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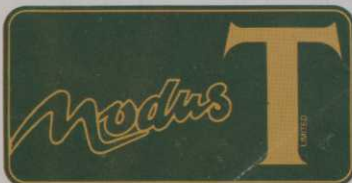


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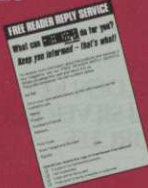
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a quick reference guide

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Official publication of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

**JUNE 1992**

# GREENKEEPER

International

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The Rt. Hon. Viscount Whitelaw  
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Debbie Savage



#### EDITOR

David White  
Tel: 0323 891291 • Fax: 0323 895593

#### DESIGN/PRODUCTION EDITOR

Tim Moat  
Tel: 0904 610611 • Fax: 0904 643074

#### SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER

Bill Lynch  
Tel/Fax: 091 413 7218

#### ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

Carol Dutton  
Tel/Fax: 0207 570117

#### PRINTING

Hi-Tec Print, Unit 7, Universal Crescent,  
Houghton Road, North Anston Trading  
Estate, Dinnington, South Yorkshire S31 7JJ  
Tel: 0909 568533 • Fax: 0909 568206

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The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme is now recognised as the industry's most significant indoor event. Contact Debbie Savage on 03473 581 for a BTME 1993 Information Pack and find out how your company can take part.

### Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

Launched by Viscount Whitelaw at BTME 1992, the Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 03473 581.

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# Cash pours in to boost profession's future



The Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund continues to grow.

Former members of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association will be interested to note that the Trust fund established to administer the funds of the former Association has now been finally wound up by the Trustees and a second and final cheque paid into the Education and Development Fund. The fund has benefitted thereby to the extent of £22,611.53 and this has provided a firm base for the new fund to move forward and further advance the status of the profession and standards of golf course management. Over the last five years the Trust Fund has been wisely administered by Alan Gamble, Ivor Scoones, Alan Kite and the late Water Heeles. The thanks of all members are due for their stewardship.

Following the report in the May magazine that Gordon Child and Norman Exley have become members of the Silver Key Circle, another Regional Administrator, Elliott Small has joined them in membership. It is particularly encouraging that Association members wish to support the new fund and we look

forward to seeing Gordon, Norman and Elliott sporting their attractive silver key ties.

A donation of £1,000 has been received from the Golf Society of Great Britain. In expressing every good wish and encouragement for the Association's work, the Golf Society is pledged to support the amateur game and in pursuance of this sees the furtherance of the aims of the Association as highly appropriate. Neil Thomas, Executive Director comments: "This most welcome donation is further evidence of an increasing momentum within the game to support BIGGA's aims and objectives. This donation follows a previous donation in 1991 and the Association's Board of Management wishes to express its great appreciation to the Society."

The Golf Society of Great Britain was founded in 1955 by the late Sir Aynsley Bridgland of Princes Golf Club and aims to promote goodwill and the interests of ama-



Elliott Small

teur golf. It is non-profit making and donates large sums to golf's governing bodies towards international match expenses.

It is also most pleasing to report that the first donation has been received from one of BIGGA's sections. A cheque for £200 was recently presented by the Scottish Region Central Section and BIGGA Vice-Chairman John Crawford, who is also Secretary of the Central Section, reports that the donation was made possible by the section setting-up its own Education Fund a few years ago and that hopefully donations such as this can be continued in future years. Executive Director, Neil Thomas commented: "I am delighted at Central Section's initiative and it is the support now forthcoming from our membership which will give a real boost to the fund. Contributing Regions and Sections will be presented with plaques in recognition of their support. The progress of the fund since its launch by our President, Viscount Whitelaw, at the BTME in January has exceeded my expectations and enhanced promotion and financing of educational programmes in the future new seems assured."

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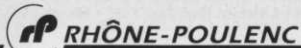
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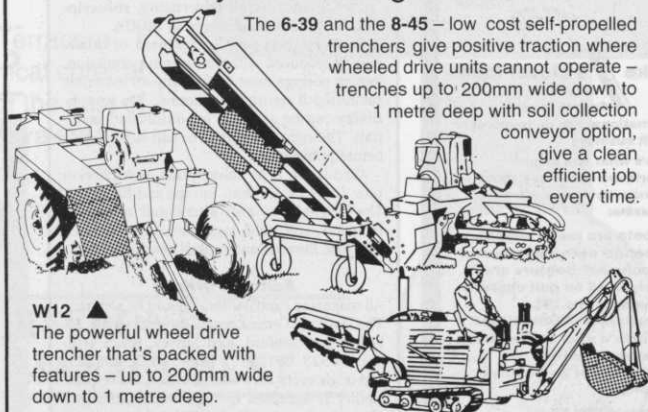


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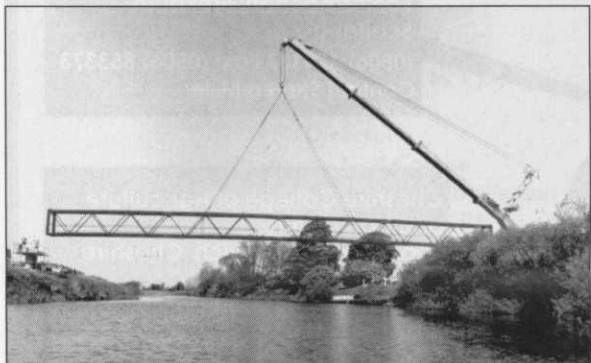
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■ The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has announced that it will open a fully-staffed office in Singapore to manage membership activities and services in the Pacific Rim countries. Services will include education and training, certification, publications, conferences, trade shows and research – the same as in the United States. Their new operations will cover Japan, Guam, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Korea, The Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and India.

GCSAA President William R. Roberts said emerging governmental interest and concern over environmental and development issues are driving the need for long term education and quality control throughout this region. GCSAA currently has a growing number of members in this area. Nearly 4,000 golf courses are in operation and hundreds more are planned or under construction.



■ Golfers at Aldwark Manor, built in 1876 and headquarters of BIGGA, had to give way to a giant crane recently as a 30 tonne 60 metre span bridge was eased into place between the fairways. Engineers used a 500 tonne mobile crane to lift the steel frame timber decked bridge, which now stands as a splendid course feature and access for golfers and maintenance machinery over the River Ure, running through the picturesque 6,171 yard Par 71 parkland course. This operation brings to an end a two-year project to extend the original nine holes (opened in 1978) to eighteen, and is the first new bridge to span the Ure since 1887, when Aldwark Toll Bridge was re-constructed.

The full 18 holes are now in play, making Aldwark Manor one of the few new courses in the region to be actively encouraging new members. Continued improvements to the golf and hotel complex has seen membership rise steadily and this now stands at 300 for the original nine-hole course.

Aldwark's new owners, Chessingham plc, awarded the bridge design and build contract to Beazer Construction NW Ltd, who in turn appointed Ove Arup and Partners to act as construction engineers and designers.

and Graham Paul. Graham is well known through several years with Rhone-Poulenc and takes over most of North London, Essex and Suffolk. John spent several years with Supaturf and takes over the South Midlands area. All four are BASIS certified, as indeed are all members of the Sta-Brite sales team.

■ Willie Arnold, long time 'Toro Man' in the north of Scotland, has moved to larger premises. His new address is Poynerneuk, Pitgair, by Turriff, AB5 37RZ. Tel: 08885 624.

■ Visiting the Shetlands recently, Scottish turfgrass consultant John Souter happened upon a ferry which connects the Shetlands to one of the northern isles called Yell. Imagine his surprise on discovering the ferry was named BIGGA. The explanation is that there are two islands around Yell, one called Bigga – the big isle; and the other called Langa, the long isle. The question must be posed – will members be able to negotiate advantageous terms?



■ Otterbine Barebo Inc., the acknowledged world leaders in water quality management and based in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, USA, are currently advertising their products in our magazine and of course you can contact them direct.

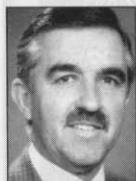
Nearer to home, however, Golf Course Services of Market Harborough look after their business in the UK and you can contact Mike Walker on 0858 463153. Not only will this take the strain off your telephone bill, but you won't have to take account of the time difference across the Atlantic...



■ Congratulations and good luck to Bob Lupton, long time secretary of BIGGA North Section, on his appointment as BIGGA Northern Region Administrator, taking over from Howard McAddey.

Bob, aged 38, is the course manager at Cleckheaton & District. He joined the BGGa some 23 years ago and has always been a stalwart supporter of 'the cause', having been a long standing North Section committee member and serving specifically in 'The Chair', and as secretary/treasurer.

*When?!*  
... January 18 – 22!



Sharp



Fabb



Mullins



Paul

■ Sta-Brite Supplies Ltd announce new appointments to the board and two new territory sales managers. Sales manager Chris Sharp is now sales director, and Mike Fabb is confirmed as general manager and a board director. In addition, Sta-Brite's sales force has risen to seven with the appointment as territory sales managers of John Mullins



# GREENKEEPERS

## TRAINING COMMITTEE

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Contact  
Graham Wright

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Please apply in writing enclosing a full CV and current  
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**Sean Clark Director of Golf**  
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## **Woodbrook Golf Club**

*requires a*

## **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

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Please send written applications with full CV  
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**Woodbrook Golf Club**  
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## **Heworth Golf Club**

**(Tyne & Wear)**

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## **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

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Applications with CV to:

**The Secretary**  
**Heworth Golf Club**  
**Jingling Gate**  
**Heworth**  
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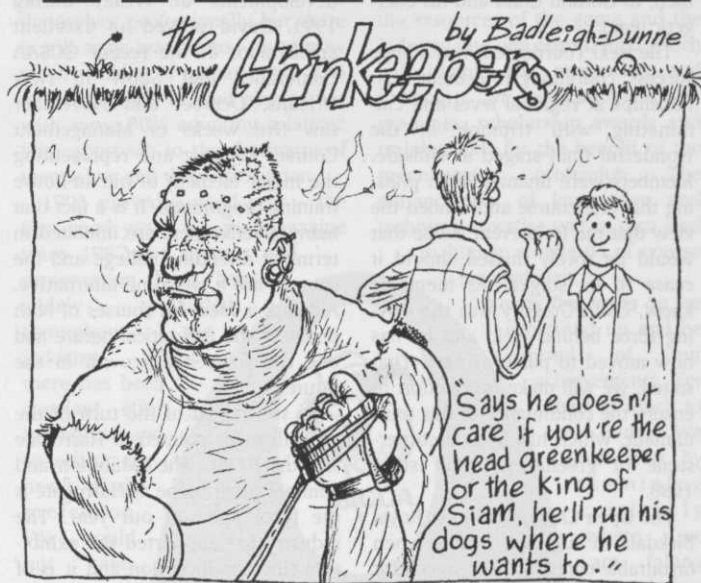


The old saw about not picking up a 'lost' ball until it has stopped rolling is one that has an ironic ring of truth on many golf courses. Indeed, one course abutting a 'difficult tenant' council housing estate with an unusually high crime rate reported no less than 300 incidents of common theft of golf balls in a single season – helplessly witnessed by players as they hacked their way round the outer perimeters of the battlefield. Such thefts are not unusual, and are certainly not restricted to impoverished areas, though this Club's membership hit upon a novel if tedious method for combating the crime: Four-balls split into two groups with the first pair hitting toward the second, strategically positioned at 200 yards. When the first pair come alongside their balls the defenders walk back to the tee and hit to the area protected by their opponents. It works, but at the cost of tediously long rounds and added frustration in an already frustrating game – not surprisingly, foursomes are now increasingly popular! Earlier attempts at installing heavy chain link fencing topped with barbed wire had proven abortive, the miscreants simply hacking their way through or burrowing under the fence. A further unwritten law at this Club forbids members buying balls from any casual on course sources, no matter how cheap they may be.

Ball theft is the thin edge, though the demons that manifest themselves in the nightmares of most greenkeepers are of a far more grim nature. One major source of vandalism is that of the ill-titled 'joyriding' of stolen cars – with a golf green an inviting target for drag strip accelerations and hand brake turns. There is nothing joyful in the resultant misery and damage, which can range from deep surface rutting to broken irrigation pipes and almost always involves loss of play for several weeks – longer if the act takes place during the winter when grass just cannot heal itself. Increasingly the villains are not content with just taking out one green and delight in ruining several at once, on occasions culminating in rolling and burning the stolen car on the green.

Cars are not the only cause of wheeled damage however, for many courses with large open areas away from the clubhouse have been hit with a lesser version of skid-pan antics, these in the form of younger brethren with mountain bikes or lightweight pseudo dirt track motorcycles, who have discovered that bunkers and adjacent contoured areas make ideal tracks for performing 'wheelies'. Control of these antics,

# WANDALISM



## The battle against destructive forces

often performed in daylight, are not easy, for the riders can be exceedingly swift when confronted by authority – though one good ruse used to superb effect was the thrusting of an umbrella between spokes, the resulting damage seen as a very real deterrent.

Less traumatic though equally frustrating is the stealing of pins and yardage markers, these often lobbed into deep rough. The obvious answer on all high risk sites is to remove pins at end of play and to install permanently fixed markers (heavy timber or stone are best), embedding them deeply into the ground with cement.

Vandalism is not totally restricted to hooligans, for on many common land courses Joe Public is not above setting up a picnic for himself and his family on a green, with cricket stumps embedded in the fine turf for 'the kids to enjoy themselves'. I will remember on one occasion accosting such a gathering, only to be told in no uncertain terms to b----- off!

Few would deny that free roaming dogs are another problem, and it is hard to find suitable words of discouragement when the fangs of a Rotweiler or similar beast are slaving for action.

Canine defecation on turf is unpleasant to say the least and urine can cause severe scorching. Additionally, a rampaging dog hell-bent on hunting rabbits or wildfowl can cause untold damage in short time. Incidentally, have you noticed how dog owners so often resemble their 'pets'?

If your trolley shed is open to the elements, this can be an invitation for malicious invasion which often culminates in wheels being strewn over a wide area and trolleys drowned in the nearest pond or stream, or thrown through windows of the clubhouse or maintenance shed. Maintenance sheds have always presented their own special security problems, since they are often located (indeed, hidden) in remote areas away from watchful eyes. Here the rule must be to ensure maximum security at every point of entry, barring all windows and immobilising machinery whilst keeping fuel, lubricants, tools and valuable equipment additionally locked away in bullet proof chests or brick built rooms with very stout doors. Never forget that a flimsy door can easily be smashed open with a fire extinguisher or similar heavy object, so ensure the door itself is very stout hardwood or steel reinforced and

well protected by deadlocks and properly installed heavy hinges – if in any doubt, ask your local crime prevention officer to visit and follow his recommendations.

On the subject of fuel, lubricant or weedkiller, greenkeepers will be all too aware of the havoc that even a slight spillage on greens can cause, and one recent act of vandalism reported will serve to remind of the dire consequences. A disgruntled former employee broke into the sheds, purloined what was later discovered to be gramoxone, and spilled the contents over a green, wiping out a large area. It was necessary to cut out the offending area and completely re-turf, a costly and heart-breaking exercise.

Combating crime has never been an easy task, but there are a few ground rules which the wise greenkeeper will want to see implemented. At all vulnerable points of wheeled entry the installation of very solid precast concrete posts can deter all but the heaviest of vehicles, whilst the digging of deep and wide outer perimeter ditches will stop all vehicles save those that can be lifted, and the laying of 'sleeping policemen' on all approach roads will cause added frustration – deterrents all. On private roads, the fitting of iron gates will stop most intruders, who will be thwarted upon finding their way locked and barred at night.

Why do vandals especially target golf courses? Is it that they mistakenly perceive golfers as some kind of rich kids on the block: hurt the rich and you hurt ordered society? I have a theory that vandalism stems from the attitudes of couldn't-care-less parents, giving vent to violence, anger and frustration from their unloved offspring. Theories apart, if you are victim to vandalism and all else fails, consider the course of action taken by one Club, that of vigilante patrols over the peak hours of 10pm to midnight. Even the most persistent vandal jibs at being caught and a posse on the war-path will often prove the ultimate deterrent.



*In his opening speech to the membership, Executive Director NEIL THOMAS was in buoyant mood in reporting a year of sustained growth and development, one in which BIGGA made a 'significant impact' in the UK...*

# ANNUAL REPORT

THE YEAR OF 1991 began in fine style with the now well-established West-urf, and though marred this time by poor weather it did little to dampen spirits. This show meets a real local need in the West and continues to attract both enthusiasm from the region and from those traders who rightly see it as a valuable shop window. Every credit, then, to Gordon Child and his energetic team.

The Iseki Tournament was a huge success, continuing to cement relationships at regional level and culminating with triumph at the wonderful final staged at Hillside. Members were unanimous in praising this fine course and echoed the view that the Iseki event is one that would be sorely missed should it cease to be staged. As members know, Colin Gregory was the driving force behind Iseki and he has now moved to pastures new. That stated, we will make every effort to ensure the continuance of this tournament, which has been a cornerstone of greenkeeper golf since 1988.

The Open Championship at Royal Birkdale in July was a time when favourable comment was voiced for our support team, suggesting that both in appearance and conduct our professional image was greatly enhanced.

For the National Tournament to be staged at Royal St David's in August it was a personal thrill and gave considerable pleasure to welcome those who had never crossed the border. They were not disappointed, for the event was voted by many as the best ever, culminating in a grand banquet and Welsh choir in full voice! A stunning few days for which we cannot thank ICI Professional Products enough in providing support and active participation.

As we moved towards autumn, there was a marked increase in activity beginning with the Ransomes International staged at Fulford. In October came the annual Kubota Challenge at the Belfry, an event in which the Greenkeepers have won six times out of nine – this year we defeated the EGU by eight matches to nil! Your Board sees a need to broaden the basis of selection for such events, which need to be used to promote the Association as well as the playing of golf. It has been decided to widen selection away from just results in the National Tournament and although golfing ability will be a consideration, regions will now be asked to nominate one member of the team both as a golfer and ambassador. This will provide five of the team, which will be completed with the overall nett winners at the National Tournament and Iseki Final,

together with a personal nominee of the chairman.

Autumn sees three major educational events centred on Aldwark. The Toro 'Student Greenkeeper of the Year' Award gave us a most worthy winner in Brian Story of Silloth on Solway. This is an Award Scheme which stimulates much interest and competition and can only be for the good of greenkeeper training generally. The ICI 'Greenkeeper of the Year' Award went to David Whitaker of Wisley and he was a most worthy winner given the developments at Wisley during 1991. David proved an excellent ambassador at the recent GCSAA Conference and Show in New Orleans. October and November saw five weeks of Management Courses running and representing the major element of our in-house training programme. It is a fact that many greenkeepers are inhibited in terms of attending college and the courses are a welcome alternative. Aldwark is ideal for courses of both practical and theoretical nature and one can foresee a growth in the future.

As we moved to the turn of the year all roads pointed to Harrogate and the BTME. The Exhibition and Seminar programme at Harrogate is the focal point of our year. The industry has supported the exhibition since its inception and it is of major importance to BIGGA's finances. The industry in supporting our exhibition has a right to expect the Association members to support its own exhibition. We have a lot going for us at Harrogate – this year's event was without doubt an outstanding success and it is fast becoming the premier event within the industry – so make sure that its future is not jeopardised by apathy and non-participation.

Much interest was expressed at the GCSAA Conference and Show in New Orleans in magazine subscriptions, membership and the BTME. The presence of BIGGA on an international stage is important as greenkeeping develops worldwide and whilst we now enjoy fine relationships with the US, Canadian and Swedish Associations, there is a clear need to consolidate our position in Europe where many greenkeeping associations are still in their embryo stages.

Coming to the National Education Conference at Cirencester, this has most certainly become a prestige conference and, like Harrogate, a focal point in our year. For the first time a sell-out occurred with a number of latecomers disappointed. The lecture programme is complemented by much greenkeeper debate and each year it is noticeable how many attendees return home enthused for the future of the profession.

Whilst the major events, awards, exhibition and conferences have undoubtedly further advanced the Association, much developmental

work has been undertaken both within the Association and through participation in wider developments throughout the game. We currently have thirteen approved colleges with over 1,000 students on Craft Level courses and a number of colleges running a Phase III – Supervisory course and some also a Phase IV Management course. During the last three years BIGGA has seen the need for higher qualifications, specifically HND/Degree level courses. Recently the first submission for an HND in Golf Greenkeeping was received for our observations and another is pending. The first HND course will be up and running at Cannington College this year. Demand will ultimately determine the need for such courses, but I would suggest that initially no more than two in England and one in Scotland would be the optimum need. In Scotland five colleges are working jointly to establish an HNC course as a forerunner to a full HND course. Progress is being sustained and this will further enhance the high standards that prevail in Scotland. Greenkeeping as a career is becoming attractive but it will only capture the interest and imagination of future generations if it can offer sound training up to and including degree level courses. This must be our aim and we will be encouraging the various bodies to support the system and concentrate resources through the approved colleges.

Work is advanced on the preparation of a greenkeeper training manual, commissioned by the GTC. This is being compiled by a Working Party with a major input from the approved colleges. Initial concentration is at craft level before moving onto supervisory and management levels. BIGGA is represented on the Lead Body for Amenity Horticulture and this manual will become the basis for National Vocational Qualifications in greenkeeping. BIGGA is actively involved in establishing NVQs for the profession and the NVQ system will play an important role in answering national training needs and in enabling individuals to develop their potential to the full.

Much is happening educationally – maintaining the momentum of progress will not be possible unless significant advances are made in financing courses and training programmes.

Two pence remains the princely sum (per member) collected by the Home Unions and paid annually to the GTC – yes, just 2p goes into greenkeeper education and training. Last year this produced a sum of £16,042 which was matched by the R&A. In addition a £5,000 contribution was received from the PGA European Tour. £37,000 then is the sum currently available to assist in the education and training of greenkeepers. Over and above this we are dependent on sponsorship and BIGGA's own resources to run