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EARLIER THIS YEAR, flushed with the success of the best-ever BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, we said that the 1994 event would be the show "where all the pieces fit together". Today, with the clock fast ticking towards January, the big picture is almost complete.

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The 1994 event is already 33% bigger than the record-breaking 1993 show, and with just over two months to go, the halls in Harrogate are just about full. Based on the average stand size already booked and paid for, there's only enough room left for 14 more companies. It's a terrific achievement for a show now reckoned to be the premier event for the fine turf industries. What it means for those companies who still haven't decided whether to attend or not, the message is clear: book *now*, or you'll miss it.

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In January this year, the Duke of York opened the 1993 event, one of the highlights of the Association's achievements so far.

For 1994, BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw and the current Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Griffiths, will open the proceedings and present industry and education awards.

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**NOVEMBER 1993**



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Golf Greenkeepers Association

# GREENKEEPER

International

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### 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 0347 838581.

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on 0347 838581.



# Faces and places

■ BIGGA wishes to advise readers that after three years as editor of "Greenkeeper International" magazine, David White has informed the Association of his decision to resign as editor following publication of the forthcoming December issue.

Commented Executive Director, Neil Thomas, "David White has made a valued contribution to the successful establishment of 'Greenkeeper International' over the last three years with the quality of his writing and editing. We thank him for his services and wish him well for the future."



Commenting on BIGGA's plans to replace David White as editor, Neil Thomas confirmed that the wheels are already in motion to appoint a new editor and an announcement will be made as soon as possible. In the interim period the Association's design and production editor, Tim Moat, pictured left, who is a senior journalist and has edited magazines in the past, will assume responsibilities as acting editor.



■ Allen Power Equipment Ltd have announced the appointment of Ken Welch, pictured left, as their south west area manager, covering an area from Birmingham in the north and extending to West Sussex westwards, including Devon and Cornwall.

■ The sixth National Turfgrass Council



Award for an outstanding contribution to the turfgrass industry has been made by NTC chairman, Jon Bauer, to Dr Tom Kavanagh. Tom spent 25 years at the Kinsealy Research Centre near Dublin, as Head of the Plant Pathology Department in the

Horticultural Division and then, as his interest in turfgrass diseases and research developed, he established a new Turfgrass Unit at Kinsealy. Since his early retirement in 1988 he has continued as an independent turfgrass consultant, adviser and lecturer. Tom is pictured above receiving his award from Jon Bauer, left.

■ BIGGA is proud to herald a new national golfing champion in Dominic Smith, assistant greenkeeper at Ruislip Golf Club in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Dominic broke the course record at Stockwood Park Golf Club, Luton, on his way to winning the National Association of Public Golf Courses championship in September, scoring a record-breaking 67 and adding a second round 75 to win the championship by two strokes from Birmingham's Steve Green, last year's winner.

■ British Seed Houses has announced the appointment of Bob Scott to its sales team. Bob will be responsible for amenity seed sales and technical advice in the South West, South Wales and the Midlands, working from Bicester.

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# Faces and places



■ Elmwood College Golf Team have won the Fife College's Golf Tournament for the second year in a row. The competition was held at Glenrothes.

As Elmwood expands its greenkeeping section with resources by way of three staff in the last six months, competition to play in the first team is getting tougher. This year's winning team are, from left, Dave Hulbert, lecturer, Duncan Moncur, lecturer, Carol Borthwick, head of section - greenkeeping, and John Robertson, director of administration.

Three of the greenkeeping section's lecturers recently joined BIGGA on an outing to Carnoustie Links with lecturers from other colleges in Scotland also in attendance. This highly successful day will, it is hoped, become an annual event.



■ After just two years in the marketing director's seat, Michel Mulder, the hugely likeable Dutchman who is the powerhouse behind Barenbrug UK Ltd, has been rewarded by being given ultimate control, this time as the company's new managing director. Michel has been with Barenbrug for over ten years in Holland and the UK, receiving rapid promotion through sales and marketing positions in both agricultural and amenity grass markets. Dr David Thompson will continue as sales director with special responsibility for the agricultural sector. Michel is pictured above left, with David.



■ Professor Hank Wilkinson, an engaging fellow whose face is already becoming familiar in Britain, has been appointed consultant turf-grass pathologist to Rolawn Ltd of York. Having met Hank, editor White can vouch he is no 'dry' academic, rather an engaging and highly effective speaker who brings his subject to life. Nevertheless, eyebrows were raised at the appointment of an American. Quizzing Rolawn's Terry Ryan, he confirmed that Hank's appointment will give Rolawn an international perspective, whilst avoiding any suggestion of being seen in the clutches of one or other opposing consultant agronomy camp. In addition, Terry explained that Hank's home locale, the US mid-west, enjoys a climate not dissimilar to that of Britain.

■ "Weed Control after Atrazine", is the title of an autumn workshop being staged by Rhone-Poulenc from November onwards throughout the country.

Each workshop will cover three topics: Product selection, how the forthcoming label changes should be interpreted; Cooper Pegler will outline and demonstrate the latest in application technology; and finally ADAS, under a discus-

sion format, will outline the options that are available in contract specification and monitoring their implementation. Call Christine Mitchell on 0277 301118 for dates and venues.



■ David Herbert, with over 20 years experience in the design and supply of irrigation systems, has formed an irrigation consultancy service. He told Greenkeeper International that at one end of the scale he might simply look over a client's shoulder to offer guidance in selecting the most suitable tender. Alternatively he can provide full specification, liaison with authorities, project supervision and management, plus many other services.

"It can be very confusing and difficult to make a choice with so many suppliers offering different solutions," he said. "The BTLIA has helped to provide improved standards, particularly in the hydraulic design of systems, but one must keep an eye on the life expectancy of the materials being used and the standard of installation to be confident of a sound investment." Tel: 0460 72574.



■ It was good to see Jim Fry, president of the South Coast section, in the news recently, rubbing shoulders with none other than Hampshire and England cricketer, David Gower. Jim is the owner of Fry's Accident Repairs, one of Hampshire's largest independent vehicle repair centres, now proudly flying the cherished British Standards kite mark, signifying receipt of the BS 5750 certificate of accreditation.

We know greenkeepers are the safest of all road users, but should any of you guys down 'ampshire way have need of a dedicated crash repair service, no doubt Jim Fry will be happy to oblige - and you can natter away about Fusarium patch while the dents are being miraculously healed!

■ Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd has been high in the news, first by appointing Moray Tractors of Elgin and George Henderson of Edinburgh to join forces with Hamilton Bros of Glasgow to make a formidable trio of distributors covering the whole of Scotland. All three have worked together for years selling Kubota compact tractors, so Charterhouse tractor-mounted products will ideally complement them.



Geoffrey Burgess, left, is a new appointment to the Charterhouse board of directors, whilst David Jenkins, below, the man responsible for pioneering the establishment of Jacobsen, Ryan and Bunton products in the UK, and since 1982 the managing director of Charterhouse, has been elected president of the Agricultural Engineers Association, an industry with sales of over £2000 million a year and a justifiably proud export record.



■ Sparsholt College, Hampshire, having launched a three year National Diploma course in Golf Course and Sport-ground Management in 1990, have announced their award-winning students as David Mathie (Best Practical Student and winner of the BIGGA Southern Region Shield), and Jason Hampton (Top Student and winner of the Rufford Cup). David, aged 30, has secured a position as course manager at Swanmore in Hampshire, whilst 23 year old Jason, having gained work experience at Woodbury Park G&CC is currently 'in the market' for a greenkeeping position.



■ The life of a promising young greenkeeper came to an untimely end in October, when 25 year old Alan Morgan, assistant greenkeeper at Bruntisfield Links Golfing Society, Edinburgh, died suddenly of a reported heart attack. An Oatfield College graduate, Alan won the 'Most Improved Student' award of 1990, the 'Best Third Year Practical Student in Greenkeeping' 1991, and was runner-up in the prestigious TORO-PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year award for 1991. Our condolences are extended to his family and friends at this sad time.

■ A new nine hole extension to the existing course at Kilmarnock Barassie GC in Troon will suit members to a 'tee' when it becomes ready for play early in 1994. Work was recently completed, built on derelict land bordering Gables seashore and acquired through funding by Enterprise Ayrshire, the R & A, and club members. The new layout now offers the option of 27 holes for play. Committee members are currently considering the options available for the extension, however, it is expected that the course will maintain an 18 hole layout allowing nine holes to 'rest' for maintenance throughout the year.



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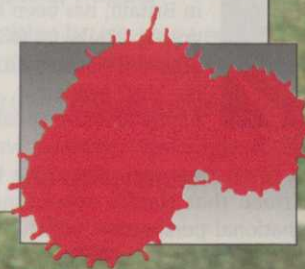
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# BIGGA just keeps on getting bigger

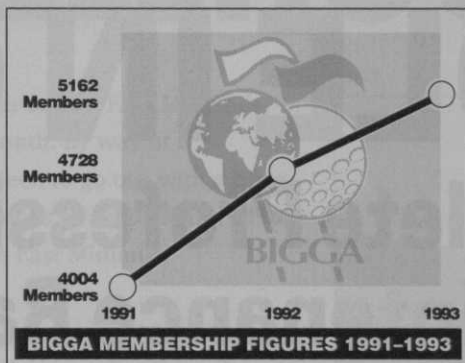
More and more greenkeepers are joining BIGGA – and the trend is being actively encouraged with the launch of the Association's biggest ever membership drive.

BIGGA membership grew by 18% during 1992 and increased by a further 9% in 1993, to stand at a record 5162 members.

"BIGGA just keeps on getting bigger," said the Association's sales and marketing manager, Bill Lynch. "Keep watching our development during 1994 because with the introduction of our biggest membership promotion to date, we'll be even BIGGA when '94 membership closes!"

Despite a growth of some 434 members in 1993, executive director Neil Thomas says there is no room for complacency: "I am delighted at our continued growth, however each year a substantial number of greenkeepers leave the industry and hence the Association. Happily each year this fall out of members is more than compensated for by our ability to enrol new members. Yet there remain many more greenkeepers to be attracted to the benefits of BIGGA and an ongoing membership drive is essential."

Golf clubs currently with no BIGGA mem-



bers in their greenkeeping staff are to be specifically targeted.

Plans for the 1994 membership drive are now in place and include the introduction of a "Refer two members" scheme. A section of each new membership application form will allow for entry of the name of a current member who is the source of referral to the Association. For every two new member referrals who subsequently become members, the nominating member will receive an entry into a prize draw. A prize of £600-worth of airline tickets

will be awarded when the draw takes place at BTME '95.

Commented Neil Thomas: "We hope that this scheme will provide an incentive for our current members to actively seek out potential new members. I suspect that almost every greenkeeper knows a fellow greenkeeper who does not belong to BIGGA and there can be no doubt that a concentrated effort by our members will result in a substantially enlarged membership."

Two recent cases highlight the merits of being a member of the Association:

- BIGGA's legal advisory service came to the aid of a member claiming unfair dismissal from his golf club. At an industrial tribunal, the Association's lawyers played their part in obtaining £15,000 compensation for the BIGGA member.
- The Association's insurers paid out £5,000 to the family of a BIGGA member, following his untimely death. A personal accident policy forms part of the membership package.

For details of the 1994 membership benefits, see Pages 23-29. A post-paid membership enquiry card is opposite Page 2.

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# TOURNAMENT TROUBLESHOOTER

Tony Howorth, section secretary and reporter for the East Midlands, retires from his BIGGA commitments this month. By way of a swan-song, which Tony describes as 'being seen to go out with a bang rather than a whimper,' he gives his impressions of a typical day of tournament golf with greenkeepers from the East Midlands

**E**arlier this year at the now annual gathering, section secretaries were each given a document prepared by Elliott Small, outlining how to properly run a golf tournament. What follows is probably an outstanding example of how *not* to!

One of the points Elliott makes is to have an early cut-off date for entries – preferably 14 days before the event. Our autumn tournament this year took place on 21st September. As of 14th September I had 14 entrants; the final number attending on the day was 53. Mind you, I have only myself to blame for this – for due to a word-processing error we nearly became the first section to hold its autumn tournament on 20th April! Suffice to say that the week before a competition can be fairly hectic, usually to the point where my wife threatens to leave me 'if that damned 'phone rings once more!'

So, to the big day. Being a believer in not doing today what can be put off until tomorrow, the day begins for me at 5.30 am when I write up the starting times and the list of those who have still to pay. This completed, it's into town for an early shopping trip. I would give more than a penny for the thoughts of the supermarket check-out girl, whose first customer of the day arrives with a basket full of booze and biscuits. 'They're raffle prizes', I tell her, and get a 'likely story' look in return.

Shopping completed, having also obtained petty cash, photocopies and raffle tickets and spent 20 minutes polishing the tournament trophy, I'm ready to depart for Ruddington Grange. This is a critical time, trying to ensure that you have everything you might need with you. It's surprising what members will arrive without – at the East v West Midlands match last year I spent half the day holding my trousers up, whilst *my* belt ensured that Jamie Bedford didn't lose *his* trousers on the first tee. I try to arrive on site a couple of hours before the first tee-time, but I'm seldom the first, usually being beaten by trade members in early attendance for the expense-account bacon sandwich.

As I pull into the drive, the course looks a Belfry-esque picture – I often think that efforts made for Captain's Day pale into insignificance compared with what's done for visiting greenkeepers. Having made a 'getting to know you' tour of the relevant club personnel, run up the BIGGA flag and collected the score-cards, I can

then sit back and let it all happen – for about two minutes!

Our section has been blessed with many new members over the past two years, and it is always pleasing to see new faces at our tournaments. It still makes me cringe a bit, though, to have to walk up to someone and ask 'good morning, who are you?' – especially when the guy turns out to be a member of some 15 years standing who I've not met before.

Everything proceeds smoothly. First tee-time is 12.30, and the official starters arrive promptly at 12.28 (Mark and Walt, you did a grand job really). One of the highlights of my day is watching the looks of trepidation on the faces of the occasional golfers at the first tee, willing their first drive to be a good one. I note with satisfaction that the out-of-bounds on the first hole is on the left – leaving no need to send out spotters for Baz Gostinshie's terrible slice. I am also rewarded by seeing the shortest drive of the day – a classic pitching-wood shot which lands a yard in front of the tee.

With all the players away, everything is calm until disaster strikes Maurice Emery on the tenth – he leaves his pipe on the tee and has two card-ruining holes before I return it to him on the twelfth. Wives go shopping or read books, while I devote my attention to the prize tables. Thanks to the generosity of the trade, I swear we end up with more bottles to give away than there are behind the bar.

As the protagonists return, expressions tell it all – from the plainly disgusted to the quietly confident. As the results become clear it's time to check the prizes again, to ensure that cordless shavers are not presented to gentlemen with beards, and large shirts are not given to small members. This having been attended to, speeches written and raffle tickets sold, it's on to the meal.

Section meals tend to be lively affairs, due largely to the activities of Dave Leatherland, who manages to produce an array of props – from whistles to rubber gloves – which invari-



They're off, in an autumn golf tournament which almost took place in April

ably leave those in his near vicinity helpless with laughter. With the section's good name in mind however, and having seen previous performances, I have to insist to the waitresses that under no circumstances is Dave to be given an orange!

As it transpires, it is Trevor Bennett, our sponsor for the day, who provides the entertainment with a 'hot and bothered' routine which delays the main course for at least ten minutes. With the meal completed the vice-chairman speaks, the prizes are presented, and the day is concluded with the drawing of the raffle. It has become a tradition that this is done by Gordon Mitchell, whose Scottish brogue and ready wit make the raffle an event in itself, especially if the dreaded number 'tue tue tue' happens to be drawn.

Of those present, I would especially like to welcome new member Ian Meakin to our section, and to congratulate Anthony Foulds on being amongst the prizes on his first attempt. Further, it would be remiss of me not to thank Dave Johnson and all the staff at Ruddington for a most enjoyable day.

TOURNAMENT ROLL OF HONOUR. *Class One* (0-9) 1st R. Peck. 2nd G. Mitchell. 3rd R. Barker. *Class Two* (10-18) 1st P. Billings. 2nd A. Foulds. 3rd J. Dickinson. *Class Three* (19-28) 1st G. Arnold. 2nd I. Dunmore. 3rd M. Bindley. Trade prize – Mike Franklin. Low gross – Richard Barker. Best nett and overall winner – Graham Arnold.





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