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**ADVERTISERS' INDEX**  
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	Ad Ref	Page
All Seasons Dressing	375	16
Atterton & Ellis	7	14
BAGCC	185	28
Blec	98	31
Bob Andrews	381	24, 31
Bob Hornegold	405	28
CD Brown	406	26
Compact Machinery Ltd		
	14	4
David Wilson	393	4
Dixon & Holliday		
	214	12
E&S Sportsgrounds		
	248	28
Farmura	88	12
Fisons	102	44
Hayter PLC	90	2
Huxleys	60	33
Jacobsen	4	13
Lely (UK) Ltd Toro		
	61	10
Maxicrop	174	24
Sisis	176	43
Tillers Turf	292	42
Colleges	• 18, 22, 23	
Buyers Guide	• 35-39	
Classified	• 39	
Recruitment	• 40, 41	



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



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**EDUCATION OFFICER**

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

**SALES AND MARKETING ASSISTANT**

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  
Tel: 0909 568533 • Fax: 0909 568206

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# GREENKEEPER

International

## CONTENTS

### Dunbar's test of character

The National Championship at Dunbar provides its own set of challenges, course manager Graham Wood tells David White, as we look forward to the major golfing event in BIGGA's year...Pages 6-7



### We know where we're going

Neil Thomas reports on BIGGA's annual general meeting and outlines the considerable progress being made.....Pages 8-9, 11

### A spot of ironing...

David White gets to grips with the machine of the moment and discovers how to increase putting speeds without stress.....Pages 11-12

### Total commitment to education

Debbie Savage started at BIGGA when the Association was first founded. Now she's relishing her new role as education officer .....Pages 18-19

### Now for the conditioner

Hugh Tilley takes a comprehensive look at growth promoting substances which are *not* considered to be fertilisers.....Pages 20-21

WIN £50 CASH IN OUR FUN COMPETITION - TURN TO BUYERS GUIDE P35

## DEPARTMENTS

### Faces and places

Ranks of female greenkeepers are swelled again... greenkeeper of the year moves on... all this and more on the page everyone's reading .....Page 5

### Education

A profile of Debbie Savage on Pages 18-19, a directory of colleges on Pages 22-23 - and details of 1993's management courses .....Page 17

### Around the Green

Regular updates from our correspondents. Find out what's going on .....Pages 31-34, 42

### COVER PICTURE:

Dunbar Golf Club, National Championship venue, looking towards the Barns Ness lighthouse

### 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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BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY CIRCLES

## New products from Service Chemicals

Service Chemicals, the people who brought you Turfex, have introduced two new products.

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# Toro Workman heralds new era

It's not often that we can announce a revolution, but according to my spies, the new Toro Workman 3000 utility vehicle from Lely (UK) Ltd appears to have broken all records, with salesmen reporting bulging order books even before the machine becomes widely available in the UK.

Launched at BTME, The Workman 3000 is designed to overcome many fundamental weaknesses. In a conventional design of a utility vehicle, the driver and load are positioned between the front and rear axles – which reduces the load carrying area and capacity.

On the Workman 3000 the operator is situated 'out front' which gives a weight distribution improvement of up to 25% plus 27% increase in carrying area. A full 2600lbs weight can be carried with less compaction because the out front operator allows the load to be evenly distributed. This means that, for example, a 200 gallon sprayer can be carried. The Workman 3000 incorporates a unique front suspension and steering design to give a 70° powered steering turning circle, giving the manoeuvrability of three wheels with the stability of four.

The range has the option of two power units: The 3300D has a Mitsubishi 21hp three cylinder diesel engine, whilst the 3200 Workman has a 27hp three cylinder petrol engine. Both units are mid mounted and coupled to an exclusive Toro transaxle by means of an automotive bell housing and clutch to give a reliable, quiet and all enclosed power train.



The transaxle features three speed syncromesh gears for easy shift and quiet operation, plus a hi-low range for six distinct working speeds, and manual differential lock. Also featured is a third gear supervisors lock-out, which reduces the maximum speed from 23 to 13.6 mph.

Standard wheel equipment is 23x10" flotation tyres, with optional extras at 13x24". With the operator out-front the load is forward and is spread evenly

over four wheels. This practically eliminates turf scuffing – even when fully loaded.

Clearly, the Workman 3000 is the beginning of a new era in the definition of a utility vehicle and will be setting the standards for others to follow.

## BIGGA at Parker Hart open day

BIGGA's executive director Neil Thomas, together with sales and marketing manager Bill Lynch, will be at the Parker Hart annual open day at The University of London Athletic Ground, Motspur park, Surrey on 30 June and 1 July. Opening times are 9.30am-4.30pm.

Parker Hart extend an open invitation to all BIGGA members to attend. Refreshments will be served.

As well as BIGGA, other exhibitors include Bomford Turner, Iseki, ICI, Standard Golf (UK), Jacobsen, Mommersteeg, Vitax, Rhône Poulenc and Farnura.

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# Faces and places



■ Linda Exley is yet another to join the growing ranks of females in greenkeeping, having been appointed assistant greenkeeper at Northwood GC, with specific duties and responsibilities for the upkeep of ornamental areas. Linda has a solid background in horticulture gained first at Askham Bryan College and backed with many years of teaching horticulture as an occupational therapist. Greenkeeper International joins with her many friends in the London section of BIGGA in wishing her good fortune.

■ Greenkeepers in the north east are over the moon following Tony McLure's recent outstanding victory in the Lytham Trophy, a classic event widely though unofficially recognised as the British Stroke Play championship. Tony, a greenkeeper at Whickham GC, wowed the top class field with his masterful play over Royal Lytham and St Annes, scoring 72,70,77,73 in always blustery conditions for a brilliant 292 total. Tony has long been a major force in county circles and must now be a prime contender for national honours – who knows, maybe the selectors will look seriously now at Tony for the next Walker Cup team.



■ We were delighted to read in 'Golf World' that John Philp's championship links at Carnoustie has again been voted 'Number One Course in Great Britain'. Carnoustie, always a great favourite, is always in sparkling order and we heartily endorse the verdict, whilst saluting John Philp, a highly talented course manager.



■ Arne Van Amerongen, latterly with John Philp at Carnoustie, has joined Brian D Pierson (Contractors) Ltd as course manager for their new Hamptworth Golf & Country Club project on the edge of the New Forest. Arne's desire to increase his overall knowledge of the golf industry prompted him to join Pierson's, thus adding construction skills to his already extensive greenkeeping knowledge. The 18 hole Hamptworth course will be open for play in mid-1994.



■ Ian Harrison, BIGGA's most recent champion and current holder of the accolade 'ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year', is a man who knows more than a thing or two about greenkeeping. Not surprisingly, his new-found fame has brought him just rewards and he has left Darlington GC following some two decades of greenkeeping in the north-east.

His new task as course manager takes him to the proprietary-owned Mendip Spring GC, a 27 hole complex in Somerset that includes an 18 hole facility with enough water (eleven acres in total) to float the QE II, plus a nine hole par three. His many friends will surely join with Greenkeeper International in wishing Ian and his family good fortune in this delightful part of Merrie ol' England.

■ Called upon to identify 10 more or less common turf diseases, Andrew Jenkins, Southerndown GC, was the only greenkeeper to return a 100% correct quiz paper at the recent Westurf trade show. Most 'near-miss' entrants confused two similar though differing types of fairy ring. Andrew's winning entry won him a magnum of champagne.

■ Matt Williams (Midlands section) wrote to advise us of his new status, that of greenkeeper at The Belfry, which came fairly swiftly after his redundancy from Moor Hall GC. He gratefully acknowledges Peter Woodward's help and that of Dean Cleaver in bringing the matter to our attention via 'Around the Green'. We wish him well.



■ Chartridge Park GC are winners of a Kubota ride-on mower won at the annual Kubota Draw organised by the Golf Foundation – a charity established in 1952 to promote and develop golf for young people.

The Kubota 18hp G1900S ride-on was presented to Chartridge Park's course manager, Andrew Wells, by Brian Hurtle, vice president-director Kubota (UK) Ltd. Ninety four clubs qualified for this year's draw, each raising £200 or more for the Golf Foundation's appeal, which in 1992 raised over £63,000.



■ Elmwood College has recently appointed Paul Miller as lecturer in greenkeeping, adding to its number of staff as student numbers and the number of courses continue to rise.

Paul hold a BSc in Crop Science and a PhD in Herbicide Mode of Action Studies. He joins the staff at Elmwood after a year with Stirling-based turfgrass consultants Grass Technology International Ltd. and, before that, four years as technical advisor for British Seed Houses Ltd.

■ Kubota (UK) Ltd has appointed Carlisle-based Rickerby Ltd as their new dealer for the north of England and south west Scotland.

■ Michel Mulder, marketing director of Barenbrug UK, was all smiles when I spoke to him following his completion of the London Marathon. Despite his lack of training miles, Michel completed the 26-plus miles route in exactly four hours and succeeded in raising over £700 for Cot Death Research (FSDI). Michel acknowledges the boost provided in raising such funds to his many friends in the trade, thanking them from the bottom of his heart (shouldn't that be from the bottom of his aching feet?).

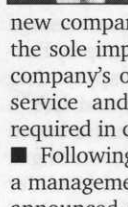


■ Modus 'T' Ltd have appointed Bob Bearn of South East Groundcare as their dealer for East and West Sussex. He will also oversee other Modus 'T' dealers in the SE regarding demonstrations, open days and general enquiries.

With Bob's help, Modus 'T' lay claim to a four-fold increase in sales.

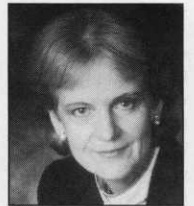


■ Hayters have announced the appointment of David Sturges as their export manager. David, who has a BSc (Hons) Degree in Agricultural Technology and Management, has been with Hayters since 1987, latterly as a design and development engineer.



■ Clive Lockwood, former general manager of CDC Horticultural Equipment, has set up a new company – Lockwood Grass Machinery – and is now the sole importer of Lesco Turf Equipment for the UK. The company's objective is to carry on as before, offering sales, service and spares back-up for Lesco. Dealers are still required in certain areas – telephone 0473 289158.

■ Following a financial restructuring, (loosely referred to as a management buy-out), Rufford Top Dress (2000) Ltd have announced that Derek Cooper will take over as chairman and majority shareholder. The company founder, Frank Garvey, becomes joint managing director with responsibility for production and administration and Peter Jefford also becomes joint managing director with responsibility for sales and marketing.



■ Rachel Semiyen has been hired by BIGGA as PR and marketing consultant.

The appointment follows Rachel's success in handling press coverage of the BTME.

According to BIGGA's executive director, Neil Thomas, "the appointment shows we understand the value that good PR can give to the professionalism of the Association.

Rachel Semiyen and her Associates have the experience and skills we were looking for to assist us in our future development."

Rachel was marketing director of Rolawn for five years.

Contact her on 0904 608355.

In Edwardian times the coastal towns of East Lothian – of which Dunbar remains an acknowledged though now slightly bedraggled jewel, with two of its once-famous hotels fallen victim to pyromania, vandalism and dereliction – were considered prime ‘watering holes’ by the glitterati and crowned heads of Europe. They came to bathe in the sea and take the air, both of which were believed to be possessed with powers of healing and recuperation, at the same time often discovered golf for the very first time. Sadly, times have changed. The glitterati have moved to the Mediterranean and beyond and, with few exceptions, the crowned heads are either deposed, dispossessed or just plain hideaways.

Whilst it is probably true that new generations don't know what they're missing, Dunbar's abiding attraction – its famous golf course – remains the worst kept secret of all, whipping those continental tourist traps into a cocked hat by continually attracting discerning golfers from every corner of the globe. Once captivated, they keep coming back. If there's one thing that needs to be said, the powers-that-be at BIGGA certainly know how to pick 'em when it comes to cornering a National Championship site – in choosing Dunbar they have excelled themselves.

As an unabashed lover of links courses, I liken myself to a retired pro bike rider I once met who declared that when he caught sight of a racing saddle his bum began to itch! My itch, albeit in another part of the anatomy, begins when I first set eyes on a tract of pure linksland hard by the sea, the light sparkling off the waves and setting a scene that never fails to enchant – God knows, on first sight of Dunbar's East Links I could hardly contain myself. I desperately wanted to drag clubs from the car boot and plead for a tee time, but my itch remained an irritation that I couldn't get at to scratch, for I had come, dammit, only to work!

Golf in some form has been played along the coastal land around Dunbar since ancient times, indeed in Scottish Acts of Parliament dated 1457 and 1491 it was decreed that weapon practices were to be held and that the playing of fut-ball and golfe was to be ‘utterly cryit downe and not be used’. In 1616 two men from the neighbouring parish of Tynninghame were censured for playing ‘at ye nyneholis’ on Sundays and in 1640 a parish minister at Dunbar was disgraced for similarly engaging in ‘gouf’ on the Sabbath. The Dunbar Golfing Society, from which the present Dunbar Golf Club claims its lineage, was instituted as long ago as 1794.

If at first sight the links at Dunbar appear simply as God, Nature and Old Tom Morris created them, in no small measure this may be accredited to the supreme skills of Graham Wood, the club's course manager for close on two decades. It soon became obvious in our discussion that he sees his life's task not only as that of caring for Dunbar's playing surfaces, but also as keeper and preserver of an area blessed with exquisite natural charm – one that must be upheld at all costs. If that appears to be ‘over the top’ I make no apologies, for the course positively reeks old world charm and is all the better for it.

Graham Wood is 42 years old, married, with two teenage offspring (his son Paul is also a budding greenkeeper, having recently taken an apprenticeship at Winterfield), and he's a native of East Lothian. He began his career at Dunbar, serving a three year apprenticeship under the late Bill Paton, followed by four more years as journeyman before making a wee trip along the coast to become head man at Monkton Hall, Musselburgh. Three years later the lure of Dun-

Dunbar town, as seen from the links' edge



bar beckoned again and Graham, always highly respected by his peers as a master of his craft, was successful in landing the vacant head greenkeeper's job. He grinned as he said, “And here, fortunately, is where I've stayed”.

What maintenance regime does Graham employ? In a single word, the answer is ‘traditional’. “I was fortunate in training under Bill Paton,” he told me, “a craftsman who employed basic, indeed some might say old-fashioned, skills – he was steeped in common sense. He taught me the importance of traditional ways, of appreciating what turf needed, of handling it, smelling it, recognising possible problems before they happened. I remain an avowed traditionalist and I'm mean with fertiliser. We've a lot of fescue and I fight hard to keep the Poa down to minimal levels, so it's a case of on with a touch to bring some growth in spring and then starvation. I water by hand and don't find this a real problem, though quiet days are hard to come by so this often calls for night-time application. My topdressing is a mixture of loamy soil and white sand. Fungicides I apply as a preventative measure, prevention being better than cure, and once the growth is up I slit the greens and then let them burn a little – all these measures give me the quality of turf so vital for the links game”.

Quality the East Links certainly has, and character in abundance, but it must be stated here and now – Dunbar is no pushover! Let Graham, a mean five handicapper who plays ‘occasionally’ with his fellow greenkeepers, explain some its foibles and idiosyncrasies: “The course, 6,426 yards from the medal tees, has a par of 71. Three holes are played on the south side of an ancient beach wall, probably as old as the town itself, which stretches along much of the course and seems never to be out of play. After playing the third the course continues back over the wall on the narrow links beside the sea and rocky beach, the wall now to the players right. In all cases, over the wall is OB, so if there is one piece of advice I might offer BIGGA players it is ‘hit it straight and

# character

says course manager Graham Wood, 'there'll be no broken hearts...'



The Dunbar crew

keep the ball in play'. The beach is a lateral water hazard and the burn also may come into play. To keep a good score going it is vital to keep your head around 10, 11 and 12, where the course can be deceptive, and the 12th (The Point) in particular, at 459 yards, plays long as it is often played into a breeze. Around the ninth, Barns Ness lighthouse looms large as a feature, and at the 14th green is seen The Vaults, a listed building which is preserved from removal or improvement. The green at 13 (Pot) could best be described as 'character building'. The course record is six under par; so clearly it can be tamed.

That stated, it is always a testing course and with any sort of wind the greens can be fast – I don't have to make them fast with low cutting- 3/16" is the norm – for there is no need, the wind takes over and does the rest! The nature of the greens, minimally watered to do no more than keep the grass alive, lend themselves admirably to the chip and run, rather than the high pitch and stop – interestingly, some of the pro's bent on qualifying here for The Open at Muirfield last year manufactured the screw back shot to some good effect, though I suspect that most amateurs, even those with low handicaps, will find the pitch and run much more effective, indeed I see no disgrace in using the Texas Wedge from 20 yards off".

I smiled at mention of the Texas Wedge, for just a couple of hours earlier I'd bumped into a real live Texan doing the Lothian Tour. 'Where I come from', he drawled, 'we got winds that just blow your mind. We teach 'em early – golfers with class should be a highball drinkers and a low ball hitters!'

The team at Dunbar can rightly be seen as a 'lean machine', for there is no dead weight to be found with a staff of just five, Graham included. Dunbar is famous as a breeding ground for head greenkeepers, indeed the club is proud of its ability to produce future managers and doesn't attempt to hold the tight rein, so the team tends to be young

and bursting with gung-ho. Apart from a new apprentice John Tait, there's tractor driver Scott Jenkins, assistant Gordon Craft and first assistant David Brown. To a man they are fiercely pro Dunbar and though I only met them for a short time, I would opine that the club are lucky to have them, for their enthusiasm shines through.

Graham learned of BIGGA's interest in staging the National at Dunbar through a call from Elliott Small six months ago. Both he and the club were flattered and indeed expressed pleasure at entertaining upwards of 100 greenkeepers. For Graham, preparation will call for no mean tricks or devious cunning – Dunbar GC has played host to numerous top class tournaments and for qualifying in The Open, so he's used to staging 'big ones'. Though any tournament leaves the head man on tenterhooks, on this grand occasion he'll be nervous only of judgement by his peers – I assured him he need have no such qualms. What's more, I knew he meant it when he intimated that skulduggery would play no part in his game plan, "the course will simply be 'testing' and there'll be no broken hearts".

Finally, I took my 'itch' back home, though not before making a whistle-stop tour of the wee town, sucking in the still prevalent Edwardian atmosphere and delighting in its sheer Scottishness. For me, Dunbar evokes misty apparitions of Willie Park and his cronies, of niblicks, guttie balls and old world courtesies. It has a fine beach and grand sea fishing and there's a local nature trail and a nature reserve. I'll be back, dammit, no power on earth will keep me away!

## Major machinery in the Dunbar stable

- 2 Iseki tractors
- 1 Massey Ferguson Tractor Riddle
- 2 Trailer tippers
- 1 Spoon tiner/ Slit tiner
- 3 Supaturf Evenspeed spreaders
- 1 Sisis Hollow tiner
- 2 Toro TV5002 commercial rotaries
- 1 Powerscreen Rover 30
- 1 Charterhouse 1416 topdresser
- 2 Ransomes Marquis 31 mowers
- 5 Ransomes Super Auto Certes
- 1 Ryan Hollowtiner
- 3 Jacobsen Greens King IV Diesels
- 2 Utility vehicles (incl. new Mule)
- 1 Turfco turfcutter

# AGM Report



BIGGA can look back on only a short history, but it is a period marked by progress and accomplishment. 1992 was no exception and confirmed the sharply rising curve in BIGGA's development which was apparent the previous year. So much happens in the Association that it is difficult to compress the detail into a report such as this. I will, however, look back over the year and then highlight the issues and concerns which face us in 1993 and beyond.

Our AGM traditionally precedes Westurf and this is now a well-established and eagerly anticipated regional event in the south-west. It meets a local need and in acknowledging the input of the regional board to the event, members of that board will be the first to acknowledge how much the event's success owes to Gordon and Marion Child. Its impact locally is great but it also contributes to BIGGA's status as a whole.

By May, the fifth and final Iseki Tournament was well into its qualifying stages and at the final at Coventry Golf Club in September, a well-presented golf course made for an exciting final and the usual keen contest for the Regional Prize. The banquet was tinged with some sadness with Iseki's decision to end their sponsorship of the event. One sensed a genuine regret amongst Iseki's staff at the decision, but we can all look back on five excellent years and a period which most certainly established the event as the premier regional tournament: bringing sections together on a regional basis which, members will recall, was the original aim in setting it up.

At last year's AGM I assured members that every effort would be made to ensure the continuance of the tournament, which since 1988 had done so much to cement member relationships at a regional level, and at the end of the year it was a particular pleasure to announce a successful conclusion to discussions with Hayters for that company to take over sponsorship of the event, to be known henceforth as the Hayter Challenge Tournament. Already it seems clear that there will be a gradual upgrading of the tournament and we can look forward optimistically to the 1993 event and beyond.

In July, The Open took us to Muirfield. Much praise was forthcoming for the course preparation by Chris Whittle and his team and this set the tone for a highly successful week. It is very much a week when the Association is 'on show' and our support team most certainly has a job to do which I believe is done with the right mixture of professionalism, hard work and enjoyment. It is not an easy event to organise from the Association's viewpoint and patience and diplomacy are often necessary on the part of the Association's officers, officials and support team. The input at regional level is important to the success of our participation and our thanks are due to the experienced (I was going to say veteran) Scottish team for their sterling efforts. It is an immensely enjoyable week and does much to enhance BIGGA's



**BIGGA is  
respected as  
a professional  
body that  
knows where  
it is going...**

**- Executive director NEIL THOMAS**

image. We look forward to Royal St Georges, when the logistical problems will be greater than usual, but with an experienced team on hand I am sure that we can anticipate another successful week.

In August, the National Tournament took us to the farthest reaches of Kent - to the Littlestone Golf Club. Here we enjoyed a hugely warm and relaxed welcome. The wind blew and blew but the competitors persevered. The South East region had put much preparation into the event and ran a successful race night in the marquee, followed by a first class banquet. This event represents a tradition going back over many years and an annual reunion for many members. It is always good however to see fresh faces each year and we now look forward to traditional Scottish hospitality at Dunbar this coming August.

In mentioning the South East region

involvement, one cannot talk of this without mention of Norman Exley. The March edition of 'Greenkeeper International' has written of his life and work on behalf of the Association. I would just add quite simply at a personal level that he was a good friend for whom nothing on behalf of the Association was too much trouble. We all recognised his many qualities and he will be sadly missed.

Soon we were into the busy autumn period and the annual Kubota Challenge at the Belfry. This year brought another triumph for our team, albeit by the narrowest of margins. Members will recall that the Board changed the basis of team selection for the 1992 event and this resulted in an unfortunate reaction from a number of members during the National Tournament. The matter was subsequently referred back to the regional boards for consideration and the responses received were heavily in favour of the new selection method, which the Board has since confirmed will continue. I would urge members wishing to register their concerns to do so in the democratic manner, which our constitution allows through their sections, regions and subsequently to Board level. The petition which was raised did not reflect well on the Association and although it did not subsequently threaten our enjoyment of Littlestone, it could well have proved an unnecessary embarrassment to the Association.

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award entered its fourth year and we had a most worthy winner in Barry Neville of Oaklands College. This award is set to expand this year with seven regional finals covering thirty-six colleges now entitled to enter students at Phase II Level II Craft level. The ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award went to Ian Harrison of Darlington and the final at Aldwark Manor produced fierce competition. Unfortunately the membership did not support the preliminary stages and we are very grateful to ICI Professional Products (henceforth to be known as Zeneca) for their continued support in 1993. Last year's problems have been addressed and it is pleasing to report a far greater level of interest than at the corresponding period last year.

Through October and November we again ran our successful Management Courses, this time extended to six weeks. These courses in recent years have done so much to establish our credibility within the game and I would urge many more members to take advantage of them.

By late autumn, the office scene is very clearly focused on membership subscription renewals and the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. This year there were particular difficulties with the extra demands made with The Duke of York's visit, coupled with staffing problems which came at the wrong time. However, we made it and all was in place for the Opening Ceremony on 20 January. The BTME has now become a focal point each year, not only for our members but for the trade and the industry as a whole, as well as attracting

increasing European participation.

I do not need to recount the success of the BTME – this is already well documented. I would say, however, that the professionalism which we have insisted on demonstrating on all occasions is in many ways the key to our success and the status we now enjoy within the game of golf. This professionalism was very evident in Harrogate and we must always be aware of the need to maintain it at all levels. Yes, we have a successful show but there must be no complacency. The exhibition industry is highly competitive and only hard work by all those involved in the BTME will ensure its continued success, coupled with a firm and ongoing commitment from the membership to support it. Allied to this must be a vision for its future growth and development, which will demand imaginative marketing strategies and which we are now addressing.

Following the BTME, your chairman and myself, together with Carol Dutton from our marketing team, attended the GCSAA Show in Anaheim, California, where again we had our own stand. Much interest was expressed in Association membership, magazine subscriptions and the BTME. Interest was heightened this year in that two of the four Master Greenkeeper Certificate awards at Harrogate were made to our American members and this has undoubtedly generated interest within the GCSAA. The presence of BIGGA on an international stage is important and whilst we now enjoy excellent relationships with the American, 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. How pleasing therefore to witness the very real enthusiasm within Europe, which was so evident during the European Forum held at the BTME. In the space of some ninety minutes no fewer than a dozen European speakers spoke of greenkeeping developments in their countries and of the need for BIGGA to co-ordinate increased co-operation between the greenkeeping associations in Europe.

Finally we come to the National Education Conference, held at the University of Keele. What a splendid location and excellent facilities. Like the BTME, this is a focal point in our year – the setting and the programme seem just right and our members gain so much from their participation over the three days – not only in the lecture theatre but during the subsequent social inter-action. Many now make the conference an annual event for, like Harrogate, we find that once a member has attended for the first time, he needs no persuading to return again.

So far I have spoken about the major events which focus our year. Behind them lies much organisation and they need to be considered in the context of the overall growth and development of the Association. This has been a year which has seen further acceleration in the pace of our progress. At the beginning of 1992 I announced the setting-up of an Education and Development Fund and much of our market-

ing during the year has been geared towards the establishment of this fund. The Golden and Silver Key memberships have undoubtedly been successful both in terms of attracting company and individual membership. We have built a sound base for the fund but, of course, it tends to be the more committed members both within the industry and the Association who take up membership in the first year. The real test will be in sustaining the growth of the fund in 1993 and beyond. It has proved possible, however, for your Board to take three important decisions in 1992 which have been made possible only through the attraction of finance into this fund.

The long-awaited career video will soon be a reality for 'shooting' has been largely completed. Scripting, commentary and editing have yet to be finalised and whilst it will be available later in the year, it is my intention to officially launch it during the Opening Ceremony of next January's BTME, which I am certain will ensure its maximum impact.

Secondly, the first in what we hope will become a series of training videos will shortly be completed and this first video will focus on the application of pesticides and fertilisers. It is the intention to provide every golf club with a copy and it should prove a major asset for training purposes.

Thirdly, the Board has decided to proceed with a Scholarship Awards Scheme, which will enable grants to be made to deserving individuals to assist them in pursuance of their college courses. This particular initiative needs a lot of consideration and discussion and should be viewed as achievable in the medium/long terms, possibly for the start of the September 1994 academic year. So we begin to see the benefits from the establishing of this fund and I would urge members as individuals, but also through their sections and regions, to give every possible support to ensure its growth.

However much we look to others within the game to fund greenkeeper education and training programmes, there must remain an element of self provision, which will allow us to determine our own priorities and future spending programmes. The fund is important for the Association and we will continue to market it to this effect and I would urge all members, sections and regions to support it.

During the year there have been a number of changes at headquarters, some a natural consequence of growth, others reflecting the personal circumstances of staff. In June we extended our accommodation by taking on an adjacent wing which had previously enjoyed multi-purpose use by the hotel. This expansion in office space arose from two factors – the by then obvious over-crowding within the original offices and the need to plan for and accommodate the proposed new GTC education unit. Now we have offices which will satisfy our needs in the medium term, although your Board remains mindful of the need to constantly review the longer term position.

Recently your Board has seen the need to strengthen certain areas of our administration

and plan for the future. In February our new administration manager, John Pemberton, joined the Association, replacing the previous holder of the finance officer post.

With the BTME and our market leader magazine, there is a great need to strengthen our marketing team and we have recently appointed a new sales and marketing assistant, Louise Lunn. Additionally, Samantha Collins has been appointed to relieve the burden on clerical and typing services. Inevitably there will be changes of role and job responsibilities but I am sure the structure gradually being put in place will serve the Association well for the future.

Coupled with these changes have been the major developments in relation to the establishment of the GTC's new education unit. The April issue of 'Greenkeeper International' sets out the current position in relation to the new unit and also relates to developments since May of 1992, culminating in the establishment of the new unit.

It is incumbent on us all to seek a successful outcome to the deliberations of recent months, which have been designed to ensure increased funding of education and training for greenkeepers in the future. In this regard, BIGGA will continue to take the lead role. We will seek a constructive working relationship with the GTC, particularly in relation to the next phase of development of the Training Manual and the introduction of the new NVQ system, in the hope that BIGGA's experience will be utilised and that much of its pioneering work will now come to fruition. Already it is clear that the GTC does not see itself contributing financially in future to BIGGA's own educational programmes and this emphasises the importance of our own Education and Development Fund. At present the GTC remains located within our offices until the education unit is relocated in the South Lodge at Aldwark Manor in October.

On a practical level it means that the Association has now lost the services of David Golding and Sue Gudgeon, so the staffing picture at headquarters is changing. Debbie and Samantha have now been with me for four years – since May 1989 – and they at least will be familiar faces when members visit Aldwark Manor. Debbie is now Education Officer, BIGGA, taking over responsibility for BIGGA's educational programmes and award schemes. Clair Douglas has recently been appointed to the Membership Services Section and Pauline Thompson has begun work in the Finance Section.

So finally, what of our future? Most certainly we are well settled at Aldwark Manor, though its future and therefore ultimately our future remains clouded with some uncertainty. I would estimate that if our current rate of progress is maintained we might well be running into accommodation problems in around three years time. There are plans for our development at Aldwark Manor but they depend on finances becoming available both from Aldwark Manor and our own point of



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