

Back in time to this month in... 1989

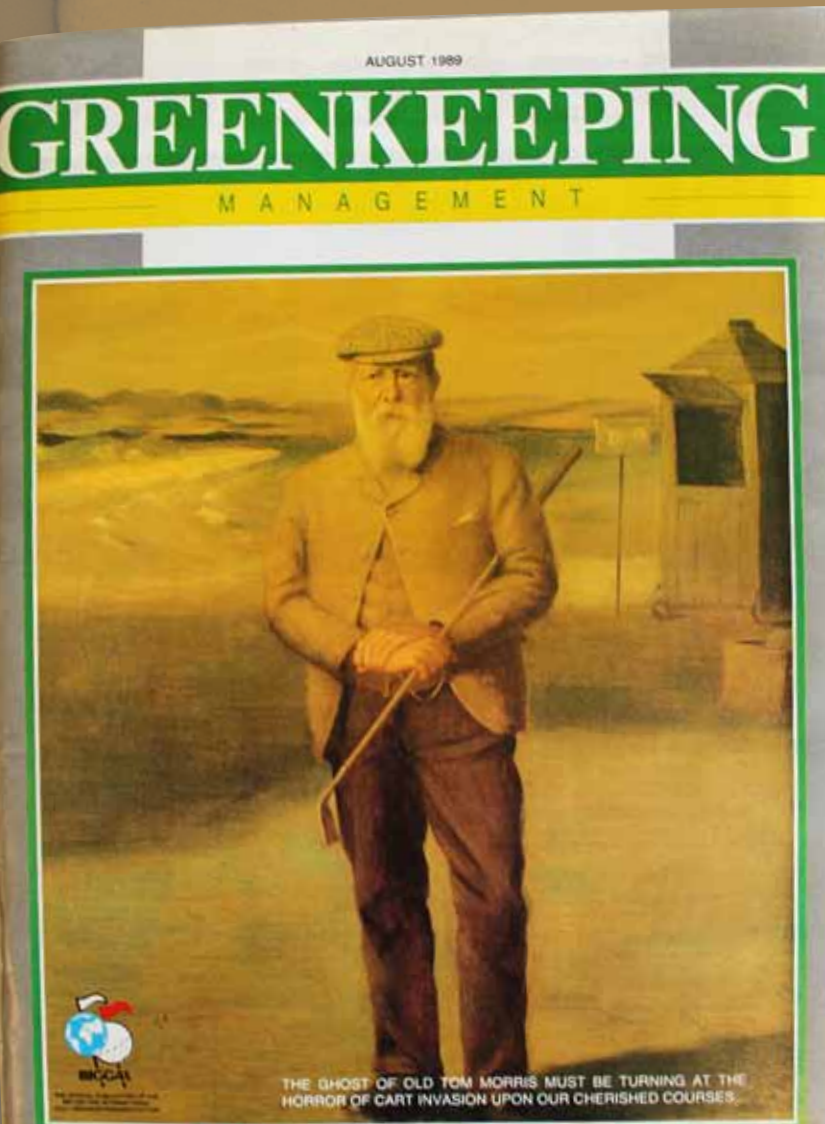
Do you have any old artifacts from days gone-by?

Perhaps your grandad was a greenkeeper and has something stored away in the loft? Maybe an Association tie, or a journal? If so we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in the early part of the last century but anything you have would be worth considering for future editions of this article.

Please contact us on 01347 833800 or email Elliott Small, BIGGA Past Chairman,

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Back in time is a new feature looking back at cuttings of greenkeeping news from days gone-by. 2012 will be a landmark year, as it will be the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, as well as 25 years since BIGGA was formed. Each month we will look back at the current month, but in a different year, from over the last hundred. This month we travel back to August 1989 when ironically the magazine was looking back itself with the grandfather of all greenkeepers Old Tom Morris on the cover...



Europe's most widely circulated Greenkeeping magazine

Viscount Whitelaw, BIGGA's first President is pictured (right) and the "Flannel Panel" lists who were involved in BIGGA at that particular time

"ANOTHER DEAD MOLE" The story was about an albino mole which was one of four trapped by the Fraserburgh Head Greenkeeper, one Gordon Moir, now Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews.

The Poseur's Pose! Piece is actually a preview for BIGGA's National Championship, which was due to be played at Lyme Regis GC over three days in August. Coincidentally, Greenkeeper International is previewing this year's National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at West Lanes GC.

GREENKEEPING

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GREENKEEPING

The National Association of Public Golf Courses threatened

The National Association of Public Golf Courses, for six by one years the accepted and recognised administration body for the public course club golfer, are indignant at the recent news - out of the blue - that the E.G.U. are to discuss a privately published paper. The English Golf Union and the Non-Status Golfer without consultation with NAPGC, even though their Association represents over 100 of the present public course clubs and over 80,000 public course players' insulted and ignorant as they are over the seeming insensitivity of the E.G.U. on such an important issue, they made the point to Greenkeeping Management that to make attempts to support and recognise the non-status golfer without involving the ONLY organisation with real experience in this moment to their being discussed. Some of the questions posed in the paper, with NAPGC comments, are given here:

1. The Non-status golfer (NSG) wants some official recognition of his golfing ability. **Answer** - Let him join the club at the public course he plays upon.
2. The NSG wants to become a better player and enter the 'real' world of golf by competitive and social play. **Answer** - By joining a public course club he gets his 'passport' through a handicap certificate.
3. The NSG wants ultimately to join a club of society. **Answer** - Public course clubs would welcome him into their ranks.
4. The NSG wants to improve his knowledge of rules and etiquette. **Answer** - The first priority of NAPGC is to teach new players the rules and etiquette of golf with committee members of the Association always on hand to guide and counsel.
5. The NSG wants an opportunity to play in an organised competitive arena. **Answer** - NAPGC organises numerous competitive events at both local and national level.
6. The NSG wants a passport to extend his play beyond the municipal course.

Poseur's Pose!

Flying Divots



ANOTHER DEAD MOLE

A RARE ALBINO MOLE TRAPPED BY G. MOIR.
Greenkeeping enemy number one, the mole, is seen here in a different guise. One of four of the same little varmints trapped by Fraserburgh Golf Club head greenkeeper, Gordon Moir, all within a matter of weeks. All pure white when trapped, Gordon makes the point that this specimen had turned a little yellow by the time he had photographed it, being well dead and surely, having been in the trap for a few days. Gordon says of this rarity, 'I am sure many greenkeepers have never seen a white mole before'. Our feelings are that these obnoxious creatures, albino or regular, male or female, big or small, whatever their lineage, are better dead than alive.

Rosemount record shattered



LEFT: Another coincidence! August '89 previews the very first Toro Student of the Year competition, which was to be won by Mark Proctor. This month Greenkeeper International contains the preview for the 2011 competition.

RIGHT: Range of adverts which appeared in the issue



BELOW: A snapshot of an article written by one of greenkeeping's greatest supporters, architect, Fred Hawtree. Again this piece was looking back into golfing history.

Greenkeepers Association

"They donned the felt Homburg hat of commerce"

They too put up a team of five, captained by Harry Colt, R & A. Rules Committee, Cambridge Captain, Lawyer, Sunningdale Secretary, and finally No. 1 course architect of the amateurs. He scored 20 layouts in his first eight years, finally leaving Sunningdale in 1913 to go solo. His associates Dr. Alister MacKenzie, the Leeds medical practitioner, and Hugh Alison, Secretary of Stoke Poges followed his lead.

J.F. Abercromby was not a profile designer, but was highly respected. His new course at Addington was a gem, stolen now by housing needs, though the Old Course is fortunately still there. He checked out the opposition by working with Park earlier at Coombe Hill.

Herbert Fowler, who had designed Walton Heath, co-operated with Abercromby at Cowdray Park and West Kent (now moved to Downe). All three were involved in the early days of Worpleton. Fowler started playing golf at the late age of 35 and planned Walton Heath because of a family connection. He then completed five British courses and one in Los Angeles before the 1914 war.

On quantity, The Caps halved one game and won the rest, even giving a stroke a hole. But if we assess quality in the results, I should say it was honourably halved.

The flood of new courses did not

Caps well to the fore at Sundridge Park, circa 1913



Aspects of Design

stop completely between 1914 and 1918; it slowed to a trickle. Only MacKenzie and Alison were young enough to join the Army. But in 1920, both sides returned to the offensive. The amateurs struck first. Colt & Alison produced one book, 'Some Essays on Golf Course Architecture', and Alister MacKenzie produced another. He included in his book a list of the 13 features essential in an ideal golf course, this catching the readers' imagination, as simple summings-up often do, despite what they leave out. Historians have mistakenly quoted from this book ever since, but I can now reveal for the first time that MacKenzie first outlined his

13 points not in book form, but when lecturing to the Northern Section of the Golf Greenkeepers Association, Greenkeepers First - The World Second! He obviously got his priorities right.

In case you have forgotten what he said up there, we shall start in the next issue where we leave off - with those 13 points, and a few extra for good measure. Incidentally, his book, 'Golf Architecture', costs about £350 now, so you might as well wait and get his points for nothing.

FRED HAWTREE.

A Homburg behatted forebear of The Author.

