

◆ The Mark II version of the Turfquake has been announced. Using a large vibrating disc to form and fill a standard sized slit (50mm x 300mm), the Turfquake is able to work where other machines cannot go, claim the makers.

Developed originally to avoid soil carting need by displacing soil laterally using the powerful integral vibrator, it was also found to work well in normally very difficult conditions. Stones, hard ground, even some rock-types have been successfully slitted without surface disruption. With the ability to cut and fill a slit with a two-layer sand/gravel drainage medium in one pass, wheel damage to turf is kept to a minimum. Most fairways, even the largest, would be intensively sand-slitted within one or two days, given the right conditions. Small-bore pipes and cables can also be installed, but with a depth limit of 0.3m. The Turfquake will be on demonstration at Moreton Morrell College, Warwickshire on 17 March at the same time as the STRO seminar on Sportsturf Drainage. Details: 0773 827115.



de-mount system. It enables the vehicle to be speedily equipped and just as quickly put back into its normal operational mode.

The Eagle weighs around 200kg (without liquid) and the specification includes hydraulic folding and manual height control for the boom, clean water tank, electric controls, Hardi triplet nozzles and hose holder. A hand lance/hose reel is standard. The 'Eagle' will be from £4,030. Details: 0455 233811.



◆ 'Turf Mark', launched by ICI Professional Products at BTME, is a spray pattern indicator for golf courses and all other areas where it is advisable to mark where spraying has taken place. Available in water soluble sachets or in tablet form, 'Turf Mark', a temporary colourant, disappears in 1-2 days irrespective of weather conditions and will not stain hands, clothing or equipment. It can be used with any water soluble pesticide or fertiliser (as illustrated), without affecting chemical efficacy. Available as a measured dose, 'Turf Mark' sachets are boxed in 20's (£110.96) or tablets in a bottle of 25 (£17.40). Details: 0428 645454

◆ Novatee is a thick synthetic grass that is topdressed on site with a special non-compactable topdressing mix. This keeps the fibres standing up and allows the golfer to 'tee' up or hit down on a ball with irons – as on real grass. When irons are used on Novatee a small amount of topdressing flies out of the grass, giving the golfer the feeling of having created a proper divot. Novatee was created for use on practice areas, commercial driving ranges, or on the course where tees are not growing either from overuse or not enough sunshine. Distributor enquiries invited. Jean (John) Prevost: 0101-514 4861696 or Fax 0101 514 4869927.

◆ Supreme Mowing have further enhanced their 'Leader' range of grinding machines with the introduction at BTME of the new 'Golf Leader' cylinder and bottom blade grinder. The 'Golf Leader' incorporates Supreme's unique dual purpose grinding head, allowing equally efficient and accurate operation on both cutting cylinders and bottom blades. The machine conforms to the modular concept, offering either manual or combining automatic traverse or spin drive operation. Details: 0709 873436.

◆ The 1993 Sta-Brite Turf Care Supplies & Sports Equipment Catalogue is available now, a most user-friendly priced guide to over 500 products. Contact Sta-Brite on 0256 811811 for a copy.

◆ The new ICI Professional Products Amenity Guide has made an immediate impact on the industry, awarded 'Best Literature of the Show' at the '92 IoG show. Not content to rest on their laurels, ICI Professional Products are adding a further four pages (88 pages in total) to accommodate conversion tables and charts. In addition the guide has been designed to allow the printing of stand-alone sections featuring Turf Care, Fertilisers, Landscape Management, Grass Growth Control and Aquatics. These mini-guides were introduced for the first time at the BTME. Written, designed and produced to be user-friendly, the ICI Amenity Product guides are referred to on a regular basis by all those who have a responsibility for the management and maintenance of golf courses.

◆ SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd are now sole Scottish distributors for the full Lescro range. Demonstrations are now being arranged and all sales and service enquiries should be made to: SISIS in Scotland, Middlefield Ind. Est., Falkirk, FK29HG. Tel: 0324 29635.

◆ Inter Seeds Ltd is the first seed company to announce its successful assessment and registration to BS 5750 Part II as wholesalers and distributors of seeds, together with the blending and mixing thereof. It proves that the management team have developed a quality system which they successfully operate and gives their customers an assurance that Inter Seeds Ltd is a supplier which has opened its doors to the rigorous bi-annual assessment by NQA of that quality system which the Standard demands. The BSI Standard stipulates that all registered companies maintain a detailed manual of procedures for all aspects of customer contact and contract review; of goods handling and inspection and testing; of assessment of their own suppliers and for the handling of complaints.



◆ Greenlink Products, European distributor of the Blazon spray pattern indicator, announces the introduction of Blazon E-Zee Pak water soluble packets, the first liquid spray pattern indicator to be available in water soluble packaging.

Blazon E-Zee Pak represents a break-through by combining the superior solubility and non-staining of liquid Blazon with the convenience of water soluble pre-measured packaging, designed to improve the quality and safety of spraying and reduce the cost of pesticide and liquid fertiliser applications. Each packet will treat 100 litres or more of tank solution. Blazon is available in the UK from Farmura and their distributors. Details: Greenlink Products 0268 413798 or Farmura Ltd 023 376 241/581.

◆ Many golf courses now face the problem of compaction and the weight of all machinery has become an important factor when deciding what to purchase. The designers of Hayter's T93 Greensmower, launched at BTME, have taken this into account. This new machine weighs 90kg (200lbs) less than the previous T92 model. A 16hp water-cooled Kubota diesel engine provides power to all drives through a full hydraulic system that includes a closed circuit transmission unit with dynamic braking. The tilting steering column and fully adjustable seat gives all-round operator comfort and helps to reduce fatigue. Mowing units are available with either 7 or 9-bladed, 13cm reels. Height adjustment is from 4.8mm to 19mm and there is a choice of grooved or smooth rollers. The Greens Conditioner has a variable penetration setting down to a depth of 1.3cm below the lowest height of cut. Three vertical thatch removal units have an overall operational width of 1.5 metres. These can be set from 0.6cm above ground down to 1.5cm into the turf. One of the big attractions of Hayter's new T93 is its price. Complete with Greens Conditioner it costs nearly £2,000 less than its nearest rival. Details: 0279 723444.



◆ Ritefeed Ltd have hit upon a unique marketing idea, an extended credit deal that gives would-be purchasers a chance to sample their fertilisers for upwards of ten months before agreeing to the terms of their 'Free Year Deal'. You tell them how much you use in a year, they tell you how much it will cost and a deal is struck. You buy your fertiliser only from them for the following four years – however, one of these years costs absolutely nothing – the charge is waived. Details from John Walker on 0772 253521

◆ Buckinghamshire based machinery dealer Risboro' Turf have obtained registration to BS5750 part II, only the second to achieve this in the county. The registration is the culmination of 18 months hard work.

Risboro' Turf, top UK Jacobsen dealer in 1990, 1991 and 1992, are major suppliers of equipment to golf clubs in Bucks, Berks, Oxon, Herts and North London and are also main dealers for Hayter-Beaver, Iseki, Lamborghini, BLEC, Honda Gravely and Charterhouse. They have recently started to manufacture their own range of pedestrian and tractor SORREL rollers. Tel 0844 274127.

Achievements recognised

Whilst most of you were gritting your teeth and facing gales, blizzards, heavy rains and floods resulting from a series of meteorological depressions which raced in from the Atlantic, as the New Year unfolded, I joined the cream of Europe's turf managers heading for the sun and the Henry Cotton inspired Penina golf and hotels complex, set amongst subtropical gardens and orange groves which proliferate along Portugal's Algarve coastline.

The occasion? An opportunity to meet brothers-in-arms at the third, bi-annual PGA European Tour Greenkeeper's Conference.

Representing all the golfing venues which collectively forms the PGA European Tour tournament circuit, over 60 delegates – plus an international line-up of speakers – travelled from as far afield as Ireland, Scotland and England, most of mainland Europe, from Dubai and the United States in anticipation of the week to come...

We were not disappointed. Having been formally welcomed by Bruce Jamieson, Director of Agronomy, PGA European Tour, we set-



Toro-PGA European Tour Student award winners in Portugal: from left, Paul Brannan, Glasgow; John Waite, Leeds; David Norton, Belfry and Tony Gooch, Torrington, Devon

tled down to four days of evocative discussion and debate.

Keynote speaker, Dr James Beard, Director and Chief Scientist, International Sports Turf Institute, started the ball rolling with his absorbing paper entitled 'Construction and Maintenance of Creeping Bentgrass Putting Greens! This involved the quietly spoken Texan in leading a marathon, four-part discussion spread over the first two-days of the conference.

Hard pounding? Not a bit of it. Dr

Beard's relaxed delivery not only held his audience, it prompted spontaneous reaction from his listeners who included the redoubtable Walter Woods (St Andrews), George Brown (Turnberry), Derek Ganning (The Belfry), Chris Kennedy (Wentworth), Lawson Bingham (Sunningdale), Neil Whitaker (Woburn), Ken Barber (East Sussex National) and Ron Whitehead (La Moye).

Talking of the pressure put on greenkeepers whose courses staged tournament events, former Walker and Ryder cup golfer, Peter Townsend, now joint Managing Director, European Golf Design, criticised the practice of tricking-up greens to make them faster.

Citing the last Ryder Cup played on Kiawah Island as a case in point, Peter Townsend said "Tournament players are highly skilled – given good conditions they are capable of reducing any course to a round in the mid-sixties but sponsors and television might find that boring. Although I believe that it is desirable to 'tighten' championship courses for major tournaments, they should be fair."

Reviewing modern day golf course design considerations, Ross McMurray, European Golf Design, commented that it was becoming increasingly difficult to design good courses suitable for all types of golfers. "Today, we have to think about the big-hitter, the average player driving 200 yards and the beginner, only capable perhaps, of reaching 150 yards. It is hard to set-up a golf course which challenges all standards of abilities."

Striking a lighter note, Scotland's Man-of-Kent, George Brown, Golf Course & Estate Manager, Turnberry, regaled his audience with a humorous account of his annual battle to overcome coastal erosion, heavy rainfall and gale force, wind driven sand storms, which can quickly bury exposed greens – at the drop of the barometer.

Widening the topics under discus-

sion, Hermann Schulz, Head Greenkeeper, Gut Kaden Golf Club, Germany, spoke of the headaches he and his team faced in bringing his course up to PGA standards for the 1992 Honda Open.

Speaking in French – ably translated by Ian Dabson, (Monte Carlo Golf Club) – consultant Jean Pierre Leboucher reported details of a three-year study he had completed, assessing the effects of differing subsoils on root development – on golf courses and football pitches – in France.

Listing the wild-life which affected his course, Ken Glover, Superintendent, Lake Nona Golf Club, Florida, mentioned bald eagles, moles, armadillos and fire ants – oh yes, and alligators. 'If they (the alligators) get frisky I call in the local specialist – he nets them!'

Speaking about educational matters, Carol Borthwick, Elmwood College, Fife, outlined progressive developments "Which had allowed colleges in Scotland to respond to requests calling for HNC and HND training courses."

This had led to the formation of an HNC Greenkeeping Consortium – which works as a sub-committee of the Scottish Industrial Liaison Committee – chaired by BIGGA – and which included representatives from Langside, Oatridge, Dundee and Elmwood colleges plus the GTC.

Talking of BIGGA, I was pleased to meet four previous winners of the Aldwark Manor administered, Toro-PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper Awards, enjoying the five-star ambience of Penina – and taking opportunities to mix with their peers during the daily sessions and equally apres conference.

The four, headed by David Norton, now number one to Derek Ganning at The Belfry, comprised John Waite, Leeds, Tony Gooch, Torrington, (Devon) and the youngest of them all, Paul Brannan, Glasgow. When I spoke to Paul at the first conference coffee break, he was wide-eyed with apprehension, though some five days later I spotted Paul (and Tony) in deep, after dinner, conversation with a bevy of French greenkeepers. A week works wonders!

Back in the conference room the arrival of Ken Schofield, Executive Director, PGA European Tour, put the seal on the week when he told delegates, "The work you do is vital to the success of the European Tour events. All players acknowledge the big improvements you have made to tournament courses. It speaks volumes for the efforts you put in, we appreciate it."

■ The author, Cedric Johns, is editor of TORO's magazine 'Pipelines'.

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Your Open invitation

The 122nd Open Championship will be held at Royal St George's Golf Club, Sandwich, Kent from 15-18 July 1993.

The Association has again been asked to provide a Greenkeeping Support Team and those members wishing to be considered for this should forward their names and addresses to HQ as soon as possible.

The Royal St George's course manager, Mr Derek Scarborough, and his staff are looking forward to the support team's assistance. Preference will be given to those members who will be free for a period which begins Wednesday 14 July and finishes on Sunday 18 July. Priority will be given to those who have formed part of the support team in previous years.

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**LAST CHANCE TO
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National Education Conference

26-28 March 1993

University of Keele, Staffordshire

For the fifth consecutive year, BIGGA's National Education conference in the spring will feature a programme of international speakers.

The speakers and their topics are:

Professor Noel Jackson, The University of Rhode Island, USA: **Cool Season Turf Diseases in the USA and the UK**

Ian Tomlinson, Course Manager, Lausanne Golf Club: **The Problems Associated with Maintaining a Golf Course at 2,800ft Altitude in Switzerland**

Antony Mears, Course Manager, Dinsdale Spa Golf Club: **The Wild Side of Golf**

Dr Peter Hayes, Director, The Sports Turf Research Institute: **The Role of the Agronomist and Supporting Scientific Services**

Robert Brame, Agronomist, Mid-Atlantic Region, USGA Green Section: **Poa Annua: Wherever Did It Come From and How We Manage It**

Andy Cole, Advisory Agronomist, The Sports Turf

Research Institute: **Greenkeeping Qualifications - Are We On The Right Lines?**

Patrick Murphy, BIGGA Northern Section Secretary and Course Manager at Shipley Golf Club: **The Lifting, Excavating and Re-Building of a Golf Green with a Drainage Carpet Layer and Having it Back in Play in 17 Days**

Arthur King/Edward McCabe, Green Committee Chairman and Course Manager respectively, Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club:

Course Management - Communication with Members

Gary Grigg, Board of Directors, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America: **Current and Future Issues in Golf Course Management**

Severin Schmitz, Course Manager, Golf Club Schloss Myllendonk: **How a Personal Computer Can Aid a Course Manager**

Ian Thompson, Course Manager, Wetherby Golf Club: **Trees and Tree-Planting for Golf Courses**

Anthony Davies, Course Manager, Prestbury Golf Club: **Right or Wrong - I Did It My Way**

George Brown, Course Manager, Turnberry Golf Course: **Being Open-Minded**

Professor Noel Jackson, The University of Rhode Island, USA: **Patch Diseases in Cool Season Turf Grasses**

Gordon Child, BIGGA South West Regional Administrator and Course Manager at Churston Golf Club: **Greenkeeping - Past, Present and Future**

Iain Ritchie, Course Manager, Portmarnock Golf Club: **Three Years at Portmarnock**

Robert Brame, Agronomist, Mid-Atlantic Region, USGA Green Section: **The Ten Pitfalls of American Turfgrass Management**

Copies of the Programme and Application Form are available from BIGGA HQ, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF.

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Details from the Courses Adviser, Sparsholt College Hampshire,
Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF. Tel: 0962 776 441.



More speaker profiles from the glittering National Education Conference, to be held at Keele University, Staffordshire on 26-28 March. If you haven't already booked your place - DO IT NOW! Time's running out and if you're serious about your profession, you just can't miss this event. See the full line-up in the advertisement on Page 43 and call BIGGA HQ on 03473 581.



Patrick Murphy, the Scotsman with the essentially Irish name, cut his greenkeeping teeth at Broomiehall GC as a fifteen year old apprentice before moving into headship immediately after completing his indentured term. This was when he joined West Linton GC in Peeblesshire, where he stayed for about 18 months before being tempted across the border to join Shipley Golf Club.

The day is engraved on his memory, Friday the thirteenth of February 1970, though far from being a unlucky omen it has brought him good fortune over the years, and he has remained a loyal Shipley man for all of that time, a creditable achievement.

Listening to Patrick, you'll soon realise that his enthusiasm for Shipley knows no bounds, though his 23 years as head greenkeeper on the course have not been without their moments. For example, his first STRI report back in 1970 suggested that Shipley's greens, laid some fifty years earlier, had been neglected for far too long and were in need of major surgery, with conditions beneath the surface indicating that a long slog lay ahead. Along with the regular 'fixes' - moves such as deep aeration, verticutting, scarifying, hollow tining and mole ploughing - a decision was also made to lift, drain and re-build one green each year, starting with the worst and progressing onward as funds became available.

It is not recorded how the first re-build went, though one must assume it was hugely successful; for some fourteen greens have been recipient of Patrick's skills over the years. Now the fifteenth such green has been lifted, (actually the sixteenth hole) excavated, re-built and put back into play in seventeen days! How he does he do it? Come to Keele and find out!



Robert (Bob) Brame, has what many British greenkeeper's might regard as the perfect pedigree, for he began his career in 1970 as a humble ground crew member at a public golf facility, rising through agronomy farm assistant in 1971, assistant golf course superintendent in 1972, thence through a number of senior jobs as superintendent proper at such grand places as Guadalajara Country Club in Mexico (1972-74), Timber Trails Country Club, La Grange, Illinois (1974-78), Lafayette Country Club, Indiana (1978-80), and the famous Broadmoor Country Club in Indianapolis from 1980 through 1990 - an impressive and essentially practical record.

Bob took his Bachelor of Science degree in 1972, majoring in Agronomy at Purdue University, and he is now (since 1990) the Mid-Atlantic agronomist for the USGA Green Section, covering the states of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and (almost heaven) West Virginia. Bob's experience includes all the major turfgrasses grown in the USA as well as those predominant in the British Isles, and he has worked closely with Stanley Zontek, with whom many are acquainted following previous hugely

entertaining lecture presentations.

Bob's two presentations both have intriguing titles, beginning with 'Poa annua, wherever did it come from and how do we manage it'. He will conclude our glorious proceedings as the final presenter on Sunday 28 March with a presentation entitled 'The Ten Pitfalls of American Turfgrass Management'.



Andy Cole, a regional advisory agronomist with the STRI, is eminently suited to address the gathered throngs at Keele on the subject of 'Greenkeeping qualifications - are we on the right lines?', for he has practical experience of all sides of the education equation.

For a start, he's young enough to remember still his own stint on the learning curve, having qualified at Leeds University in 1986 with a B.Sc Honours degree in Agricultural Science, following this almost immediately by becoming an advisory agronomist with the STRI, hugely valuable experience.

Two years ago Andy took to the lecture platform full time, joining the staff at Warwickshire College in training would-be young greenkeepers toward C&G Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, whilst also lecturing to degree level those working toward a BA in Equine Studies (Turf Management). Though his year or so at Moreton Merrell was not without pleasure, Andy freely admits that the lure of advisory work was so great that he couldn't keep away and he is effectively the prodigal son returned (Aug 92), rejoining the STRI as probably one of the first to be appointed on a regional basis, covering a huge chunk of the country including Birmingham, Leicestershire, Hertfordshire, London and Kent.



Iain Ritchie has the eye of an artist, his canvas the 27 glorious holes of Portmarnock, Ireland's glorious jewel. Stemming from a love of the game, Iain began his career by working with those who construct golf courses - a classic education for any greenkeeper - before moving into the maintenance side, first at Dullatur and following this with a five year spell as head greenkeeper at Ladybank, another gem of a course.

Moving to Portmarnock Golf Club in 1990 as their course manager, Iain has seen a great deal of action in the past three years, including the staging of many major competitive events and in particular his own 'baptism by fire', the world's premier amateur championship battle, the Walker Cup. His 1990 pre Walker Cup overseeding programme was quite an event in itself, succeeding in obtaining a 90% strike rate with some three tons of fescue/bent mixture applied through a Moore Uni-Drill.

The subject of a profile report in Greenkeeper International December 1992, Iain will elaborate on his championship maintenance programme, including those experiences briefly touched upon in the magazine, his

aptly titled address being 'Three years at Portmarnock'.



George Brown, a Kent man by birth, has been around golf since the age of thirteen, having caddied over the Royal Cinque Ports, Royal St George's and Princes courses from that tender age.

George left school at 15 and joined the green staff at the 27 hole Princes course, Sandwich, remaining there for nine years before marrying, moving to Alton in Hampshire and taking up a position as pro-greenkeeper.

Three years later he left Alton to work for a wealthy family in Kent, looking after their small estate, following this in the early seventies with a return to Princes, this time fulfilling a childhood dream by returning as head greenkeeper at his old course.

In 1979 he accepted an offer to move to Broome Park G&CC, near Canterbury, to supervise the construction of the new golf course and other sporting facilities. Once established, he took on the role of manager and director of golf, staying until 1986 when a further opportunity arose, for him to become golf courses and estate manager at Turnberry and to supervise the preparation of Turnberry for the 1986 Open Championship, scene of Greg Norman's greatest triumph.

George, whose talk is titled 'Being Open-minded', is a former County Cap and Kent Open Champion, as well as being a former chairman of the Ayrshire section of BIGGA.



Gordon Child, who is regional administrator for the South West and the course manager at Churston Golf Club in Devon, will forgive me if I tell those very few readers who do not know him personally - he is of sufficient maturity to be able to carry off the subject of his choosing, 'Greenkeeping, - Past, Present and Future', almost by remote control!

Yes, Gordon has been supremely active in the profession of greenkeeping for what seems like an eternity, founding his sporting connections as a professional cricketer for Yorkshire before moving into a career that has become his life, his joy and his obsession.

He is the power-house behind Westurf, the regional exhibition that has gained a national reputation, and he is father figure to just about every greenkeeper in the West Country, proof positive that a man obsessed can take others of like mind along with him, witness the success of the SW region and their unswerving loyalty to their mentor.

Furthermore, there is none more active in the furtherance of greenkeeper education than 'our Gordon', and I am giving away no secrets when I tell you that his talk will be not only an educational trip down memory lane, but I suspect it will be peppered also with more than a liberal scattering of 'reet grand Yorkshire humour' - don't miss it!

◆ Contact BIGGA HQ for booking details.

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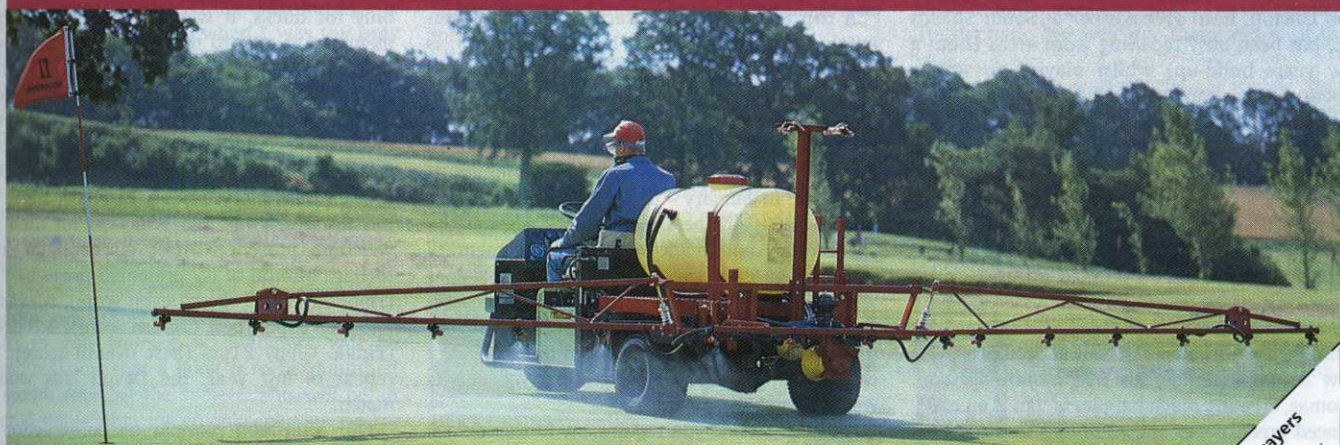
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AD REF 25

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Will reporters please note that *Around The Green* copy for May must reach the editor before April 1st.

LONDON

Our condolences to the family of David Phillips, owner of Aldenham Golf Club, who passed away last year. David's help with section seminars and events was always appreciated and he will be sadly missed.

On a happier note, congratulations to Andrew Phillips on his new appointment as head greenkeeper of Glynhir Golf Club, Dyfed. As you all know, Andrew served on the London committee for many years and we thank him for all his efforts. His successor at Hadley Wood GC. is Craig Handyside and we wish him good luck for the future.

Our 1993 section qualifying event for the Hayter Challenge Tournament will be held on Tuesday 20 April at Highgate GC. The 18-hole competition will be held in the afternoon (followed by high tea) at a cost to be advised. Entries will be accepted by 'phone.

An Emergency First Aid course will be organised for April and anyone interested should contact me. It will be a four hour session and will certainly be important for your work environment.



Finally, any news, ideas or tournament entries can be directed to me by telephoning 081 959 5629 - during the evening.

TONY DUNSTAN

CLEVELAND

Bob Lawton, head greenkeeper at South Shields GC, has been busy repairing worn areas (from a few years build-up) whilst playing to winter greens. He has modernised his irrigation system with a new Toro 3000. His past qualification is City & Guilds Phase II (with distinction) and he is currently studying the Phase III Supervisory course.

Bedale GC have acquired the services of Simon Lawn, who has completed a three year college course as well as having worked in America. He is proving to be a most useful asset to Gary Munro's team.

Ian Pemberton, first assistant at Saltburn GC is now a happy father, his five month old son, Thomas, creating much happiness. Ian is an experienced greenkeeper and continues to further his career (after many years at Middlesbrough) by currently studying City & Guilds Phase III.

David Malcolm, who was first assistant at Brass Castle, has moved to Germany and has been working since October at a course just a half hour by road from Frankfurt. The course, not yet complete, is built on a clay soil, has greens built to USGA specs and seeded with a fescue/bent mix.



Notes for your diary: The section will be visiting GEM Products, Accrington, Lancashire on 18 March, whilst our spring tournament is arranged for 20 April at Bedale GC - tee off 1.30 pm.

BRUCE BURNELL

MID ANGLIA

Our first winter lecture was held on 5 January at Beadlow Manor GC, when Duncan McGilvray (course manager at Letchworth GC) gave a presentation on "The Duties of the Golf Course Manager". Duncan's talk, which clearly laid out the goals a course manager should be aiming for, was well received by the 25 members who attended, producing some lively questions and debate. Many thanks to Beadlow for again providing such excellent facilities.

On 26 January at Oaklands College Richard Knifton of Fabrications and Mowers gave a presentation on the Jacobsen MkIV Greens King. Sixteen members attended and some very useful information on maintenance and operation was supplied. Thanks to Richard for his time and excellent presentation, also to Chris Bishop of Oaklands College for allowing us to stage the workshop there.

By the time you read this you should have received entry forms for the spring, summer and autumn golf competitions. Due to the healthy financial situation of the section, the committee has decided to keep the cost of golf at the same rate as last year: £17. The Spring Tournament will be held at Mid Herts GC on Thursday 22 April and will be a 36 hole event as opposed to the 27 holes played last year (subject to confirmation). The closing date for entries is Monday 5 April. Anyone wishing to enter must send the appropriate form - with payment - to the competition secretary: Chris Brook, 15 Gibson Close, Hitchin, Herts. by the date stated. Telephone entries are not acceptable.

A trip to the Jacobsen factory (not, unfortunately, in Wisconsin USA, but in Kettering), is organised for 23 March. If you would like to attend, please call Gerald Bruce (secretary) on 0442 865832.

It was heartening to see so many section members at the BTME workshops and seminars at Harrogate in January - undoubtedly another success for BIGGA. The Duke of York opened the proceedings and made a most complimentary speech regarding the role of the greenkeeper within the great game of golf, and of the recognition that is now more frequently given to our contribution. If you have not yet been to Harrogate I would strongly urge you to go next year - it is well worthwhile.



Should you require any further details regarding any of the section events, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0582 490746 (work) or 0525 402550 (home).

PAUL LOCKETT

AYRSHIRE

A games night was held at West Kilbride GC recently, the winners being: Darts - Derek Wilson (Bogside), Dominoes - Gary Crosbie (Dumfries & County), Putting - Jim Paton (West Kilbride), Bowls - Lee Shannon (Bogside).

The spring outing has been arranged for Southerness GC on Tuesday 20 April, with transport by

bus to be arranged. Full details will be with members very soon, so let's see a big attendance at this excellent course. The section will run a monthly draw to help with the day to day running of our affairs, so please do your best to respond when details are sent out. The first draw will be at Southerness.

We are running a summer four-ball competition this year as the normal winter competition has not been successful, largely due to the miserable weather conditions. The event will be home and away, so let's have a go at involving more greenkeepers in the section and in getting everyone to mix.

Our new committee has been elected, so to assist those who have news, views or ideas to pass on, here are the names: Derek Wilson (Bogside) chairman, Ian McNab (Dumfries & County) vice chairman, Jim Paton (West Kilbride) secretary. The committee - Bob McKay (Prestwick St Nicholas), Neil Turner (Ardeer), Steven Kraggs (Dumfries & County), Robert Bruce (Trade), George Brown (Turnberry), Harry Diamond (Kyle and Carrick), and Duncan Gray (Prestwick).



To conclude, our congratulations to Andrew Kerr (Prestwick St Nicholas) on his recent marriage to Liz. May all their troubles be little ones!

DUNCAN GRAY

DEVON & CORNWALL

Our first meeting of 1993, held once again at the superb venue of Fingle Glen on 13 January, was our section seminar. With weather conditions fit only for ducks, it was left to our more hardy members to take to their flippers to play 'water' golf for the nine hole ICI Devon v Cornwall match. As usual the trade supported us by taking eight stands in the reception area, and these proved especially successful in view of the awful weather outside. Our thanks to Avoncrop, Devon Garden Machinery, Fisons, PJ Flegg, Rigby Taylor, Roffeys, Vitax and Willcocks for their most welcome presence. After an excellent lunch, Richard Minton of ICI presented prizes to T Pipe (Honiton) 17pts (best Devon score), S Evans (St Enodoc) 13pts (best Cornish score), B Ridgeway (Fingle Glen) 21pts (best overall score). As a repeat of last year, the Devon lads won the match.

Our afternoon seminar on construction and education was held in the ICI sponsored conference room, with Nick Rigden, head of horticulture at Cannington College, presenting a paper on the new National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) and the partnership it has with the training manual (a document which every club should have for the future training of their greenkeepers).

Our second speaker, Jim Arthur, presented a paper on "Construction and the Analysis Fallacy", as usual keeping his audience riveted to their seats. A question time rounded off a highly entertaining and interesting programme. Our thanks to Nick Rigden and Jim Arthur for presenting excel-

lent papers, and to course manager Bill Pile and all the staff at Fingle Glen who made our day so successful. Our gratitude also to Martin Breeding, M.D. at Fingle Glen, for again allowing our section the use of Fingle Glen's facilities, and to Richard Minton (ICI) and all our trade sponsors.

Your help is needed to promote the 1993 WESTURF Trade Show, to be held on Wednesday 28 April at Long Ashton GC, Bristol. Many of you must know groundsmen & committee members at your local sports club, so why not invite them



RICHARD WHYMAN

to the show. Be assured that everyone involved in the turf care industry will be most welcome. We also need your support at Westurf, so I look forward to meeting you all on the new BIGGA stand.

NORTH EAST

Section events for the coming months are as follows: March – A visit to Abcon North East Ltd (Top Dress Supplies), Blaydon. April – Breaking with tradition, we are opting for an inland course rather than one on the coastline, and on 22 April will for the first time play our Spring Tournament at Ryton GC. July – Annual match against club secretaries, date to be advised.



JIMMY RICHARDSON

September – Autumn Competition, 16 Sept at South Moor GC. October – Annual matches, a) versus East Lothian, b) versus Cleveland.

NORTH SCOTLAND

The latest of our members to be married is George Paterson of Fortrose. We wish him and his intended all the best. It's nice to see that his assistant, Stuart, has settled in well since his move from West Kilbride and I hope he has by now found suitable housing for himself and his family.

Another BTME has come and gone, getting better every year. I missed attending last year so saw a big difference since 1991. It will be difficult to improve next year but I'm sure the powers that be will manage it. It was great to renew old acquaintances and forge new friendships. I sometimes wonder if we don't learn more when chatting over a pint in the evening than during the day? Unlike my last visit, when I was the only North member present, this time there were many fellow members amongst the large Scottish contingent. Let's hope this month's National Conference is as successful.

By now, the first of our spraying courses should have taken place, with the initial eight members having been put through their paces and (hopefully) succeeded in gaining their certificates. Should anyone else be interested in going on such a course please contact me. I have had a few enquiries concerning COSHH regulations with regard to golf courses, so members will be pleased to know that a book is to be published this month covering the subject. This will be an essential publication for greenkeepers as we try to keep abreast of new rules and regulations.

The section library is up and running now and members who wish to borrow a book should phone me on 0862 894402, or Gordon Moir on 0334 74021.

No new memberships have been received this month, so how about a little recruitment drive? Are there any greenkeepers on your staff or at a club nearby that are not members? If so, tell them of the BIGGA benefits and persuade them to join. I have membership details and spare magazines that I can send out if you contact me.

As spring approaches, hopefully bringing with it early growth and warm weather, I trust the

AROUND THE GREEN



winter has not been too harsh on your course and that once your top-dressing programme begins, the greens will settle and keep your members happy – if that's possible. We have had our first bad winter for a while, so let's hope it will be followed by a good long summer.

Finally, following a request at the AGM for a dinner dance, the section committee have decided that if sufficient interest is shown, we will stage one in Aberdeen in April. Interested? – please call Sam Morrison on 0224 705083.



IAIN MACLEOD

NORTH WEST

The section's third winter lecture on Wednesday 20 January clashed with the BTME at Harrogate, yet we still had a reasonable turn-out. Pat Murphy, the Northern section secretary, gave us a most interesting talk and slide show based on his experiences when reconstructing a green and having it back in play in seventeen days. The talk was very well presented and judging by the questions fired at Pat, I feel sure that the audience felt more confident to attempt such a task after listening to him. On behalf of the NW section I would like to thank Pat for sharing his time and experience with us.

By now you should have received your fixture list of events for the summer months. Also included is an information letter regarding entry forms and deposit information for golf events. I am afraid that we have had to take these measures simply because, when catering arrangements are made in advance, all meals must be paid for. Unfortunately, the section funds have had to be utilised to pay for late cancellation far too often.

A new competition has been launched, a four-ball better-ball knockout to be played for over the season. Each round will be over 18 holes, the event culminating in a 36 hole final. The rules: There will be closing dates for each round, and to ensure that each team plays at least two rounds, first time losers will go into a separate competition. Entry forms (or queries) to Paul Pearse, 1



BERT CROSS

Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SH12 1HX.

Finally, I would like to welcome all new members to the NW section, and if anyone has any queries at all, please contact me on 051 724 5412.

SOUTH WEST

Apologies for missing the last edition – pressures of work and all that. 'Christmas at Chipping Sodbury' – doesn't have much of a ring, does it? However, our last event of 1992 was a roaring success when 63 members and trade turned up for a day upon which the sun shone, the course shone, and the meal outshone everything. Roffey Brothers of Bournemouth were our new sponsors, bringing with them a new product for our approval – 'sunshine in 25 litre drums'. Just apply to the course and play – simple. Our sincere thanks to Chipping Sodbury for allowing us to play, for being a clay-

based course it had suffered more than most during the unkind autumn & winter floods. The course had literally re-opened the day before our visit, this after several weeks of flooding, and it wasn't long before the rains returned causing it to close again. Talk about the Devil looking after his own!

Peter Cox struck the opening tee shot of the day, his caddy handing him his trusty driver before retiring to a safe distance directly to the right of the tee. Seconds later he was diving for cover as Peter's ball flew off the nose of the club and thudded into the trees directly behind. Peter stood, red-faced, before declaring loudly that he didn't want the caddy to have to walk too far to find the ball. Some shot!

The new foursomes format proved to be an interesting change to the usual singles, the full result being: 1st – P Godwin & R Gates. 39 pts. 2nd – N Wilson & P Cox. 38 pts. 3rd – M Gray & S Frankom 37 pts. 4th – P Worster & P Hampton 36 pts. (Also on 36 points were J Kane & S Shipley, J York & N Turner. Two's were scored by Messrs Kane, Shipley, Pople and Stephens.

Major sponsors for the day were Roffey Bros., also Messrs Avoncrop, ICI, County Mowers, Vitax, BS Mowers, Sierra, Sisis, TH White, West Country Groundcare & Rigby Taylor.

Thanks also to Clive Richards and his staff for preparing the course against all the odds. Congratulations are due to Clive on securing the position of head greenkeeper and our best wishes go to him.

The educational season is coming to a close with our second batch of twelve passing the FEPA modules 1 & 2. Some twenty section members have also passed our Emergency First Aid Course and, after a slightly slow start, twelve have gone through our Chainsaw Training Course. Fourteen clubs have also had COSHH assessments prepared by our resident expert, and it should be noted that this service is on-going and can be arranged by just a telephone call to me. Please indicate any other subjects for inclusion in next winters' programme.

The golf season is just around the corner, starting on 21 April at Henbury with the Spring Tournament and Regional qualifier. This used to be the Iseki Tournament, but is now sponsored by Hayters under the new title – Hayter Challenge Tournament. We welcome them and wish them well.

There is also a slight change to our annual Summer Tournament, this year played at Enmore Park GC on 6 July. Tee-off times will run from 11.30-12.45 am, and the evening meal and prize-giving will be at 5pm.

Finally, Westurf. If you manage turf, you can manage Westurf. So 28 April at Long Ashton is when we will need some help on the gate. Also before, during, and after the event. If you can help, please get in touch, we need you. We also need you pouring through the gate in great numbers. Be there!

PAUL WORSTER

EAST SCOTLAND

In various reports during 1992 it was my sad duty to inform members of several bereavements. I begin 1993 the same way. It is with regret that I must report the death of Grace Bullock, beloved wife of Seahouses GC head greenkeeper, Ralph Bullock, who passed away just before Christmas. Our deepest sympathy go to Ralph and his family at this very sad time.

We will be seeing Ralph shortly when we visit Seahouses for our Annual Spring Tournament on 6 April. Forms are already distributed and members should note that entry forms must

47 ➤ be returned by the date stated.

This looks like being another very busy year. I attended the BTME at Harrogate – and what a week that turned out to be. This year was the first time I had attended, but never have I been to such a well organized event. The education seminars and speakers were first class and the machinery displays were second to none. Neil Thomas and his staff must be congratulated for a job well done. For those members who often complain by saying 'what is BIGGA doing for me,' – take my tip and attend some of these events. I am sure your eyes will be opened.

To the many well behaved lads from Scotland who attended, I will also say 'well done'. But please, don't keep me up so late next year – I usually rise at 5am, not the other way round!

You will be pleased to know that the full 1993 programme is now prepared and will be out shortly. Indeed, the committee is so far advanced that even the winter lectures are organized.

The committee selected to organize the British Tournament at Dunbar from 2-4 August will be meeting shortly to finalise details. We are hoping for a large turn-out from the East, so as soon as the entry forms are out – return them! Especially if you don't want to miss out on the highlight of the year.



Finally, a question – is your subscription paid? If it isn't, pay it now. Last year our membership figures were the highest ever so let's all make an effort to increase these once again.

WILLIE BLAIR

NORTH

I am pleased to inform you that 30 members from our section attended the extended Emergency First Aid course and now hold certificates of qualification. Yes, there were a few light-hearted moments with Lucy, the female dummy, – I shall say no more! On a serious note, may I thank Kenneth Bick and Dick Burley who represented Medical Training Services on this excellent instructional course. Just to remind those who attended, three Master Greenkeeper credits are awarded. Once again I must apologise to those who wanted to attend but were turned down – quite simply, the course was full. As I have said before, get your names down early to avoid disappointment.

Our winter lecture series comes to an end on Wednesday 17 March at Cleckheaton GC, when Lloyds hold their workshop. The time to arrive is 1.30 pm. Perhaps you might call me if you plan on coming. The reason? to get an idea of numbers attending. My number is 0274 568128.

All the golfing venues are now in place and by the time you read this you should have received your mail-shot with the details, as follows: Spring Tournament, Wednesday 21 April – Sandmoor GC. Presidents Day, Thursday 10 June – South

AROUND THE GREEN



Leeds GC. Roses Match, Tuesday 3 August – Fulford GC. Invitation Day, Tuesday 17 August – Pannal GC. Autumn Tournament, Wednesday 6



October – Kirkbymoorside GC. The Christmas golf has yet to be arranged. On a final note, may I thank all section members who helped to make BTME a huge success.
PAT MURPHY

EAST MIDLANDS

I am devoting most of this month's section report to relate a harrowing experience suffered by Gordon Mitchell and his staff at Leek Golf Club, following a break-in. On 6 January, Gordon reported to work to find his sheds had been broken into overnight. A considerable mess was in evidence, with fire extinguishers having been discharged inside the building and equipment vandalised. After calling the police, Gordon and staff began taking inventory inside the shed to determine if anything was missing. Some time later, one of the staff complained of feeling ill.

Shortly afterwards, continuing with the inventory, Gordon noticed that his poisons cabinet, located inside the shed, had been broken into. A number of Phostoxin containers had been opened and some of the contents had been strewn on the floor and were giving off toxic gas. An ambulance was called immediately and Gordon and staff were rushed to hospital where they spent the night in intensive care. Through having the Product Safety Data Sheet available from Gordon's files, doctors were able to make a quick diagnosis and administer correct treatment. Having contacted Gordon some three weeks after the event, I am happy to report that both he and his staff are OK, although all of them have had to take time off work and are still suffering after-effects.

This incident not only emphasizes the value of following the correct procedures in the handling and storage of chemicals, but highlights that even when taking all reasonable precautions, as Gordon had, a risk element is never completely eliminated. Any member arriving at work to find a similar scenario will be well advised to learn from Gordon's experience and to don protective clothing before entering a chemical storage area that may have been violated, or if in doubt to call the fire brigade, who have breathing apparatus.

I think this is also a good time to mention again the importance of first-aid training for greenkeeping staff. A knowledge of basic procedures or, even better, the presence of a qualified first-aider, may one day make all the difference. Short courses are available and organisations like the St. Johns Ambulance will arrange training on site for golf clubs if there are sufficient numbers. Paddy McCarron at the Leicestershire and Glen Miller at Ullesthorpe have both recently completed such training, and I believe it is something we should all consider. I can supply details to any interested parties.

Now, to the rest of the section business. I am pleased to offer congratulations to Chris Lewis on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Market Harborough GC., and to welcome the following new members to the section – Paul Brazier, currently studying at Cannington College, and Mark Caldwell, recently of Torksey GC., Lincs. I hope to see you all shortly at the Spring Tournament – if I ever finalise the arrangements. Finally, please note that my secretarial 'hot' line is 0509 650140.



TONY HOWARTH

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Unfortunately, this month's report begins with some disappointing news regarding the 1993 Spring Tournament. Due to circumstances beyond our control, Gleneagles Hotel have had to cancel our booking for 6 April, though we are hopeful that another date may be arranged for next year.

On a brighter note, Falkirk Tryst GC have granted us courtesy of their course on Wed 28 April, start 9.30 am. My sincere thanks to club secretary Don Wallace for his help and for accepting us at such short notice.

Due to this change of venue, both 1993 tournaments are scheduled to take place in virtually the same area of the section, Falkirk Tryst in April and Glenbervie in October. Hopefully, this will not effect attendances and we can revert to our system of moving around the section in 1994. I did approach Downfield GC in Dundee, but they were unable to accommodate us.

Having spent a grand week at BTME in January it was heartening to see so many Scottish members in attendance, especially a healthy contingent from Central Scotland section. From what I can gather, our members had such a good time that plans are already afoot for a return in 1994, though there is a strong rumour that alternative transport arrangements are being made – I wonder why?

As we approach the start of another golfing season, with a little luck it may herald drier conditions than over the past months.

What was one of the wettest winters for many a year may soon be just another statis- ➤ 58



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Lucky winner of the February competition was eagle-eyed **MALCOLM BOSLEY**, first assistant greenkeeper at **St Endoc Golf Club in Cornwall**. Malcolm scoops the £50 prize with our congratulations. **Be like Malcolm - keep a sharp look out for the three symbols and YOU could be a winner!**



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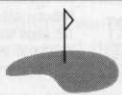
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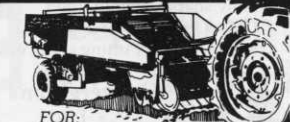
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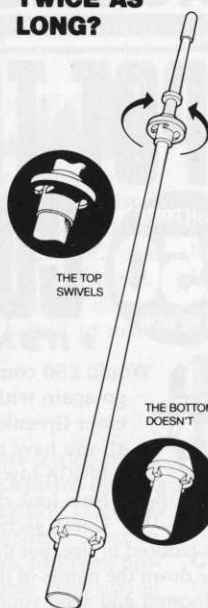


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