



**G O L F**



**S P O R T S**



**L A W N S**



**P A R K S**

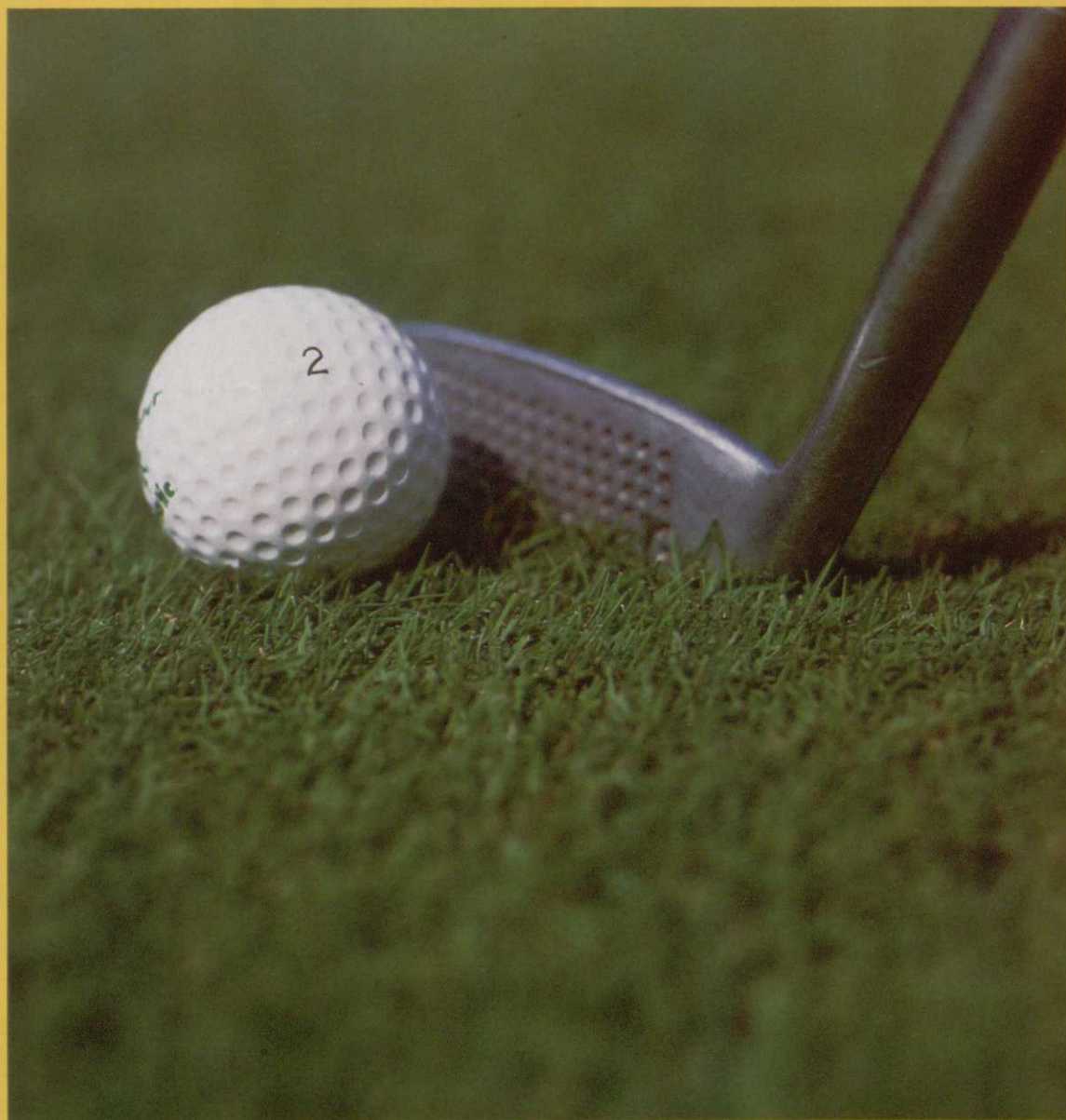


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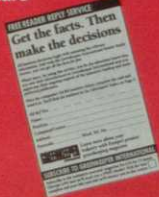
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Official publication of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association  
**AUGUST 1993**



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**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  
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Louise Lunn  
Tel: 0347 838581 • Fax: 0347 838864

**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  
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**Editorial Offices**

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# GREENKEEPER International

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Sand Moor Golf Club, a picturesque venue for the Hayter Challenge Tournament Final next month

### 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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# Approved or not approved? The pesticides registration muddle

by JON ALLBUTT

Agronomists, advisers, employers and users beware, the product you are recommending or proposing to use may not be approved any more.

Some of our favourite products may not be around much longer. A combination of the MAFF review process and in-house reviews of commercial viability by the approval holders is resulting in many products being discontinued. Inevitably there will be misguided reporting of this in the media, which does not help to clarify what is a very confusing situation.

The Advisory Committee on Pesticides has the power to recommend to Ministers that products be withdrawn (have their approvals revoked) on safety grounds. The registration process also requires regular updating of data packages, labels, container design etc. The cost of all this to the approval holder is sometimes prohibitive and the decision may be to discontinue the product, as sales do not support any further work.

To report all this in terms of 'another product banned' is irresponsible and only serves to further confuse. The most recent edition of the official listing of approvals and withdrawals – 'The Pesticide Register' – is written for those who already understand 'the system' and can read the formal technical language. The fact that a popular product appears in the list of withdrawals might only mean that the approval holder is disposing of an old approval, having previously improved the product by a minor formulation change – which requires registration and thus another approval number. Confused? – you will be! The Pesticides Register is not the best place to look unless you are an expert.

If you are giving advice on the use of pesticides you should hold a BASIS Certificate and be on the BASIS Professional Register. This requires that you agree to undertake annual Continuous Professional Development in order to maintain your registration. Those seeking advice which will include the use of pesticides should make sure the advisor is up to date and is on the BASIS Professional Register.

When it comes to reviewing your use of pesticides under the COSHH Regulations and you are updating your inventory, consult your supplies representative, distributor or manufacturer in order to establish that the product approval is on-going.

I am constantly hearing comments from greenkeepers that such and such a product has been banned, hasn't it? A case of the grapevine not working well for once!

■ The author and consultant advisor, Jon Allbutt, is a member of the Register of Practitioners for Pesticide Advice under categories that include Amenity Horticulture, Forestry and Aquatic.



■ Derek Keen, twelve years with The Whitbread Group (which incorporates Country Club Hotels), has taken management responsibility for all 14 UK courses in the group, as well as a golf complex outside Hamburg. Derek began his career as an apprentice greenkeeper in 1963, and worked within CCH as course manager at both Tudor Park Hotel G&CC and Telford Hotel G&CC before moving into regional management in 1989.

■ Raymond Hunt, formerly course manager at Goodwood Park Hotel G&CC, West Sussex, has also been promoted by Country Club Hotels and is now course manager at the Forest of Arden Hotel G&CC, Warwickshire, site of the Murphy's English Open for 1993.



■ Is Steve Welch the fittest greenkeeper in the land? Few would argue after Taunton Vale's 36 year old head greenkeeper finished 28th in the World Trail Running Championships, held in June over a gruelling cross-country course of 80 miles which included a total of 9,000 feet of climbing! Steve, whose time of 13.5 hours enabled him to raise healthy sums for local charities, says "being fit has its benefits on the course. It's often much quicker to run and sort out a problem than to take a vehicle."



■ One of a galaxy of highly skillful Scottish golfing greenkeepers and a regular contender for top honours in national and regional golfing events, Kevin Peace is about to show the members of Inverurie Golf Club that he is just as proficient on the golf course without a golf club in his hands. Latterly first assistant to Hugh McLatchie at Peterhead, Kevin is making his move into golf course management for the very first time. We join with his many colleagues in Scotland in wishing him every success.



■ Dr Neil Baldwin, until recently the STRI's plant pathologist, has become technical manager responsible for amenity products at Service Chemicals plc, Daventry. A regular 'face' on the greenkeeping lecture circuit, Neil is perhaps best known to greenkeepers for his research into dry patch problems. His primary role at Service Chemicals will be concerned with the research and development of new products, together with technical support programmes for the company's existing range, which includes Turfex, Go Green and Spraywet. In addition, Neil also intends to develop an advisory/consultancy service to the turfgrass industry as well as appearing on the lecture platform and writing technical articles for Greenkeeper International.

■ PSD Agronomy and Professional Sportsturf Design (NW) Ltd have moved to 42 Garstang Road, Preston, PR1 1NA., though they keep their existing telephone numbers. Consultants David Stansfield, Mike Harbridge and John Hacker can be contacted on 0772-884450 or fax 0772- 884445.

■ Yorkshire turf specialists Rolawn announce that it has begun cultivation of a new turf for golf greens. As yet unnamed, it is expected to create major inroads in the market for superior golf greens turf and is expected to be available next spring.

"We have carried out an intensive research project into the best methods and materials available for cultivating the finest greens turf," said Terry Ryan, Rolawn sales and marketing manager. "Today's discerning golfer expects to play on only the very best playing surface and to cater for this

# Faces and places

demand we have recently sown specially bred cultivars which have been acknowledged as among the highest rated varieties by a number of the world's leading turf specialists," he added.

■ The IoG exhibition, embattled following the withdrawal of several machinery firms from this year's event at Peterborough, is to return to Windsor Racecourse in 1994, a site that is claimed to now offer better parking facilities and an extended exhibition area. In addition, a new slip road should help to eliminate problems previously encountered when entering and leaving the racecourse.

The 1994 show is to be retitled and remodelled to a formula that will be revealed in September.

■ Kenny Hunter, well known to Scottish greenkeepers, has been appointed as Huxleys Grass Machinery area manager for the West of Scotland. Kenny, who lives in Milngavie, studied Greenkeeping and Mechanical Engineering at Woodburnhouse College, was a greenkeeper at Campsie GC and Dougalston GC, and worked for Frews for nine years as area sales manager selling Ransomes, Cushman and other commercial grass machinery.

Huxleys' branch at Broxburn, near Edinburgh, provides full sales, hire and service support for their range of golf course machinery. Details: Tel: 0962 733222.

■ Netlon Limited have announced Exeter-based City Gardens and its sister business City Sports as agents and installers for the Netlon Advanced Turf System in South West England.

City Gardens has a well established reputation for high quality works, and proprietor, Bob Hunt, says: "I believe that the Netlon system represents the most significant advance in turf culture to date. It has enormous potential, both for sports and for amenity surfaces such as fire access roads and car parks." For more information on the Netlon Advanced Turf System, or a copy of their new video, call Netlon (free) on 0800 585012.

■ The Toro Commercial Products Division of Lely (UK) Ltd have announced a major programme of nationwide 'Work-

man Field Days' where the much acclaimed Workman 3000 turf maintenance vehicle will be both demonstrated and available for test driving, using a wide range of popular attachments. The 'Workman Field Days' will run throughout September and October. Details from Toro commercial dealers or tel: 0480 476971.

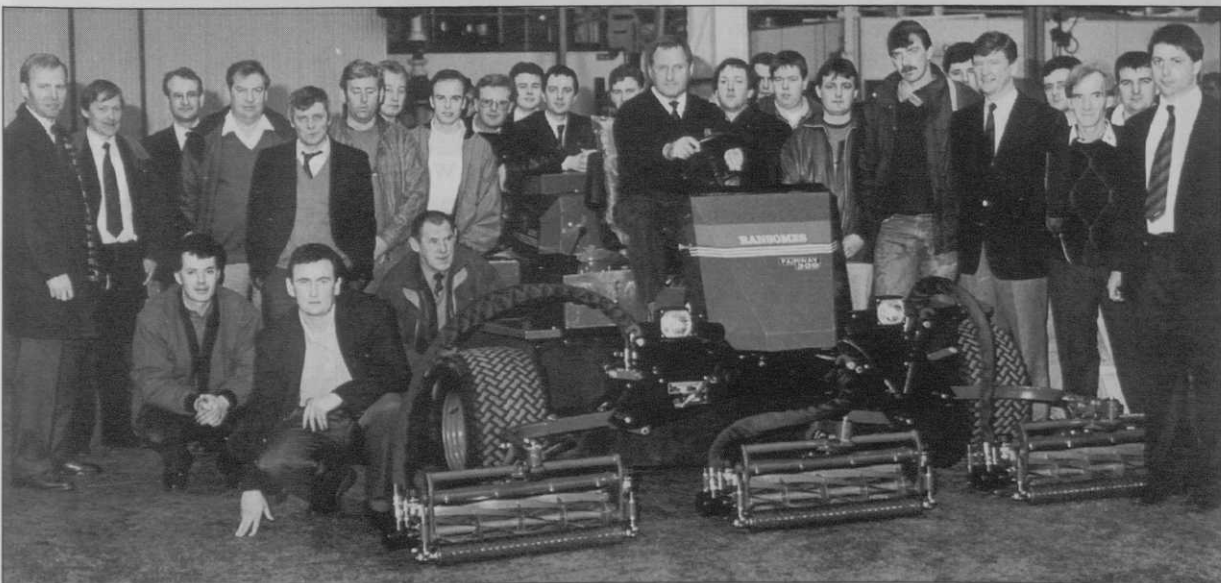
■ Three greenkeepers from the UK were guests of Barenbrug on a three day, all expenses trip to Holland. Robert Nelson from Lisburn GC, Ian Morrison from Bramall Park GC and Neil Maltby from Wheatley GC were winners of Barenbrug's See, Buy & Fly competition, staged at BTME '93 in January. Accompanied by marketing director Michel Mulder, they had been invited to play in the annual Barenbrug Golf Trophy held at Nunspeet. The course, naturally enough seeded with Barenbrug varieties, is relatively new but still impressed the UK visitors. "It's a difficult course but is already playing well," said Ian Morrison, "and the excellent facilities are second to none."

On their last day Michel Mulder took them around Barenbrug's breeding station, where many of the next decade's varieties are under development. The complexity and size of the installation came as a surprise to all, proving conclusively that not all seeds are equal. "I knew Barenbrug operated internationally," commented Neil Maltby, "but until today I don't think any of us appreciated just how big it really is. We've seen one warehouse, for instance, large enough to hold four football grounds full of product for all around the world."

■ Supreme Mowing have teamed up with Jim Paton, BIGGA's Ayrshire section secretary, to present a seminar on the maintenance of the cutting cylinder and bottom blade. Two courses, one for both morning and afternoon, will be held at the Irvine Bogside Golf Club on 14 September. Main emphasis will be on sharpening cylinders inside or out of frame, showing the advantages of spin and relief grinding – an area often seriously neglected. All BIGGA members are welcome to attend – contact Linda Adams at Supreme Mowing on 0709 873436 for more details.



■ It's hard to believe, but Norman Fergusson, the stalwart links superintendent of Royal Troon, has been with the club for fifty years. What's more, his father was there before him for what seemed like an eternity. Now Norman is retiring and Greenkeeper International is proud to acknowledge the fine service he has given to greenkeeping, including mastering the course for a clutch of memorable Open Championships – we wish him peace, good health and contentment.



■ Ransomes recently played host to a group of Scottish greenkeepers who visited the Ipswich manufacturing plant to see how machines used on their courses are assembled. They also took the opportunity to view a demonstration of newly launched machinery, including the Fairway 300, at a local golf course.

Said one happy visitor, "This trip was invaluable, the majority of us are users of Ransomes' machinery and having now seen the manufacturing process, we can appreciate how well the machinery is made. We also enjoyed 'hands-on' experience with some exciting new Ransomes machines".

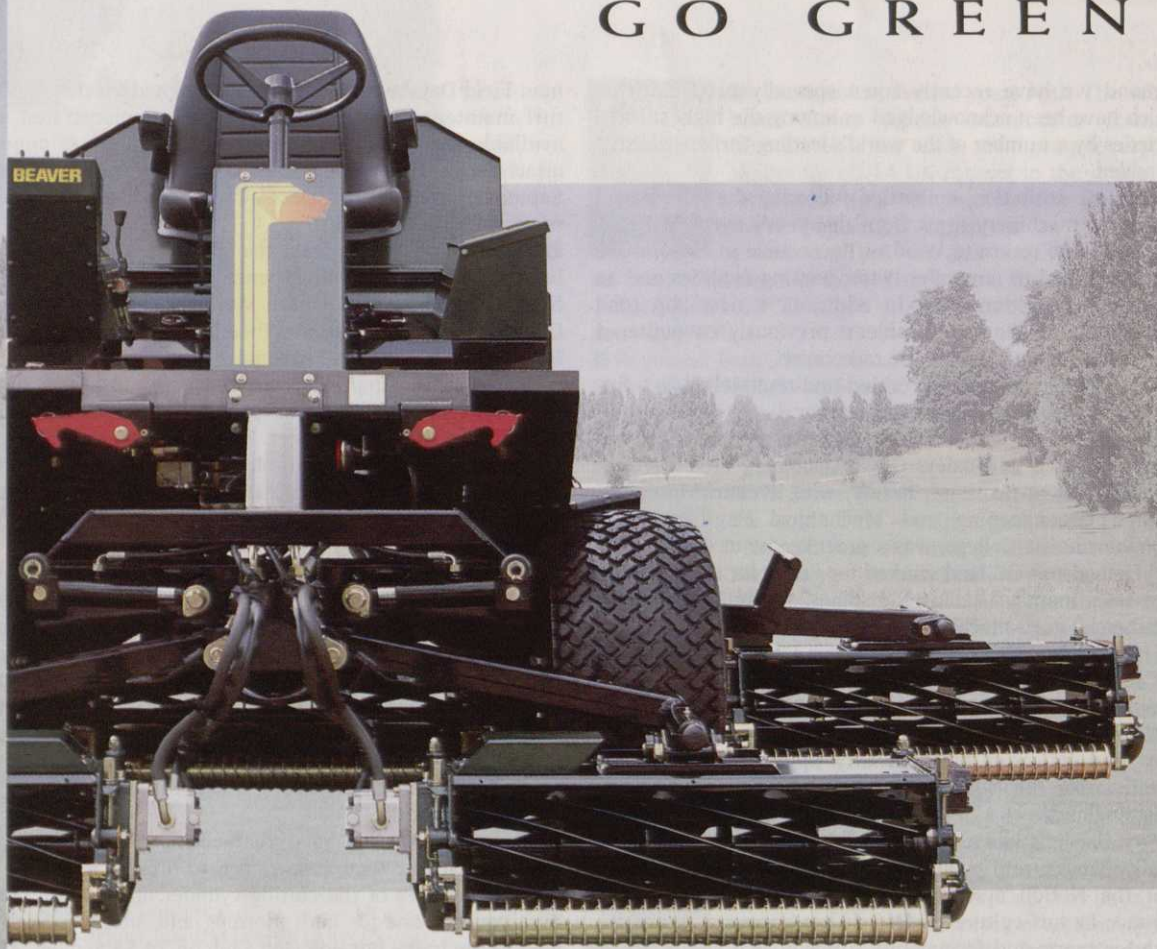


■ Greenkeeper International has learned that Tim Colclough, STRI advisor in the south west of England, is leaving the Institute this month to take a full-time one year teacher training course at Leeds University. We wish him well.



Faces and places

# BEAVERS GO GREEN



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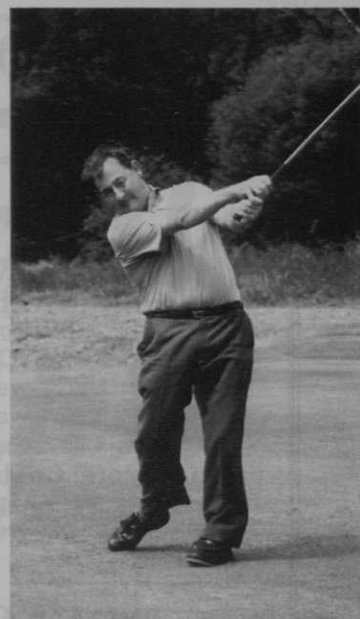


# HAYTER

Hayters PLC, Spellbrook,  
Bishop's Stortford, Herts. CM23 4BU.  
Telephone: (0279) 723444.

# IN THE SWING

Pictures from the Scottish Region Greenkeepers Golf Championships 1993 For report, see 'Around the Green' pages



## RESULTS

**The Scottish Champion** – SGGG Challenge Cup – Paul Murphy (Caird Park) 78 (Scratch)  
**Best Nett** – The Friendship Trophy – Drew McKechnie (Douglas Park) 85-14=71  
**Best Head Greenkeeper** – The BIGGA Challenge Bowl – Gordon Heron (Brunston Castle) 90-18=72  
**Best Assistant** – The M&M Trophy – Jim Wilson (Torrance House) 82-9=71  
**Best Apprentice** – The Souter Trophy – William McMeikan (Turnberry) 83-9=74  
**Best Veteran** – The SIGGA Trophy – George Brown (Turnberry) 80-5=75  
**The Section Team Trophy** – West Section  
**Trade Prize** – Alan Stevenston (Souters) 84-10=74  
**1st Class 1st** – The Ransomes Trophy – Alistair Connell (Cawder) 79-6=73 (BIH)  
**1st Class 2nd** – Ian McNab (Dumfries and County) 78-4=74  
**1st Class 3rd** – Charles Goodall (Balmore) 78-3=75  
**2nd Class 1st** – The Pattison Trophy – Gavin Millar (Cardross) 83-11=72 (BIH)  
**2nd Class 2nd** – Ian Wilson (Blairbeth) 88-15=73.  
**2nd Class 3rd** – John Young (Douglaston) 91-15=76  
**3rd Class 1st** – The STRI Trophy – Colin Scott (Killermont) 102-20=82  
**3rd Class 2nd** – John Robertson (Peebles) 102-19=83  
**3rd Class 3rd** – Andrew McDowell (Torrance House) 104-20=84 (BIH)



**PICTURES, clockwise from top:** Paul Murphy, George Brown, Drew McKechnie, Gavin Millar, William McMeikan, the finalists, and Scottish Champion Paul Murphy collecting his trophy from BIGGA Chairman, John Crawford

PHOTOS: DAVID WHITE





# Colleges



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Year 3: NVQ Level 3 Day and Block Release

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For further details please contact Dennis Mortram at

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- Laboratories and testing equipment
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Fax: 0995-640842

## Financial services to members

Members are advised that Howard Evans is no longer acting as a representative for Standard Life and has resigned as pensions adviser to BIGGA.

The requirements of members have been assessed and in view of the increased demand for advice over a wide range of financial matters it has been decided that a network of regional brokers would be able to respond quicker and better to members requests. The brokers appointed will be FIMBRA members and as such will be in a position to offer independent advice over a wide range of financial services, having access

to all the major life insurance and pension companies including Standard Life which continues to be regarded as one of the better institutions.

Peter Hoare & Co Ltd has been selected to act as the main broker and being based in Sheffield is within easy access of Aldwark Manor. Other brokers are in the process of being appointed and full details will appear in the September issue of Greenkeeper International.

In the meanwhile members requiring further information or advice should contact either Neil Thomas or John Pemberton at BIGGA HQ on 0347 838581.

### RECOMMENDED MINIMUM SALARY/WAGES SCALE

These are the Association's recommended minimum salary/wages scale for 1993, although actual figures remain the subject of negotiation between the Golf Club and Greenkeeping staff.

	18 Holes	27 Holes	36 Holes
Course Manager/ Head Greenkeeper	£18,230 pa	£19,880pa	£22,250pa
Deputy Course Manager/ Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£13,160pa	£14,340pa	£16,040pa
First Assistant	£219.00pw	£219.00pw	£219.00pw
Assistant Greenkeeper	£206.00pw	£206.00pw	£206.00pw
Apprentice Greenkeeper:			
Age 16/17	£103.00pw		
Age 18	£128.75pw		
Age 19	£154.50pw		
Age 20	£180.25pw		
Age 21+	£206.00pw		

NB: Where appropriate these rates should be increased to reflect Regional variations up to a maximum of 24% in the South East Region.

The First Assistant is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where appropriate to the size of the Club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the appropriate Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper salary scale should apply.

NB: Staff in possession of recognised qualifications should have this reflected in an addition to basic salary.

#### Basic conditions of employment should include:

1. Where accommodation is provided by the Club, it should be rent free with heating/lighting costs borne by the Club. The Club should compensate for Council Tax Liability.
2. Where accommodation is not provided by the Club, a suitable remuneration in addition to the above salary should be paid.
3. 40 hour week.
4. Retirement Pension Scheme.
5. Telephone costs on Club business.
6. Mileage allowance.
7. Time off to attend lectures, demonstrations, BIGGA functions and tournaments.
8. If not salaried, basic overtime to be paid at time and a half, with double time on Sundays and Statutory Holidays.

Membership details are available from the Executive Director, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF. Telephone: 0347 838581, fax: 0347 838864.

## Head Office

# Golden Key membership for Farmura and Milliken

With work on the new Training Video "Setting the Standard - in Spray Application" nearly complete, BIGGA is delighted to welcome both Farmura and Milliken as Golden Key members following their support for the new video.

"It's great news for the Education and Development Fund that Farmura and Milliken have become Golden Key members," said Executive Director, Neil Thomas. "They have been two of the major sponsors of the new video which has been warmly welcomed both by BIGGA members and within the industry."

Jonathan Harmer, Managing Director of Farmura commented: "We are pleased to be part of the first BIGGA Training Video which emphasises quality and professionalism. It will, I hope, be of value not only to greenkeepers but also

to Green Committees and club members in helping their understanding of the variety of skills required to produce top class results."

Commenting on the launch of the video a spokesman for Greenlink Products, the national distributor for Blazon, the spray pattern indicator featured throughout the film, said: "The support provided by Milliken Chemical, a BIGGA Golden Key member and manufacturer of Blazon, has been tremendous. Their sponsorship of this video emphasises how much importance they place on greenkeeper education and training. This video will prove to be an excellent vehicle for improving greenkeeping practices and will show to all who watch it how much care, attention and skill is given to the management of golf courses and their surrounding environment."

## Education and training update

- The Toro/PGA Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award Regional Finals are being scheduled to take place at college centres at the beginning of September. The National Final will take place at Aldwark Manor on 11-12 October.
- Nominations for the ICI premier Greenkeeper Award were due into headquarters by 31 July. Each section nomination will be visited by a BIGGA Educational Convenor and an ICI representative. Subsequently there will be a further course assessment for each of the Regional finalists followed by the National Final at Aldwark Manor on 6-7 December.
- Very few places remain on the Pesticide Course at Aldwark Manor for the week commencing 27 September. If you wish to

obtain your PA1 and PA2A book now - to date there has been a 100% pass rate.

● The fifth year of Management Courses are now being booked. Early bookings are advised and don't forget the dates:

Year One courses - 18-22 and 25-29 October; Year Two - 1-5 November; Year Three - 8-12 November and Year Four - 15-19 November.

To reserve your place, complete the postcard in this magazine and return to BIGGA together with a deposit of £100 plus VAT (total: £117.50). The balance will be due for payment no later than 1 October 1993. If you have any queries or need more information, call Debbie Savage on 0347 838581.

greenkeepers get up every morning rain, snow or sun to tend their golf courses. He loved his work and was excited by each new project."

It was typical of Sam to be the first Greenkeeper to achieve the new qualification for assessing National Vocational Qualifications.

Sam was only 35 years old and leaves behind a wife and three children to whom we send our sincere condolences.

### Sam Hagen

It is with great sadness that we inform members of the sudden death of Sam Hagen, Course Manager at The Vale Golf and Country Club, near Pershore and formerly Head Greenkeeper at The Belfry.

Richard Harrison, the general manager at Aldwark Golf Hotel, employed Sam at The Vale: "Having worked within the leisure industry for over 20 years, I believe Sam exemplified why

# A BIGGA Thank you



**BIGGA  
GOLDEN KEY  
and SILVER KEY  
CIRCLES**

*...to the following companies, in recognition of their continued support for the Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund*



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The Toro Company  
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**RANSOMES**



**HAYTER**

**farmura**



*Together, we're building a great future for golf club, greenkeeper and game*

For details of how you can support the Education and Development Fund, Contact BIGGA at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF.

Telephone: 0347 838581 Fax: 0347 838864



**BIGGA: BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE**



# Letters

Send your letters to the editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firle Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL

## Attitudes must change

On a recent visit to Lancashire I played some great golf courses, all of which were in very good condition. I was warmly welcomed at Hoylake, Hillside, Formby and Ormskirk, a courtesy afforded me through my BIGGA membership card.

On visiting the Southport and Ainsdale Golf Club I was refused courtesy, but on speaking with the secretary I learned that this facility is granted to visiting golf club secretaries and professionals. I appreciate that golf clubs have differing policies and are not obliged to grant courtesy, but surely if a club adopts such a policy how then can it discriminate between the three associations.

Whilst I accept their decision, I am unable to comprehend their reasons. Much knowledge can be gained by playing other courses and talking with the green staff, particularly when visiting outside of one's immediate area. This practice is of course one that is adopted by many club secretaries in order that they may enhance their own knowledge and experience. The impression I gained was that greenkeepers, in the eyes of some club administrators, are still regarded as second class citizens.

One can only hope, as time goes by, that the draconian attitudes still prevalent in some clubs will eventually change and that all personnel involved in the successful organisation of a golf club will be respected and treated equally.

**BRIAN K TURNER**

Head Greenkeeper, Worplesdon Golf Club,  
Woking, Surrey

## BIGGA in Europe

As course manager of the Vereniging Golfclub in the Netherlands I was pleased to learn in Neil Thomas's AGM report of the interest shown in achieving greater co-operation with associations in Europe, indeed in many instances I have tried to promote BIGGA in Holland. Further, I have no wish to take away anything from my Dutch colleagues, who in the last few years have formed their own association which is growing very vibrantly and successfully, and I would take this opportunity to wish them all the best for the future.

Nevertheless, as a Scotsman working for nearly six years in Holland, I feel somewhat left out of BIGGA because I cannot relate to an individual section/region, i.e. Scotland, England, Ireland or Wales. Understanding that BIGGA stands for the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, and knowing that in the Netherlands alone there must be a dozen or so fellow greenkeepers who may feel of a similar disposition, I wonder if there are any future plans for a European section of BIGGA? I would personally be glad to be part

of such a section and if necessary I would get directly involved. If interest from Dutch members was not strong enough, I am sure there could be justification for combining members from Holland, Germany, Belgium etc. I therefore would be interested to see what kind of response our members here on the continent might give, either by writing to BIGGA headquarters, or to me at the club address below.

**COLIN FAIRLEY**

Course Manager, Vereniging Golfclub,  
Almeerderhout, Watersnipweg 19-21, 1341 AA  
Almere, Holland

• *Executive director, Neil Thomas welcomed Colin's letter, lately having been active in following up on the successful European Forum held during last January's BTME. He commented, 'The Association is very much aware of the problems experienced by our international members and is planning a second European Forum at the 1994 BTME. We are extremely anxious to make positive progress in establishing a sense of 'belonging' for our European members. I am currently seeking contributors for the forthcoming forum and would urge our members in Europe both to attend and also, should they feel inclined, make a short contribution to the proceedings. Anyone willing to speak at the forum should contact me without delay, as the BTME seminar programme will be finalised shortly. The seeds have been sown during 1993 for BIGGA's development in Europe - there must now be a concerted effort to meet the aspirations of those of our members at the forefront of greenkeeping in Europe'. - editor*

## Working Down Under

The May article 'Future of the Fescue' was most interesting to me, an Englishman working and studying in Western Australia. I plan to return home to Kent in 1994.

I work at Cottesloe Golf Club, a prestigious course in Western Australia, and I am also studying a course in Turf Management. As part of this course I am preparing a report and will subsequently talk on the varying aspects of cool season grasses.

In the UK, cool grasses are obviously used throughout the industry, whereas here in W.A. their use is limited to some occasional overseeding of fairways during the winter, usually with creeping red fescue. However, all the greens in W.A. are seeded with pure creeping bent, mostly of the Pennncross variety, though new constructions are now tending toward the use of variety 1019. We also have problems with *Poa annua*, mostly in older greens, so naturally I have an understanding of how this can affect playing surfaces.

Returning to the article, my understanding is that even if one is fortunate enough to have ideal construction methods and a sympathetic management team (one that allows for limitations in play to provide full establishment and

training of the fescue), there is still nothing to confirm the elimination of *Poa annua* from the greens. However, the most desirable qualities of fescue are its ability to withstand and recover from drought and its tolerance to heavy wear. This undoubtedly requires further testing and investigation in order to find out more of the management practices necessary to encourage its growth, and how well it stands up against the *Poa annua* invasion.

I would be most interested to learn more regarding fescue or its alternatives, also I have an interest in fescue/bent mixes for greens and wonder how these work, especially as bents have a high fertility requirement and fescues have a low fertility requirement, also I am curious to learn which varieties (of each) are generally used?

Finally, I really enjoy Greenkeeper International and find it most informative. If I can be of help to anyone regarding greenkeeping practices in Western Australia, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**LEE SAYERS**

Unit 14, 7 Merope Close, Rockingham 6168,  
Western Australia

• *A highly respected agronomist commented on Mr Sayers' letter thus: "I don't think we need more research testing or investigation into the management practices necessary to encourage fescues. With bent/fescue mixtures, often the fescue acts as a nurse until the *Agrostis* takes over - but which one dominates depends on the soil and management, and maybe if both are less than ideal *Poa* takes over". No doubt there are others, seed breeders perhaps, who will be tempted to offer Mr Sayers the information he seeks - editor.*

## Praise for team

Through the letters page may I express thanks to my team at Carden Park for their tremendous efforts in seeing the Carden Academy open ahead of schedule. The level of skill and commitment they have shown, particularly for young men, is heartening in these times and certainly augers well for the future of greenkeeping.

The conditions in which they have worked have been more than arduous and it is to their eternal credit that they have achieved such results.

The team comprises Rob Bryant, Justin Cheung, Peter Gabriel, Ian McDougall, Dave Wates, Chris Bryan, John Lightfoot, Chris Halton, Tony Wellings, Len Sproston, Andrew Woodcock and Jamie Poole. To a man, they fully deserve the recognition they have earned. Hopefully they will draw deep on the experience and I am most grateful for their help and support.

**ANDY CAMPBELL**

Course Manager, Carden Park, Chester,  
Cheshire