



## Walter Woods – ‘more sand, Honeyman... more sand’

**Memoirs of a  
greenkeeper!**

*In his own words*

Walter Woods BEM is the most recognised greenkeeper in the world and his memoir is an opportunity to recount his reminiscences and thoughts to the profession both young and old.

Starting his working life down a coal mine Walter then worked at his home town, Tillicoultry's, golf club in the late 1950s where his hard work and ability as a county standard player brought him to wider attention. He moved to Braehead Golf Club in 1965 where he and wife, Caroline, worked on the course and in the clubhouse.

The family moved south to Stanton-on-the-Wolds GC in Nottinghamshire in 1968 before, a short time later, he was appointed Head Greenkeeper at Notts (Hollinwell) GC, a job he had coveted since he had arrived in England.

The chance spotting of an advert for the job of Links Supervisor at St Andrews created a dilemma for Walter but the lure of managing the best known course in the world was too much and in 1974 he was appointed.

Almost immediately he set about improving the education and motivation of the Links Trust staff, as well as his own communication skills, in a job which was more administrative than hands-on greenkeeping. The scale of managing four

links courses, heavily played on a huge stretch of land also had to be developed to ensure the most effective approaches were adopted.

Walter prepared The Old Course for four Opens – 1978, 1984, 1990 and 1995 – and the book gives an insight into the behind the scenes activity at each of these.

As one of the prime movers behind the formation of BIGGA, Walter describes the background to this including the proposal and ultimate rejection of a move to join with the PGA.

Following discussions between Walter and Sir Michael Bonallack, the Secretary of the R&A, (now BIGGA President), the ground work towards forming a new Association, covering all of the UK and beyond was funded by the R&A and BIGGA was formed in 1987 with Walter as the first Chairman.

In addition to Walter's experiences of four Opens, and the myriad of other tournaments that he prepared the course for he also includes much of his own greenkeeping philosophy and many of his own anecdotes covering the period.

His last Open was in 1995, won by that golfing maverick, John Daly. Walter had asked to have a flag signed by the new Champion when he was taking part in a photo session by the Road Hole Bunker

the following morning but was greeted by abuse when he made his request in person. In response Walter asked Daly and his entourage to move as far away from the area as possible. He never did get his flag signed.

When he finally retired after 21 years as Links Superintendent he was bestowed the Freedom of the Links, allowing him to play golf as St Andrews for the rest of his days.

A must read for anyone with an association with the great profession of greenkeeping, those who have had the privilege of knowing Walter can hear his voice as you read and there is much to learn, and much to raise a chuckle.

The production of the book owes much to the hard work of Walter himself, but also to Barry Beckett, of Toro, without whom the project would not have reached the successful conclusion that it has.

The book will be included in the New BIGGA Members' Welcome Pack for the next two years; it will be available on the BIGGA stand at BTME 2012 for anyone wishing a copy while Walter will also be available during the Show to sign copies. The book will also be available on line to members for the cost of postage and packing.

*Scott MacCallum*



## GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY 2011

The final of the Tacit Golf Management Trophy. At The Mere Golf Resort and Spa, last month saw victory for The Players' Club, in Bristol.

It was the culmination of a series of regional events held up and down the country which produced a great final.

Teams from all over the country qualified for the inaugural Tacit sponsored Golf Management Trophy, these included: Upminster; Bingley St Ives; Romford; Rothley Park; Gay Hill; The Players Club; Verulum; Brickendon; Morriston; Newport; Test Valley and Liphook

The format of the competition was a team comprising of greenkeeper, Club Captain, Secretary and Green Committee Member – fourball better ball with two best scores counting.

The idea of the competition was to pay for prizes for the club rather than individual gain, with prizes as a memento of the day.

Regional rounds saw the winners going away with sets of embroidered flags for their course, while the final winners also took home an additional full set of pins and cups - a prize worth in excess of £2,000, as well as individual blaklader waterproof jackets and fleeces.

"We have enjoyed tremendously getting involved with BIGGA and the Golf Management Trophy," said Tim Webb, Managing Director, at Tacit.

"This is a fantastic vehicle to promote the relationship

between Greenkeepers and their Club Management. Relationships often forged on the golf course can then be more easily transferred to the boardroom or committee room making communications between Clubhouse and Course smoother and more beneficial in both directions," he said.

"I know all of the clubs have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the regional events and then getting to the final.

"We are really excited about we venues which we have been promised for next year and we will try and get a complete listing out by January, so clubs can see which venue would be ideal for them."

Tacit is also trying to increase the coverage to give all clubs in Great Britain a chance to play. However, the entry will be limited to the venue capacity, so please get your entries in early if you wish to partake.

"I look forward to making new friends and meeting up with old ones over the forthcoming events. See you there," added Tim.

Results: 1. The Players' Club (Bristol) (-11) 131 - Andy Grabham (Deputy Head Greenkeeper), Paul Heyburn (Hon Secretary), Terry Parsons (Captain), Peter Aitken (Vice Chairman); 2. Liphook (-9) 133 cpo; 3. Rothley Park (-9) 133 cpo; 4. Test Valley (-9) 133

The photo is of (left to right): Jim Croxton, Andy Grabham, Paul Heyburn, Terry Parsons, Peter Aitken, Tim Webb (MD - Tacit), Jane Jones.



## McMillan Tankard

The annual McMillan Tankard over Sunningdale was won by one of the home team greenkeepers, Tom Brearley.

Played recently over the New Course at Sunningdale Surrey Section members had the pleasure of playing the course - as always in fantastic condition thanks to Murray Long and his team, all with the added pleasure of the heather looking magnificent in full bloom.

Tom won on the day with a score of 37 points. Tony Bremer finished runner up with 35 points.

He was presented with the Tankard by Jack and Rita McMillan, as has been tradition for over 30 years.

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## November is Conference Month

November is a bumper month for learning and development within BIGGA with four Regional Conferences taking place around the country.

On November 16 the South East Conference takes place at Stockbrook Manor Golf Club, in Essex, with an exciting range of speakers covering a range of sports surfaces. Included in the programme area Darren Baldwin, from Tottenham Hotspur FC; Peter Craig, from the Hurlingham Club, and Stuart Kerrison, from Essex County Cricket Club, while golf is represented by Richard Whyman, Burnham and Berrow GC Course Manager, and BIGGA Past Chairman and Greg Evans, Course Manager of Ealing GC.

The very next day the South West and South Wales Conference is held at the Oaktree Arena in Somerset, where Cale Bigelow, Associate Professor of Agronomy, Purdue University; Craig Richardson, Grounds Manager, Bristol City Football Club; Huw Morgan MG, Golf

Club Manager, Ashburnham Golf Club; Chris Haspell, Course Manager, Castle Stuart Golf Links and Mark Hunt, Technical Director, Headland Amenity Ltd are the principle speakers.

To alleviate any travel issues the Northern Region is holding two Conferences on consecutive days in two venues on either side of the Pennines.

The first will be held at Cookridge Hall GC, Leeds on November 29, with the second the following day at Birchwood GC, Manchester. Speakers for both include: Mark Hunt, Technical Director, Headland Amenity; Dr Keith Duff, Golf Environment Consultant, and Bob Hardy, Secretary, of Vale of Llangollen Golf Club.

Full details for all of the Conferences can be found on the Events Section of the BIGGA Website.

Be sure to take advantage!

## THANK YOU

Now that the dust has settled on the Walker Cup I am now getting time to thank everybody who helped make the event a great success.

I had many volunteers from as far away as Tennessee in the USA, to Golspie in the north and from all corners of the UK. I would like to officially thank all the volunteers who gave up their time to help out at the event. It was very much appreciated by myself and the Walker Cup committee. The weather was reasonably kind to us with some heavy rain showers on the Saturday giving some slight concerns but overall we were lucky with the weather we had.

I also had tremendous trade support from John Deere, Bernhard & Co, Greentech Sportsturf Ltd, Fairways GM, Andersons fertilisers, Floratine products and Don Valley turf and seeds. Thank you to you all for your help and support.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I have to thank my own staff on a tremendous achievement over the past few years and latterly the past 6 months. Their commitment to ensuring that the course looked and played its best was fantastic and I thank them all very much, well done boys a great achievement.

Thanks again to everybody involved

Robert N Patterson  
Course Manager  
Royal Aberdeen GC

## Rolawn Restores Stonehenge

Rolawn's Medallion® turf has recently been laid around the ancient stone circle at Stonehenge, as part of its annual restoration programme. The installation was carried out by specialist contractor Parsons Landscapes Ltd.



## 50 years Celebrations

Lloyds' Paladin Mower, which holds a place of affection with many around the world, is celebrating 50 years in production.

The current range of Paladins, although very different to the original model, has kept loyal to the concept of simplicity and efficiency of operation and maintenance. Clive Nottingham, Managing Director of Lloyds and Co



Letchworth Ltd is delighted with the performance of the Paladin over the last 50 years.

"This is a machine which has always been highly rated by the end user. It invariably gives unprecedented performance for the professional looking for the perfect finish. Even in today's demanding sporting world where the expectations are extremely high, the Paladin always delivers on its promise."

As a special landmark in 1977, Lloyds produced a totally silver Paladin in celebration of the Queens Silver Jubilee year. Manufactured from aluminum, the components were highly polished and all other steel parts were chromium plated. It was presented to Her Majesty and was used at Balmoral Castle.

## BIGGA SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION SPONSOR PLACES TO HARROGATE WEEK 2012

This year the Regional Board of the South West and South Wales Region has decided to sponsor one place from each of the four Sections on the Region's Harrogate Week accommodation package giving four people the opportunity to attend the show and seminars. Each committee has been asked to select someone from their Section who they feel would benefit from the experience. This opportunity has been made possible due to the RA's work in stabilising and growing the financial position of the Region and the support of the Region's Patrons. Thanks go to Patrons - Ransomes Jacobsen, Irritech Limited, Countrywide, Avoncrop Amentiy, W T and R J Jones, Farmura, Huxley Golf, Martyn Lane Golf, Everris, and Sports Metals for the support they give to the region through the Patronage Scheme.

Following their experience each of the four winners will be asked to write a small piece on their experience of Harrogate Week for the magazine

Together with these sponsored places the region's subsidized accommodation package is also available to members and is for three night's bed and breakfast at The Cairn Hotel arriving Monday, January 23, 2012 and departing Thursday, January 26. Any member of the region interested should contact BIGGA Regional Administrator, Jane Jones on 01454 270850 or mobile 07841948110.

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## Norrie Whytock Trophy



The annual competition for the Norrie Whytock Trophy took place at the usual venue Auchterarder Golf Club recently.

With a full compliment of five teams taking part, the weather at the beginning of play was quite favourable and some excellent scoring was recorded. Although the weather deteriorated near the end of play, this did not hinder the field and the good scoring continued till all the players were finished. Archie Dunn and his staff are to be congratulated on producing a first class golf course.

The scoring was its usual high standard. In third place with 88 points was the West Section team comprised S. Taylor, Glasgow GC; D. Reid, Lenzie GC; S. Diamond, Loch Lomond, and C. George, Retired Member. Second with a total of 103 pts was the Central Section comprising, P. Murphy, Downfield GC, E. Small, Retired Member, and J. Watson, St. Andrews Links. The winners this year were the North Section

with a total of 104 pts, team members R. Macrae, Newmachar GC, J. McCormack, Kirriemuir GC, Ri. Pirie, Newmachar GC and finally D. Middleton, Deeside GC, who recorded the best individual score with 41 pts.

The team prize was accepted by Jim McCormack on behalf of the North Section from Kenny Liddell, Bayer's representative in Scotland.

Scottish Chairman Stuart Taylor thanked Kenny Liddell and Bayer for once again sponsoring this year's tournament.

The Association wish to place on record their thanks to the Captain and Committee for the courtesy and facilities and to David Smith, Managing Secretary for his assistance.

Next year's tournament will take place on 16 August, 2012.

*Peter J. Boyd  
Regional Administrator*

Photo shows K Liddell, D Middleton, S Taylor, R Pirie, R Macrae and J McCormack



## Singing the Greens

Paul Carella, an Assistant at The Richmond Club, in London, is making quite a splash as a singer and recently competed in a National Open Mic contest.

"I sung Ring of Fire by Johnny Cash and one of my own original songs called Red Sole Woman," explained Paul

"I didn't get through this time, but my performance has generated interest from a couple of record labels..

Paul has been singing seriously for two years playing pubs around London and has had two of his own songs from his first album, Outlaw, on an American radio show, HosstheBoss, based in Texas.

"I had two top 20 finishes out of the best 350 songs of each year, 2009 and 2010. The songs were called, A Letter For My Brother and Drifter. I also did a guest dj appearance on the show and I'll be back on again next year," said Paul, who also played at Guilfest this year, where Razorlight, Roger Daltrey and James Blunt wer among the acts.

You can check out some of Paul's original songs at [www.myspace.com/paulcarella](http://www.myspace.com/paulcarella) and keep up to date with his music at [paul carella-music](http://paulcarella-music) on facebook.

## GTC ANNOUNCES NEW DATES

The GTC, in association with the EGU is hosting three further workshops as part of a pilot programme to introduce Quality Assured short courses and workshops for golf club officials and managers.

The workshops are:  
November 9, Old Fold Manor Golf Club, Hertfordshire;  
November 17, Rotherham Golf Club, South Yorkshire;

November 25 Sundridge Park Golf Club, Kent; January 26, Oakdale Golf Club, North Yorkshire; February 22 Cold Ashby Golf Club, Northamptonshire. Further dates still to be announced.

The GTC has engaged the services of Laurence Pithie, MG, and one of its Quality Assured Training Providers, to present these workshops. Comprehensive course notes

will be given to all delegates attending the workshop.

To view the programme visit [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)

The cost of the workshop is £60pp to include refreshments, lunch and course materials.

Places are strictly limited therefore early application is advisable. Call the GTC on Tel: 01347 838640 or email [fiona@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:fiona@the-gtc.co.uk)

## AGM Notice

The Annual General Meeting of BIGGA will be held during Harrogate Week, on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite at the Harrogate International Centre.

All paperwork, including the agenda and proxy voting forms will be available on the BIGGA Website from December 20.