

# Out of this world



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**BY AIR:** Leeds/Bradford Airport is 12 miles away and has direct flights from major European cities. **BY ROAD:** From North and South - A1, exit Wetherby, nine miles from Harrogate. M1 and M62 to Leeds, which is 15 miles away. **BY SEA:** North Sea Ferries, from Rotterdam/Zebrugge to Hull, 60 miles away.



# GREENKEEPER

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**NOVEMBER 1994**

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Euan Grant, the new Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year

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# GREENKEEPER

International

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### Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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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**FOR MORE DETAILS CALL:** Bill Lynch on 091 413 7218, or Carol Dutton or Louise Lunn at BIGGA HQ on 0347 838581.



# Preparing for the challenge

**Y**ou may not have heard of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit or indeed the Global Anti-Golf Movement (GAGM) but increasingly ecological issues will impinge on greenkeepers and the golf courses they maintain. In terms of developing an environmental strategy for golf in Europe we are some way behind developments in the USA whilst from an Association viewpoint there is a clear need for guidelines and for the adoption of a pro-active position.

The EGA Ecology Unit was established earlier this year and is based in Brussels. Funded by the R & A, the PGA European Tour and the European Golf Association, the Unit is headed by David Stubbs as Executive Director. He will be known to a number of you through his past participation in BIGGA seminar programmes. This body represents 26 Golf Federations and will act as a clearing house for information. It will be able to take the pressure off individual countries spending time and money building up their own defences against the likes of the Global Anti-Golf Movement, which is contracted to the intimidating acronym of "gag 'em", and claims a membership of 250 groups in 15 countries. One of their recent meetings brought together 300 participants from ten countries including the United Kingdom. This grassroots movement has signified its presence by declaring a World No Golf Day – and subsequently a World No Golf Year. It has also militated for a moratorium on new golf course construction and called for a ban on the introduction of the sport into the Olympics. Have no doubt that formidable forces are lining up who believe that golf courses serve only to rob farmland, destroy national parks, waste precious water and increase the use of toxic pesticides and herbicides needed to keep greens green. Over the past six months there have been a record number of critical reports in the USA media about golf courses and pesticide use.

Both individual greenkeepers and the Association need to be prepared. We will need to accentuate the positive and to be in



## BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

possession of hard facts and detailed information which is where the Ecology Unit will be able to help. In recent discussions with David Stubbs, we are agreed on the need for BIGGA to adopt an increasingly high-profile role in environmental matters working closely with the Ecology Unit. There will be a need for research and to establish a European database on golf course management practices. Discussions are ongoing regarding an official Ecology Unit Survey in conjunction with BIGGA. On this note, beware of unsolicited surveys seeking to elicit often sensitive information without stating how the information will be used and for what purpose. Ultimately, it could well be used to your own and the profession's detriment.

**'We need to know of good working practices – and of problems too'**

The Association must move forward with the EGA Ecology Unit and the forging in recent months of close links augurs well for a united approach to ecological matters.

The R & A has recently agreed to create an R & A Golf Course Advisory Panel to replace the former Joint Golf Course Committee. The object of the Panel, which will consist of members invited from the Home Unions together with persons with specialist knowledge, will be to advise the R & A External Funds Supervisory Committee on the use of funds which they might make available for research and environmental concerns as they affect golf courses, and for bringing about a general improvement

in the construction and maintenance of golf courses. Amongst the Panel working parties under consideration is one to cover ecology in Europe and whilst at first sight there would appear to be some overlapping of function with the work of the Ecology Unit Management Committee, it is certainly encouraging that ecological concerns are now to the fore within the game of golf.

As individual greenkeepers you need to be alert and aware. You need to know the facts and communicate them to golfers, media and decision makers in your local community. You will need to participate in a grassroots campaign to build an influential lobby which supports golf courses as environmentally friendly. Let others know about the environmental benefits of golf courses, the safety of your practices and the testing and research required to register a pesticide product. Invite those with influence to visit your course and see your facility firsthand. Ensure that you apply environmentally sound management techniques on your golf course and seek to promote a positive environmental image of both golf and the golf course.

Together we must use our magazine, *Greenkeeper International* to promote the positive environmental aspects of the golf course and where you have practical examples please let us know about them. We need information, we need to know of good working practices and we need to know of problems too. The Association must commit itself to a process which will encourage every greenkeeper to conduct golf course management practices in a manner which respects the environment. The use of turf chemicals, the impact of water and soil quality, amounts of irrigation water used and disruption of wildlife habitat are all concerns which must be addressed by the golf industry. Your input is vitally necessary and in combining research, education and communication, BIGGA will seek to overcome public misconceptions of the negative environmental impact of golf courses which if left uncorrected will surely pose a serious threat to the vitality and integrity of the game.

## Boost for BIGGA's new library

More than £300 worth of books have been delivered to BIGGA's new library, courtesy of Lewis Publishers, a leading publisher of books on turf management.

The set of books includes: James Vargas' 'Management of Turfgrass Diseases: 2nd edition' (£52.50); Ann Leslie's 'Handbook of Integrated Pest Management for Turf and Ornamentals' (£61.50); the United States Golf Association's 'Wastewater Reuse for Golf Course Irrigation' (£45); Donald Harker et al's 'Landscape Restoration Handbook' (£65); James Balogh & William Walker's 'Golf Course Management and Construction: Environmental Issues' (£61).

Lewis Publishers, a US outfit which is making inroads into the UK and European golf scene, has also promised to provide BIGGA with a copy of Thomas Watschke's 'Managing Turfgrass Pests' (£57.50) when it becomes available later this month.

Then the Association's library, which was set up with funds from the R&A, will have a complete collection of turf management books from this publisher. After browsing briefly through the collection, one of the most interesting books looks to be the Handbook of Integrated Pest Management for Turf and Ornamentals as it looks at the latest developments in IPM, which is gaining ground as one of the most effective ways to limit pesticide use. This, and the other books in the collection, will be reviewed in a future issue by some of the UK's leading greenkeepers.

To find out how you can borrow the book from our library call 0347 838581. To order your very own copy send BIGGA a cheque (including £1.50 p&p).

## Filming continues

Filming of BIGGA's latest video, a guide to course preparation, has moved from Prestbury and Royal Liverpool courses to the House of Lords. Viscount Whitelaw, BIGGA's president, will introduce the video, which is funded by BIGGA's Education Development Fund and will be launched at BTME.

Gleneagles,  
Ransomes  
link up for  
education  
scheme

# NEWS

## FLYING DIVOTS



**Pictured from left: Simon Crawford, John Kelsey, Margeir Vilhjalmsson, Alan Johnstone, Jeff Hardcastle, Euan MacKenzie; seated: Lisa Gifford and Stuart Green**

The Gleneagles Hotel is doing its bit to help UK colleges supply high-quality qualified greenkeepers. The Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme offers six students each year an opportunity to gain a comprehensive practical and theoretical extension to their training. The students are specially selected from nine associated colleges who offer a greenkeeper training sandwich course.

The award scheme focuses on two key areas, practical and the-

oretical. Practical experience is gained through working with the operational team managing the golf facilities at Gleneagles, covering areas of the resort including golf operations, golf administration, the golf shop and retail outlets, the golf academy and golf event planning. Theoretical tutorials are provided with the assistance of

suppliers in the industry.

One of the industry's main suppliers of turf care machinery, Ransomes, together with distributor Scottish Grass Machinery Ltd, have entered into a three-year partnership to provide substantial student bursary awards based upon project and practical assessments throughout the year. They are also assisting the funding of additional library material at Gleneagles for the benefit of both the students and the permanent staff at the resort.

■ BIGGA has finalised the dates for three of its big events next year. The 1995 National Tournament will be held at the St Annes Old Links Golf Club, Lytham St Annes from July 31 to August 2. The 1995 final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament will be held at the West Lancashire Golf Club, Blundellsands on September 13 and 14. The 1995 final of the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award will be held at Aldwark Manor on October 8 and 9.

■ The Association was saddened to learn of the sudden death of Stephen Dinsdale, a greenkeeper at Richmond GC, North Yorkshire, from a brain haemorrhage. He was 36.

■ Gordon Smith will take over from 67-year-old William Barrie, retiring head greenkeeper at Liphook GC, on January 1 1995.

■ Alex MacKay, 39, is set to take over as head greenkeeper of 27-hole Machrihanish Golf Club, Argyll, this month.



■ Mark De Ath, former marketing manager with Nomix-Chipman, has joined Headland Agrochemicals as part of its

expansion in the amenity sector.

■ Saddleworth GC's Nigel Potter, 33, has moved from the Oldham area to take over as head greenkeeper at Meltham, near Huddersfield, with Gerald Walker as the deputy head.

■ MacDonald Turf Management has appointed Richard Hendry, formerly a greenkeeper at Forres GC, as a sales representative for the north of Scotland. Gordon Coventry, another former greenkeeper, has joined the firm to do contracting work on golf courses and bowling greens throughout Scotland.

■ Kim Macfie is sales and marketing director for Hayters, not manager, as we incorrectly stated in a picture caption last month. Sorry Kim!



■ Composts and fertilisers supplier **Levington Horticulture** has appointed **Paul Nicholls** national sales manager for the professional

horticulture department. He was previously regional sales manager for the southern area.

## Americans buy Grace Sierra

Grace Sierra UK has changed its name to Scotts UK Ltd following its acquisition by The Scotts Company, USA earlier this year. Commenting on the changeover, Mark Hunt, UK turf and landscape manager, said: "The takeover by Scotts will complement our already successful coated fertiliser range,

enabling us to introduce new products based on technology unique to Scotts in the United States.

"This in turn will increase our service to our customers by providing a wider range of products suitable for application areas not currently served by our existing product range."



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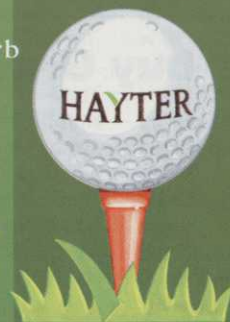
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# NEWS

## Muirfield tops chart of best British courses

Muirfield – now in the hands of the former deputy head greenkeeper, Colin Irvine – has been voted the Best Course in the British Isles by Golf World magazine. Royal Birkdale, the top English course, where Chris Whittle, Irvine's former boss, is now in charge following the retirement of Tom O'Brien, is number 6.

The rest of the top 10 looks like this: 2, St Andrews (Old), Scotland; 3, Royal Portrush (Dunluce), N Ireland; 4, Royal County Down, N Ireland; 5, Turnberry (Ailsa), Scotland; 7, Portmarnock, Eire; 8, Ballybunion (Old), Eire; 9, Royal St George's, England; 10, Carnoustie, Scotland.

New to the top 50 are Portstewart in Northern Ireland (38), St Enodoc in Cornwall (44), Woburn (Duke's) in Buckinghamshire (47), and Killarney (Killeen) in Eire (50).

This year's rankings, which are published in the November issue, have been extended from the top 50 to the top 100. Two of the courses listed have less than 18 holes. Suffolk's Royal Worlington & Newmarket, often referred to as "the finest 9-hole course in the world", is at number 61, and 12-hole Shiskine on the Isle of Arran, Scotland, is at number 100.

New courses making the list include Arnold Palmer's K-Club in Eire (93), Slaley Hall in Northumberland (90) and this month's featured course, Hanbury Manor (94).

In the same issue, Golf World also publishes its top 10 new developments (built since January 1992). These are: 1, Loch Lomond; 2, Chart Hills; 3, The Oxfordshire; 4, Monarch's Course; 5, The Buckinghamshire; 6, The European Club; 7, The London Club; 8, Carn; 9, Bowood; 10, Hever.



Keep-fitter Nicki Cund is Claymore Grass Machinery's new sales administrator.

## Cash bounty for Rolawn thieves

Enough grass seed to produce 40 acres of turf has been stolen from Rolawn's headquarters near York. The cultivated turf producer was able to replace the seed quickly but the directors are determined to see that the thieves are caught and are offering £1,000 reward for information that leads to a prosecution. Anyone with information should contact Ken Dawson, Rolawn's chairman, on 0904 608661.

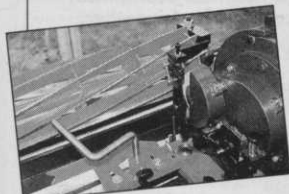
## College's big plans

A year after celebrating its centenary, Writtle College in Chelmsford, Essex, is planning to build a £400,000 amenity landscape teaching centre which will include a 500m<sup>2</sup> workshop, new classrooms and staff offices when it's built next year.

## New distributor

Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products has appointed County Amenity as a new distributor for Lancashire, Cheshire, Gt Manchester, Merseyside, North Wales, Shropshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Tyne & Wear and Humberside. Tel: 0925 758886.

## NEW PRODUCTS



■ Grinding machine manufacturer Supreme Mowing has developed a fully automatic system enabling unattended relief grinding of precision mowing cylinders. Suitable for use with the company's Supreme System and Golf Leader cylinder grinders, the patented relief grinding attachment enables mechanics to apply a relief angle to each blade of a cutting cylinder automatically. Price is £230.

■ Roffey Brothers are planning to launch a new flagship fertiliser for spring '95 – Gypronit. The Bournemouth-based firm says Gypronit supplies good levels of sulphur and that in trials it "refined and encouraged the dominance of finer grasses within the sward." Price is £12.32 per 25 kgs. Tel: 0202 537777.

■ British firm Cooper Pegler has celebrated its 100th year of trading by launching an all-new knapsack sprayer. The Series 2000 piston-pump sprayers have been designed to exceed previous standards for safety and efficiency, claims the Northumberland firm. Tel: 0670 522225.

## Education update

BY KEN RICHARDSON



## Winners all

### Toro/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year

The final of the Toro/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year Competition was held at Aldwark Manor on Monday October 3, see pages 39-41 for full details.

After a long and difficult day of interviewing and deliberations, the panel of judges selected Euan Grant as the winner with Byron Thomas and Margeir Vilhjalmsson taking the runners up prizes. I anticipated that the final decision would be difficult due to the very high standard of all the finalists and all participants should be proud of their achievement in reaching the final stages.

### Master Greenkeeper Certificate

The next Stage 3 Module Examination for the Master Greenkeeper Certificate will be held on December 2 at Aldwark Manor, or other venue by arrangement.

To prepare candidates for the examination, we will be holding an examination technique day on November 21, at Aldwark Manor. All those wishing to sit the examination in December or in the near future should find the day very useful. A review of the MGC will take place in early December and any members with ideas on how the scheme should, or should not be changed should submit them to me at Aldwark Manor.

### National Education Conference

A great deal of interest has already been shown in the 1995 National Education Conference. If you wish to attend what promises to be a varied, thought-provoking, educational event then book early. Full details were included in the October issue of *Greenkeeper International* and further copies of the Conference and Seminar timetable can be obtained from headquarters.

### Videos

The Toro-sponsored video titled "Raising the Standard of Mowing Management", has been distributed to all BIGGA course managers and head greenkeepers. Further copies can be obtained from headquarters priced at £14.95 for BIGGA members and £19.95 for non-members. The methods and standards of mowing practice shown in the video have been endorsed by BIGGA and the video should prove to be a useful training aid.

### ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

In the last edition of *Greenkeeper International*, the dates for the Final of the ICI Premier Greenkeeper competition were given, incorrectly. The final will be held at Aldwark Manor on December 4 and 5.

The 5th



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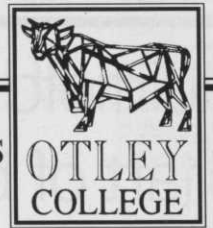
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BIGGA is adopting a new pre-registration system and employing the latest technology to ensure that visitors to next year's BTME at Harrogate (January 25-27) are whisked into the show within seconds of arrival.

At the last BTME, BIGGA was caught out by its own success and visitors were queuing to get in despite pre-registering. The new system should mean that even with the anticipated record numbers of visitors, there should be no delay in getting you into the exhibition halls.

For the first time, people who pre-register will get their badges mailed to them prior to the event. These badges contain a barcode. When the pre-registered visitor turns up at the Harrogate International Centre, this barcode will be 'read' by a light pen - a matter of seconds - as you enter the hall.

A light pen will also be given free to most of the exhibitors so they can make a note of who they've been talking to (name, job title, course, address) by simply scanning your badge. Your details will then be logged automatically for the exhibitor, so you won't have to hand out business cards left, right and centre or hang around while someone writes down all your details in a book.

Coventry Data Services, specialists in this field since the '60s, have been commissioned by BIGGA to operate this convenient system.

Of course the key to getting in faster is to pre-register by using the pre-paid card facing page 50 in this magazine. The cards from last month's *Greenkeeper International* have already started to arrive at BIGGA HQ. The first person to pre-register for BTME '95 is Paul Kellett, head greenkeeper at Norton Golf Course in Cleveland.

The forms to register for next year's National Education Conference, which precedes BTME, are also flooding in. First off the mark there was Paul Lockett, course manager at South Beds Golf Club, Bedfordshire. (And he's volunteered to take part in the Karaoke Night on January 25).

If all the high calibre speakers at the conference aren't enough to tempt you, the thought of Paul singing something like My Way should have you rushing to fill in your forms.

Among the greenkeepers performing in The Majestic Hotel during the National Education Conference - by giving lectures - are Duncan McGilvray and Joe Paulin. Duncan, pictured left, has been in greenkeeping since he left school at 15. He worked for ten years on Scottish courses before coming south to taken charge of three English courses - seaside links and inland courses. He has been greenkeeping in England for more than 16 years. The last seven years he has been course manager at Letchworth Golf Club in Hertfordshire.

He tells us his main aim is the reclamation of indigenous grasses and therefore the eradication of thatch and annual meadow grass, but at the same time managing the course in such a way as not to alienate either his membership or visitors to the course while that change is taking place.

His talk on January 24 is about one of his favourite subjects - communication: 'We thought we had it right and then came the AGM!' is his title.

He will be followed by Joe Paulin, courses manager at the new London Club. Born in Indi-

# Beaming you up into the show of the year

◆ The Association of Golf Club Secretaries are the latest newcomers to the show. They join a growing list of official bodies taking stands at Europe's premier fine turf trade show. Also exhibiting are the Greenkeepers Training Committee, Sports Turf Research Institute, National Turfgrass Council, British Institute of Golf Course Architects, British Association of Golf Course Constructors and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

◆ Have you won one of the prizes in our £750 BTME competition? Find out next issue as entries were still pouring in as we went to press.

◆ If you are thinking about coming to the National Education Conference, you'd better act sharpish. Rooms at the Majestic Hotel, where the National Education Conference is being held, are filling up fast. Late bookers may only be able to find accommodation in a less convenient hotel. So if you want to be where the action is, return your completed booking form today. Additional booking forms are available from HQ.

◆ Next month, details of Supaturf's new product launch competition at BTME. You could win a place on the BIGGA trip to the GCSAA's conference and exhibition, in San Francisco.

ana, USA, 34 years ago, Joe has a BS degree in agronomy and worked at three American courses before getting a job this side of the Atlantic - as courses manager at Clondeboye GC in Bangor, Northern Ireland. Then he worked at The Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland before joining the London Golf Club - about 'The Evolution of the London Golf Club - Natural Resource Management'.

Other greenkeepers giving talks during the two-day conference include Martin Smith of Ramsdale Park Golf Centre, Andy Campbell of the Carden Park Golf Club, which recently went into receivership, Michael Wattam of the East Sussex National GC, Billy McMillan of Wildwood GC, and Geoff Allinson of Patsull Park GC.

These will be joined by experts from the worlds of agronomy, ecology and irrigation - making BTME week the best education programme outside San Francisco in 1995.

David Stubbs, executive director of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, will kick off the conference with 'An overview of European Golf Course Ecology'.

David, at the moment, is responsible for coordinating and developing a Europe-wide environmental programme and policy framework for the golf industry.

He has worked in the golf-ecology field since 1987, first as conservation officer for the Golf Course Wildlife Trust and, since 1990, as man-

aging director of his own consultancy, Environmental Golf Services.

David is an ecologist with over 14 years professional experience in conservation biology and applied ecology at an international level. He obtained an honours degree in botany and zoology from King's College London in 1980. He is also a member of the Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union and in the UK he serves on the Council of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

Bob Taylor, ecologist at the STRI, will talk later about 'Managing the Ecology of the Golf Course'. Bob worked for British Coal for 11 years before going to Sheffield University and graduating with a degree in botany. With a BSc honours degree he promptly joined the STRI in 1989 as an advisory agronomist. In addition to his general advisory work for a variety of sports clubs in the north of England, he specialises in ecological matters, particularly on golf courses where woodland management or sites of special scientific interest are involved.

Bob is a keen photographer and is actively involved in folk music. If he brings either of these skills into The Majestic, his lecture will be one not to miss. It's on Monday January 23.

Two Americans who are booked to speak, Dr James Beard and James F Moore, will also cover environmental issues. More about their talks and the talks on agronomy and irrigation next issue.

A wide range of subjects will also be covered during BTME with the seminar programme in the Harrogate International Centre's Royal Hall.

This programme is designed so that visitors to the exhibition, now in its seventh year, can pick and choose the subjects that most interest them. And there's plenty to choose from.

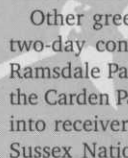
Cameron Sinclair, chairman of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, will give 'A greenkeeper's guide to working with golf course architects'. George Brown, course manager at Turnberry, will talk about the '94 Open. Dr IG McKillop of the Central Science Laboratory will explain how to control rabbit and vermin. Dr James Beard will talk about international turfgrass trends and Douglas Shearer, a health and safety consultant, will give an update on this important aspect of course management.

Because there is so much going on, many greenkeepers, chairmen of green and club secretaries stay for several days. And show organisers BIGGA have arranged some attractive accommodation packages in Harrogate, which is easy to get to by road, rail, sea and air. For full details of these packages and the education programme, contact Ken Richardson at BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. Tel: 0347 838581.

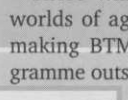
● BTME survey results: Page 22



Duncan McGilvray



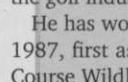
Joe Paulin



David Stubbs



Cameron Sinclair



George Brown



**F**ive greenkeepers are beginning to get nervous. One of the most important days in their careers is fast approaching. They have intelligently answered their way through regional finals. Their courses have sailed through an inspection. Now they are preparing themselves for the national final at Aldwark Manor on December 5.

The winner will be crowned the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year. This prestigious title should be reward enough, but the winner will also be given a free trip to the 1995 GCSAA Exhibition and Conference in San Francisco.

The two runners-up will get weekend breaks. One will receive a weekend for two at a top London hotel, with tickets for a West End show of their choice. The other will receive a weekend for two at Aldwark Manor Hotel near York.

Twenty-four greenkeepers from all over England, Scotland and Wales were nominated for the award by their sections. Each section nominee's course was then visited by representatives of ICI and BIGGA. They walked the course with the nominee and discussed various aspects of greenkeeping informally. After these visits five regional winners were selected for the grand final. Tom Murray represents Scotland, Paul Pearse represents the Northern Region, David Walden represents the Midland Region, Mark Webb carries the honour for the South West and South Wales Region, and Stefan Antolik is the choice from the South East Region.

*Unfortunately there can only be one winner. Last year it was Gordon Irvine. Who will it be in 1994?*



**STEFAN ANTOLIK**  
Age: 38. Head greenkeeper at Cooden Beach GC, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex

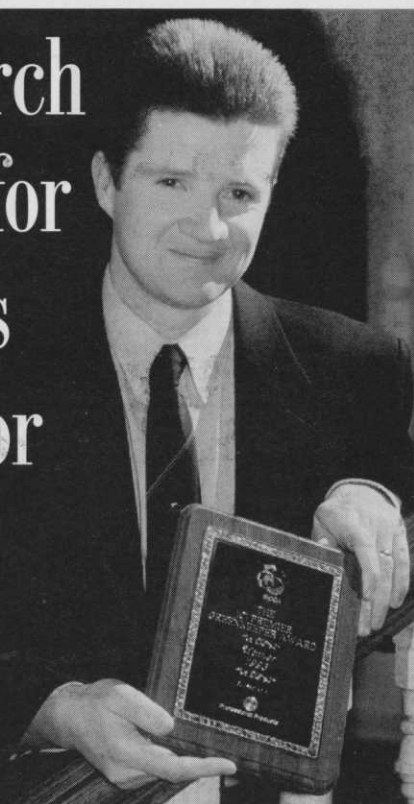
Stefan Antolik knows what it's like to win big. In 1990 he was a British motor racing champion. OK, so it wasn't Formula One, but the Triumph Sport Six Club, Class A Trophy is a tough branch of the sport. What's more, Stefan won in a car he built himself.

The mechanical skills he learned during his four years racing have helped him in his greenkeeping career. No, he doesn't have the fastest fairway mower but he does have some well maintained machines, as well as a well maintained course. When he came to Cooden Beach in August 1991, machinery was old and morale was low. He said it was in need of a shake-up, so that's what he did, leading from the front as usual.

"I am a strong believer in leading by example," he says, "and like the hands-on approach to work, so I set about returning equipment to safe running order with the help of

# The search hots up for Gordon's successor

**Who will be the new ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year? Chris Boiling looks at the shortlisted candidates, one of whom will take over the title from last year's winner, Gordon Irvine**



mechanical skills I had picked up over the years. Once the membership could see what could be achieved with a little effort, and that the machinery would be used, it became easier to obtain new equipment."

A 12-handicap bandit, he says: "My interest in golf started when I was at school and earned pocket money caddying at weekends. My father had wanted me to follow in his footsteps as an engineer but, much to his disapproval, I left school at the age of 15 to work at Abridge Golf and Country Club as an apprentice greenkeeper."



**MARK WEBB**  
Age: 36. Head greenkeeper at Alresford Golf Club, Alresford, Hampshire

Mark Webb has been in greenkeeping for 20 years and has worked on five very different courses in Hampshire. Two were on clay overlaying chalk, one silt, one low lying silt/clay and one on ironstone sand with pure sand greens.

Mark's latest club is Alresford. He has been there for six and a half years.

"104 years ago when Alresford Golf Club was formed it would have been classed as a downland course," he says, "but over the years areas of trees - mainly oak and beech - have formed copses and only about a quarter of the existing course could still be classified as downland."

In 1990 Mark and his assistant extended the course from 12 to 18 holes. "We, over copious cups of coffee, designed and planned all the necessary changes that the club would need to undergo to allow

members to keep playing the existing course as much as possible, including the financial implications, and a four-year strategy of course reconstruction, complete with its funding, was then submitted to the committee for their consideration. With some further help from our course development committee, the whole package was presented to the members. Fortunately, this was very well received and in May 1993 a new layout of 18 holes was opened by John Jacobs."



**PAUL PEARSE**  
Age: 33. Course manager at Stockport Golf Club, Cheshire

Paul Pearse loves golf. When he's not working at Stockport, where he has been course manager for five years, he's playing the game. A member of Hazel Grove, he has a handicap of 2 and a list of golfing achievements that's longer than his CV. These include winning the Hazel Grove Club Championship and the Fourball Knockout last year, the Champion of Champions in '93 and '94, and he was a member of the scratch team that won the East Cheshire Scratch League this year.

Paul has been a greenkeeper since 1977, starting as a trainee at Heswall GC under Bill Lawson. In 1981 he won the Sisis Young Greenkeeper of the Year Award and moved to Helsby GC, where his father Norman is in charge. He has also worked at Effingham, as Kenny McNiven's deputy, and as course manager at Staverton Park GC, Northants.

"I feel fortunate to have worked

on a variety of golf course types and to have had a thorough practical education from excellent greenkeepers before attaining my first course manager position," he said. "I have also seen three of my staff from Stockport GC move on to become successful head greenkeepers at local clubs, and I am proud to say that they are using some of the working practices that they used during their time with me at Stockport."



**TOM MURRAY**  
Age: 36. Head greenkeeper at Ratho Park Golf Club, Midlothian

Tom Murray has been at Ratho Park, a James Braid-designed parkland course near Edinburgh, for 20 years. He served three years as an apprentice, two years as an assistant, eight years as first assistant and for the past seven years he has been the head greenkeeper.

During his time there he has helped build and rebuild tees, rebuild greens, put new drainage in to various parts of the course, and helped plant many hundreds of trees and shrubs.

"I hope in the future to continue to keep the course to a high standard for golfers of all standards to enjoy," he says. "It is a job I love doing, and I hope I can pass on some useful experience to the rest of my enthusiastic greenstaff."

Tom is also a good golfer. He plays off 4 and recently won an East Section event.



**DAVID WALDEN**  
Age: 50. Golf course superintendent, Nene Valley Golf Services.

David worked on a farm for ten years before joining Peterborough Development Corporation as a forestry and landscape operator. While there he gained City and Guilds phase I, II and III in amenity, decorative and turficulture and studied at home for the National Diploma in Turficulture.

In 1973 the Development Corporation had a golf course built and advertised for a head greenkeeper. "I was very fortunate to get it," says David. Over the years his job has evolved into that of golf course superintendent and he has been responsible for the construction of a new 18-hole course and 12-hole pitch and putt course.

In 1988 Nene Valley Golf Services took over the courses, but David kept his job. He is in charge of ten people and has also been involved in the construction of a new 27-hole private course. Chairman of the East of England section, David has just started his second year of distance learning at Elmwood College (greenkeeping and golf course management).