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## GREENKEEPER

International

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**JUNE 1994**

## Contents

### Turnberry on course for Open

Course manager George Brown has made a few minor modifications to his course in preparation for this year's Open. "Golfers are so good now, you have to keep making a few changes to keep up with them," he tells Chris Boiling.....**Pages 14-17**



### Education and training: the future

BIGGA's new education officer Ken Richardson examines the impact of NVQs, explains what they mean and presents the agenda for this year's management courses .....**Pages 8-9**

### John Crawford's end of term report

John Crawford's year as chairman of BIGGA came to a close at the National Education Conference. He told Greenkeeper International what kind of a year it's been .....**Page 13**

### Andrew Carnegie would have approved

The philanthropist's Highlands castle is now in the hands of the de Savary family – and the opening of Britain's first links course in 40 years is now only weeks away.....**Pages 31-37**

## Regular features

**News** The magazine that reports the news also makes it this month: we've won a prize... plus the usual round-up of all that's going on .....**Pages 4, 5, 7, 19, 21**

**Crossword** Mark G Smith compiles another greenkeeping brain baffle. Solve it and you could win £50 or a BIGGA blazer .....**Page 8**

**Around the Green** Regular updates from our correspondents. Find out what's going on: .....**Pages 23-28**

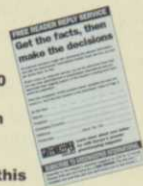
## Cover

Turnberry, venue for this year's Open Championship, plus our man Lynch and a special VIP...

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### ADVERTISERS' INDEX a quick reference guide

	Ad Ref	Page
Amazone	116	19
Amenity Technology	431	2, 22
Atterton & Ellis	7	20
Banks Horticulture	168	30
Blec	98	30
Bob Andrews	381	21
Brian D Pierson	40	35
Dixon & Holliday	214	13
Echo	446	12
Fairway Landscapes	460	30
Fisons	102	51
Golf Maintenance	440	34
Grundon	437	16
Hayters	90	52
Inturf	31	36
Irish Greenkeepers Association	458	12
JD Greasley	461	30
Major Equipment	419	37
MJ Abbott	296	32
Mommersteeg	171	16
Patissons	35	12
Sisis	176	18
Standard Golf	421	11
Supaturf	164	6
Times Mirror	462	11
Watermaton	33	36
Wessex Farm Machinery	210	40
Colleges	•	38-39
Buyer's Guide	•	42-46
Classified	•	46
Job Shop	•	46
Recruitment	•	47-48

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– ROGER MOSSOP, Marketing Manager, ICI Professional Products  
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# BIGGA's training programmes forge ahead

As I write, our new Education Officer, Ken Richardson, is settling in, making contacts and hopefully beginning to see the wood from the trees in terms of greenkeeper education and training. I am sure that with his training background he will have much to contribute to both our own training programmes and to the development of education generally within the profession. Indeed much is happening on the education front. You will read elsewhere in the pages of this issue of the re-structuring of our annual management courses. This is an exciting development providing members with the opportunity whilst pursuing a course at Aldwark Manor to move towards a nationally recognised qualification. As part of our review this year we will be looking at the Master Greenkeeper Certificate to see if any amendments are necessary to the certification scheme after four years of operation. The status of the certificate continues to be enhanced and I remain impressed by the determination of members to obtain the certificate. As in any examination procedure there are referrals but a referral only seems to reinforce the determination of a member to reach his goal and this surely augurs well for his and the profession's future. Recent comment indicates that those referred are not clearly advised on aspects where they need to show improvement. Ken Richardson is aware of this criticism which will be rectified in future. There will be very real benefits in the years ahead for those recognised as Master Greenkeepers as indeed there will be for their profession and Association.

We will be looking to link the Management Courses with the Training Manual and to examine the feasibility of doing likewise with the Master Greenkeeper Certificate thereby demonstrating a coherent and logical approach to greenkeeper education in broad terms.

## Training initiative

In discussion with the GTC we have agreed on the need for a local training initiative and greenkeepers will thereby be presented with a choice of educational pro-



## BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

vision. Whilst the detail remains to be finalised this local training is likely to be both college or centre based and incorporate a travelling roadshow. There is much administrative work to be undertaken and there will need to be substantial financial provision by the GTC. However I am optimistic that this initiative will commence in September 1995.

## Field Guide

Members will have recently received an on course field guide for the major diseases and pests of fine turf which can be incorporated within their Training Manuals. This is yet another development emanating from the Education and Development Fund and offering practical benefits to greenkeepers. This fund is now in its third year, is firmly established and a vital source in terms of financing future educational projects. Continued support of the fund at all levels is extremely important.

This year will see two further training videos produced. The first will be made commercially with BIGGA backing and advice and will feature mowing tech-

niques. The second will be independently produced and financed by the Education and Development Fund and will feature golf course preparation. Our new library at Headquarters will become accessible for these and future training videos as well as books and will represent a valuable training medium.

## Ecology debate

Discussions are ongoing with regard to the production of a practical guide to the ecological management of the golf course and a decision will shortly be taken on the direction in which this will proceed. Again financing will be provided through the Education and Development Fund. Ecological management is very much a current topic and concern and as an Association we must be at the forefront in leading the debate on behalf of the profession.

## Needs analysis

There is concern at the lack of knowledge at Headquarters of educational developments at Region and Section level and here I see a key role in future for the regionally based Education Conveners. Our Education Officer will be seeking an early meeting with the Conveners essentially to carry out a 'needs analysis' exercise. There must be better coordination in future and indeed common standards and structured programmes implemented at Region and Section level. Any observations or comments you have will be welcomed by Ken Richardson who will seek to canvass a broad spectrum of opinion on the way ahead.

## Conference venue

There has been much debate in recent months on the future timing and location of our National Education Conference. The recent conference at the University of Warwick more than maintained the standards of previous conferences and the enthusiasm of delegates continues to be most marked. Over the last year or so your Board of Management members have been made aware of pressures from within the membership to hold the Conference during the BTME in Harrogate.

I am equally aware of the views of many regular conference attendees who would prefer the conference to continue to be held separately in a university location. Having given in depth consideration to this matter your Education Sub-Committee has recommended that the 1995 Conference be held during the BTME replacing the Workshop programme over the Monday and Tuesday. This will be on a trial basis for 1995 and the situation will be reviewed thereafter. The Conference will be held in the Majestic Hotel adjacent to the Exhibition Halls and this hotel will now become the official Headquarters hotel for the BTME. Additionally we will of course be running the usual Seminar Programme during the Exhibition and here the format will remain unchanged. We are currently planning an exciting speaker programme over the five days and volunteers to present a paper at either the Conference or Seminar Programme will be given every consideration – but please hurry up and let us have your name. Look out for early news of BTME '95 in the BTME Newslines which will be closely followed in September by a new-look programme and booking form.

So there we have it – much is happening in greenkeeper education and with the review underway future initiatives are already being discussed. Members can rest assured that, in accordance with our founding objectives back in 1987, the development of greenkeeper education and training will continue to be our first and foremost consideration.

## BIGGA Staff Profile SAMANTHA COLLINS (Sami) Clerk/typist

Maybe it's because she went to school in Colorado for a year, or maybe it's just because she likes American rock music, but Samantha Collins (or Sami as she prefers to be known) is a big fan of the US of A.

When she's not handling the subscriptions database for Greenkeeper International, answering the telephone or involved in secretarial duties, you'll find Sami in a pair of Levis dancing to "Sweet home Alabama" in her favourite bar. Sami's also a computer whiz and before joining BIGGA worked for several computer companies. "Have a positive attitude – it makes life worth living," she says, philosophically.



## Greenkeeper dies in mower accident

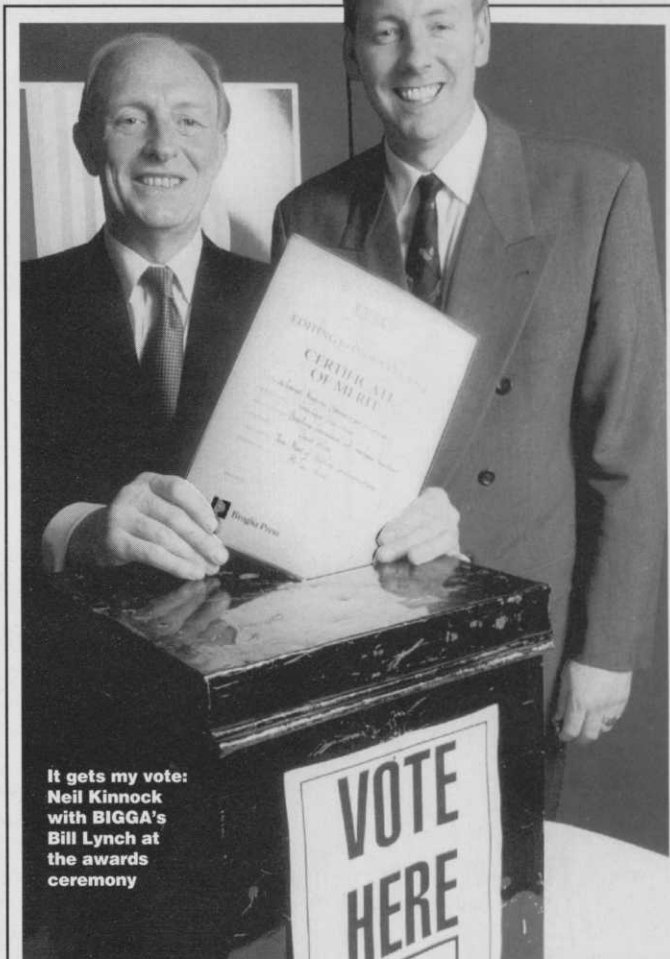
A part-time greenkeeper has died in a horrific accident involving a mower.

It is believed that 60 year old Ronnie Mitchell's anorak drawstring became entangled in the ride-on mower's driveshaft, dragging him into the machine. Although the blades missed him, his head and chest were crushed in the narrow gap between the blade arms and the wheels.

The engine was still running when a colleague at the Bradley Hall Golf Club, Greetland, near Halifax, found him.

A single man, Mr Mitchell had been the head greenkeeper there for 30 years until he retired two years ago.

# NEWS



It gets my vote: Neil Kinnock with BIGGA's Bill Lynch at the awards ceremony

## Highest praise for BIGGA magazine

Your magazine, Greenkeeper International, is "superb". We're not blowing our own trumpet, it's official. Judges in the prestigious Editing for Industry Awards, which are organised by the British Association of Industrial Editors, called it "a remarkable magazine", "which hits the mark spot on".

Competing against publications backed by mega-rich companies, Greenkeeper International won a Certificate of Merit alongside Esso's "Update". The winner was "Aspect" from British Gas.

At a presentation in Edinburgh, former Labour leader Neil Kinnock presented the certificate to BIGGA's sales and marketing manager Bill Lynch. Mr Kinnock commented that he had seen the magazine before at a golf course in his Welsh constituency – and was able to recall an article in it from three years ago!

The judges took our description of the magazine – "Self-supporting through its advertising content and recognised as an industry leader" – and added: "Therein lies the perfect appraisal of this remarkable magazine. Jam-packed with full colour ads and till-jangling small ad section providing a healthy platform for well-written, informative and genuinely interesting features that guarantee appeal even wider than the captive audience of greenkeepers. It is very difficult to fault such a superb magazine which hits the mark spot on in a specialist market."

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ Muirfield's course manager, Chris Whittle, is heading back to his roots to take over the head greenkeeper's job at Royal Birkdale. Chris hails from nearby Formby and started his greenkeeping career at Formby GC in the early '70s after a spell in a bank. He is looking forward to returning to Merseyside after nearly six years at Muirfield.

Twelve-handicapper Chris, who has just turned 40, will take over when Tom O'Brien retires in October. He beat nearly 60 candidates to the job of keeping 18 new greens on the Open Championship course.

■ Work has started on a new 18-hole parkland course at Walton, near Wakefield. Waterton Park Golf Club, set in 200 acres, is designed by the Simon Gidman/Chapman Warren partnership with input from Yorkshire's international touring pro Gordon J Brand. It will open for play in September '95 with membership restricted to investors.

■ Barry Neville, a former Student Greenkeeper of the Year, has been appointed deputy head greenkeeper at Stanmore Golf Club, Middlesex. He was previously first assistant at Whitehall Golf Centre.

■ John Houston, 37, has left Royal Blackheath GC to take over the course manager's position at Fulwell Golf Club, Hampton Hill, Middlesex. He takes over from the late Hugh MacGillivray.

■ Work on a full nine-hole, double tee course has started at Rustington Golf Centre, near Littlehampton, West Sussex. The centre, which is close to Ham Manor, already has a nine-hole par 3 course and a 30-bay driving range. Four greenkeepers will look after the site. Head man is 24-year-old Stephen Payne.

■ Bill Sibley has taken over as Sisis Equipment's area representative for Kent, Sussex and Surrey. He is married with a son of three and newborn twin boys.



## Taking over



David Halford, a senior lecturer at Myerscough College near Preston, has taken over the late John


Shildrick's job as secretary of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association. David says it will be a hard act to follow: "John was, to all intents and purposes, the heart of the Association. I will endeavour to maintain the standards he set but it will be difficult."

He will administer BTLIA affairs from an office at Myerscough which has its own golf course equipped with virtually every example of sprinklers used on UK golf courses.

## Waste not...

Wessex Water is selling bags of dried human sewage to golf courses as fertiliser. The odourless pellets are made from sludge that used to be pumped into the Bristol Channel. The company says that, unlike chemical fertilisers, it can be used quickly while the course is still in use and it does not make the grass grow too fast.

■ The East Sussex National Golf Club has started giving golfers information sheets which show pin positions and Stimpmeter readings before they tee off.



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## Pocket-size guide to pests and diseases is launched

A new all-colour pocket-sized guide to help greenkeepers identify major diseases and pests of fine turf is now available from BIGGA. And thanks to the Association's Education and Development

Fund, which is supported by members of the Golden and Silver Key Circles, it's free.

The guide is designed to be used out on the course in all weathers with each sheet plastic coated. Alternatively it can be incorporated within the GTC training manual. Diseases covered include fusarium patch, anthracnose, take-all patch, fairy rings, thatch fungi, red thread, seedling diseases, and insect pests.

Future guides in the series will cover dry patch and disorders, turfgrass weeds and grass identification.

The first guide was prepared by a BIGGA working group comprising Geoff Yelland of Rigby Taylor Ltd, Gordon Irvine of Mill Ride Golf Club, Mike Drinkall of DowElanco Ltd and Neil Baldwin of Service Chemicals plc.

## Cameron's story

A computer glitch meant that the final paragraphs of our Stockley Park feature last month were missing. Here's a recap of course manager Cameron McMillan's story, including the missing lines, with our apologies.

Then, last June, when Stockley Park opened, the father-to-be moved round the M25 – and was impressed with what he found: the flat landfill site had been turned into a pretty country park with some of the newly-made hills giving excellent views of the City in one direction, Windsor Castle in another and Concorde taking off in another.

Director of golf Peter Oosterhuis, 46, joined Stockley Park in the winter. The site has a lot of potential and he believes he could see 45,000 rounds a year being played there in a few years. But he's unlikely to see any of his customers from the Riviera Country Club. These included Dean Martin, James Garner and Columbo star Peter Falk, whom he once had to tell to play quicker.



## A touch of Florida in Sussex

A 'Florida style' course has opened in Sussex. The Cathedral course at the new Chichester Golf Centre, Hunston, boasts huge rolling greens, big expanses of water, winding streams, trees and enormous bunkers. There are long holes like the 605-yard 5th and spectacular holes like the par 3 15th with a bank of Portland stone behind the green and a small lake in front.

Consultant Jack McMillan MBE, pictured centre, and owner Brian Langmead, far right, joined the greenkeeping team at the opening for this photograph.

## Award-winning Bridie's 'brilliant' time in America

Bridie Redican, the first woman greenkeeper to carry off the coveted Toro-PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, has returned to Ireland after her sponsored trip to the USA. And she has joined the newly-formed greenkeeping team at the Adare Golf Club, a new Robert Trent Jones 18-hole design being constructed close to Shannon Airport on the south-west coast.

Recalling her recent experiences in America, Bridie, pictured right, says she was "knocked for six" at the size of US greenkeeping budgets – and greenkeeper's salaries. They're about double what they are here.

Describing her six weeks turf management course studies at the University of Massachusetts as "brilliant", Bridie teamed up with the only other female (an American) attending the residential course "to reduce the odds. There were two of us (women) and over 60 male greenkeepers!"

After completing her studies, Bridie visited the Toro Mower Division's complex at snowbound Minneapolis, before flying to the Californian sunshine.

In addition to touring the Toro Irrigation Division's offices and production lines at Riverside, south of Los Angeles, Bridie spent a day looking over golf courses in Palm Springs.

"The Toro-PGA scholarship

really is the chance of a lifetime – I would urge any young greenkeepers to work hard at their college work to ensure that they are nominated for this year's (October) finals at Aldwark Manor," she said.

Organised by BIGGA, the Student Greenkeeper Award is sponsored by Lely (UK) Ltd, Toro mower distributors and the European office of Toro Irrigation – plus the PGA European Tour.



## EUROPEAN OUTLOOK

### Vigilance needed

Golf has been lumped in with other sports as the Committee for European Normalization tries standardising natural sports surfaces. Of course this is crazy, but fortunately deliberations are going at the sort of pace that would make the slowest golfer look like Harry Weetman.

'Our' man there, Eric Shiel of the Joint Golf Course Committee, says: "A lot of time has been taken up trying to get agreement among different nations on 'standards for test methods', therefore there has been no direct impact on the game of golf so far. But watch must be kept upon these non-golf boffins since, for example, when deciding a test method for 'ball roll' I had to tell them that the Stimpmeter had been used in golf for over 40 years, something they knew nothing about. Otherwise they would have invented something else to be used for all sports."

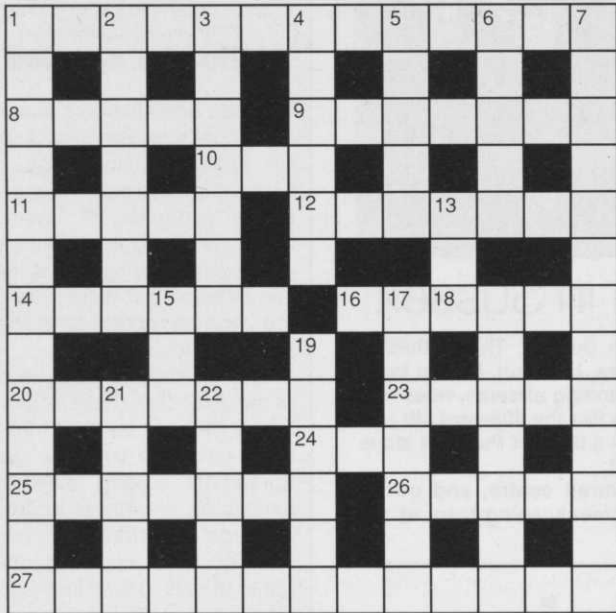
In addition to ball roll, imminent standard test methods being developed which will impact on golf include: organic matter, particle size, determination of thatch depth, sward height and ground cover, saturated hydraulic conductivity, water infiltration rates and angled ball behaviour. Thankfully it was decided that golf did not need a test method for a vertical ball bounce, so at least that was eliminated.

■ The European Golf Association Ecology Unit management committee, which met for the first time recently in Brussels, is putting together a document detailing the positive environmental attributes of golf courses. The director, David Stubbs of Environmental Golf Services, says it will be for distribution to the golfing community and will serve to counter opposing claims about the environmental impact of the game. A long-term scientific study is also to be undertaken comparing the impact of golf courses before and after construction and/or reconstruction.

The EGAEU is funded by the R&A, the PGA European Tour and the European Golf Association.

# GREENKEEPER'S CROSSWORD

Compiled by Mark G Smith, assistant at Frilford Heath GC



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### CLUES ACROSS

- 1 .....GC, Oxfordshire, 1987 English Amateur Championship venue, set to become 54 holes in July 1994 (8,5)
- 8 Red figures on a scoreboard, indicate what of a player in relation to par (5)
- 9 Regulate staff or a machine (7)
- 10 Ping ..... 2, a range of clubs made by Karsten Engineering (3)
- 11 (L..... Baccata) the Yew tree (5)
- 12 ..... Lily (L. Liliium Candidum) (7)
- 14 The USA's opponents in the Ryder Cup (6)
- 16 To defeat heavily, particularly in Match Play (6)
- 20 Collective name for the users of a Golf Course (7)
- 23 Formulations of different genera and/or cultivars of grass (5)
- 24 ..... plant (L. Mesembryanthemum Crystallinum) (3)
- 25 Surname of the 1984 USPGA Champion (7)
- 26 ..... Mediate, USPGA Tour Professional (5)
- 27 Core surrounded by a solenoid which operates sprinkler valves when current is passed (13)

### CLUES DOWN

- 1 Usual destination after the thirteenth green (10,3)
- 2 Alphabetic filing aid (7)
- 3 Starts a machine (5-2)
- 4 Me care cuts up a type of grass inflorescence (anagram) (6)
- 5 Keenly sharpened edge or skill (5)
- 6 Surname of the 1973 US Masters Champion (5)
- 7 The name of the 5th hole on the Old Course, St Andrews (4,6,3)
- 13 Unit of electrical resistance (3)
- 15 Commencement of a round (3)
- 17 Plants known as 'Thrift' or 'Sea Pinks' of which (L. .... Alpina) is one variety (7)
- 18 Nationality of 25 Across (7)
- 19 ..... Country Club, Columbus, Ohio venue of the 1950 USPGA Championship (6)
- 21 Quench hot metal in oil (5)
- 22 Court danger by playing close to bunker (5)

★ Solve the crossword puzzle and you could win either a BIGGA blazer (worth £87.95) or £50 in cash! Send completed entries to: Crossword Competition, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NE

Closing date June 24, 1994. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win the prize. Photocopy your entry if you don't want to cut up your magazine.

These are the answers to last month's crossword.

The winner will be announced next month.

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# Education and training: the future



**BIGGA's new education officer Ken Richardson examines the impact of NVQs and SNVQs on greenkeeper training and introduces the agenda for this autumn's management courses**

BIGGA has the education and training of greenkeepers as its first priority. This, the first of a series of articles, describes the structure of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs). Subsequent articles will describe the role that NVQs/SVQs are having and, will continue to have, on greenkeeper training.

### Why NVQs/SVQs?

In an attempt to improve the skill levels of British workers and to improve the quality reputation of British manufactured goods, the Government instigated a review of vocational training in 1985. From this review it was apparent that major changes were required in vocational training and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) was formed to set up the framework for NVQs/SVQs.

### What are NVQs/SVQs?

Traditional courses led to academic qualifications by testing candidates on what they knew and not what they could do. NVQs/SVQs measure what a person can do ie. candidates for an award must demonstrate their ability to perform certain work related tasks and have a command of the knowledge underpinning those tasks. There are five levels of NVQ/SVQ. These are:

- (a). **Level 1 (Craft)** Competence in a range of routine or predictable activities.
- (b). **Level 2 (Craft)** Competence in a significant range of work activities, some of which are complex or non-routine. Teamwork may often be a requirement.
- (c). **Level 3 (Supervisory)** Competence in a broad range of work most of which is of a complex or non routine nature. There may be considerable personal control and

guidance of others is often required.

(d). **Level 4 (Management)** Competence in a broad range of complex technical or professional activities with a substantial degree of personal responsibility, responsibility for the work of others and responsibility for the allocation of resources.

(e). **Level 5 (Management)** Competence involving the application of a significant range of fundamental principles and complex techniques. Very substantial personal autonomy and significant responsibility for others. Planning, design, diagnosis and evaluation are also required.

Each level of NVQ/SVQ is made up of a number of units which set out what the candidate must be able to do and to what standard. Standards are set by Industry Lead Bodies (ILBs). The ILB for greenkeeping is the Industry Lead Body for Amenity Horticulture. NVQs/SVQs are awarded by awarding bodies such as City & Guilds and SCOTVEC.

### Accredited Prior Learning

Accredited prior learning (APL) provides routes for recognition of achievements from all types of learning which may be in the classroom, at the workplace or through experience. Evidence of prior learning, once accepted, can be used towards the award of an NVQ/SVQ. Therefore, experienced greenkeepers could gain NVQs/SVQs without the need to attend college.

### Benefits of NVQ/SVQ

The introduction of NVQs/SVQs has already changed greenkeeper training. The key to NVQs/SVQs is that they benefit everyone concerned with greenkeeping: greenkeepers, employers and golfers. Having a better trained workforce means better golf courses.

# Supervisory & Management Courses



Following the introduction of the Greenkeepers Training Committee Training Manual, the format of this year's supervisory and management courses has been changed. The supervisory section of the Training Manual is designed to lead to the award of an NVQ/SVQ Level 3 in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) and/or the GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision.

The 1994 series of BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses has been designed to meet the underpinning knowledge requirements of Level 3 Units 1001 to 1013. BIGGA courses are open to all greenkeepers who need to improve their supervisory and management skills. The courses cover:

## Week 1, Managing People Module 1

This week covers units 1005, 1006 and 1007 and deals with team building skills, interpersonal skills, time management and staff appraisal, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

## Week 2, Managing People Module 2

This week covers units 1008, 1009, 1010 and 1011 and deals with assertive communication, influencing skills, grievance and discipline, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

## Week 3, Managing Operations and Resources

This week covers units 1001, 1002, 1003 and 1004 and deals with planning and organising, communicating with others, dealing with accidents, maintaining a safe and healthy environment, suggesting improvements, solving problems and relating costs to employers' objectives and golfers' requirements, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

## Week 4, Managing Information

This week covers units 1012 and 1013 and deals with collecting and recording information, giving advice, presenting information to others, communicating clearly, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

Weeks 1 and 2 will include outdoor practical exercises and delegates should bring suitable casual, outdoor clothing. Protective clothing will be provided.

The courses are not cumulative and delegates can choose to attend one or more weeks so that over 1-4 years all the underpinning knowledge requirements of Level 3 could be met. All course delegates and employers will receive an end of course

## Management Courses Autumn/Winter 1994: TIMETABLES

Week 1 • October 24-28 1994			
	9am - 12noon	1.30pm - 4.00pm	4.30pm - 7.00pm
<b>Monday</b>	Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch	Managing People - Module 1	Way forward for Greenkeeper Education
<b>Tuesday</b>	Managing People - Module 1	Managing People - Module 1	Managing People - Module 1
<b>Wednesday</b>	Managing People - Module 1	Managing People - Module 1	
<b>Thursday</b>	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping
<b>Friday</b>	Doing it my way James Kidd	Open Forum	Delegates depart after lunch

Week 2 • October 31-November 4 1994			
	9am - 12noon	1.30pm - 4.00pm	4.30pm - 7.00pm
<b>Monday</b>	Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch	Managing People - Module 2	Way forward for Greenkeeper Education
<b>Tuesday</b>	Managing People - Module 2	Managing People - Module 2	Managing People - Module 2
<b>Wednesday</b>	Managing People - Module 2	Managing People - Module 2	
<b>Thursday</b>	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping
<b>Friday</b>	Doing it my way Walter Woods	Open Forum	Delegates depart after lunch

Week 3 • November 7-11 1994			
	9am - 12noon	1.30pm - 4.00pm	4.30pm - 7.00pm
<b>Monday</b>	Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch	Managing Operations and Resources	Way forward for Greenkeeper Education
<b>Tuesday</b>	Managing Operations and Resources	Managing Operations and Resources	Managing Operations and Resources
<b>Wednesday</b>	Managing Operations and Resources	Managing Operations and Resources	
<b>Thursday</b>	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping
<b>Friday</b>	Doing it my way David MacIndoe	Open Forum	Delegates depart after lunch

Week 4 • November 14-18 1994			
	9am - 12noon	1.30pm - 4.00pm	4.30pm - 7.00pm
<b>Monday</b>	Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch	Managing Information	Way forward for Greenkeeper Education
<b>Tuesday</b>	Managing Information	Managing Information	Managing Information
<b>Wednesday</b>	Managing information	Managing Information	
<b>Thursday</b>	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping
<b>Friday</b>	Doing it my way Christopher Kennedy	Open Forum	Delegates depart after lunch

summary. This could be used to provide evidence for NVQ/SVQ assessors.

Attendance at each year's course qualifies for eight credits towards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

The cost per week, including accommodation, all meals and tuition fees is £420+VAT for BIGGA members and £475+VAT for non-members.

## GTC GRANTS

As these supervisory and management courses are approved by the Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC), golf clubs with mature head greenkeepers who have never attended a college course, may be eligible to claim a grant of £150 per delegate per week from the GTC. Further details of the grant and an application form may be obtained from the GTC, Ald-

wark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO6 2NE Telephone 0347 838640.

■ To reserve your place, complete the postcard in this magazine and return it to BIGGA, together with a deposit of £100 + VAT (total £117.50). The balance will be due for payment no later than October 1, 1994. If a delegate cancels his booking prior to the course, he will be liable for the payment of the total cost unless the place can be filled by another delegate. In order to provide a high level of instructor/delegate interaction, each course is limited to 12 delegates - so book early.

If you have any queries or need more information, call Ken Richardson, BIGGA education officer, on 0347 838581.



# Westurf '94



St Endoc's Steve Evans, right, winner of our Westurf wordsearch competition, receives his £50 voucher from BIGGA chairman John Millen

Michael Bird reports from Bristol on the best-yet Westurf event

More than 2,000 visitors gave April's Westurf exhibition at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol, the best ever attendance in the event's six year history.

Organised by the South West and South Wales region of BIGGA, this year's Westurf also attracted 73 exhibitors, the highest number since the event was established in 1989.

Region administrator, Gordon Child, commented that the increasing number of national and regional companies wishing to take stand space at Westurf reflected recognition of the quality of the attendance.

Apart from all golf clubs, event secretary Marion Child also invites sports clubs, local authorities and others involved in turf care throughout the area. "The formula appears to work," said Mr Child. "We now have a well established exhibition for the south west of the country which attracts excellent support from greenkeepers, groundstaff and others involved in the turf maintenance industry.

"Furthermore, all trade exhibitors appeared extremely satisfied with the day. And if they are pleased, we have to be pleased also."

All profits resulting from Westurf are used for the benefit of greenkeepers in BIGGA's South West and South Wales region. Areas in which money has been used in the past include helping with visits to the BTME at Harrogate and the organisation of seminars, workshops and other educational events for members.

The importance placed on Westurf by manufacturers and dealers means that a number of products receive their first public airing at the event.

The words and pictures below highlight some of the latest ideas and innovations aiming to attract the attention of machinery buyers at the exhibition:

ing action and have adjustable rear rollers for accurate setting of working height and brushing intensity. Transport width is 2.03m (6ft 8in) and price in the region of £2,500.



Available in 1.8m and 2.4m (6ft and 8ft) widths, Doveswell Engineering's new Titan turf slitter is suitable for use on fairways, approaches, practice

grounds and other turf areas requiring regular aeration. Designed for tractors of 35hp or more, the Titan shown here is fitted with 200mm (8in) blades and hydraulic depth control. This uses a tractor linkage lock-out frame and a double-acting hydraulic ram to control depth and help penetration in tough conditions. A ballast version with weight tray is also available as are 254mm (10in) slitting blades and a rear full-width roller. Price from £1,895.



Latest attachment introduced for use with Toro's Workman 3000 turf vehicle is the Top Dresser 1800, distributed by Lely (UK) Ltd.

The implement has a capacity of 510 litres (18 cu ft) and a spread width of 1.5m (5ft), giving effective coverage across the vehicle's full wheelbase. Drive to the conveyor at the base of the hopper is hydraulic with chain and sprocket connection to the delivery brush. A remote hydraulic control enables the operator to engage or disengage drive instantly. Price, including remote control, is £4,245.



New from Long-Equip is the RL F-M 1501 fully tractor-mounted flail/scarifier collector with 1,100 litre (39 cu ft) capacity hopper.

Driven by the tractor's power take-off, the unit has a working width of 1.5m (5ft) and is suitable for tractors of 28hp upwards. It requires a single hydraulic flow to operate the hopper tipping mechanism.

Ideal for working in both open and awkward areas, the F-M 1501 can be fitted with scarifying, heavy-duty twisted or back-to-back flail blades in minutes, enabling cutting, scarifying and leaf collection to be carried out by one compact unit. Updraught is assisted by 18 wind paddles fitted to the heavy-duty rotor. Price is £4,495.



Replacing the Ransomes Motor 350 is the Commander 3500DX, a five unit, 3.5m (138in) cut machine designed for all-round, high

output work on short and longer grass areas according to the cutting units fitted.

The mower can be specified with Magna 250 (254mm diameter, six knives and rear roller) or Sport 200 cutting units (197mm diameter, eight or 11 knives, front and rear rollers).

Standard features include a 51hp four cylinder diesel engine, hydrostatic transmission with on-demand two or four wheel drive and articulating wing units. Workrate is 3.2 ha/hour (8 acres) at 7.5mph. Price, with eight knife Sport 200 cutting units, is £32,325.



The Jacobsen Workhorse System Vehicle's one tonne payload is said to be the best of any turf utility vehicle in its

class. A choice of 34hp petrol or 23hp diesel engines can be specified, linked to a four speed transmission driving the rear axle through high and low ranges. The engine is front mounted and there is power steering, hydraulic PTO and quick-pitch coupling for a range of Jacobsen attachments including a tipping cargo box, top dresser, sprayers and a fertiliser spreader. Other manufacturer's implements such as aerators and a core harvester can also be accommodated. Price of the petrol model is £13,230.

Designed for powered grooming and sweeping of turf and other firm, level surfaces, the Pro-Sweep from Pro-Seed

Equipment Ltd

has three independently-floating heads giving a maximum working width of 3.05m (10ft).

Suitable for both cosmetic and practical purposes, the polypropylene brushes require an oil supply of about 20 litres/min (4.5gal/min) taken from a tractor of 25hp or more. The brushes can be angled to provide a windrow-

