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IN A



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GREENKEEPER

International

AUGUST 1994

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You have to go back many years to find an Open championship as good as this one, as Chris Boiling discovers in his

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We picked a day and five greenkeepers reported back on just what they were up to. Find out how the same job on different courses can vary so much.....Pages 8-9

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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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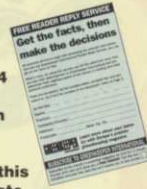
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- PETER MANSFIELD,
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For a BTME '95 information pack call Louise Lunn on 0347 838581 - quickly! The event is almost sold out...

A tale of Nick and George



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

The Open Championship is without question the premier event in the golfing calendar. For BIGGA it certainly counts as one of our 'majors'. As I write having just returned from Turnberry the Association can reflect on an excellent 'Open'. With one of our leading Course Managers, George Brown, in charge one sensed in the weeks leading up to the championship that we could be in for something special – and so it proved. The golf course was presented in exceptional condition and no less an authority than the R & A Secretary, Michael Bonalack, described it as the best Open Championship course in many years. Praise, including that of the professionals, was unanimous. First and foremost our congratulations go to George and his staff for their professionalism and a job well done.

In a wider perspective how well this reflects on our profession as a whole. To present a golf course as Turnberry was presented demands exceptional skills and great experience. Greenkeepers today are increasingly better educated and more able to take correct decisions for their golf courses amidst the myriad of conflicting theories and practices which abound within the greenkeeping profession. The combination of skills, experience and ever improving educational qualifications manifests itself in the quality of today's top Course Managers exemplified in its highest profile by George Brown and the presentation of Turnberry for the Open. Have no doubt that Turnberry advanced the cause of greenkeepers. The stature of the profession will have been enhanced. The golfing world has been shown what can be achieved, what standards can be set. It is not merely a question of resources. The vital factors are skill, experience, management, commitment, training, team work and not least a love of the profession. Those of us who were privileged to be there witnessed these factors in abundance at Turnberry.

So what of BIGGA's role? There is a misconception founded on faltering beginnings that we are present for one and only one reason – to rake bunkers. Our team is actually known as the 'Greenkeeping Support Team' and that

means support in its widest role as determined in consultation with the Course Manager. How well I recall my first 'Open' with the Association at Royal Lytham in 1988. There in torrid weather conditions we played a vital role in enabling play to proceed as it rained like never before. It is perhaps since that Open that the R & A has recognised the key role we have to play. If the Course Manager wants us out on the golf course early morning or late in the evening volunteers are never in short supply. A greenkeeper accompanies each match to look after the bunkers and enjoys an unsurpassed view of play. I am always impressed by the understanding our members display for the history and traditions of the game as well as their appreciation of the privileged position they enjoy during the championship. Equally they are well aware of the importance of the week for the Association. The R & A provides us with a large marquee in a central position within the tented village and this becomes a focal point for BIGGA members, guests and friends. Often the two TV sets beaming out the triumphs and disasters on the golf course are ignored as greenkeepers discuss greenkeeping – were it not ever so? The week of the championship presents the Association with a major public relations opportunity and this is manifested from start to finish by our emphasis on professionalism. Each team member is presented with two BIGGA shirts and wearing these on alternate days with grey slacks creates an immediate positive image. This dress is complemented by the BIGGA wetsuit – this year to a new design by

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



New top man for Turfgrass Council



Peter Helm has been appointed chief executive of the National Turfgrass Council. Peter was formerly horticultural sales manager with ICI/Zeneca. As chief executive, he will be responsible for coordinating and representing the views of the 22 member organisations of the NTC encompassing the major associations and representative bodies of those involved in natural and synthetic sports and amenity turf areas. A keen gardener, Peter had hoped to spend time improving his golf – but he now says with his new job that ambition will have to wait a while.

Crondon Park opens with a 19th hole

A new 18-hole 6,974-yard par 72 course, 9-hole par 3 course and a 300-yard two ended driving range complex has opened in Essex. The Martin Gillett-designed Crondon Park GC at Stock also boast a true 19th hole which will be used when the greenstaff are maintaining one of the other holes and to give flexibility to change the length layout and configuration of the course. The signature hole is the 4th – the green is located at the top of a moated Norman fortress.

Tanks leaflet

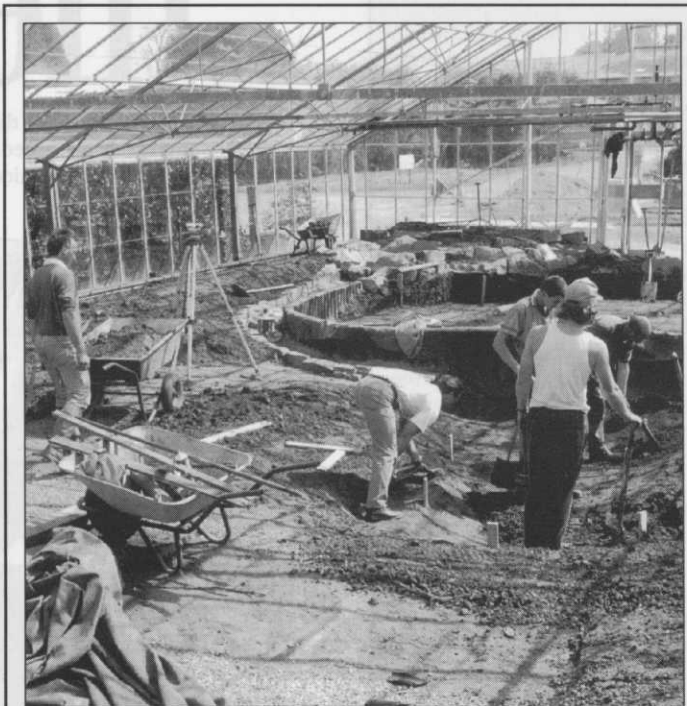
Butyl Products Ltd has published a new A4 four-colour leaflet describing its range of lined storage and treatment tanks. For a copy call 0277 653281 or fax 0277 657921.

BIGGA in focus

Walrus and justifiably acclaimed as the most attractive wetsuit at the Open.

Lest you think it is all work and no play, there is a social side to the week. That having been said I should perhaps draw a veil over proceedings. Let us just say that greenkeepers have a good time and the caravan park was enlivened each night. If you managed to survive the cabaret which catered for varied tastes you were doing well! Whenever possible we seek college accommodation for the team but this

NEWS



Heat is on for college's tropical greens project

Myerscough College has developed what it claims is the world's first golf hole *under glass!* The Lancashire college's Warm Season Turfgrass Education Facility – pictured during construction – is designed to recreate the tropical conditions found in many Floridian and Mediterranean courses. It has bunkers, water hazards and supplementary lighting (to keep the temperature hot), and will help sportsturf students learn skills and maintenance techniques which will be relevant if they want to work in the United States or southern Europe.

The green and fairway will become operational late autumn, giving the turf and sub-tropical plants time to establish themselves. To keep bills down, only sponge balls will be used in the glasshouse.

year it had to be the caravan park. The prime problem is that of sleep or the shortage of it! The late nighters and the early risers are known to meet usually around 4.30am! The spirit remains good, however, with much forbearance shown on occasions. Next year at St Andrews we will have the benefit of Elmwood College for accommodation and this should ease this administrator's problems!

So another Open Championship passes by. As we look ahead I am mindful of the need

for newcomers to join the support team – it really is a tremendous experience. We need to balance new blood with some old hands for it pays to know the ropes. Certainly the demand for places on the team is increasing and this year we had to disappoint a number of applicants. In the forthcoming months we will need to consider a selection criteria for 1995 and beyond. We warmly thank the Scottish Region for their input to the success of the week. They won't mind me saying that they have

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Ivor Scoones would like to thank the many members who sent cards and messages of condolence following the passing of his beloved wife Sheila (Ann). These were a great source of comfort to the family during a very sad time.

■ BIGGA's vice-chairman, Barry Heaney, has scored his fourth ace. He did it with a 6 iron at Wortley's 156-yard 5th. "It was a lovely feeling but it cost me a lot of money," he said. In fact it cost him about £70, but it helped the 8-handicapper to a gross 73.

■ One of Kevin Wroe's first big jobs will be preparing for the Hayter Challenge final. 35-year-old Kevin is moving from Weston-super-Mare this month to take over as head greenkeeper at Pannal GC, near Harrogate. Pannal has a team of five greenkeeping staff.

■ Seven-handicap Barry Webster is the new course manager at Ealing GC, the 18-hole parkland course that sometimes gets watered by the River Bront. Barry, formerly assistant course manager at Harpenden, has a team of five and takes over from Julian Doughty, now at Stratford-upon-Avon GC.

■ A new research facility has been launched by ADAS Environmental at their Gleadthorpe Research Centre near Mansfield. Its purpose is to offer an independent research facility for sports and amenity turf to enable the testing of materials, turf care products and techniques in relevant soil and climatic conditions.

some extremely experienced old hands who at times are able to move mountains. Their contribution is vital.

Finally in congratulating Nick Price he was quick to point out that his inspiration for the week came in practice when he appreciated just how well the course had been set up. This brings us back to George Brown and the staff at Turnberry – the plaudits are all yours and you have set standards for the future to which others can aspire. The profession has undoubtedly moved forward.

Education update

BY KEN RICHARDSON



Range of courses continues to grow

My own education is continuing with visits to Myerscough and Reaseheath colleges which not only provided me with two colleges' views on greenkeeper training but also improved my knowledge of grass identification and grass diseases. The range of courses on offer at colleges continues to grow, ranging from N/SVQ through Ordinary National and Higher National Diplomas to degree level courses. Short courses are also available covering a range of skills including Health and Safety, Pesticide Application, First Aid and Safe Lifting and Handling of Heavy Loads.

■ The GTC Training Manual, available from the GTC, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York, YO6 2NF, has been developed as the means to monitor and record the training of greenkeepers, from raw recruit to course manager. The Manual not only meets the needs of industry but also satisfies the criteria laid down by N/SVQ to lead to the award of a nationally recognised qualification at levels 2, 3 and 4. Candidates successfully completing the sections of the Manual will also be entered on the GTC register and will be awarded the appropriate industry certificate ie. the Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping (Craft Section), the Certificate in Golf Course Supervision (Supervisory Section) and the Certificate in Golf Course Management (Management Section). Mandatory conservation units must be completed before the Certificate in Golf Course Management will be issued. Greenkeepers who completed the 'Pink' log-book are still eligible to be entered into the GTC register. Greenkeepers can check with the GTC on 0347 838640 to see if they are registered.

■ N/SVQ assessment centres are being selected from a list of colleges and golf courses and the initial batch of seven greenkeeper assessors has completed its initial training here at Aldwark.

■ Several education and training projects were discussed and

endorsed at the recent BIGGA board meeting. These included:

Training videos

The next BIGGA sponsored training video 'Course Preparation' is due to enter production shortly. This video will cover six units of the GTC Training Manual and has been designed to be used by course managers, golf club management and colleges. The video will be produced in modular format so that the trainer can select the part or parts of the video that meet the training need.

Field guides

The next BIGGA field guide will cover 'Grass Identification'. Initial planning has taken place and production of the guide is expected in the autumn.

BIGGA reference library

Although several management and personal development books have been identified for the BIGGA reference library and the R&A are providing us with a bibliography of some of their titles, we are still looking for suggestions, from members, of suitable books. Details have yet to be finalised but we hope to provide a library which will enable members to gain access to a wide range of greenkeeping, turf management, personnel management and general management sources of information.

■ Two major BIGGA events are nearing their final stages. These are:

TORO/LELY/PGA Student of the Year

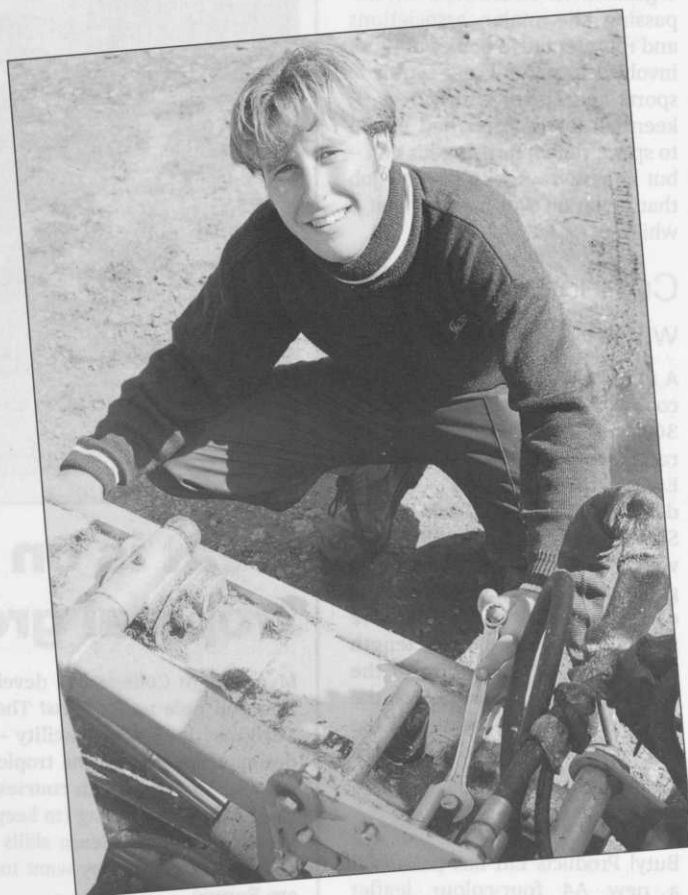
We have received 33 entries from 19 colleges for this year's Student of the Year competition. The regional finals will take place in early September and the final at Aldwark on October 2/3.

ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

The regional courses inspections have already commenced and the finalists should be known soon. The final takes place at Aldwark Manor on December 4/5.

A day in the life

The last time we did this it was snowing in some areas, so we asked five greenkeepers what they were doing on a nice hot summer's day – June 14.



STEVEN MACDONALD, 22
First assistant at Vereniging Golf Club Almeerderhout, The Netherlands, a 27-hole parkland course with a nine-hole par 3 course and driving range. Set in 297 acres, it has 1400 members. Steven has been there two years.

7am – Preparing and checking relevant machinery for all greenkeeping staff to be used today.

7.30am – Delegation of morning jobs with head greenkeeper and discuss briefly the rest of the day's work planner.

7.45am – Begin to fertilise the nine holes on our blue course with Fison's Zero Phosphate 14.0.7 (NPK), 2% iron, 2%mg, with head greenkeeper following

behind watering the greens manually with the Toro irrigation system. Application rate: 1oz per sq yd.

10am – Break.

10.20am – Resetting, tightening and checking fairway Beaver units (two) and Toro 450D fairway mower. After completing this I moved onto the Toro 1000s (four) where I reset height to 5.5mm on all machines and tightened units ready for tomorrow morning.

12.30pm – Lunch.

1.30pm – Delegation of afternoon tasks with head greenkeeper.

1.45pm – Working with Toro 325D set at rough height around greens with assistant greenkeeper on the yellow course in preparation for the club championship at

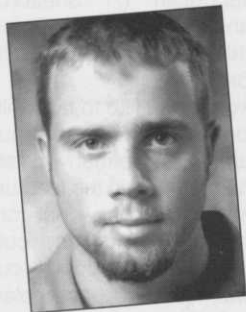
the weekend.

4.15pm – Refuel machine, fill in time sheet, lock up and set alarm.

Finishing time: 4.30pm

Typical day? Very typical with an organised daily work programme having been prepared by our course manager, which means everybody is always kept very busy. Slavernig! (*Dutch*)

Other comments: There is overtime during the week (Thursday and Friday) to have the course in optimal condition for the Club Championship at the weekend.



JAMES ANDREWS, 19
Apprentice greenkeeper at Hankley Common Golf Club, near Fareham, Surrey. The 18-hole heathland course is set in 90 acres and has 600 members. James started there in August '93.

6am – Hand watering greens. Due to the past few days of hot weather, dry spot has occurred on a majority of the greens. Therefore, to stay on top of this, hand watering was necessary. A wetting agent was used.

10.30am – Break for lunch.

11am – Repair burst pipe at the 13th tee.

12.30pm – Clean bottom of water tank – shoes and socks off! Water was drained from the tank and debris collected at the bottom of the tank was disposed of.

1.30-1.34pm – Water fight – course manager soaks me and helper with hose. We come off worse.

Finishing time: 2.15pm

Typical day? Not really as a large company was occupying the course. We had to be off the course by 10.30am (except to repair the burst pipe).

CLIVE RICHARDS, 33
Head greenkeeper at Chipping Sodbury GC, a 27-hole parkland complex set in 120 acres with 750 members. Clive joined in April '91 as deputy and was promoted to head greenkeeper in October '92. Normal hours are 6am-2pm.



GEORGE BROOKE-POWELL, 21
Assistant greenkeeper at Hanbury Manor, an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus Jr designed course set in 200 parkland acres with 550 members. George has been there four years.

6.15am – Fill the mini digger with diesel and grease the entire machine.

6.30am – Continue with mini digger to complete trench work for the installation of a new irrigation main.

10am – Visit my local GP for some allergy relief.

11am – Repair a broken down golf buggy.

11.30am – Lunch.

12.15pm – Finish irrigation main trench work.

5pm – Excavate the irrigation main from the pump station for the connection of the new main.

6.45pm – Lock up.

Finishing time: 7pm

Typical day? Not at all due to the irrigation work being carried out. Normally my tasks would be split between mowing duties and machinery maintenance.

5.45am – Turn irrigation pumps on. (At the moment we have a problem with the wiring system on our irrigation system, so I can only water on manual. The irrigation engineer is due today.)

6am – Delegate jobs to greenstaff. (We have six full-time greenkeepers including myself and a part-time gardener.)

6.15-10am – Change holes, watering the greens at each hydrant as I go round the course. (We are in a long dry spell.)

10-10.45am – Break time.

10.45am – Ring TH Whites to see if they have a Cushman front tyre in stock. They have. Took front wheel off and asked deputy to pick up new one. Ring Roffey Bros and order 25 tonne 70/30 and seaweed.

11.15am – Reset height of cut on Toro 223-D fairway machine from 1/2 to 3/4in to protect the fairways during dry spell. Greased machine all over.

12.15pm – Tried phoning for a JCB to move a large mound of soil. Failed. Will try again tomorrow. Phoned the office in the clubhouse.

12.25pm – Staff return from doing odd jobs. (New tee blocks went on the nine holes on common land, deputy came back from TH Whites, Greens King units taken off for a regrind. Various other odd jobs to finish the day.)

2pm – Staff go home. I go to office in clubhouse and book in delivery notes in the budget book. I also sign invoices and check

their numbers in my book.

Finishing time: 2.50pm

Typical day? Today there was a seniors open championship so we kept out of everyone's way after setting the course up, ie nothing was done out on the course after 10am, so it was not a typical day.

Other comments: The irrigation engineer did not turn up. When I rang to find out the reason for the delay he said he should be here tomorrow. We are one man short this week as one of my staff is at Cannington College finishing his NVQ year 2 course.

ROBIN EVANS, 27
Assistant greenkeeper at Whitby Golf Club, an 18-hole course situated on the cliff between Whitby and Sandsend. Robin has been there 11 years.

3.45am – Start work early because there's a ladies open competition. Check tractor (John Deere) ready for the day's work, ie water, diesel, oil. Put low trailer on and load up with gear ready for going around the course at 6am when the rest of the team comes in. This gear includes rakes, new flags, litter bags for emptying the bins, hole changing equipment and the strimmer.

4.15am – Strim the drive entrance and around the clubhouse area, then edge and strim the steps on the ladies' 12th tee and give them a fresh coat of paint. Make modification to the fence on the 9th tee to stop the turf wearing at the front of the tee. Then back to the sheds to join the rest of the team in the course preparation.

6am – Set to work on the course, ie raking bunkers, changing holes, picking litter off the course, emptying bins, moving markers etc.

10am – Break.

10.30am – Machinery maintenance and tidying shed out.

Finishing time: 1pm

Typical day? Not really, due to the ladies competition.



Golfing legends are stars of £40m club opening

The £40m London Golf Club's grand opening was certainly grand. It featured a £1,000-a-hole skins match between two golfing legends – Jack Nicklaus, who designed the Heritage course, and Seve Ballesteros – with Tony Jacklin making up the numbers before going to America to make his debut on the US Seniors Tour.

The opening was televised by Sky Sports and featured in several national newspapers and magazines. More than 3,500 spectators turned up to see the charity challenge which was followed by a trick shot show and long-driving exhibition.

The 7,208-yard par 72 course looked superb for the big day and, judging by the number of birdie putts sank by Nicklaus and Ballesteros, the creeping bentgrass/USGA spec greens are as good as they look.

Like many Nicklaus-designed courses, the Heritage features many big bunkers and lakes which come into play on five



holes. These lakes are outlets for an extensive drainage system as well as being strategic hazards. They are all inter-connected with a 40-million gallon reservoir providing all the water course superintendent Steve Marsden and his staff of 27, including 18 greenkeepers, could want for the 36-hole club.

Club president Masao Naga-

hara said: "My goal is for the London Golf Club to become the best golf club in Europe."

With such a good start, the Japanese developers are well on their way to achieving their dream. But they have got one thing wrong, at least geographically. The London Golf Club is not even inside the M25, it is near Brands Hatch in Kent.

All change at Force Limagrain

Force Limagrain Ltd, the UK marketing arm of Group Limagrain France, has announced a series of management changes. Ken Alderton is retiring as a director after 44 years service, but will continue to act as a consultant. His responsibilities as forage seeds director will be taken over by Keith Galley, who will be supported by Simon Mitchell as product manager. Dee Bruce assumes the role of sales coordinator at the Longstanton office.

Answers behind the answers...

Mark Smith foxed a few of you with last month's Open Namesearch, even though most of you got the final answers right. You'll find the winner and the answers on page 23, but for those of you who got there without knowing who Massy, Strath and Kirkaldy were, here are the 14 winners and their year of triumph: Hutchinson, Jock 1921; Weiskopf, Tom 1973; Nicklaus, Jack 1966, 70 and 78; Massy, Arnaud 1907; Taylor, JH (John) 1894, 1895, 1900, 1909 and 1913; Strath, Andrew 1865; Jacklin, Tony 1969; De Vicenzo, Roberto 1967; Rogers, Bill 1981; Charles, Bob 1963; Perry, Alf 1935; Kirkaldy, Hugh 1891; Lyle, Sandy 1985; Faulkner, Max 1951.

Letter to the editor

'Great show' was down to a team effort

May 1, through Greenkeeper International, thank the under-noted for their support during the recent Open Golf Championship at Turnberry. The additional machinery enabled us to achieve the standard that is necessary to stage this major championship.

• Toro (The Russell Group);
• Jacobsen (H Sheach);
• Ransomes (Scottish Grass Machinery);
• Kubota (Hamilton Bros.).

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our regular suppliers (too many to list) for their support in the lead up to the tournament – not forgetting our friends and colleagues who helped cut greens, tees and paint holes etc. – not everyone's cup of tea at 4am every day.

Many thanks also to your chairman, John Millen and the dedicated few from the support team who helped fill divots on two evenings even though they had just finished bunker raking.

One can only congratulate the R&A for their professional organisation in bringing together as many as 40 contractors such as fencing, electricians, plumbers, scaffolders, caterers, BBC, Telecom, etc. to name but a few. The planning took between one and two years and during the championship approximately 5,000 people were working at Turnberry every day.

Having spent many hours at meetings with the various contractors I have to rely on a good crew. My staff, which is headed by Martin Lothian, head greenkeeper, prepared the course not only during the Open week but throughout the last two long, wet and windy winters – preparing walkways, tees, greens and revetting most of the bunkers. It is to my team and all colleagues at Turnberry that I give the biggest thanks and say "well done lads – you put on a great show."

**George Brown,
Golf Courses and Estates
Manager, Turnberry**

● Open report and pictures,
Pages 12-15.

● More letters, Page 58.

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