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Official publication of the
British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association
FEBRUARY 1994

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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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All write now

New editor Chris Boiling launches an award scheme to encourage you to contribute to your magazine.

THE PHOTO on this month's cover was taken by a greenkeeper. The crossword is compiled by a greenkeeper. There are a couple of articles by greenkeepers. But I want more.

This is your magazine, so why don't you all make it your goal to contribute at least one article, idea, letter, photo or news story this year. That will give me more time out of the office, so I can come and sample your courses.

To encourage you I'm launching two new awards this issue – the Greenkeeper International Writer of the Year Award and the Greenkeeper International Photographer of the Year contest. Any greenkeeper who has a word or image published in the magazine this year will be eligible.

As well as a trophy there will be a prize, but I've only just started in this job so I haven't had time to source something suitable. But it will be worth winning.

The winners will be selected by the magazine sub-committee and the work of all the shortlisted candidates will be exhibited at the 1995 BTME – for all your colleagues to admire.

The American magazine Golf Course Management runs its own editorial awards and the winner, Thomas Christy, a golf course superintendent in Oregon, collected his prize at this month's International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas.

His winning article was called 'Redesigning Equipment Washdown Pads'. In it, Christy described an innovative system that he devised for wash water containment and recycling. The system was inspired by regulations put into effect by the federal Clean Water Act and local water-use restrictions enacted as a consequence of the Western drought. And I hope it has inspired you. I shall look forward to hearing from you ALL at some point this year.

Working towards the next millenium

In the course of this column I will report from time to time on Board of Management matters and I believe a particularly important decision was taken at the recent December meeting. 1994 has been earmarked for the preparation of a five year plan which will take the Association through to the second millennium. Throughout 1994 there will be the opportunity to review the workings of the Association after seven years of solid growth and achievement. Whilst the plan will be initiated from your Headquarters there will be a full consultative process through the Board of Management to Regional Boards and Section Committees and then back up through the structure. I would urge each individual member who has something to say to make his views known to his Section Committee by contacting his Section Secretary – and the earlier the better!

Apart from looking at policies and programmes to take us forward from 1995, the review will examine the structure of the Association as established through the Constitution from Board of Management through regions to sections. Changes may be necessary to the Constitution. If so they need to be well thought out and capable of standing the test of time. The Constitution is fundamental to any organisation and whilst ours has served us well during the last seven years it may well need a little fine tuning now to ensure a viable structure for the Association into the next century. There has been much discussion of late concerning the composition of the Board of Management, on how long Board members should serve and an increasing awareness of the demands made on Board members. At regional level the increasing amount of paperwork is a concern and there is a need for a uniformity of approach amongst Regional boards. In line with the Constitution sections continue

very much as independent units but this does cause variations in standards and overall administration. I wonder, after seven years, how many sections have actually formed their own bye-laws as provided for in the Constitution? There is a need for a common approach and one area which I know John Pemberton intends looking at closely in 1994 is the preparation of section accounts, still too often a loose and haphazard annual event. Many areas then to be addressed.

Apart from specifics, the benefits of such a review and the creation of a plan which can then be updated annually are many. Some



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

of you may be aware of recent problems within the structure of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. There the fundamental issue concerned a large organisation which was perceived to be losing touch with its members. As one GCSAA member put it '...The Board needs to know what the people in the field are doing, and the people in the field need to know what the association is doing... It's a sign of opening up for the members out in the field'. Now here we are talking about an organisation over sixty years old. By comparison we are very much at the fledgling stage. However, after making allowances for size and tradition, some comparisons are valid. I have long since been aware of the

need for BIGGA to provide within its structure the opportunity for any member to make his views known, and for that member to have the confidence that those views will be listened to, respected and, where appropriate, acted upon. With our membership now well past the 5,000 mark we need to examine the democratic processes we have in place to ensure that they will serve our members well in the future. BIGGA is a members' organisation established not for the benefit of its officers or staff but for its growing membership and it is they who must ultimately determine the future direction of the Association.

During the early months of 1994 your senior management team at Headquarters will initiate the review and five year plan. Regions and Sections should be submitting ideas for consideration as soon as possible. After consideration by the Board of Management, the initial draft will be circulated to Regions and Sections in early summer with a view to comments being forwarded to Headquarters by the beginning of September. It will be incumbent on Regions and Sections to widely canvass the views of members at section level. During the autumn period a final plan will be drawn up for approval by the Board of Management and ratification at the 1995 Annual General Meeting. It will be a year of opportunity, a chance for objectivity, a time when we can consolidate our achievements but be innovative and initiate policies and programmes which will enhance our development. If, through this exercise, we can improve our structure and administration as well as set future goals then we will be strengthening BIGGA and ensuring that greenkeepers both now and in the future will be well served by a forward-looking, professional Association. Like me, I hope that you, the members, will look forward to the challenge.



BIGGA Staff Profile **JOHN PEMBERTON** Administration Manager

The man with day to day financial control of BIGGA's affairs is a former company accountant and computer and systems manager – with a passion for classic motorcycles! John Pemberton, who is married with one boy and two girls, owns a Triumph Bonneville which puts him on slightly firmer ground than his sporting interests when he was younger. "I was a keen oarsman in my teens and twenties," he says. "On several occasions I competed in and completed the UK's – if not the world's – longest rowing race of 21 miles from Lincoln to Boston. It involved negotiating locks by lifting the boat out of the water." John relaxes these days by "trying" to play golf, walking, squash and DIY "by necessity".



NEWS

Boiling in the hot seat

Keen golfer Chris Boiling is the new editor of Greenkeeper International. He took up the position just before the hugely successful BTME.

Greenkeeper International is the sixth magazine the 34-year-old newspaper trained journalist has edited. Immediately prior to the BIGGA post, he was editor of the award-winning Sports Boat International, Waterski Illustrated and Jet Skier magazines.

He has also written for Today's Golfer and Golf News.

GOT A HOT NEWS STORY FOR US? CALL CHRIS BOILING AT THE NEWSDESK: 0347 838581

Greenkeeper's charity drive

One-legged Dennis Archer, the course manager at Whitchurch Golf Club, Cardiff, raised more than £1,000 for charity by go-karting. He survived 29 laps during the Renault Disabled Karting Championship and although he didn't win any of the races he did collect a prize as the highest individual fundraiser. Nearly three-quarters of his £1,000 76p total came from greenkeepers. "This is sufficient to pay for up to three car conversions allowing disabled persons to drive again," said the 57-year-old manager who lost his leg last June due to a blocked artery.



Jack's all right after hip op

Jack McMillan, head of the McMillan clan of greenkeepers, receives his MBE after 48 years in the business. When we phoned to congratulate him, his wife Rita said he was recovering in hospital from a hip operation. He'd been waiting two years for it. Jack is well known in greenkeeping circles having been chairman of BIGGA in 1988, head greenkeeper at Sunningdale for ten years and having fathered five sons, all of whom are greenkeepers. His one daughter works for BUPA, so now he's got something to talk to her about.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ BIGGA's education officer, Debbie Savage, is leaving the Association after five years. She is moving south to Cambridgeshire. Debbie leaves with our best wishes for her future.



■ BUNKERS IN THE FORM of giant's footsteps and a giant in the rough at the end of the fairway are some of the unusual features that await the first greenkeeper at a course just being built in south-west Holland.

The 18-hole Efteling Golf Park is the latest development at the Efteling theme park. It will be opened in 1995. A practice area including driving range, three short holes and practice greens are due to open in June.

■ ANOTHER JACKLIN IS SET to make his mark on the European golf scene. But unlike his father Tony and his elder brother Warren, 24-year-old Bradley isn't too hot with a set of clubs. He's more at home with hole cutter and rake. Bradley, who has just spent two years on a turf management course at Michigan State University in America, has joined the Volvo tour as an agronomist and works as part of the green-keeping support team.

■ FORMER RYDER CUP player Brian Huggett's latest project - an 18-hole course at Orchardleigh House near Frome, Somerset - is due to open at the end of the summer. Work stopped three years ago when the picturesque parkland estate went into receivership.

■ BROTHERS MIKE AND Jonathan Hinch have taken over as managing directors of H Pattison & Co and will oversee its relaunch.

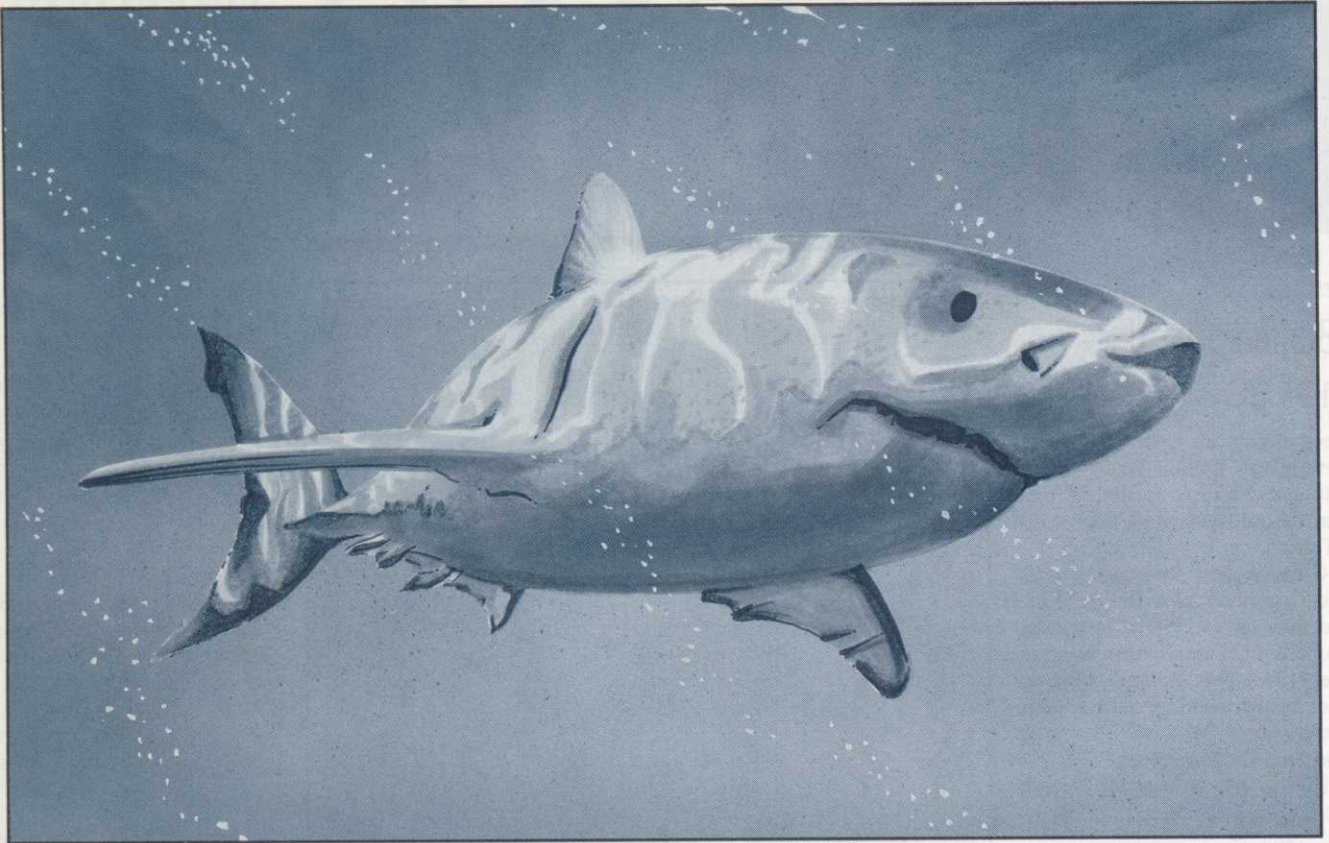
At the recent BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition they launched five new products including a winter tee mat in a steel frame, a divot box, a tee console with a new model ball washer, a ball dispenser and a ball collector. Seven more new products are in the pipeline, they said.



Toro gets load of bull

This is one piece of bull Graham Dale, managing director of Lely (UK) Ltd, doesn't mind receiving. It's the Toro Bull, an award which Toro gives to recognise "the best all-round performance" among its international distributors. Presenting the award is Ted Riley, Toro sales and marketing director for Europe.

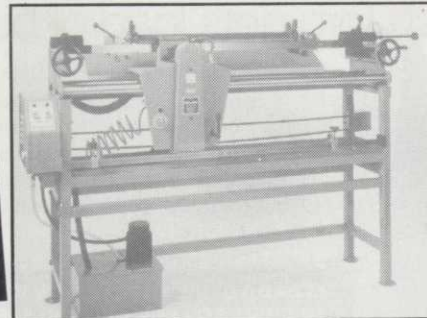
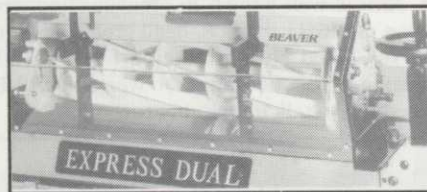
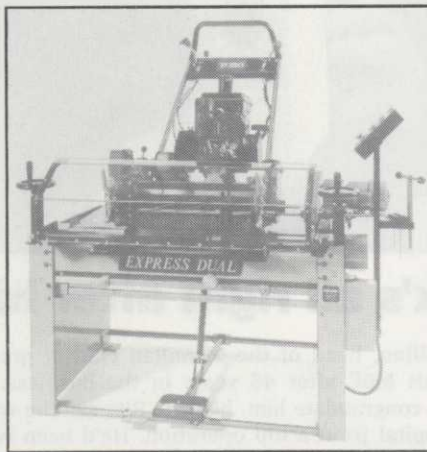
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NEWS

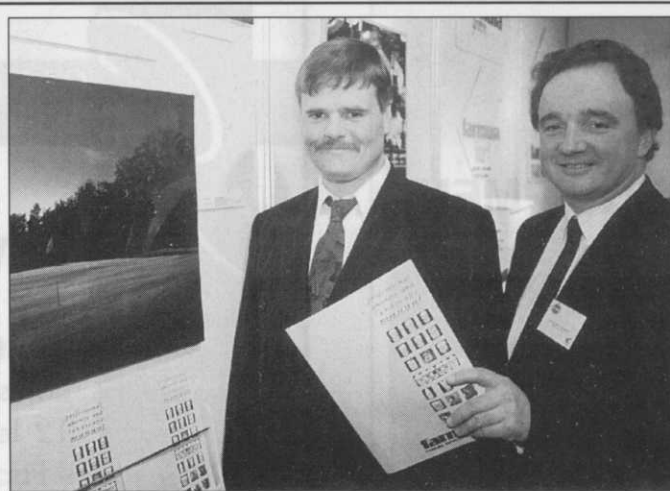
European ecology unit set up

A new European ecology unit has been set up by the European Golf Association, Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and PGA European Tour. The aims of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, which will be based in Brussels from April, are:

- to improve the image of golf through ecological interests;
- to encourage a higher standard of environmental performance from the golf development industry and golf course managers;
- to provide a serious contribution to the European environmental debate; and
- to ensure that the development and management of golf courses in Europe are not impeded by excessive, inappropriate environmental restrictions.

The programme, which is funded for an initial period of three years, has been developed in recognition of the need for the leading golfing bodies in Europe to present a coordinated approach to environmental issues.

The unit will be headed by British ecologist David Stubbs of Environmental Golf Services. He has spent the last seven years specialising in golf-ecology issues and is experienced in matching golf and conservation interests.



Peter in the picture

British greenkeepers working in Europe claimed the top two prizes in the Blazon/Farmura 'Better-Way-To-Spray' photographic competition.

Peter Shaw (left), course manager of the Munchen-Riedof Golf Club in Germany, took the first prize with the photo on this month's cover. His prize was an expenses paid trip to attend the GCSAA Convention in Dallas, USA, and £1,000 of free Farmura products for his course. He is pictured with Farmura's Jonathan Harmer.

Second prize of £500 worth of Farmura products went to Arnold Phipps-Jones, course manager at Limburg Golf and Country Club in Belgium. Third prize - £250 of Farmura products - was won by Peter Dawson, course manager at Wanstead Golf Club. More than 100 greenkeepers entered their views of 'Summer on the golf course'.

John Deere figures leap for '93

John Deere's managing director, Alec McKee, reports a good '93 and is hoping for more market share in '94. "UK sales were significantly higher in 1993, as a result of several new product launches, particularly the 455 lawn and garden tractor and the 1145 front mower," he said.

"We expect further market growth in 1994," he added.

The parent company has reported worldwide net sales of more than \$1 billion for the first time since the company set up its amenity business in the mid-1970s.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ DON'T WORRY IF YOU missed the big BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate, there are two more BIGGA shows to look forward to this year. Organised by BIGGA regions, the shows look set to ape the success of the main event. The shows are Westurf, organised by the South West and South Wales Region and Southurf, organised by the South East Region.

Westurf will take place at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol, on April 27 (tel: 0803 844056) and South Turf will be staged at Motspur Park, south-west London on June 29 (tel: 0342 850875).

■ Here's a man who's not letting the grass grow under his feet. Ian Backhouse has been appointed amenity product manager for Sharpes International with responsibility for the development of the company's Designer Range of amenity grass mixtures.



■ A MEETING OF REGIONAL Administrators and Section Secretaries will be held at BIGGA's Aldwark Manor HQ on February 22 and 23. The seminar is designed as an update as well as providing the opportunity for informal discussions on the development of the Association.

■ THE TOP 10 GOLF courses in Ireland, according to a poll carried out by the Irish Golf Institute, are:

- 1 Portmarnock
- 2 Royal Portrush
- 3 Ballybunion
- 4 Royal County Down
- 5 Waterville
- 6 Mount Juliet
- 7 The European Club, Co Wicklow
- 8 County Louth
- 9 The K-Club (Co Kildare)
- 10 Killeen, Killarney

■ WEED CONTROL seminars, organised by herbicide specialist Nomix-Chipman, are to be held throughout the country from February 15-March 3. The impact of new legislation will be highlighted. For full details contact Nomix-Chipman on 0272 574574.

Stirling effort pays off

Stirling Golf Club's James Easton, pictured right, a part-time student at Elmwood College, Cupar, took the prize for the HNC in golf course management (first year) and the Carnoustie Golf Links Award, which was presented for the first time this year. Ian Grant, chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board, handed over the prizes. Also given awards for greenkeeping were full-time student Paul O'Neill (Scotvec National Certificate in Greenkeeping) and part-time students Joseph Scriven of Callan GC (first year), Gordon Haughie of Southernness GC (second year) and Peter Haggarty of



Helensburgh GC (third year). David McOwat of Charlton GC, Fife, received the Distance Learning prize for the Scotvec National Certificate in Greenkeeping Supervision. The St Andrews Links Trust Award went to Scott Patrick of Ladybank GC for the best practical work in greenkeeping, and Rupert Lawrence of Verulam GC, St Albans, took the Gleneagles Challenge Trophy for the best project in greenkeeping.

● Pictured, back row, from left: James Easton, Gordon Haughie, David McOwat and Peter Haggarty. Front: Rupert Lawrence, Scott Patrick and Paul O'Neill.



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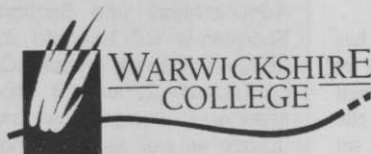
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Change may be the name of the game in the world of golf as new clubs, new schemes and new courses develop rapidly. But there's also a place for constancy. Malcolm Huntington paid a visit to one such organisation, Easingwold Golf Club in Yorkshire, where continuity is a driving influence...

There were some prestigious jobs going in last month's Greenkeeper International: Royal Birkdale, St Pierre, the London Golf Club...

But Jeff Waind, pictured right, head greenkeeper at Easingwold Golf Club near York, wouldn't swap his course for any of them. He loves his job. And he's been doing it for 25 years.

"We only come this way once, so it must be good to enjoy the job you do," said Jeff, when I talked to him in his comfortable room at the end of one of his workshops alongside the 18th fairway.

The rain poured down, the fairways were flooded and, like many places, the course was closed, so he had time to reminisce about his life at the club.

"If you enjoy your job, you stick to it. I have been very happy here and have no intention of applying for another post elsewhere.

"If they will have me, I want to be here for the rest of my working days. In any case, it would be too much of an upheaval.

"My wife Carol works in Easingwold and so does our daughter, Tina, so I can't imagine I could possibly be happier anywhere else," said the contented Waind, who was born in Thurnscoe, near Doncaster, 49 years ago, but has lived most of his life at Yearsley and Easingwold.

It is a far cry from early working days after he had left Easingwold School.

"I worked at Thornton Lodge Farm and then had a couple of years on the dustbins with North Yorkshire Council."

It was at that time that John Knowlson, who was Easingwold's chairman of greens at the time, asked him to work part-time with Charlie Tennant and George Banks.

"I liked it so much that when I was asked if I would take over the job full-time in 1968, I jumped at the chance.

"I was on my own when the club was only nine holes, but once they started building the new nine in 1973, they took on more staff and we now have four."

Waind has carefully overseen the growth of those nine holes, which had been laid out by golf course architects, Hawtree, and



Here for life

watching them develop has been one of his greatest joys.

Are there any changes he would have made with the benefit of hindsight?

"No, I have to say that with the 96 acres of land to be used, the people who have been associated with the club over many years have made good use of it. "The course drains very well because it's on sandy soil and we have never had any major problems, or any returfing to do over the years.

"We have a fair number of rabbits on the course and they do some damage, but we try to keep on top of them by one means or another..."

Naturally, he has seen a lot of changes over the years, the development of specialised machinery being one of the biggest. "We used to cut all our greens with a walk-behind 14" lawnmower, now we have Toro triples which cost a lot of money, but do a very good job.

"We also have water sprinklers on all greens and tees and also on one or two fairways.

"I would say this has been one

of the biggest time-savers. It's all a far cry from the days when we used to come down in the middle of the night to move the hosepipe. Now the water is all metered in any case."

Like most dedicated greenkeepers, he often works longer than the 39 hours prescribed, but he has no complaints about that.

"If you have a job to do, you just get on with it."

Jeff's favourite hole on the 6,285-yard course is the 13th, a 171-yard par 3 across a lake to an elevated green.

So does he ever fancy actually playing golf on the course he has carefully tended over 25 years?

"Not really. I spend a lot of time at the club, so you could say my wife is a golf widow of another kind. I don't think I could spend all night and all day here," he laughed. "But I have been known to hit a few balls down the practice ground near the 18th, although I haven't had time to do that for 18 months."

● Picture courtesy of the Yorkshire Evening Press

FLYING DIVOTS

■ TWO OF THE BIG NAMES in turf and grass equipment, Iseki and Massey Ferguson, have agreed plans to co-operate in the British and Irish markets. This means MF's grass equipment division is now the exclusive distributor for Iseki products in the UK and Ireland.

The two companies have been working closely together for some time. They have a joint venture company in Australia, Massey Ferguson Iseki (Australia) Ltd, which was formed in 1992, and they have a collaborative agreement for the manufacture of tractors. MF builds and supplies high horsepower tractors in Iseki livery for the Japanese market and in return MF has access to compact and small horsepower tractors built by Iseki to MF specification, styling and colours.

■ GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT Martin Gillett wants to attract families with the complex he's designed at Longlands Golf Park, Sidcup, London. When the site is completed it will boast putting greens, mini golf, driving range, practice facilities and a nine-hole par 3 course. The driving range is a bit different in that it is fully contoured with target greens, bunkers and pond. The course also features water, bunkers and landscaping not normally associated with a par 3 course. Mr Gillett believes more facilities like this should be developed to allow access to the game at an affordable level.

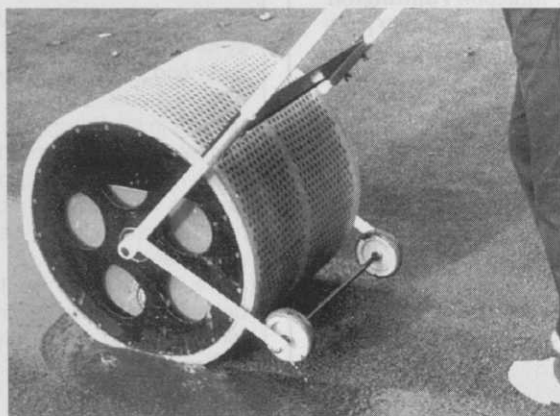
■ Bucks-based Risboro Turf - Jacobsen UK's top dealer - has appointed Shaun Armstrong as sales manager for Herts, Beds and Middlesex.



■ COLLIER TURF CARE (Distributors) Ltd will be holding its annual open day/seminar at The Hotel, Norwich, on Thursday February 24. To get your ticket call Andrew Harding on 0603 870944.

■ FRASER GROWN LAWN Professional Ltd has opened new turf nurseries at Sealand, Chester. Tel: 0244 660901.

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Masters

What is the Master Greenkeeper Certificate?
How do you get it? Why should you want one?
CHRIS BOILING investigates

Why would two Americans who are at the top of their profession and who are fast approaching their 50th birthdays want to sit a six-hour written exam to gain a British qualification?

The answer is that BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper Certificate is fast becoming the highest greenkeeping qualification in the world. It takes longer to complete than the American CGCS programme and, as the Americans who have taken both say, it is tougher.

Forty-seven-year-old Terry Buchen, who runs a "very, very, very private" course in Ohio, said he took it because "It's an international award and it's very well received. The response has been overwhelming. Golf Course News ran a story last April. The response was ten times more than I got when I picked up the US award."

His boss was so proud of his achievement that he paid out \$1400 for Terry and his wife to come to Harrogate to collect the award.

Terry picked it up with two British greenkeepers – David Whitaker and Anthony Davies. This means, four years after the launch of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, there are now eight Masters, three of whom come from America. Another American is well on his way to collecting the award – so is a Swiss greenkeeper and four from Southern Ireland.

Ninety-four greenkeepers have registered for the award, 60 of whom are still on stage 1. On average it takes about two years to get it, and you have to put in a lot of work. So why do they do it?

Terry Buchen said "I've been a certified golf course superintendent in America since 1978. I think there's over 1,000 of us now. I was one of the first 200 and I've been a member of BIGGA since 1984. I enjoy reading Greenkeeper International and when the Master Greenkeepers Certificate

came up I was interested in it but I didn't think I'd be able to qualify because the standards were set very high. But that made me more determined to check it out.

"Once I found out my educational background was OK – I only have a two-year degree, I thought I'd have to have a four-year – but because of all my experience I did qualify."

"I think the big thing was it was an international award and BIGGA is very well thought of by Americans. The stand that they have at the National Convention every year is very well received. It was another mountain to climb and it was very fulfilling taking the written exam that had no true or false questions and no multiple choice – you can guess at a lot of the things on the American test but not on this, it's strictly essay questions. Very tough but very fair."

To prepare for the examine he had to brush up on his fescues and how courses are maintained in the UK which, in any case, he believes is the right way. "I think the way they're maintained over here is the right way. In America they're too lush, too green and too soft. In the UK you have non-irrigated fairways. Golf is played on grass not on colour. We way over do it and spend far too much money on it. In the UK it's the playing conditions that matter not the colour. In the US it's the colour that's most important."

Fellow American **Robert Maibusch**, 36, course superintendent of Hinsdale Golf Club in Illinois, first read about the Master Greenkeeper Certificate in Greenkeeper International after picking up a copy on the BIGGA stand at the GCSAA convention in Las Vegas three years ago. "My interest in the Certificate was as a personal challenge at first," he said. "The work leading up to the exam forced me to go back and review everything I'd ever learned and it