

THANK YOU

Dear BIGGA

On Behalf of all at The London Club we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that was involved in the course preparations for the 2009 European Open. The pressure of a changing week was reduced a great deal by the help and quality of all the volunteers that travelled from all areas of the UK, giving up their own time to be part of what was again a very successful event. It was a pleasure working with you all, and hope that you all got as much out of the whole experience as we did. Once again a very big thank you, and look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Ben Adams and Mark Bell

FEEDBACK ON NEW FEATURE

Dear BIGGA

Your new feature 'Candid in Camera' gives Course Managers the opportunity to come clean with their darkest thoughts without fear of exposure. Not surprisingly, the first instalment unearthed a charming specimen who describes his biggest problem as his staff and who elected not to stick up for them because he had a mortgage to pay. Presumably he was unconcerned about the mortgage of the "really nice bloke" whom he casually fired of his own volition with no pressure to do so from the club. He described himself as a manager rather than a shop steward but surely the best course managers combine elements of both disciplines? In my experience, managers who regard their biggest problem as their staff would be well advised to start by taking a good look at themselves. This bloke has got the staff he deserves.

Mick Travis

THANK YOU

Dear BIGGA

I would like to thank the Learning and Development department at BIGGA, as well as David Withers and all at Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, who have provided their time and funding for my Foundation Degree in Sports Turf Science and Management.

My Continuation of personal development and the step to higher education would not have been possible without Ransomes Jacobsen's kind generosity. I look forward to notifying you of my progress along the way.

Thank you once again for providing me with this opportunity.

**Greg Knight,
Assistant Greenkeeper, Abridge Golf Club**

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■ TECHNICAL SALES REGIONAL MANAGERS, TURF & AMENITY

Due to the planned expansion of our growing Turf & Amenity business, we are seeking to recruit two area sales managers into the following trading areas of Central England covering: Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, East Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire, and Southern England covering: Hampshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Surrey and West London.

To join our team you will have an in-depth knowledge of the requirements of the modern sports turf professional, and be able to converse with them on an equal, practical and technical basis. A proven sales background is not essential as full training will be given to the successful candidates. Drive and self-motivation are essential and will ensure success in a competitive marketplace. These positions may suit candidates who currently work in the practical Turf & Amenity industry and are looking for a new and exciting challenge.

Closing date for application: Wednesday 30th September 2009

If you feel you have the necessary experience, skills and enthusiasm to succeed in this challenging role, please send your CV to: Martin Townsend, Manager, Countrywide Turf & Amenity, Countrywide, Defford, Earls Croome, Worcs WR8 9DF, www.countrywidefarmers.co.uk Or visit us for a chat on Stand F40 at SALTEX this September.

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HARRY DIAMOND MEMORIAL QUAICH

Dear BIGGA

Looking out of my window, at 6am, to a dreadful miserable morning, my thoughts were of a wet days golf at Belleisle. I should have had more forethought. Ayr Belleisle is a good hour's drive from Henzie, and with the extremities of weather we get in Scotland, expecting the same weather 40 miles away, "and at the coast", is nearly asking for a miracle. Arriving at Belleisle, at 8.15am for the usual Shot Gun start at 9.00am, the weather had improved to the extent, that the golfers milling around before going to their respective tees, were more intent in covering their golf clubs than themselves. The Diamond Family were all in evidence, attending to the organisation of the usual Stableford Competition.

All the young Diamond Girls were assisting, to keep everyone on the move and in getting the Golfers to their allocated Teeing Ground, before the sounding of the starting horn. Another exceptional and pleasant days Golf, with golfers, young, medium and old, "some very old", remarking how much they looked forward to this day in particular.

The Après Golf took the same format as in past years, with free beer and a free raffle ticket given to all who played that day. I have to remark on the prizes presented at the raffle, not the usual bottle of wine, or a couple of golf balls - two nights at a hotel for two, bottles of Johnnie Walker Black Label whisky, an expensive wall clock and others, too numerous to mention. As usual, all Harry's family took part in the presentation, his daughters were to the fore, as were his Grandchildren, in the organisation of the whole event, Harry's two brothers, Hugh and Campbell, handled the prizes to the deserving winners. The Quaich was presented by Harry's wife, Jessie. Again exceptional scoring by the winners J. Dickson, B Ablatt, and M. Owens, who turned a remarkable 95 points. The Diamond Family, extend their thanks to all who participate in the Quaich, and a special debt of gratitude to the donors, or cash, cheques, and prizes, which is the backbone of any well organised Golf Competition. Another successful and enjoyable day to the Memory of and exceptional Greenkeeper and dear Friend, Harry Diamond.

Cecil George, Lenzie