

LETTERS

Through the columns of Greenkeeper International I wish to raise a subject which I hope will merit a reply from some of our chemical manufacturers and suppliers. I refer to the apparent discrepancy in the way in which some chemicals are registered.

One such chemical regularly used is Vinclozoline, used as a treatment for Fusarium Patch. In a one litre bottle marked 'For Agricultural and Horticultural Use Only' - but with no grass or turf recommendations - it costs just £25. The same chemical from the same manufacturer - in a 'Golf Course Supplies' bottle costs £44.95. The same appears to be true of selective weedkillers most commonly used on golf courses.

Are the suppliers making a killing by manipulating registration and labelling of chemicals, or are there good reasons for these anomalies?

SANDY BROWN

Crieff Golf Club, Crieff, Scotland

It was with considerable interest that I read in your September issue of the appointment of Tracy Ruane to the position of head greenkeeper at the Leeds Municipal golf course of Oulton Hall, Rothwell.

In the second issue of Golf Greenkeeping that I published back in November 1982, Tracy was featured as a 19 year old apprentice greenkeeper working on the 36 hole Temple Newsam course under the then head greenkeeper, John Rushton. Even then her enthusiasm for the outdoor life was unbounded and it was reflected those ten years ago when she was utterly convinced her promotion path was headed towards becoming a head greenkeeper.

The fact that Tracy has achieved her ambition gives me a great deal of pleasure.

I wrote then - 'Tracy is a big girl, with big ideas, who is certain to go far in the world of greenkeeping. Her sparkling personality, enthusiasm and love of life, coupled with a determination to make a success in a career she feels absolutely right for, will carry her a long way.'

To hold down a greenkeeper's job in a traditional man's world will be no easy task. To excel in the skills of agronomy will be that much harder, but there is no doubt: Tracy Ruane, The Leeds



Outdoor Girl, can do it.

Anyone who sings whilst riding a motorbike to work, must make a success of their chosen career.'

JOHN LELEAN

Former editor, Golf Greenkeeping

To David Golding,
Education Officer, BIGGA

I write to express my gratitude and thanks for the two day 'Public Speaking' course that you organised, which I attended recently. Having had limited experience in presenting one or more talks at various conferences it was enlightening to discover various methods to make the task easier, by correct structuring etc.

Frank Newberry should be congratulated on the way in which he instilled such confidence in the group that attended. I would wish for you to convey my appreciation. Hopefully, no one that he has enlightened will let him down when presenting talks at future conferences. If they do, I can assure you it is not a reflection of his teaching technique.

I would reiterate my comments that I felt the course should be extended to two and one half days, if only to give Frank time to sleep!

Despite this, an excellent educational event, and one that should be continued, and supported.

DAVID JONES Area Course Manager,
Country Club Hotels

Another marvellous course at Aldwark Manor. Five of us on a

public speaking course given by Frank Newberry.

The three day course gave us an insight into many things, from telling a simple story to presenting a paper at a National Conference. Frank taught us how to structure talks properly and gave us confidence to deliver them. I came away with much more confidence about public speaking.

The content of the course was excellent, including the building of a US specification green, annual meadow grass control and even a 'walk on the wild side', covering conservation.

What struck me about the course was the camaraderie between greenkeepers, with nobody wanting to see a colleague fail.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Frank Newberry for a most informative experience, my fellow students for an interesting three days, and last but not least the people at HQ for making these courses available.

PHILIP TAYLOR Course Manager,
Alwoodley Golf Club

• Similar letters of appreciation were received from other attendees, but space limitations prevent publication of them all.

I would like to thank Howard Evans, BIGGA's 'financial man', for his time and help in arranging my re-mortgage. Though we were hundreds of miles apart - he in South Wales and me in North Scotland - he talked to me over the telephone, assisting me and

keeping me fully informed throughout every stage.

The wide and varied services that BIGGA offer make it very professional indeed and a must for all greenkeepers.

Any member requiring assistance need only pick up the 'phone or drop a line to Howard Evans. I am sure he will help in the same way.

Once again, Howard, thank you very much for a splendid service.

IAIN MACLEOD Head Greenkeeper,
Tain GC, Scotland

I write to thank everyone for the really good time I had at the BIGGA/ICI National Championships at Littlestone. This was my first BIGGA event and, as you know, I was lucky enough to play well and win some very worthwhile prizes.

My family and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, met some very fine people and now look forward to the next event, subject to my being in the 'Old Country'.

I would add a big thank you to all of the sponsors, especially ICI Professional Products, for making the event such an obvious success.

PAUL CORFIELD Golf de Rimaison,
Brittany, France

I write to express my thanks to everyone involved in organising an excellent two day stay at Coventry for the Iseki finals.

Iseki staged this event at considerable expense, providing accommodation, meals and event team sweaters for all competitors, and must be thanked for their generous hospitality throughout our stay. I am confident that my sentiments will be echoed by everyone who took part.

Events like this provide an opportunity to converse with fellow members of the profession on a social basis whilst, I believe, being of educational value. Iseki are to be congratulated for providing such a platform for both sporting and educational purposes.

My thanks also to John Bayliss and his staff for presenting the course in such excellent condition, despite heavy rainfall before and during the competition.

JAMES HUNTER Course Manager,
Goal Farm GC, Pirbright, Surrey
• Similar letters of appreciation were received from competitors at both the National and Iseki events - for which many thanks.

One step away from GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR



Professional Products

ICI Professional Products, described on numerous occasions as 'that close and caring organisation', are again demonstrating just how close and caring they can be by their continued support and guidance in sponsoring again the 1992 ICI Premier Greenkeeper of The Year awards.

ICI Professional Products means different things to different people: to the working greenkeeper it means technical superiority, professionalism and innovation in the fine turf care field, whilst to golfing greenkeepers it also represents that most exciting of golf events, the ICI sponsored BIGGA National Tournament.

All these, massive and hugely successful though they are, pale into insignificance for the two previous winners of the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of The Year award, Anthony Davies and David Whitaker, who will tell all who care to listen that winning the ICI Premier Greenkeeper award literally changed their lives. Each will relay stories of personal satisfaction and progression in their already rising careers, stories of achievement, pleasure and pride that are guaranteed to quicken the pulse of the candidates here listed.

By a process of elimination the five finalists have already leapt the first hurdle, but they will remain on tenterhooks until December, when a select panel of judges will meet at Aldwark Manor to grill them further - this before announcing one proud greenkeeper as 'The Winner'. It will all seem hugely worthwhile, for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of 1992 will join the BIGGA trip to the GCSAA Exhibition and Conference in America's Anaheim and San Diego in January 1993. For the runner-up there will be a 'swanky' week-end for two in London, tickets to a major golf tournament and seats for a West End show; with for third place a weekend for two at Old Lord Walsingham's place, the delicious Aldwark Manor. For all five contestants it will be a time to remember - with great pride - forever.

THE CANDIDATES

IAIN McLEOD

Iain is currently head greenkeeper at Tain Golf Club on the southern shores of the Dornoch Firth in North Scotland, a post he has held since 1978. He is also the North Scotland section secretary and is married with three children. He started his greenkeeping career at Nairn in 1973 and after a two year spell in Coventry at the Grange Golf Club, where at Tile Hill College of Further Education he sat his Grass and Greenkeeping UEI Examination and achieved a first class pass, he returned to the North of Scotland to a job at Tain. He is a firm believer in education, attending seminars and workshops whenever possible, and is currently trying to find the time to work through the Accreditation of Prior Learning Modules at Elmwood College, Fife.

A keen golfer playing off a three handicap, he has represented the Association in the Kubota, Jacobsen and Ransome finals, with proof of his golfing prowess indicated by his winning the Head Greenkeeper's Trophy at the Scottish Championships three times since 1983. He works very closely with his committee at Tain, serving on both the green committee and the finance and general purpose sub-committee.

Iain has been an active member of the BGGGA, SIGGA and now BIGGA since 1974. He has also been a member of the BIGGA support team at The Open since 1984.



Iain McLeod

KEVIN GREEN

Kevin became interested in turf management whilst working with the turf department at the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, studying for the Wisley Diploma. On completion he was awarded Best Overall Student for the course and also gained City & Guilds, including Turf Management stages I & II.

Having spent some time at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, this before being offered a position at Wentworth Golf Club, he spent six years working mostly on the West Course and being involved in the course preparation for major tournaments, including the PGA Whyte & Mackay and Suntory World Matchplay Championship.

He has held the working head greenkeeper's position at Filton Golf Club for nearly five years. This north Bristol parkland course is situated on heavy clay, hence the need for great emphasis on compaction relief and aeration to counteract the effects of over 55,000 rounds annually. In the last year he has been involved in overseeing an interesting project to obtain a private water supply for both irrigation and aesthetic purposes. This involved drilling a bore hole, which now feeds two excavated lakes.

He is an active member of BIGGA in the South West region and as a long term aim would like to hold the position of course manager on a course hosting a major PGA event.

IAN McMILLAN

There can be few greenkeepers who are unaware of the illustrious name of McMillan in the field of greenkeeping, for Ian's father, Jack, latterly course manager of Sunningdale and now a highly respected turfgrass consultant, has earned and enjoyed a reputation that is second to none. Like father, like son is a term that can certainly be applied to Ian, for he has been in greenkeeping since leaving school some 15 years ago, 11 of those years as head greenkeeper and latterly as course manager at Hankley Common, one of Surrey's most prestigious courses. Prior to Hankley Common, Ian was head greenkeeper at Finchley Golf Club for two years and before



Kevin Green



Iain McMillan



Ian Harrison



Dean Cleaver

moving to Finchley he was head greenkeeper at Datchet, having served his apprenticeship under his father's watchful eye at Bush Hill Park in North London.

A strong supporter of BIGGA and its objectives, Ian has spent six years serving on greenkeeping committees, finishing as chairman of the Surrey section.

In his leisure time he enjoys being with his family, Callum aged three and Hanah aged one, and playing golf when time allows.

IAN HARRISON

Ask Ian Harrison for his views on golf course architecture and he will wax poetic on the delights of Darlington Golf Club, a delightful parkland course designed by that doyen of all architects, Dr Alistair Mackenzie, who he regards as some sort of hero. Pride springs to mind as the overriding aspect of his maintenance of Mackenzie's fine course, which enjoys distant views east to the Cleveland Hills and views west to the Pennines, and he nurtures the 90 acre course and nine acre practice facility as though both were precious antique gems.

Ian began his greenkeeping career as an apprentice in 1978 and in 1980 became the first assistant at Darlington, working at different times under the wing of two course managers with very different approaches to perfection. One, an old Scottish traditionalist, taught Ian how to respect nature and the tried and tested methods of generations past, whilst the second brought modern greenkeeping philosophies to the fore and provided Ian with an excellent contrast upon which to base his own style and management techniques. He was rewarded by being made Darlington's course manager in 1984.

Educated at Durham Agricultural College, Ian earned his City & Guilds Greenkeeping Management Certificate with a Distinction, following this with regular attendance at BIGGA management courses during 1989-1991. Married, with two children, Ian enjoys spending his leisure time with his family, but still finds time to play golf.

DEAN CLEAVER

Thirty four year old Dean Cleaver couldn't have chosen a better place to start his career in greenkeeping than The Leicestershire Golf Club, for in 1974 he came immediately under the care of course manager Paddy McCarron, latterly chairman of BIGGA and a hugely talented exponent of the art of greenkeeping. Well taught and primed for further exploration into the management field, he joined Rugby Golf Club in 1978, still only 21, as a head greenkeeper and enjoyed caring for this course and his members needs for some nine years.

In 1987 he moved to Stratford Golf Club for a further five years before joining his present club, Gay Hill Golf Club, as their course manager. In his own words, 'a challenging period lies ahead'.

During his time in greenkeeping Dean has always been a firm supporter of the Association and he has in turn been both treasurer and chairman of the East Midland section, and is presently secretary of the Midland section, which boasts some 240 members.

That he also believes in the value of education for greenkeepers is indicated by his being regional education chairman, and it is in this important sector that he gains most satisfaction.

Married and with two children, Dean lives in the small town of Alcester on the edge of the Cotswolds and his interests are playing and watching golf, the former to a handicap of fifteen.

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AD REF 236

Using TREES not losing them

by MICHAEL HONEY

Television viewers who witnessed Nick Faldo win the European Open last September were privileged to watch an excellent display of golf played in an idyllic woodland setting. Despite weather that was not always conducive to exhibiting the course at its best, Sunningdale did not disappoint traditionalists who prefer to see golf played in a landscape with natural aesthetic appeal. Established championship courses such as Sunningdale were designed and built in an era when optimum heathland locations were still available. Time is also on their side; their many years of existence has enabled them to develop an established tree cover and to blend in with their environments. Despite these advantages the positive image they portray of golf as a rural land user should not be ignored by those wishing to develop new courses.

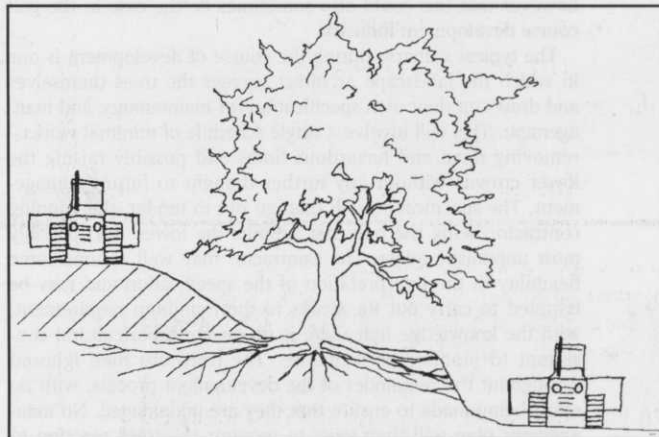
Similarly other established courses on heath, forest and park landscapes should, like Sunningdale, be aware of the responsibility of caring for and the problems involved in maintaining such treescapes.

The building of new golf courses poses a potentially greater challenge for modern golf course developers and architects, with a whole range of political economic and environmental problems to consider. Golf has become a political issue as a result of the pressure on rural land for the development of new courses. This pressure has developed through lower land prices, lower economic returns for farming and a demand for golf that has been quantified as a need for 700 new courses by the year 2000.

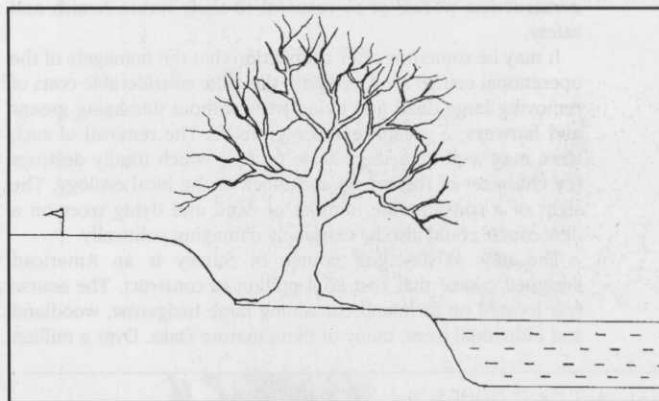
The response to these market conditions has been a subject of public debate covered extensively by the media as the rush by developers, farmers and land owners to cash in on the golf boom has led to many ill conceived projects, some of which were little more than money making speculations. Many such schemes never gained planning permission, but the damage may have already been done in terms of bad publicity for the golf industry. The opposition view of golf as an artificially imposed and selfish land use began to take credence in the public mind.

There is no doubt that although some excellent courses have been built in recent years, mistakes have been made both economically and environmentally. The recession of the 1990s has not left the golf industry unscathed and it has become evident that many of the more extravagant and ostentatious developments judged the market incorrectly. Smaller, lower cost and lower impact schemes, not aimed at Britain's limited market of millionaires, have proved considerably more resistant to recession. The damage done by some of these over ambitious schemes is not just a loss of financial confidence. Many of the projects had little thought for the environment as they imposed their grandiose schemes upon the landscape.

These developments, often American in design, ripped through the countryside like green motorways, often shifting



Soil heaped on one side of a mature tree causes compaction of the root system. Excavation to create a lake on the other side of the tree causes root severance and changes in water content of the soil, results in the death of the tree after two or three years



motorway quantities of soil in the process. Their construction involved radically altering the relief: lakes and ponds were excavated and trees were felled, isolated or bullied into the new design, which on completion bore little resemblance to what had existed before and indeed exists around the course.

Most new golf courses are set in rural landscapes that contain a large number of trees. These trees are crucial to the character and form of that landscape and should therefore be used to help define the character of the new course. On a landscape of bland topography, existing trees with new plantings can be used to provide depth, direction and interest. Trees can separate tees, greens and fairways, whilst individual trees can break up the monotony of a particular fairway. The treescapes can therefore give the hole and course its identity without resorting to man made hills and lakes: as golf course consultant Jim Arthur argued recently, golf is not a watersport.

TREES

35 ➔ By carefully implementing a landscape of trees into the design, rather than destroying them, the course can develop and benefit the local environment. Obviously ideal heathland locations are now in short supply and some alteration of sites that exist may well be necessary, however a sympathetic approach to the surrounding landscape is still possible. This can be best achieved by recognising the value of the existing tree cover and commissioning expert advice on tree care and maintenance.

An arboricultural consultant should therefore be brought in at the beginning of a golf development process to work with the team designing a new course and should remain with the project through to its completion and beyond. All too often the existing trees on site are left entirely in the care of the landscape architect. Few are qualified arborists and they rarely have the budget commitment or knowledge needed to formulate a proper long term management plan for existing trees. Without the advice of an arboricultural consultant, large scale earth moving may well change soil and water levels around trees, damage roots or cause compaction and alter drainage, all of which can condemn trees to death.

Such tree damage is still widespread in the construction industry, whether it be the building of new houses or office, commercial and infrastructure development. Despite the efforts of arborists it is well known that trees may still be a long way down the list of priorities of certain developers, it is inexcusable however that this could also sometimes be the case in the golf course development industry.

The typical scenario during the course of development is one in which the landscape architect surveys the trees themselves and draws up their own specification for maintenance and management. This will involve a single schedule of minimal works – removing dead and hazardous limbs and possibly raising the lower crowns without any further thought to future management. The specification will then go out to tender, the winning contractor being the one that submits the lowest and possibly most unrealistic quote. The Contractor may well assume some flexibility in the interpretation of the specification and may be tempted to carry out the works to the minimum requirement; with the knowledge that there is no on-site arboricultural consultant to monitor performance. The trees are then ignored throughout the remainder of the development process, with no effort being made to ensure that they are undamaged. No management plan will then exist to monitor the trees reaction to construction works, or to respond to their future health and safety.

It may be sometime after completion that the managers of the operational course are faced with the quite considerable costs of removing large dead and dying trees without damaging greens and fairways; a greenkeeper's nightmare. The removal of such trees may well be a large scale process which totally destroys the character of the course and much of the local ecology. The sight of a considerable number of dead and dying trees on a new course could also be extremely damaging politically.

The new Wisley golf course in Surrey is an American designed course that cost £5.4 million to construct. The course was located on farmland containing large hedgerow, woodland and individual trees, many of them mature Oaks. Over a million

cubic metres of soil was shifted and nine lakes were created. A high priority was attached to integrating the landscape with the surrounding countryside. Planting was extensive and most of the existing trees on site were retained, the aim being to enhance the wildlife and ecological value of the area. The course has now been open for nearly a year and already there are conspicuous groups of dead and dying mature Oaks and other large individual specimens which are clearly in a state of terminal decline. The general ecological and environmental motives of the developers cannot be doubted, but what must be questioned is the actual level of expertise and financial commitment devoted to the most valuable assets of the landscape. Such tree failures highlight the difficulty of integrating existing tree cover with large scale changes in relief and drainage without an enormous amount of effort, money and expertise.

An arboricultural consultant would assist in implementing any golf course development scheme whilst minimising damage to the valuable tree cover or causing long term tree problems. Just as important, however, will be the consultants recommendations concerning the long term management of the tree population. Such recommendations can save money and avoid expensive crisis management: neglected trees that are damaged by storms may require costly removal or expensive remedial works.

The same principle applies to established courses, where storm damaged neglected trees may require expensive restoration works. Such neglected trees may also require dramatic remedial surgery because they have gradually become hazardous or totally unsuitable for their location.

Trees are not static entities, but dynamic living growing organisms and as such can constantly change the golfing characteristics of each hole. The sudden realisation that a tree or trees is blocking the fairway or severely encroaching upon the green may necessitate drastic pruning or even tree removal. Any such drastic remedial action imposes a severe and sudden strain on administration budgets, but will also be a strain for the tree – possibly sending it into a state to decline. An arboricultural consultant will formulate an on-going management plan that would keep each pruning operation to the minimum and this will be achieved by schedules over a number of years, allowing the tree to adjust gradually. This is healthier for the tree and allows the golf course manager to budget for tree works more carefully, spending a smaller amount of money over a defined period of time.

Trees around greens may cause shade related problems to the greens themselves. Diseases such as Fusarium Patch will often thrive in a shaded moist environment with poor air flow. Moisture control to avoid humid surface conditions will help prevent disease attacks such as Fusarium patch. Rather than trying to cure the problem by chemical means, which will invariably produce a resistance to the treatment from the disease within the green, better long term results may be obtained by altering the surface environment. On a well wooded course with heavy tree cover around diseased greens an arboricultural consultant can best advise how to increase aeration and reduce shade and moisture. This may involve removing less valuable and suppressed trees, whilst carefully thinning and reducing the remaining specimens.

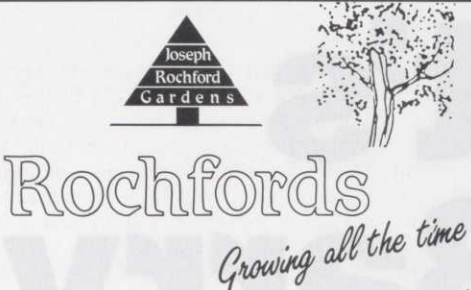
With the estimated loss of over forty million trees in recent years through storms and disease, leaving a severely reduced national tree cover, many arborists believe that we are facing a tree crisis in Britain. This has led to a move towards closer involvement with the golf leisure industry as custodians of a large percentage of national tree cover. Trees are both valuable assets to the nation and an essential part of the form and characteristic of most golf courses. The golf industry could therefore become an integral part of the national tree policy, enhancing the industry's image as a legitimate user of rural land. This, however, requires the commitment to work closely with arborists in the design and development stage of course construction. Such involvement should lead to courses being designed to integrate with the landscape and its trees rather than impose design upon them. The involvement would also lead to a proper long term management approach to the care of golf course trees.

◆ The author, Michael Honey, is a tree surgeon and arboricultural consultant.

Stocker tree spade in action on Foto Island.

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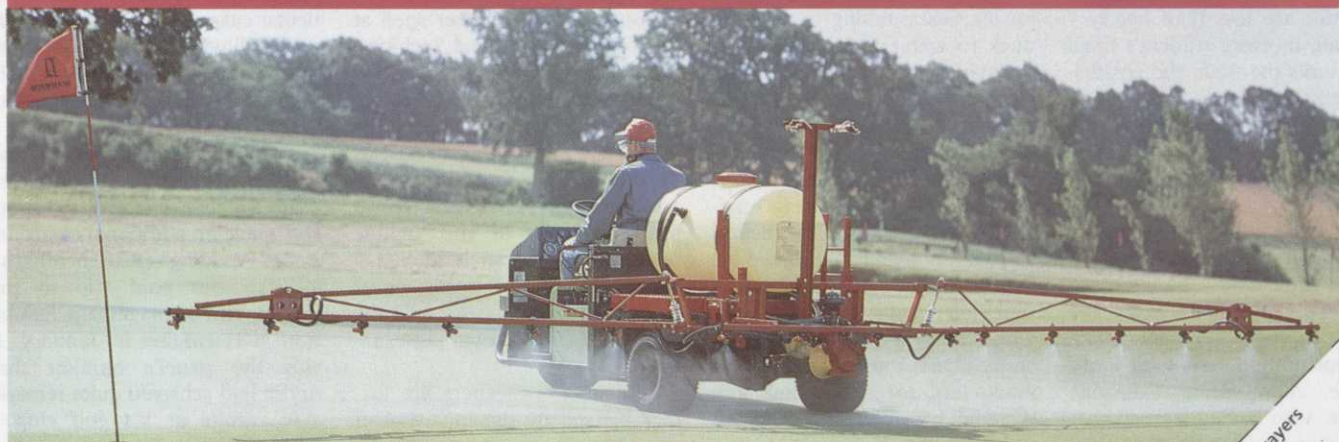


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AD REF 25



It's Barry!

In the typical tradition of show-business, an Oscar winner always feigns surprise when his or her name is announced as 'the winner'. We know it's all an act when they step on the stage and that secretly they have come well prepared – with a speech rehearsed and a long list of people to thank...*'without whom I would not be here today'*.

The sponsors of the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year have their own devilish method of staging a 'cliff-hanger', with a span of some eight hours covering interviews from first to last – in themselves somewhat daunting experiences and not for the faint-hearted. Still on tenterhooks and still sizing up the opposition, the thirteen candidates then are kept dangling until the witching hour, when cocktails are served at 7pm followed by a dinner of some magnitude. Sometimes one senses that candidate appetites are less than hearty – after all, in every student's mind there lurks the wish, the possibility even, *that tonight I will be proclaimed 'the winner'*. Such a thought can turn a healthy man-sized appetite to one the size of a canary!

Come the final crunch, results are dramatically announced in reverse order and – unlike those hardened Oscar nominees – the winner is always genuinely taken by surprise. So it was with Barry Neville, representing Oaklands College, who having learned that Tony Gooch (Cannington) and Paul Brannan (Langside) were to share the second place PGA European Tour prize, was literally dumbstruck on hearing of the singular honour bestowed upon him – The 1992/93 Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year!

In truth, we expected him to say more on receiving his coveted award, but as Barry told me later, when I quizzed him on his first reaction, he was candid enough to



Prize guys: from left, André Woodings, Paul Brannan and Tony Gooch

admit that he didn't think he would win and his reaction was one of total shock! From this the reader may deduce that Barry is a most modest person, quiet and unassuming, though his modesty hides a clever brain and a very positive attitude.

Barry has been a greenkeeper for six years, taking to it like a duck to water after deciding at the age of 18 that his two 'A' levels and 8 'O' levels would be better directed toward a practical career, this following a brief flirtation with full time college life and training in manufacturing engineering. His head full of theory, he took the plunge and asked his then part-time boss, the owner of Whitehill Golf Centre, Keith Smith, for whom he had worked on the course during vacation and week-ends, for a full time job. Whitehill boasts an 18 hole layout and a 25 bay driving range, it is busy, the membership is full and it is positively thriving. Barry saw that his future lay in becoming fully qualified and he completed Phases I & II in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, with plans to take Phase IV in Business Management in the coming year.

Of his future, Barry remain modest and will stay loyal to Whitehill, certainly in the immediate future, though long term one can certainly see him progressing,

perhaps to headship and eventually, who knows, to management of a championship layout – certainly he has the talent.

The year of '93 will see Barry reaping the full benefit of his glittering prize: six weeks at the Winter School for Turf Grass Managers at the University of Massachusetts, a further spell at the Toro Irrigation and Technical Design Complex at Riverside, California, and practical tours of top class golf and country clubs in the USA – ten weeks in all. If he was dumbfounded by his win, he will most certainly be further awed at the magnitude of this unique opportunity. We shall look forward with interest to his report and observations appearing in the pages of Greenkeeper International.

Student greenkeepers are further blessed by the inclusion of two equally stunning prizes, awarded by the PGA European Tour. The two winners, Tony Gooch and Paul Brannan, will gain huge benefit from joining the Tour, working and gaining valuable experience as members of the regular support team that visit and advise at PGA European Tour events. For Tony, who manages single-handed the nine hole Torrington course in Devon, and for Paul, who is an apprentice with Glasgow District Council; working



Sponsors Graham Dale, left, MD of Lely UK, Toro machinery distributors; and Mark Gunter, technical sales manager, Toro Irrigation Europe and Middle East

at Linn Park Golf Club, the experience will be an eye-opener to end all eye-openers, with visits to Portugal for a conference in January, to Gleneagles for the Bell's Scottish Open; and to mainland Europe for one of the premier PGA European Tour events – all these to put the icing on their particular cake. Both are keen golfers and both will find the opportunity to work at the sharp end – where players of international repute will be battling for supremacy – an exhilarating experience that will greatly enhance their careers.

For the first time ever the sponsors made an additional award, to André Woodings (Reaseheath), an all expenses paid trip to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate in January. It was the panel's opinion that André had achieved quite remarkable results at his golf club – Rothley Park.

Though there were but three winners, the thinking behind this unique award system is that education counts – we can look now at the career progress of previous winners and see just how important the winning has been in furthering their professional status; and we can give three rousing cheers for our generous sponsors, the foresighted trio: Toro Irrigation Limited, Lely UK Limited and the PGA European Tour.

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AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SOUTH COAST

I am pleased to inform members of our December Competition. Details as follows:

Date: Wednesday 2 December 1992. Venue: Royal Winchester Golf Club. Format: 18 Holes Stableford. Teeing Off: 10.30am onwards. Fee: £14. Closing Date: 23 November 1992. All applications and correct fee to: Mr J Burdett, 40 Church Street, Fontmell Magna, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0NY Telephone 0747 811439. My thanks to Rigby Taylor and New Forest Farm Machinery Limited who are sponsoring this competition.

Following the above the section AGM will be held at 4pm. I am hoping that our national chairman will be in attendance to answer questions and outline the work of the Board.

The section committee must be elected each year at our AGM and I would welcome nominations. Please ensure that each nomination has the consent of the nominee and has a proposer and seconder. Resolutions and agenda items are also invited, please submit before 23 November.

If you are unable to take part in the competition you can still attend the section's Christmas Dinner which will be served at about 5.30pm. The cost will be £12.50 and your cheque should be sent to Joe at the above address.

An afternoon talk has been arranged for Wednesday 13 January 1993 at Came Down Golf Club, Dorchester, starting at 2pm. Mr D P Haley of Lloyds of Letchworth will be talking on Grass Care Equipment. Refreshments are being kindly provided by the company at 3.30pm. Please support this meeting with your attendance.

In the annual match against the South West Section at Wells GC in September our team managed to halve the match – yet again! Ours was a 'mixed' team of section members, one trade representative and a SW member. This was the result of members promising to play but not turning up. However, Paul Drodge, captain of our team, managed to ring around and eventually produced a team who had a very enjoyable day. Our thanks to officials at Wells GC for their help and support.

BOB DENNIS

EAST SCOTLAND

Monsoon conditions greeted us on our arrival for the Annual Autumn Tournament at Newbattle GC. A steady downpour throughout the night and day made conditions tough to say the least, but thanks to Steven Dixon and his staff we somehow managed to continue with the competition, although it is fair to say that many of us chose the warmth of the clubhouse instead.

Our grateful thanks – as always – go to the captain and council of Newbattle for the courtesy of the course, to the catering and bar staff for excellent victuals; and to Steven and his merry men for getting the course playable in the first place.

In the absence of our chairman, who was on holiday, the speeches were made by our vice chairman, Peter Ormiston. May I say what a fine job he made of thanking everyone associated with making this the great day it was – despite the weather. The prizes were presented by the Newbattle green chairman to the following rainsoaked players: Scratch - S Melville, Lothianburn. 1st Class - G Ferguson, Duddingston. 2nd Class - I Bell, Duddingston. 3rd Class - W Hudson, Liberton. Veteran - J Neilson, Murrayfield.

One piece of very important news is that due to a mix up of dates, the Annual Dance will now take place at Ravelston House Hotel, Musselburgh, and NOT at Turnhouse GC as previously indicated. Tickets for this event are going well, so if you have yet to book, please do so now.

The golfing season is at last coming to a close and for once I am glad to see it over. Very dry conditions during May and June have been followed by the wettest August and September on record – with many courses in the east going into winter in the worst condition for many years – all due to this excessive rainfall.

I have just heard that a very prominent member – Ralph Bullock from Seahouses GC – is retiring early in 1993. Ralph has been an ever-present member at tournaments; lectures, etc., this in spite of travelling long distances. We wish him a long and happy retirement and send our best wishes to his charming wife Grace, who has had more than her share of illness over the past year. We hope her recovery is rapid indeed, in order that she may also enjoy retirement.

Stuart Crawford, first assistant at Ratho Park has moved to Broomieknowe GC – our best wishes to him.

Finally, please note that the section AGM will be held on 25 November at Kingsknowe GC. A full programme has been devised and this will be in the hands of members quite soon. This year the programme will be sponsored by Sports Turf Services, who will also be staging a lecture and machinery demonstration.

WILLIE BLAIR



SUSSEX

For our Autumn Meeting the section visited Bognor Regis GC on a day of fairly kind weather, there being only the odd shower or two. The turn-out was still somewhat low, with only 27 members and guests taking part. PLEASE – more members for the Christmas Turkey Trot at Littlehampton GC on 16 December.

Returning to Bognor, the prizes were donated jointly by Roffey's and Parker's, the results being: Morning medal - 1st Peter Ray (Haywards Heath) nett 68. 2nd Alistair Cale (Ham Manor) nett 72. Guest - D Bell nett 69. Nearest the pin – Jim Coppin. Afternoon Stableford – 1st Andy Paynter (East Brighton) 39 pts. 2nd Stewart Shelford (Ifield) 37 pts. Guest - R Elderfield 36 pts. Nearest the pin – Dave Ranger.

Many thanks to Bognor Regis GC, to Jeremy and his staff; and to the caterers for a superb meal. Roland Hughes also deserves a mention for his sterling waiter service!

Best wishes to Mike Butrymowitz on his retirement from Lingfield Park GC – we hope he will continue to attend our future meetings.

MARK WILTON

SOUTH WALES

Our Autumn Meeting for the President's Shield was held on 9 September at St Mary's Bay GC, Bridgend. This was a new venue for the section, with the course only having been open for a few years. The course was a bit soft in some places but I'm sure we can all relate to this problem, especially with all the rain that has fallen over the month of August and beyond.

We were lucky with the weather, the rain holding off, and the results were: Presidents Shield – Ian Ellis (Rhondda GC) 69 nett (winning a carriage clock, donated by our sponsors, Frank Sutton's, John Deere Tractors, and Raglan. Low gross - Mike Jones 81 (Carriage clock/ Frank Sutton's). 2nd nett – Phil Swain, on countback, 71 (rechargeable torch/ Frank Sutton's).

A raffle was held to help swell section funds, the winners being Leslie Hallett and Dougie Donne, with prizes donated by Avoncrop Amenity Products.

Congratulations to Malcolm Davies and wife Roberta on the birth of a daughter – Laura Jane, also

to Michael Stokes (Dennis Archer's deputy) and Jane, who will now have their hands full following the birth of twin boys.

Colin Reilly of Pennard has returned north-west to the Pleasanton GC near Blackburn, taking up his appointment on 8 October. I'm sure I speak for us all in thanking him for his help over the past three years in assisting with seminars and lectures – even staging one at his own club. Colin's deputy at Pennard, Peter Lacey, is now in charge and we wish them both all the best for the future.

Tony King has also moved recently, from Mountain Lakes to Virginia Park Golf and Bowls Club at Caerphilly, whilst a new member to our section, transferring from Scotland, is Robert Johnston, who has taken over at Newport GC., Rogerstone – we wish them the very best for their future.

The next competition is the Christmas meeting, followed by the AGM, at Pyle and Kenfig GC on 16 December. Please try to attend and if you cannot make the golf at least make an effort to attend the AGM – there are changes planned for 1993 and you will have only yourself to blame if you don't know anything about them!

PHIL SWAIN

EAST ANGLIA

Our happy band of waifs and strays turned up for golf at my place on a damp and dreary morning in September, including one stranger in the camp – David White – who came to sample the rustic air, which he then proceeded to pollute with his pipe. We are not complaining, however, for it made a change from certain well known fertilisers...

It seems that it is further from Essex to Norfolk than from Norfolk to Essex – perhaps it's uphill! The Essex men were noticeable by their absence, but it was quiet without 'HG' Wells (only kidding Dave) and come to think of it, it was a long way for him to travel.

Well, I hope those who attended had a good day. Certainly we old 'Eatonians' had great fun getting the course ready – if only to prove to our members what can be done when management allow us get on with it!

The Cromer Crabs came inland and cleaned up yet again – well (spit, spit) done. The prize winners were:- 0-18 Roger Plumber (Cromer) 37 pts, 2nd Steve Freestone (Eaton) 34 pts. 19-28 1st Steve Piggot (Cromer) 33 pts, 2nd Steve Davidson 31 pts. Trade – K Taylor. Prizes were donated by Pattison, Rigby Taylor, Colliers, ICI and Haynes.

In writing of 'the trade', our deepest sympathies go to the family of Ken Sterns, who died recently after a long battle with cancer. Ken was a good friend and a cornerstone within our section – he will be sorely missed.

On the matter of BIGGA golf at Eaton, I do hope the aforementioned event will not be the last on our present site and that money doesn't have the last word – to be a greenkeeper one has to be the eternal optimist.

MICK LATHROPE



DEVON & CORNWALL

Our section wishes Tony King (South Wales section) a speedy recovery following his recent illness during the Iseki Final, and congratulates all members of the Regional team who battled away to finish second in the team event once again. Our best wishes also to Mike Pike for a speedy recovery following his recent operation – one which Mike had rather too long to wait. We all look forward to seeing Mike in the near future.

Many of you have read over the last few months