundhog is designed for the grounds care industry with features that include four wheel drive and high flotation tyres, to give the vehicle excellent traction for transporting loads in remote or rough ground locations.

PLUMPTON COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Twelve thousand visitors flocked to Plumpton College, Sussex, last Saturday, for what turned out to be one of their most successful Open Days to date. This specialist land-based college, covers a wide range of courses including Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, from entry level to degree.

Set in a 700 hectare estate, at the foot of the picturesque South Downs, many visitors were keen to participate in guided walks, including the beautiful bluebell woodland, around the College estate. Garden lovers enjoyed the attractively landscaped grounds and colourful horticultural displays, while those with a sporting interest enjoyed the outdoor sports



Visitors to Plumpton College were impressed by the Open Day's machinery displays

displays, including clay pigeon shooting and a chance to try out a canoe or climb the climbing wall.

Machinery displays received many admirers, as they enthused at the powerful agricultural machinery and equipment on show, including tractors, combine harvesters, seed drills and mowers.

Plumpton College has been awarded status as a Centre of Excellence (CoVE) for Rural Business Management Training as well as Sport and Recreation and Horticultural Technologies. It has also received accreditation as Action for Business College. For further details on the wide range of Land-based courses at Plumpton College you can visit the website: www.plumpton.ac.uk, telephone: 01273 890454 or email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk

LYKIAGOLF TO OPEN IN TURKEY

Located on the beautiful coastline of Turkey, Antalya, this will be the first LykiaGolf Course in the country.

Due to open in May 2007, LykiaGolf will have two courses built on a 100 hectare site. The 18 hole Championship Course will be 6527 metres long and have a par of 72 and the 9 hole Academy course will be 1254 metres long and have a par of 27. Both courses are designed by Perry Dye who, along with his father, has designed over 300 golf courses worldwide. There will be no water hazards on the Championship course but on the short Academy course hole 7 will have an island green. The Championship course will have Links style bunkering and big waste bunkers.

LykiaGolf will be situated near the River Köprüçay, alongside the Mediterranean coast, its neighbour will be its sister resort, LykiaWorld Antalya which will compliment the golf club, where golfers and holidaymakers alike, can stay and use the facilities. LykiaWorld Antalya will be very similar to LykiaWorld Ölüdeniz, offering its Children's Paradise Island, Lake Bungalow's Island and Spa Island.

Attila Silahatoglu, Board Member of LykiaGroup and in charge of the LykiaGolf project said: "This is a huge investment for LykiaGroup and by designing and building a world first in Turkey, we want to push both Turkey and the resort to the top in the world of Golf, as well as placing LykiaGroup amongst the leaders in tourism in this country."

A WEALTH OF INFORMATION

DLF Trifolium's recently launched website, has been generating plenty of interest. The website provides a wealth of information, such as: up to date news items and recently launched initiatives, as well as specific technical information.

Pro Range and Johnsons Sport and Amenity, can be found in the well illustrated Amenity section, where you can view a comprehensive range of grass seed mixtures to meet all your needs. Also available on this site, is a range of wild flower seed mixtures and other products, such as hydraseeding and fertilisers.

See for yourself! Visit www.dlf.co.uk.



WOOSIE GETS TO GRIPS WITH THE GREEN

European Ryder Cup Team Captain, Ian Woosnam, is aiming to lead Europe to a third successive victory over the USA, when the 36th Ryder Cup takes place at The K Club in September.

Looking to inspire his team both on and off the course, eight-time Ryder Cup player, Woosie, is now fine-tuning his own short game on his newly refurbished Huxley all-weather practice green.

Installed originally by Huxley Golf in early 2001, the 1,500 sq ft practice green has seen long hours of use over the past five years, as Woosie worked on his putting and pitching strokes. Following the announcement last year that he is to captain the 2006 European Team, Woosie, decided to have his Huxley practice putting green restored to peak

condition well ahead of this year's Ryder Cup matches.

"The Huxley surface looks and plays just like a really top-class tournament green," he said. "It's been of huge benefit in allowing me to practise my short game at home without having to worry about maintenance."

However, after five years of constant use, the all-weather surface needed a service and Woosie asked Huxley Golf to give the green "a birthday".

Carried out over two days earlier this year the refurbishment has restored the green, close to its original condition, producing a ball speed of around 9 on the stimpmeter.

LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT

Golf-related environmental issues are to be addressed, in a new European initiative, announced at The European Tour headquarters, Wentworth.

Golf Environment Europe (GEE), has been formed by the Trustees of the European Foundation for Golf and Environment (formerly the Committed to Green Foundation). The program of GEE's activities, will be led by the European Forum for Golf and Environment - a partnership of golfing and environmental organisations.

Jonathan Smith, Chief Executive of Golf Environment Europe, commented: "This is another important step forward for golf in Europe. The initiative represents golfing and environmental organisations working together. We now have a formal European interface between the golfing and environmental sectors."

GEE builds upon over 10 years of golf environment program development from the Committed to Green Foundation. Forthcoming projects include: the launch of the website - www.golfenvironmenteurope.org, the organisation's environmental information centre, the re-launch of the former Committed to Green environmental management system for golf courses



and the launch of a program that will enable new golf course developments to register and be certified, for properly integrating environmental issues, into their planning, design and construction.

George O'Grady, Executive Director of the European Tour, added his support, saying: "The European Tour has worked closely with the Committed to Green Foundation for many years. We are keen to continue to support Golf Environment Europe, alongside a number of other golf organisations and demonstrate that golf can address a number of important environmental issues...after all, part of the enjoyment of golf is to be outside in a clean environment close to nature."

ETT'S DAY OUT AT THE REEBOK

Sam Allardyce, Manager of Bolton Wanderers, recently received an Investors in People award. Presented by Richard Lawrence, Managing Director of ETT, Sam received the award at a Premier League match.

The presentation took place on the pitch and was the highlight of the ETT team's day. Also at the presentation was Richard Norton, Head

Groundsman at the Reebok, who has worked with ETT for a number of years and despite often difficult conditions, has produced consistently excellent facilities. Roy Winter of Business Link who had advised ETT on the procedure of attaining the Investors in People award was also present as the guest of ETT.

UNDER THE SURFACE



A unique research program, investigating the benefits of using the Verti-Drain on sports turf, could not have been completed without the long-term support of Redexim Charterhouse. Redexim initiated a three-year study on the subject - one on which little scientific data had previously been available.

Dr Alan Gange and Dr Don McGregor, of Royal Holloway College, investigated the effect of deep tine aeration, using the Verti-Drain on microbial communities in sports turf. Their summary of findings were presented at the College to an invited audience of turf professionals.

"Compaction is perhaps the most common cause of turf health problems, yet is among the most serious. A golf course may have to withstand as many as 100,000 rounds of play per year," said Dr Gange. "A football pitch might experience 250,000 studded boot imprints per year, equating to 4,200 imprints per square metre in a season."

Left untreated compacted and poorly draining soil would suffer from reduced oxygen content and lower levels of water and beneficial microbes, including helpful bacteria and fungi. This would adversely affect root growth and the health of the grass plants, and could lead to anaerobic 'black layer' conditions. By letting air back into the soil, deep aeration (using the Verti-Drain) encouraged microbial activity, invigorated the roots and increased disease resistance. This would then cause

less fertiliser to be required and the tolerance of drought would be enhanced.

Dr McGregor explained how the project had involved detailed aeration trials using a Verti-Drain on two clay-based football pitches at Royal Holloway and on sand-based greens at Liphook Golf Course in Hampshire.

The assistance from Redexim Charterhouse, enabled the researchers to use cutting-edge technology in the form of modern phospho

lipid fatty acid analysis (PLFA) equipment. This quantified the effects of Verti-Drain aeration on microbial communities. Tests were also carried out for soil strength and carbon dioxide levels.

Dr McGregor said that there had been a clear reduction in compaction on those areas that had been treated with the Verti-Drain. He also found that there was a marked improvement in levels of beneficial bacteria on areas aerated using the Verti-Drain during every season of the year.

Dr's Gange and McGregor, have helped Redexim Charterhouse produce a 'best practice' guide derived from their research, explaining the correlation between Verti-Drain aeration and soil health. Entitled 'Beneath The Surface', the guide is targeted at all turf professionals and available free from Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd.

"We are very grateful to Redexim Charterhouse for their invaluable interest and support," said Dr Alan Gange. "They have supplied essential equipment and technical backup needed for the trial procedures."

Philip Threadgold, Managing Director of Charterhouse Turf Machinery, the UK distributor of the Verti-Drain, believes the research has taken a major step forward. "This is a terrific piece of work that quantifies the huge benefits that use of the Verti-Drain brings. It will be invaluable to greenkeepers and groundsmen at all levels. We are proud to have played a part in this research."

NEW LDCA WEBSITE HITS ANOTHER LEVEL

The Land Drainage Contractors Association (LDCA), aims to increase awareness of its services through the launch of a new user-friendly website.

From July 1, the site will be packed with useful information relating to land drainage, sports turf drainage and water management, which will be even easier for visitors to access.

"Our aim is to provide sports providers and local authorities with key information," said Bruce Brockway, Secretary of the LDCA.

"Rather than just providing a list of members, if a club wants to undertake drainage of a golf course or football pitch, or slitting, or sand banding, they can source the information by category of work, or

the region of the country they want the company to work in."

The first three items coming on stream are: increased classifications for contractors, manufacturers and suppliers, together with their contact details; technical specification standards required for lottery funding, with appropriate paid-for documentation which is downloadable from the website; and a regularly updated news-page for those who want to keep in touch with developments, within the drainage industry.

For further information please visit: www.ldca.org or email secretary@ldca.org, alternatively phone 01327 263264.

BSH APPOINTS NEW TECHNICAL ADVISOR FOR SCOTLAND AND THE NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND

British Seed Houses have a new addition to their team of technical advisors. Alistair Eccles, has been appointed to cover Scotland and the North East of England.

Alistair has worked within the agrochemical industry for 18 years, spending the last decade as an agronomist. He is BASIS registered and lives in Perth.

"Alistair's previous experience and technical ability adds another dimension to the advice available from our dedicated sales team," said Amenity Development Director, Simon Taylor.

Alistair can be contacted on 07887 578802 or by email at alistair.eccles@britishseedhouses.com.

CHANGES ARE AFOOT



Hayter, makers of Golf-grass cutting equipment, have announced changes to their sales team.

John Quinton has been appointed Territory Manager, for Wales and the South West of England. Robin

Boyes, who as UK Sales Manager had also been covering Wales and the south west area, will now take on the responsibility of national accounts. These changes are with immediate effect.

Born in Zimbabwe, John Quinton came to study agricultural engineering at Harper Adams University College, shortly after leaving school. After completion of his studies, he worked in the UK as a design engineer but went back to Zimbabwe to work on the family farm. Upon returning to England he joined Glendale before ultimately joining Hayter.

"We are delighted that John is joining us. With his engineering background and comprehensive knowledge of the industry he will be able to lend considerable support to his dealers to promote the Hayter range of products," said David Sturges, Sales and Marketing Director.

"His appointment will allow Robin Boyes to take on national accounts and to spend more time working with our UK dealers to develop their Hayter business," he added.