

The need for tree and woodland maintenance on your golf course, by Hens Hinloopen

TREES are jolly good fellows

It has always been my belief that trees and woodlands on golf courses add greatly to their value and character. Equally, they now require more care and attention than may have been given in the past and it seems that many people who work in the maintenance and construction of golf courses agree. Trees and woodland, quite apart from having an intrinsic beauty, also have an important golfing function. However, due to a lack of time and resources, they have often been neglected.

Golf has seen many changes since its invention. In the last few decades, with its massive increase in popularity and the desire for ever higher standards, the challenges for the greenkeeper have come thick and fast. Consequently, greenkeepers have been able only to tend to their trees spasmodically and then only in areas where the work is considered crucial. This often means that work is only carried out in areas where the trees interfere, or threaten to interfere, with the playing of golf. The opportunities to do even this sort of limited work are then further constrained by time and weather conditions. It is in this way that neglect builds up over many years.

THE EFFECTS OF TREE AND WOODLAND NEGLECT ON THE GOLF COURSE

When golf courses are built and trees are planted, they are often planted relatively close together. There are two reasons for this. Initially trees growing close together will grow taller as they compete for light. The top crown canopy then closes up, which denies the base weeds light and discourages them from growing.



Whilst at first this may appear to be a good thing, without thinning between the trees the lack of space soon becomes a problem. It is the situation I come across most frequently on golf courses.

Ideally fully mature trees, oaks for example, should grow at a spacing of 15 metres in order for them to flourish. This would mean 150 fully mature oaks on a one hectare site. In order to produce these 150 mature oaks, 1500 would need to be planted. However, when the trees are neglected, as so often happens, they continue to compete for light, water and nutrients. The surrounding grass areas then begin to suffer, making them susceptible to disease and fungi. This is caused by trees leaning over the

play areas and creating harmful micro climates that stifle growth. I have also come across many heathland courses where the trees have slowly encroached upon the course, leading to the disappearance of heather.

Whilst more fertiliser may be called for on grass areas, simply to encourage the grass to grow, thatch forming also needs to be treated. Chemicals and fertilisers only treat the symptoms, they do not cure the fundamental problem. To do this, a more remedial approach is needed. Thus it would be far better for you to ask yourself: does my green get enough light and air?

WORRIED MEMBERS

The carrying out of tree work

on golf courses is often a sensitive issue, no matter how vital it may be. Members may demonstrate complete confidence in their greenkeepers as far as preparing the playing surface is concerned, whilst tree work may get an altogether different reaction. If trees and woodland have been neglected, any work carried out can at first sight look quite radical.

For example, neglected strips of woodland dividing fairways often need attention, especially when they begin to encroach on to the playing area. When these areas are opened up to provide better growing conditions for grass and trees, members can often see from one fairway to the other, where in the past this view was denied them. This often leads them to complain, without realising that it is years of neglect that are to blame and not the corrective and constructive measures being used to solve the problem. Past neglect can be corrected, but it can take time, 10-20 years is a long time in human terms but a far shorter time as far as trees are concerned.

PLANTING

Another large problem facing many golf courses is the uniformity in age of the trees on the course. This means that the majority of the trees will reach maturity at the same time. It is therefore important for a golf club to have a wide age span of trees on the course. Planting and transplanting are two ways of ensuring that a course has a wide age range, and this will guarantee and protect the courses character for future years.

Many clubs appreciate the need for planting, however it is seldom carried out as part of a planned

TREES

planting programme. Over the years courses become littered with different varieties of tree, often planted in areas and soil types for which they are not suited, and the overall quality of planting is poor. More importantly, after planting, scant attention is paid to the trees. Stakes are often left to rot away, tree ties are allowed to grow into the trees, whilst watering, pruning, weed control and fertiliser are so often forgotten.

LONG TERM TREE AND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

To maintain the character of a golf course over a long period of time it is essential that a long term management plan be implemented. This should be backed up by a short term maintenance plan to rectify the immediate problems. Such a management plan should set objectives to be achieved and lay down a framework through which the work may be implemented. The overriding concern of the plan,

always, should be the provision of the 'best possible playing surface' for the golfer.

An important aspect of any plan is the education of club members, so that they understand why work needs to be carried out and when. I have used seminars for this purpose in the past and they have proved very useful. In this way difficult and controversial decisions do not have to be taken by greenkeepers or green committees alone, the club can move forward on the basis of a strong consensus among its members. The management plan must be designed to serve the club for many years and act as the continual point of reference when tree and woodland work is being discussed.

Such a maintenance plan might cover a period of five years and be used to rectify the immediate problems facing the trees and woodlands on the course. The plan should enable the club to assess the volume of work that needs to be carried out, how much of this can be done by the



green staff, and how much might need to be sub-contracted. Work involved in this plan normally consists of thinning, felling, tree surgery, planting and transplanting. New health and safety regulations demand that this work be done only by properly qualified and equipped staff.

Greenkeepers should not treat the playing surface and woodlands in isolation, for they are both inextricably linked, one affecting the other. Caring and planning for the trees on your

course now will provide fundamental benefits in future years. Regular thinning, felling and tree surgery will not only benefit the trees but will also have a fundamental impact on the greens, fairways and tees.

■ The author, Hens Hinloopen, is the founder and owner of Woodcare, a specialist forestry and arboricultural company specifically involved in golf course activities. Hens' track record includes major work on such courses as Sunningdale, Hankley Common, Coombe Hill, Effingham and Moatland.



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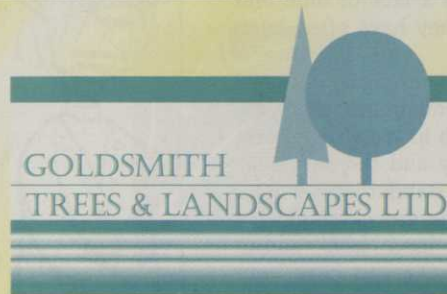
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The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association is on YOUR side!

We care about golf greenkeepers and the future of the profession.

Our membership package for 1994 brings a whole host of benefits – read on to find out more.

With the strength of a professional Association behind you, plenty of encouragement to do better in your career and someone to fight on your behalf if necessary, you're doing the right thing by joining BIGGA!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ❶ Monthly copies of 'Greenkeeper International' – the Association's own high quality colour magazine and recognised as the 'vital title'.
- ❷ Full Legal Advisory Service – including legal helpline card.
- ❸ Full employment cover, full personal injury cover, pursuit of civil claims by the insured for damages, specific performance or injunction arising from or out of: a) a contract of employment; b) death or personal injury of the insured from any claim.
- ❹ Personal accident cover – will provide the following capital sums: Death – £5,000. Permanent total disablement – £5,000. Permanent total loss of sight of one or both eyes – £5,000. Permanent total loss of hearing of both ears – £2,500. Permanent total loss of hearing of one ear – £500. Permanent loss of one or more limbs – £5,000. There is also cover for permanent loss by physical separation of thumb, finger or toe.
- ❺ Members suffering temporary total disablement in excess of seven days will receive a weekly income of £35 for a maximum of 104 weeks – options to increase benefits are available.
- ❻ Utilise BIGGA's services for expert advice on financial management – our consultants will advise on mortgages, investments, life, household, private medical and motor insurance.
- ❼ Access to numerous educational opportunities. Take advantage of reduced delegate fees at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and National Education Conference as well as regional seminars.
- ❽ BIGGA is international – all items in the membership package are available to members both in the Republic of Ireland and internationally. (International users of the legal helpline card should note that advice will relate to either English or Scottish law. The card can be used when the member is visiting Great Britain, both for advice and in respect of any claims arising during or from such visits.)
- ❾ For all members – A BIGGA diary, car sticker, keyring and card holder.
- ❿ All new Greenkeeper members joining in 1994 will receive an Association tie.
- ⓫ BIGGA welcomes the ladies – lady members joining in the Associate category will receive a headscarf, a BIGGA diary, car sticker, keyring and card holder to signify their membership in addition to the Associate membership card.
- ⓬ The legal and insurance benefits are only effective following payment of subscriptions. Any delay in payment after 1 January could cause a problem – don't take the risk!

EXISTING MEMBERS: Do nothing yet – Renewal information will be sent directly to you



BIGGA

GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY CIRCLES

There are two ways to join us



You can link BIGGA membership to the Education and Development Fund. By becoming a member of the Golden Key Circle or the Silver Key Circle, you are helping to secure the very future of greenkeeper, golf club and game

Since its formation in 1987 the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association has demonstrated its commitment to enhancing the recognition of the greenkeeper as a professional and to advancing golf course management and maintenance techniques to ever higher standards.

The key to the progress which has been made lies in education and training where the establishing of college-based courses and improvements in existing courses has had a significant impact. Allied to this has been the introduction of "in-house" training courses at BIGGA's headquarters at Aldwark Manor. The development of Aldwark Manor as a training base will prove a major educational resource for the profession in the future.

Many within the game of golf and those working within the fine turf industries now

recognise the value of these educational programmes and the need to ensure first class training for those entering the greenkeeping profession if the desired standards of golf course management and maintenance are to be achieved, maintained and improved upon in the future. To sustain those educational programmes and improve training opportunities will necessitate on-going financial commitment and the Education and Development Fund has been established to enable the promotion and financing of educational programmes, scholarship awards and training aids for the benefit of the greenkeeping profession. The enhancement of knowledge and technical expertise which will result will surely in turn lead to higher standards of course management and better playing conditions for golf club members.

Financial contributions will channel the resources of the game and the industry into one central Fund from which specific spending programmes can be determined. Those supporting the fund will be welcome to make suggestions in relation to appropriate spending programmes.

The Education and Development Fund represents the ideal opportunity for companies, groups and individuals to make donations, gifts and bequests which will advance both the status of the greenkeeping profession and standards of golf course management.

◆ Education – the key to a great future for greenkeeper, golf club and the game. Your contribution will help secure this future – unlock the doors to progress through BIGGA's Education and Development Fund.

BIGGA greatly values and appreciates contributions to the Education and Development Fund and accordingly wishes to give recognition to those contributing. Those supporting the Fund will become members of a 'circle' which will bring certain ongoing benefits:

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS OF GOLDEN KEY CIRCLE

Companies/Groups

- Listing in 'Greenkeeper International' magazine
- Key supporter – magazine profile
- Plaque
- Annual luncheon – BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition
- Special Tie – BIGGA/Golden Key Circle design
- Association Membership – to include monthly copies of 'Greenkeeper International' magazine
- Priority stand space – BIGGA marquee, Open Championship.

Contribution: Donations of over £3,000 annually

Individuals

- Special Tie – BIGGA/Golden Key Circle design
- Association Membership – to include monthly copies of 'Greenkeeper International' magazine
- 15% discount on all BIGGA Educational Programmes

Contribution: Donations of over £150 annually

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS OF SILVER KEY CIRCLE

Companies/Groups

- Listing in 'Greenkeeper International' magazine
- Plaque
- Special Tie – BIGGA/Silver Key Circle design
- Association Membership – to include monthly copies of 'Greenkeeper International' magazine

Contribution: Donations of £1,000–£3,000 annually

Individuals

- Special Tie – BIGGA/Silver Key Circle design
- Association Membership – to include monthly copies of 'Greenkeeper International' magazine
- 7.5% discount on all BIGGA Educational Programmes

Contribution: Donations of £75 – £150 annually

Join the inner Circle and ensure a great future for greenkeepers and the golf courses they manage and maintain.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

Complete and post the pre-paid Membership Request Card in this issue.

Existing members: Do nothing yet – we'll contact you direct.

What the Education and Development Fund money is spent on

BIGGA's first turf management training video was wholly sponsored by companies contributing to the Education and Development Fund. The video, first in a planned series, has been acclaimed as a major training aid for all those involved in turf management and is available at a cost of £18.75 (BIGGA members) or £23.75 (non-members) from BIGGA HQ.



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FOR 1994

Look out for the BIGGA Career Video (which will be launched at the 1994 BTME) and a new guide on weeds, pests and diseases, to be distributed to all golf clubs soon.



BIGGA SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 1994

PAY EARLY – AND PAY LESS!

These are the prices to pay if you want to join BIGGA without linking your membership to the Education and Development Fund:

	New Members In 1994	Current Members if paying before 31 Jan.94
Course Manager/ Head Greenkeeper	£58.00	£52.00
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£50.00	£45.00
First Assistant/ Assistant Greenkeeper	£43.00	£40.00
20 years of age or under	£29.00	£26.00
Associate/Company (including one year's subscription to 'Greenkeeper International')	£50.00	
Associate/Company without magazine	£25.00	
Corporate	£560.00	
International	£50.00	

NB: The First Assistant is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where appropriate to the size of the club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper subscription rate should apply.

1993 members will be invoiced for subscriptions due prior to 1st January 1994. If you have not received your renewal notice by the end of December, please contact Headquarters.

Those enrolling in the Associate/Company membership category will be encouraged to play a full part in the Association's affairs. Associate members will be those having a close interest in greenkeeping without being specifically employed as greenkeepers. As such this category of membership will be of interest to Chairmen of Green Committees, Club Secretaries, Golf Course Architects and Constructors and many others with a close affinity to greenkeeping. Company membership is available on an individual or corporate basis and will be of interest to those employed within the fine turf industries.

Individual membership cards will be issued and will entitle the member to participate in all national, regional and section events authorised by the Association.

Holders of Associate and Company membership cards are not entitled to use their cards to seek courtesy of the golf course.

Delegate fees at both the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and National Education Conference, as well as at Regional seminars, will be offered to Associate and Company members at a discounted rate. Whilst many members may wish to identify with a particular local section or region, members are able to participate nationally if they so wish. They will be allocated to the section covering the geographical area in which they reside.

All Associate/Company members (with the exception of those Associate members in the £25 category) will receive each month a copy of 'Greenkeeper International', the Association's official publication and essential reading for those involved with or interested in greenkeeping.

A special Corporate rate is available for those companies wishing to enrol an unlimited number of their staff as members of the Association and individual membership cards will be issued.

You too can work towards the industry's top honour

The Master Greenkeeper Certificate

BIGGA supports golf greenkeepers at all levels of expertise – and for members wanting to get more out of their job, the route to the top is via the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

Holders of this prestigious award have demonstrated they are committed professionals. What's more, they are entitled to use the initials 'MGC' after their name.

The award of this Certificate indicates that the recipient has achieved the highest standards of excellence within the profession of greenkeeping. It is an award based on experience, ability and education. The award is designed through a combination of experience and ability allied to a study programme to produce a well educated and qualified individual.

Educational Credits, which accumulate to take the candidate to the required level, are available through the approved colleges system in terms of NVQ, City & Guilds and Scotvec, as well as for other individual qualifications approved by the Association. Credits will also be awarded in accordance with participation in the BIGGA educational programme, for example the National Conference, BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition Seminars, Management Courses, Regional and Section Seminars.

For full details, contact BIGGA HQ for a copy of the MGC leaflet and registration form.



Important – all greenkeeper members will be required to obtain a passport size photograph to validate their 1994 membership cards. The photograph should be affixed to the membership card, which should be signed and then inserted into the cardholder and sealed, thereby giving proof of identity and preventing any possible misuse of membership cards, particularly in relation to seeking courtesy of the golf course. Photographs are to be affixed by members personally on receipt of their card and should not be sent to Headquarters.

Included in this year's membership package is a 1994 diary bearing the BIGGA logo. Commented Executive Director, Neil Thomas, "We aim to 'test the water' with this 1994 diary. In looking ahead to 1995 membership benefits we would like to produce a personalised BIGGA diary to include a wide range of information on the Association which will be of practical benefit to members. However, we do need feedback from members as to the value they would place on receiving such a diary annually before a decision is taken to proceed with an official BIGGA diary for 1995". Members should note that the 1994 diary will only be sent to current and new members paying their subscriptions by 31 January 1994.



FIND OUT MORE: Contact BIGGA HQ for more information. Call us on 0347 838581, fax us on 0347 838864 or write to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF

THE BIGGA RECOMMENDED MINIMUM SALARY/WAGE SCALE, 1994

The Association has updated its recommended minimum salary/wages scale, although actual figures remain the subject of negotiation between the Golf Club and Greenkeeping staff. Quoted rates apply from 1 January, 1994.

	18 Holes	27 Holes	36 Holes
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£18,550	£20,220	£22,630
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£13,390	£14,590	£16,320
First Assistant	£222.80 pw	£222.80 pw	£222.80 pw
Assistant Greenkeeper	£209.60 pw	£209.60 pw	£209.60 pw
Apprentice Greenkeeper (all courses) Age 16/17:	£104.80 pw; Age 18:	£131.00 pw; Age 19:	£157.20 pw; Age 20:
	£183.40 pw; Age 21+:	£209.60 pw.	

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

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

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

Basic conditions of employment should include:

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

**NEW
FOR 1994**

BIGGA GIVES MEMBERS THE CHANCE TO WIN BIG MONEY!

★ Join BIGGA and you also have the opportunity to join BIGGA's Pot of Gold lottery – with the chance to win big, big cash prizes!

Each participant will have a chance of winning a cash prize every quarter throughout 1994. If your lucky number is drawn, you could collect £50, £150, £250 or even £600!

And at the final quarterly draw, top prize is a whopping £2,500.
YES £2,500 IN CASH COULD BE YOURS!

So how does the Pot of Gold work?

This lottery competition is only open to BIGGA members and is restricted to 400 numbers. Cost per number is £50 per year and these will be allocated on a first come first served basis. There are ten cash prizes awarded each quarter, which means 40 prizes in total over the year, giving plenty of chances to win!

How much can I win?

In each of the first three quarters, there are seven prizes of £50, one of £150, one of £250 and a first prize of £600. At the final

draw, there will be seven £100 prizes, a £500 prize, a £1,000 prize and a top prize of £2,500.

When are the numbers drawn?

At BIGGA events. The January–March draw will take place at the National Education Conference in April; the April–June draw will be made at The Open in July; the July–September draw will take place at the Hayter Challenge final in September and the October–December draw will be made at the BTME '95, in January 1995.

Can I share the cost of taking part with my friends?

If you want to share the cost – and, of course, share any prize you might win, then that's up to you. By all means get together with other BIGGA members who you may work with, so that you all chip in to buy a number. As far as each application form is concerned, we can only accept one name and one amount of £50. However, subject to availability, members can apply for more than one lottery number thereby increasing their chance of winning. All entries will go into every draw regardless of whether you have won previously. The key name will receive any winning cheque and it will be up to you to share it out.

I want to go ahead – what should I do now?

Existing members – You can join the Pot of Gold by sending your £50 (cheque or postal order) to us with the completed form when sending your membership renewal form or alternatively upon receipt of your 1994 membership details. New members – Rush us your Pot of Gold application on receipt of your '94 membership details.

Please note, entry to Pot of Gold is restricted to 1994 BIGGA members.

POT OF GOLD

MEMBERS HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

**YES! I'd like to take part in the BIGGA POT OF GOLD
I enclose my cheque for £50.00 payable to BIGGA**

Name:

Address:

..... 1994 Membership Number (if known):

Post to Pot of Gold, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF.

Photocopy this form or use a separate sheet of paper if you don't want to cut up your magazine.

Come with BIGGA to the
GCSAA Conference
and Show

**DALLAS
1994**



The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will be holding its 65th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas from 4-7 February.

BIGGA's party attending this major international event will assemble on Sunday, 30 January at the Moat House Gatwick Airport, leaving the next morning on a *direct flight* to Dallas Fort Worth Airport and arriving back at Gatwick on Wednesday, 9 February.

In over 150 years, Dallas has grown from a cabin on the banks of the Trinity river into an internationally recognised commercial and manufacturing centre thanks to the discovery of Texan oil and the tenacity and spirit of its people. It is a major cultural centre of skyscraper banks and offices; elegant shops, fine restaurants and hotels. Neighbouring Fort Worth, originally a military outpost, retains a 'western' atmosphere and continues to be headquarters for the cattle industry. Fort Worth's clubs feature country and western music whilst its western heritage is most evident at the Historic Stockyards Area where there are frontier-style shops and cafes.

GCSAA will be organising more than 70 educational seminar sessions and forums, a three-day, 190,000 square foot trade show with more than 600 manufacturers and distributors of golf and turf industry products, supplies and services together with a gala banquet featuring performances by the Oak Ridge Boys and country star Crystal Gayle.

An exciting trip is in prospect and *bookings with full payment must be received by 19 November.*

ITINERARY

Sunday, 30 January

All participants assemble at the Moat House Gatwick Airport, overnight accommodation with FREE car parking is included.

Monday, 31 January

Depart Gatwick for Dallas Fort Worth Airport on British Airways - 10.05 hours - arrive 14.40 hours. Upon arrival transfer to Hotel Loews Anatole, stay 8 nights.

Tuesday, 8 February

Return transfer to Dallas Airport and depart on British Airways - 16.40 hours - arrive 07.30 hours on 9 February. Return transfer to Hotel to collect cars and drive home.

Price

£724 per person based on twin shares; £1,060 per person based on single room accommodation, plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration: £35.

Included are: flights UK to Dallas and return; US Airport taxes; Hotel accommodation in the Loews Anatole including taxes, room rate only; Full comprehensive travel insurance for the duration.



Please forward full payment of £759 or £1,095 (unless travel insurance is *not* required) to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF to arrive by **Friday 19 November at the latest**, together with name, address and contact telephone number.

A BIGGA Thank you



**BIGGA
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and SILVER KEY
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*...to the following
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the Greenkeeper Education
and Development Fund*



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MILLIKEN
CHEMICALS



RISBORO' TURF

**Rigby
Taylor**

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

For details of how you can support the
Education and Development Fund,
Contact BIGGA at Aldwark Manor,
Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF.
Telephone: 0347 838581 Fax: 0347 838864



BIGGA: BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Christmas Gift ideas



Be on the ball this Christmas – settle all your present-buying problems with exclusive, top quality BIGGA merchandise! Fill Santa's sack with a whole range of goodies shown on this page. Choose a smart BIGGA blazer or perhaps a stylish sweater. You can buy with confidence because each item has the BIGGA seal of approval – and a BIGGA logo too!



£87.95
Inc. P&P

Be proud of your profession with a BIGGA Blazer. This high quality garment is recommended by the Association and can be worn on any occasion when the image of a professional greenkeeper is all-important. Supplied complete with embroidered BIGGA logo, this is an investment which will provide many years of service.

BIGGA TIES – £4.50

Available in Navy (as picture), Light Blue or Green

Glenmuir Sweaters

Here's a favourite garment that makes an ideal Christmas gift – for a man or a woman! These quality sweaters come in a variety of sizes and colours and we have a number in stock at reduced prices. Ring Samantha Flint at BIGGA HQ on 0347 838581 to find out what's available. Or place your special order from the colours listed below before the end of November and we'll rush through your garment before Christmas. Sizes XS to XL. **£28.95** inc p&p. Colours: Charcoal, Navy, Incomparable, Usher, Oyster, Ming, Helio, Peacock, Strawberry, Sapphire, Carmine, Claret, Crimson, Firtree, White, Black, Slate Blue, Royal Blue, Buttermilk, Pansy.



'Greenkeepers' Cap

Keep the snow off with this smart, recently introduced greenkeepers' cap available in blue complete with BIGGA logo. Similar to baseball caps, it is fully adjustable. Just **£6.95** inc p&p. **ONLY A FEW LEFT – ORDER TODAY!**

Books – Fireside reading for those long winter nights

MANUAL ON GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION, TURF ESTABLISHMENT AND CULTURAL PRACTICES

by Dr James Beard **£22.00** inc p&p.

GOLF COURSE PRESENTATION by John Hacker and George Shiels. 48 pages packed with a realistic and practical approach to this vital topic **£7.95** inc p&p.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR A METHOD OF PUTTING GREEN CONSTRUCTION edited by William H Bengueyfield **£2.50** inc p&p.

ORDER FORM

Place your completed order and cheque made payable to BIGGA in an envelope and post to: BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF

Product Description	Colour	Size	Quantity	Price

Name:
Address:

Prices are inclusive of postage, packing and VAT. Photocopy this form or use a plain sheet of paper if you don't want to cut up your magazine



Stocking fillers

TIE BARS Gold effect with coloured BIGGA logo **£2.95**

LADIES HEAD SCARF in navy with attractive BIGGA logo – a lovely gift for the lady in your life! **£6.95**

LAPEL BADGES Gold effect with coloured BIGGA logo **£2.95**

LIMITED SUPPLY COTTON/JERSEY MIX POLO NECK LONG SLEEVED SHIRTS TO CLEAR AT SPECIAL PRICE OF ONLY £12.95

£15,000 AWARD THROUGH BIGGA LEGAL HELPLINE

The BIGGA Legal Helpline service swung into action to take up the case of a member claiming unfair dismissal from his golf club.

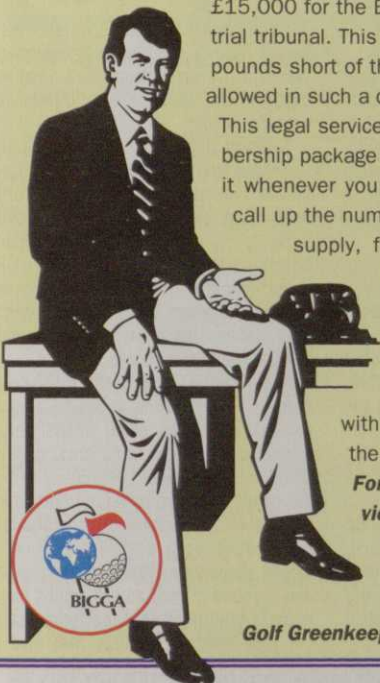
Our legal eagles played their part in obtaining £15,000 for the BIGGA member at an industrial tribunal. This is just a couple of hundred pounds short of the maximum compensation allowed in such a case.

This legal service is part of the BIGGA membership package and you are entitled to use it whenever you think it's necessary. Just call up the number on the special card we supply, for confidential, free legal advice.

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Golf Greenkeepers Association!



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The selected brokers will automatically have your best interests at heart - after all, they're Associate members of BIGGA themselves!

Being independent financial advisers, they are able to scour the complex financial markets to make sure you get the deal that's right for you. With a pension, for example, this could mean a difference of thousands of pounds in years to come.

For more information on BIGGA's financial services to members, contact John Pemberton at BIGGA HQ on 0347 838581 or write to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF.



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The countdown has begun to the final of the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

To be the BEST

In casting my thoughts back over the past three years of writing about ICI Professional Products – of the individual personalities who essentially are the company – and of their association with BIGGA, it occurs to me that a huge debt of gratitude remains outstanding to this most supportive of BIGGA's sponsors. It's the sort of debt that cannot easily, if ever, be repaid, though in truth the team at ICI Professional Products would, I fancy, never look on their commitment in such calculating fashion.

I'm prepared to bet that they gain their greatest satisfaction in seeing the fruits of their fabulous promotions: the National Golf Tournament, involvement in education programmes, and this, the incredible ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award, as reward enough when witnessing the great fillip they have given to previous winning greenkeepers, for to win this coveted award is almost assuredly a huge step forward career-wise, whilst for finalists also it is a decided 'feather in the cap.'

Winning has changed several careers for the better, and without again naming names, their successes actually reflect success for BIGGA also, for the kudos gained has a delightful habit of rubbing off on almost every thinking greenkeeper, giving them enormous pride in their profession.

There can be only one winner in December, a proud fellow who will strut forward to receive the ultimate accolade from ICI Professional Products – and the admiration of his peers. That stated, give a silent cheer or three for ICI Professional Products, including Roger Mossop, Dave Siddon, touring 'pro', Richard Minton, and all the guys who call on you year round. They, above all, have your greenkeeping interests at heart.

DAVID WHITE

TERRY HUNTLEY



Terry Huntley, course manager at Ashford Manor Golf Club in Middlesex, is well versed in the preparation of arena's for top sporting occasions, having worked on turfgrass surfaces that have graced two Tournament Players Championships, a Ladies British Open Championship, and no less than six PGA Tour School events.

In order to appreciate Terry's greenkeeping pedigree, I must begin by speaking of young Terry's first bleeding as a trainee in 1973. This was at Fulwell, Bill Cox's old stamping ground, where Terry spent the seemingly obligatory 'two years before the mast,' before grabbing the chance to join the newly opened Foxhills Country Club as an assistant greenkeeper.

Around this time Terry gained his NTC in Sportsturf Management from the IoG. Promotion followed fairly quickly, and at the tender age of 21 Terry was made a deputy course manager, responsible for two 18 hole courses and a dozen staff. This, as one may imagine, helped him immensely in building up essential management skills, and it was at Foxhills that the aforementioned championship skills and experiences were honed to a fine level.

In 1985 Terry took the post of head greenkeeper at Laleham Golf Club in Surrey, enjoying three happy years there before moving to his current position.

Terry, 36 this month, is married to Christine and they have a son, Christopher. Terry holds his current job in high esteem and is proud to be what he describes as a high-profile member of the BIGGA Surrey section.

LAUGHLAN MILLAR



Down in the West Country, the Millar name is synonymous with greenkeeping of an extremely high order, with 31 year old Laughlan the third generation of a family well versed in the art of turfgrass management. Laughlan's grandfather was of the old breed, a greenkeeper cum professional in Scotland, where they've always known a 'thing or two' about 'gowf' and about growing grass and tending to the finer points of razor keen putting surfaces.

Laughlan's father also has always been a greenkeeper, without question one of the West's finest, and to this day he masterminds the majestic linksland of Burnham and Berrow. It may be written with some certainty that Laughlan himself was practically weaned on Dunlop 65's, his first real 'toy' no doubt a cut down jigger!

Laughlan is 31, married to Diane, and is the head greenkeeper at Dawlish Warren, Devon, a post he's held for nearly five years. Previously at Hartsbourne Country Club as an assistant course manager, earlier still as an assistant to Laughlan senior at Burnham and Berrow for seven years,

Laughlan is both a skilled practitioner and a fine theorist.

He's a graduate from Cannington College with City & Guilds to his credit, plus AEI in Biology, Greenkeeping Principles, Practice of Horticulture and Greenkeeping, and Horticultural Machinery – in fact he's a well-rounded character with a pedigree of which he may be proud.

TONY MEARS



Tony's greenkeeping career really started before he left school, for he was a junior member at Darlington Golf Club, forever eager to help the staff whenever the opportunity arose. At weekends, during long summer holidays, he would always jump at the chance.

It naturally followed that on leaving school and being offered an apprenticeship, he was overjoyed and has never regretted biting the bullet on that early boyhood ambition – to be a highly skilled exponent of the turfgrass art.

A brief spell as assistant at Billingham Golf Club was followed by a dream come true, the offer of course management at the Dinsdale Spa Golf Club.

Tony has been manager of Dinsdale Spa for some 13 years now, proud of its one hundred acres of parkland, inspired by its undoubted qualities, and eager no doubt to ensure that come 2010, when the club celebrates its centenary, it'll be seen as a credit to his management and his empathy for the wildlife environment.

Dinsdale has seen many changes under Tony's direction, some of them quite major and including the complete refurbishment of every bunker, the enlargement of many tees, and the construction of two new greens and two large ponds. It is Tony's avowed aim to encourage wildlife on the golf course.

Tony is a graduate of Durham Agricultural College, holding a C&G Distinction in Greenkeeping, and he's always been an upholder of the education process, attending many of the BIGGA workshops and seminars. He presented a fascinating paper at the National Education Conference this year on 'Golf on the Wild Side.'

Married to Jean, with a son, Peter, and daughter, Jessica, Tony's leisure time is well wrapped up with his family, though he still finds time to golf, playing to a nine handicap.

GRAHAM WOOD



If the reader really wants to know how fine a head greenkeeper Graham Wood really is, he need do no more than play a round on the East Links of Dunbar, a dual creation credited first to Old Tom Morris, always to Mother Nature... and, for the past 20 years, especially to Graham Wood!

Graham is 42 years old, married to Helen, and has two teenage offspring (his

son Paul is also a budding greenkeeper, having recently taken an apprenticeship at Winterfield). Furthermore, he's a native of East Lothian – and there is no finer pedigree than that.

Graham began his career at Dunbar, serving a three year apprenticeship under the late Bill Paton, followed by four further years as a journeyman before making a move to nearby Monkton Hall, Musselburgh, as their head greenkeeper. Three years later the lure of Dunbar beckoned again and Graham, forever a master of his craft, landed the plum job of managing Dunbar's fabulous course.

The making of a great greenkeeper comes in many guises, and there's no disguising the fact that being an East Lothian greenkeeper counts for a great deal and Graham is justly proud in pointing to Dunbar (and, let it also be known, down also to his own considerable skills in imparting knowledge) as a breeding ground for future managers. The club encourages and is proud of their record, whilst there's many a young greenkeeper who, having cut their teeth at Dunbar, will give full credit to Graham – an Elmwood College graduate – for setting them on the right road to greenkeeping fame.

GORDON IRVINE MGC



Gordon Irvine, 27, is the youngest yet to achieve MGC status, and the third Scot to be so honoured. Though still the youngster, Gordon has ten solid years of experience behind him, culled mainly on the links of Turnberry.

Joining Turnberry from school, his first assignment was on a Job Creation Scheme, swiftly followed by his being hired as a trainee greenkeeper, a fortunate decision for both parties.

Fortunate again, Gordon was sent to Langside College, where he studied Greenkeeping Management and won the coveted title: 'Young Scottish Greenkeeper of the Year'. It is his proud claim that whilst at Langside he received training from some of the finest course managers in the country, while also working with a team of 'highly skilled greenkeepers'. Seven happy years were spent at Turnberry, preparing the course that plays host to The Open, this acknowledged as a huge bonus in his learning curve.

The time came, however, when Gordon was ready 'to put back into greenkeeping all that I had been trained and educated to achieve.' Gordon landed a job at Surrey's new Mill Ride Golf Club, where in 1989 he came as clerk of works, now its course manager. His fortune continued during construction in being teamed with the triumvirate: architect Donald Steel, agronomist Jim Arthur and constructor Brian Pierson – who encouraged his input and responded favourably to his many ideas. Opening the project well ahead of schedule, the course has deservedly received huge praise.



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