

NEW CHAIRMAN AT GOLF CONSULTANTS ASSOCIATION

The Golf Consultants Association has elected Ian Bulleid as its new chairman.

Ian, a founder member of the GCA, replaces Mike Shields, who has completed a two-year tenure as Chairman and moves on to the GCA committee alongside Andy Hiseman and Mark Smith. Jacqui Baldwin remains as Secretary.

Said Ian: "I am delighted to take over as Chairman. As one of the original founder members I'm really looking forward to developing Mike's legacy and taking the association forwards."

"We have such a lot to offer the industry at a time when it is facing challenges on all sides."

"I need to spearhead the Association to bring us to a wider audience, so that owners and operators everywhere can gain full benefit from the unique array of talent available within the membership."

"I'd like to think that our members will be involved in a number of projects that leave a lasting impression - like our work on the Golf Tourism strategy for Wales".

The GCA was formed in 2001 to offer golf course owners and operators all aspects of golf management consultancy - from initial market research and feasibility studies to marketing, operating a club and even planning the right exit strategy and getting the best possible price.

In recent years the Association members have been active in helping all manner of golf facilities throughout the UK and Europe.

Mike Shields said: "I've had a great two years in the chair, seen the association grow and host two successful GCA Conferences, and I am delighted to be handing over to Ian who, aside from being part of our executive team, has vast industry experience".

"Ian is the ideal Chairman for the GCA: he has wide experience of the golf industry and a proven track record. I believe the Association is in excellent hands for the future."

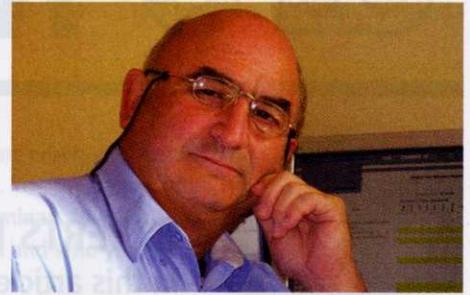
Members of the GCA adhere to strict entrance criteria, which give assurance to any client that the member employed is experienced and up to the task.

Projects undertaken by members for clients include developing golf tourism strategy and major resort property sales, and working closely with individual owner operators advising on agronomy, golf course management, growing golfer usage and improving marketing and staff management.

Added Ian: "We are careful to ensure that any new member can demonstrate long-term commitment and experience in the industry, plus a degree of professionalism and expertise which will ensure that any prospective client can be comfortable with any dealings with one of our members."

If you are interested in GCA membership, potential new members are welcome to email the association at gca@sportsandplay.com.

NEW RECRUIT



Michael Martin, for many years a Senior Partner at York and Martin and more recently York Martin International, has now joined Robin Hume Associates.

The RHA team now comprises of the two most respected elder statesmen in the industry, Robin Hume and Michael Martin, ably supported by Iain Macpherson and Adrian Mortram. This now makes it the largest independent Irrigation Consultancy Practice in Northern Europe, as well as being associate consultants to the STRI.

Adrian Mortram, Director, commented, "Michael is a well known figure on the international fine turf irrigation scene and he will increase our presence in mainland Europe and North Africa, where he has been active for many years. This ensures that we have wide ranging capacity for our expanding business. We also value experience, and in his new role Michael will be working on specific projects. He will be fully involved in the design and specification process, in addition to project management, especially on the larger projects".

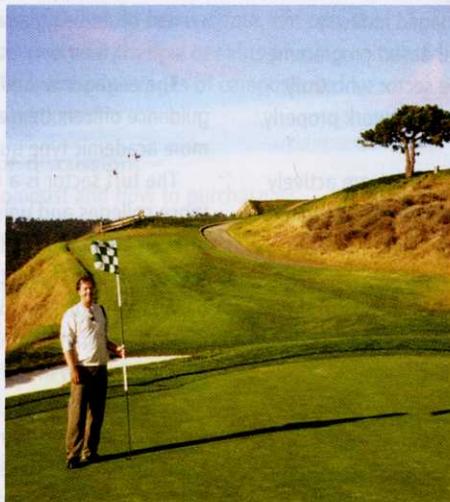
Michael looks forward to being contacted through RHA's Shrewsbury office.

PEBBLE BEACH GC

Frank Scullion, Course Manager at Dunstable Downs GC, visited Pebble Beach, Carmel recently while celebrating his Silver Wedding Anniversary with his wife Sylvia.

Frank contacted Superintendent, Chris Dalhamer before the holiday and asked if he would mind showing them around the Pebble Beach course during their holiday.

"My wife and I spent two and a half hours at the course. They have 30 permanent greenstaff with extra staff coming in during the summer months. I counted 22 handmowers in the sheds! Chris said they were cutting greens at 1/8th during November and the greens were running at around 13 on the stimpmeter. All greens were 100% meadow grass with rye grass on fairways and tees," said Frank.



COLEGRAVE FOUNDATION GRANTS AWARDED

Three students from the Horticulture scheme at Writtle College have each been awarded grants of £500 by the David Colegrave Foundation.

The Foundation wishes to promote student interest in the commercial production of ornamental plants and seeds. The successful students were Richard Demby, Robert Farthing and Mante Bieliauskaitė who will receive the £500 to use towards their course fees.

Richard Demby, 44 from Sierra Leone, is taking a BSc in Horticulture before returning to his job as horticulture technician at his university in Sierra Leone. Robert Farthing, 19 from Uckfield, East Sussex, is a first year BSc (Hons) Horticulture student with a particular interest in crop production. Mante Bieliauskaitė, 22 from Lithuania, is a part-time student on the Foundation Degree in Horticulture and is employed in the nursery stock industry.

SCHOOLCHILDREN TARGETED FOR CAREERS IN GROUNDS MANAGEMENT

The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), has started a nationwide campaign to 'sow the seed' among schoolchildren for a career in grounds management by sending an information booklet to every private and public secondary school in the UK.

'Expand Your Knowledge – a Career in Grounds Management' has been especially designed to inform young people about the grounds management profession, starting with an explanation of the role of a grounds manager plus specific sections covering entry routes and opportunities for progression as well as expected rewards, for instance.

Interested youngsters and students are also being invited to take up the IOG's free membership opportunities, and as a consequence will be offered all the information and support required to get their careers off to a flying start.