

GET BACK ON COURSE WITH QUALITY GRASS



BY SPECIFYING DESIGNER AMENITY GRASS MIXTURES!

Amenity grass mixtures can have a hard time meeting today's tough standards. Not so with the Designer Range. Our mixtures are formulated to provide the best in fine turf surfaces.

All our fine turf and ornamental mixtures contain varieties highly rated by the STRI for their outstanding turf qualities including Center, Cindy and Sefton. For mixtures where



Introduced by:



a degree of wear tolerance is required, Elka and Elegana are the finest leaved perennial ryegrasses on the market.

So if you want the best surface available then get back on course by investing in a mixture from the Designer Range.

Contact us today for a copy of our comprehensive, full colour catalogue and the name of your nearest Stockist.



Sharpes International Seeds Limited, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7HA Telephone: 01529 304511 Fax: 01529 303908 Telex: 37189

GREENKEEPER

International



BIGGA
President
 The Rt. Hon.
 Viscount Whitelaw
 K.T., C.H., M.C.,
 D.L.

BIGGA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Chairman: Barry Heaney
 Vice-Chairman: Dean Cleaver

BOARD MEMBERS

Richard Barker Patrick Murphy
 Gordon Moir Robin Greaves
 George Barr Chris Mardon
 Gordon Child Harry Diamond

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Neil Thomas B.A.

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

John Pemberton

SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER

Bill Lynch

EDUCATION OFFICER

Ken Richardson

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES OFFICER

Janet Adamson

Where to contact BIGGA

Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne,
 York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF

Tel: 01347 838581

Fax: 01347 838864

GREENKEEPER

International

is the official monthly magazine
 of the British & International
 Golf Greenkeepers Association

EDITORIAL

Editor: Scott MacCallum

ADVERTISING

Sales and Marketing Manager: Bill Lynch
 Senior Advertising Sales Executive:
 Carol Dutton
 Exhibition and Marketing Executive:
 Louise Lunn
 Telephone: 01347 838581

PRODUCTION

Design and Production Editor:
 Tim Moat, telephone 01904 610611

PRINTING

Hi-Tec Print, Unit 7, Universal Crescent,
 North Anston Trading Estate,
 North Anston, Sheffield S31 7NZ
 Tel: 01909 568533, fax: 01909 568206

**Greenkeeper International: winner
 of Certificate of Merit in Magazine
 of the Year category, Editing for
 Industry Awards 1994 and 1995**

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise
 reproduced without written permission. Return
 postage must accompany all materials submitted
 if return is requested. No responsibility can be
 assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is
 reserved to edit submissions before publication.

Although every care will be taken, no
 responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts,
 photographs or artwork. Opinions expressed are
 not necessarily those of the Association and no
 responsibility is accepted by the Association for
 such content, advertising or product information
 that may appear.

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription
 rate: UK £34 per year, Europe and Eire £44. The
 magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members,
 golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry,
 libraries and central government.

ISSN 0961-6977

© 1995 British & International
 Golf Greenkeepers Association

AUGUST 1995

Contents

Making a mark at The Open

BIGGA made its presence felt at golf's premier championship. Our support team, with unrivalled access to the stars, came away with unforgettable memories. Scott MacCallum reports in a four-page photo special.....**Pages 12-15**



Small is beautiful

Short courses help those new to the game, normally youngsters, build up their confidence and skills. We talk with a man keen to promote the game at a popular level.....**Page 10**

To the Manor born

Celtic Manor Golf and Country Club is the result of one man's dream - which will give pleasure to thousands and provide Wales with a truly great Championship venue....**Pages 23-26**

SALTEX: A show not to be missed

It's the highlight of the second half of the year - the popular SALTEX exhibition at Windsor Race Course. We take a look at just who and what you can expect to see**Pages 41-64**

Regular features

BIGGA in focus Neil Thomas welcomes a productive and exciting period ahead, discussing new premises, new computers and new faces**Page 4**

News Court case is resolved with long term implications... some good news for experienced greenkeepers... plus full round-up of what's going on ...**Pages 5, 7, 9**

Real World Test Following on from last month's look at aerators, Hugh Tilley canvasses opinion from greenkeepers on TMVs and ATVs**Pages 30-33**

Cover

BIGGA with stars of The Open:
 Arnold Palmer and John Daly

WIN £50 CASH IN OUR
 BUYER'S GUIDE
 COMPETITION:
 TURN TO PAGE 65

FREE READER REPLY SERVICE

Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 74 for further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the companies' Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us and we'll arrange for further information to be sent to you direct.



ADVERTISERS' INDEX a quick reference guide

	Ad Ref	Page
Allen Power	126	43
Atterton & Ellis	7	60,61
Avoncrop	167	46
Barenbrug	172	75
Belwood Nurseries	331	28
British Overhead	229	47
Charterhouse	130	38,39
C+P Soilcare	46	56
DK East	468	42
Dixon & Holliday	214	43
Eric Hunter	73	54
Euromec	478	47
Grass Roots	479	56
Green Direct	492	46
Grundon	437	49
Hayters	90	62
Hunter Irrigation	397	64
IOG	365	20
Interseeds	173	58
Inturf	31	45
LE Lubricants	481	33
Levingtons	102	11
Lewis	10	46
Meetens	151	8
Miracle Amenity	54	18,19
MJT	382	56
Mower Accessories	118	50
Multi-Core	347	58
Nature First	433	28
New Holland Ford	165	44
OCMIS	360	63
OSL	482	74
Pattissons	35	46
Phoenix	447	21
Ransomes	9	52
RCS	488	43
Rhône Poulenc	59	22,76
Rigby Taylor	127	59
Rolawn	34	53
Rufford	5	57
Scotts	161	51
Sharpes	453	2
Sovereign Turf	435	56
Standard Golf	421	42
Supreme Mowing	57	48
Terravent	490	6
Tildenet	379	50
Ultra Plant	473	64
Vitax	139	55
Weathermatic	283	54
Wiedenmann	326	41
Buyer's Guide		65-69
Classified		70
Job Shop		70
Recruitment		70-73

ADVERTISING WORKS IN GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL:

Greenkeeper International puts our products squarely in the forefront of the marketplace

- LANCE BASSETT,
 Sales Director, Allen Power Equipment

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL:
 Bill Lynch, Carol Dutton or
 Louise Lunn at BIGGA HQ on
 01347 838581.

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION
BTME
 96
 & EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

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 01347 838581.

GOLDEN KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS:

- Amenity Technology • ET Breakwell Ltd • Hardi Ltd
- Hayters PLC • Jacobsens • Kubota UK Ltd • Lely UK Ltd
- Massey Ferguson • Ransomes • Rhône Poulenc • Rigby Taylor
- Toro Irrigation • Zeneca Professional Products

SILVER KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS:

- Avoncrop Amenity Products • Fenchurch • Risboro' Turf • Sisis



Want to exhibit at next year's BTME? It's filling up fast: call Louise Lunn on 01347 838581 for an information pack

The times they are a'changing...

Located somewhere in the centre of England, some 200 miles respectively from London and Edinburgh is a country hotel with a surrounding eighteen hole golf course. Known as Aldwark Manor it is not the easiest of places to initially locate although only a few miles north of the great city of York. It was to here that a young organisation known as BIGGA located in May of 1989 from the Sports Turf Research Institute in Bingley, initially to portacabin offices before moving into a converted out-building in December of that year. Since that time both the organisation and the offices have grown. Through prudent conversion, the offices have doubled in size but they are barely adequate for current let alone future needs. BIGGA is presently committed to a lease which expires at the end of 1997. The Board of Management has now established a Buildings Fund to raise monies to provide for suitable alternative accommodation in the years ahead and has signalled its intent with an initial donation of £5,000 from general funds. So the search is on but it will surely be a wasted search unless the Buildings Fund can raise sufficient revenue to make things happen and facilitate a much-needed move. Within the regions and sections of BIGGA there is an appreciation that accommodation needs are becoming acute and now is the time for BIGGA members to become pro-active in their revenue raising activities to ensure that a move becomes a practical option. Members need to spread the word about the Buildings Fund whilst regions and sections need to give priority to fund-raising activities and set targets each year. It will all help and assist in the Association moving purposely forward to the year 2000 and beyond.

BIGGA's computer system has grown piecemeal since the early days at the Sports Turf Research Institute in 1987 and 1988. We followed the STRI in the use of an Apple Macintosh system and it has served us well over the years. However, in the nature of these things it is now outmoded and



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

simply not fast or flexible enough to meet the growing demands of our burgeoning Association. With this in mind the Board of Management has authorised the purchase of a new Apple Macintosh system which is currently being installed with software programmes being adapted to meet both current and future needs. There will be particular benefits for the Membership Services and Finance sections and it is, of course, vitally important that we stay abreast of current technological developments if we are to provide an increasingly sophisticated service to our members. It has not been possible in the past, particularly on membership matters, to provide the information services we would have liked to regions, sections and individual members. Now our updated equipment will allow this to be done and we will have in place a system to service the Associa-

tion's needs over a five to ten year period.

This will be a productive year for BIGGA's Education and Development Fund and one which confirms the wisdom of the establishment of the fund back in January 1992. No fewer than five projects will come to fruition in the months ahead. Currently available is 'A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course', jointly published by BIGGA and the STRI. Shortly to follow will be a video on golf course preparation. A second video on the reconstruction of a green is not far behind whilst in the pipeline is a booklet on grass identification. Finally the long-awaited localised management training courses are coming to fruition with the first two taking place at Elmwood College in October. These must surely be outstanding value for money at a price to members of just £50 a head. So, another significant year of development and new projects made possible by our golden and silver key supporters, who comprise the seventeen contributing companies within the industry and those individuals who wish to further BIGGA's education and training programmes. To one and all I extend the Association's appreciation.

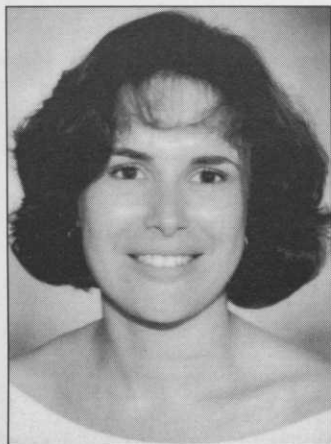
Those of you of a certain vintage will recall folk hero Bob Dylan telling the world that 'The Times They Are A' Changing'. No more so than at Headquarters.

Scott has arrived and is well into his stride with *Greenkeeper International* magazine. Now as I write Sam Flint prepares to leave us with wedding bells beckoning. Sam joined the Association in May 1989, her arrival coinciding with our move to Aldwark Manor. This makes her the second longest serving BIGGA employee and she has seen much water flow under the bridge. Now as the time comes for her to move on we wish her and Alistair every success for the future and thank her for all her efforts on behalf of the Association.

In her place we welcome Vickie Peckham whose past experience with the International Amateur Athletic Federation and the Commonwealth Games Council should stand her in good stead for the world of golf greenkeepers.

A welcome too for our new Membership Services Officer, Janet Adamson, who inherits a current total of 5,676 members which means that last year's final figure of 5,562 has been passed. Janet will have a big job on her hands in both looking after members' interests and taking the lead role in seeking to increase our membership. We wish her well. International members will welcome the news that Janet is fluent in both French and German – we intend utilising her talents! Most certainly times are a'changing in what is a productive and exciting period for BIGGA.

Moving in – and moving on



A BIGGA welcome to Vickie Peckham



...and to Janet Adamson



Wedding bells beckon to Sam Flint

Stalwart looks back on 25 years of service

BIGGA Board Member Pat Murphy was honoured with a dinner for his 25 years service to Shipley Golf Club.

In recounting his time at the club Pat remembered what the greenkeeping facilities were like when he started at the club and how much things had progressed in the time he had been with Shipley.

"In 1987 the committee upgraded the facilities for the greenstaff and I am proud to say that Shipley Golf Club is one of the clubs with decent facilities for the staff," said Pat in his speech.

He also recalled the BTME show in '93 when he was introduced to Prince Andrew and discussed the work that BIGGA does in education and in particular the video filmed at Shipley of the 15th green being relaid which is now being used as a basis for a training video.

NEWS



■ A team of greenkeepers won the Aberdeen Trades Foursomes tournament at Hazelhead at the first attempt. The team all BIGGA members was Chris Pearson, Murcar, Bradley Wood, Westhill, Richard Watt, Deeside and David Murray of Newmacher clinched the final in the double foursomes format by seven holes. It was reckoned to be the first time that a team had won in its debut in the event since in inaugural tournament in 1936.

The Number One Choice

Working for the good of the fine turf industry

A new competition with some great prizes starts on Page 32

East Dorset settlement will have long term implications

The East Dorset Golf Club court case, the result of which has been eagerly awaited within the industry because of its wide ranging implications, has been resolved out of court with Hawtree and the STRI settling on and paying out an undisclosed sum.

The terms of the agreement struck two days into the court case precludes both Hawtree and the STRI from comment but it is believed that the combined payment to East Dorset was in the region of £1.8 million.

The case came to court after the club accused Hawtree of costing it around £4 million when the course waterlogged and developed thin grass cover and it

lost potential club memberships and green fees. The core of the matter was a fine rootzone mix which had been decided upon to allow the course to combat the fact that the area was apt to become wet.

Unfortunately, because ultimately the case was not heard in court, the facts did not have the chance to be aired and this coupled with the confidentiality imposed by the terms of the settlement meant that the detail will remain shrouded in mystery.

Chris Bakhurst who was Managing Director of Golf Build (UK) Ltd, constructor of East Dorset said, "Although I have already read some comments in the press

which are ill-informed I frankly do not wish to enter into a public debate about this profoundly complex case. Golf Build (UK) Ltd which, in fact, no longer exists was paid in full for its work and maintained good relations with all the parties involved.

"It is a matter of sadness for me, personally, that Martin Hawtree for whom I have the greatest admiration found himself in this situation and I hope that the industry will leave this matter behind it and continue to strive for excellence."

It is thought that the East Dorset case and the significant settlements may open the flood gates to more law suits.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death of Bob Plain. Bob was an ever popular greenkeeper beginning his career at Muirfield before heading south to work as Head Greenkeeper at Beaconsfield GC. Before his retirement he constructed the new Hazelmere Golf Club and it was there that he met his untimely death.

Bob was always great fun for all those who had the pleasure of his company. Unfortunately the loss of his wife Doris only 15 months before after many years of happy married life left quite a void in his life. Many friends in the golfing world attended his funeral at Amersham Crematorium on June 7.

Our sympathy goes to his only daughter Heather, her husband and their son.

■ Don Major retired as Head Greenkeeper from Betchworth Park GC Dorking recently after 28 years with the club. The occasion was marked by the club granting him a golf day which was attended by over 40 of his friends connected with golf and the trade personnel. As a surprise Jim Wyllie, accompanied by his wife Fran, arrived from Canada for the day. Jim and Fran had been friends of Don and his wife for many years. It was a great day for Don and he thanks both his club and the colleagues who were able to join him for the day.



■ The Inturf Group has appointed Ken Sparks as its Regional Coordinator for the North of England

following ten years with Grasslands Turf Company in the South of the country.

■ Paul Nicholls, a familiar face to many after 20 years as Sales Manager with Levington Horticulture, died in a road accident at the beginning of July.

Phil Parry, Managing Director of Levington Horticulture said, "Paul will be sadly missed by colleagues and customers alike. He was popular and hard working and our sympathies go out to his wife and family."


Paul was 45.

VICTORY OVER COMPACTION

WITH TERRAVENT PORTABLE SOIL AERATORS

USABLE IN ALL SEASONS
OPERATIONAL PRESSURE
BETWEEN 50PSI - 800PSI
IMPROVES DRAINAGE
ASSISTS PLANT GROWTH



MADE IN BRITAIN 



GREENS • TEES • BUNKERS • PATHS • GULLYS • DITCHES • BANKS • TREE ROOT ZONES

AUTHORISED TERRAVENT DEALERS • AUTHORISED TERRAVENT DEALERS • AUTHORISED TERRAVENT DEALERS

A&F Warehouse
East and West Sussex
Tel: 01428 661767 - fax: 01428 661767

Abbey Mower Supplies
Warwickshire - Northamptonshire - West Midlands
tel: 01203 511255 - fax: 01203 511255

F.G. Adamson & Sons
Humburside - North Yorkshire - South Yorkshire
tel: 01482 631148/9 fax: 01482 631893

B.S. Mowers
Avon - Gloucestershire - Somerset - Wiltshire
tel: 01179 353588 - fax: 01179 353599

Balgownie Machine Centre Limited
Highlands - Grampian - Tayside
tel: 01224 485291 - fax: 01224 482344

Capital Grass Machinery
Central - Fife - West Lothian
tel: 0131 335 3783 - fax: 0131 455 7361

Eastern Tractors Limited
Essex
tel: 01245 256281 - fax: 01245 494966

Geo Henderson
East Lothian - Borders
tel: 0131 443 2474 - fax: 0131 455 7361

Haynes Agricultural (Kent) Limited
Kent
tel: 01622 755726 - fax: 01622 759106

Keith Morgan Mowers
South Wales - Hereford - Worcester
tel: 01873880244 - fax: 01873 880838

Major R Owen Limited
North Wales
tel: 01766 770261 - fax: 01873 770261

Nairn Brown Limited
Strathclyde
tel: 0141 644 3563 - fax: 0141 644 3610

Par 4 Groundcare Limited
Shropshire
tel: 01588 660656 - fax: 01588 660657

Purdys Grass Machinery
Nottinghamshire - Derbyshire - Lincolnshire
tel: 01777 704257 - fax: 01777 705737

F.R. Sharrock Limited
Lancashire - Greater Manchester - Merseyside
tel: 01257 422710 - fax: 01257 422753

F.R. Sharrock Limited
Cheshire - Staffordshire
tel: 01477 500700 - fax: 01477 500650

Rickerbys Limited
Dumfries & Galloway
Northumberland - Durham - Cumbria
tel: 01228 27521 - fax: 01228 24402

Owen F. Baxter Limited
Southern Ireland
tel: (00353) 454 81655 - fax: (00353) 454 81539

Risborough Turf Supplies Limited
Berkshire - Buckinghamshire - Bedfordshire
Hertfordshire - Oxfordshire
tel: 01844 274127 - fax: 01844 274191

Stanley Pond Limited
Dorset
tel: 01258 451221 - fax: 01258 480185

Surrey Power Machines
Surrey
tel: 0181 974 1001 - fax: 0181 974 2241

Thurlow Nunn Standen Limited
Suffolk
tel: 01394 382801 - fax: 01394 384330

C.R. Willcocks & Co Limited
Devon - Cornwall
tel: 01626 332444 - fax: 01626 332668

**FINANCE AVAILABLE
FROM A LITTLE AS
£82.19 INC. VAT
PER MONTH!**

**ASK YOUR DEALER
FOR FULL DETAILS
AND A FREE
DEMONSTRATION!!**

**SEE TERRAVENT
AT SALTEX 1995
STANDS A18 + H12 + H13**

Another greenkeeping award for Orton Meadows, Peterborough

Orton Meadows in Peterborough continued its remarkable run of success in producing awarding winning greenkeepers when 28 year-old Chas Campen received the Barenbrug award for being the Best Student of the Year at Milton College in Cambridge.

Chas, who has also been nominated for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, works under the current ICI Greenkeeper of the Year David Walden at the excellent municipal course.

Chas was presented with a cheque by John Bradley, Area Manager for Barenbrug, watched by, from left, David Walden, Roger Fitton, manager of Orton Meadows and Martin Crimmans, Lecturer in Horticulture at Milton College.



Educational recognition for experienced greenkeepers

Hundreds of experienced greenkeepers who have learned their skills "on the job" can now be officially recognised for their ability without having to go to college.

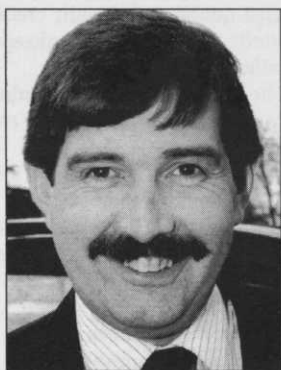
The greenkeepers, many of whom will have seen their young colleagues go to college and gain qualifications, will be able to achieve nationally recognised qualifications at the appropriate level without having to attend college.

This exciting development comes with the Greenkeeper Training Committee becoming an assessment centre by gaining approval from City & Guilds and Scotvec to offer NVQ/SVQ in Amenity Horticulture levels 1,2,3 and 4.

By October the GTC will have 42 NVQ/SVQ adviser/assessors in place. All Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers they will have attained qualifications which allow them to:

- offer accreditation of prior learning and thus be in a position to advise greenkeepers on the appropriate starting level of NVQ/SVQ.

- assess a greenkeeper on the



David Golding: this will help education

basis of watching him or her work and questioning his or her knowledge.

- assess the candidate using diverse sources of evidence other than merely assessing skills and knowledge such as previous non-NSVQ qualifications and testimonials from other Head Greenkeepers.

The 42 adviser/assessors all have the support of their employer and are spread throughout the country with eight in Scotland, 32 in England and two in Wales.

In addition to the 42 there are

200 assessors, who are also Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers, so everyone will have an assessor within easy reach.

"I am delighted that we have achieved Centre Approval and feel that this will help education within the greenkeeping profession and reach as many people as possible," said David Golding, GTC Education Director.

"The GTC's initiative to train advisors and assessors will allow colleges to go back to providing candidates with the underpinning knowledge of their subject and, wherever possible, let the assessment of this happen in the workplace," said David.

BIGGA, colleges and other training providers will still play a large part in greenkeeper training.

"I think this is a great step forward. BIGGA will continue to assess training needs and provide appropriate training courses," said Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer.

Golf clubs are now to be encouraged to contact the GTC to have their greenkeeping staff's training needs assessed and through the NVQ/SVQ advisory service more trained, qualified greenkeeping staff will enhance golf course conditions.

The GTC will continue to train Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers as assessors and if either golf clubs or greenkeepers are seeking more information on the NVQ/SVQ system, assessing etc they can contact the GTC at Aldwark Manor on 01347 838640.

FLYING DIVOTS

Tribute to the greatest game

Kent Section Member and avid golf lover Peter Biscoe came across the following observation on the Royal and Ancient game.

As Peter says, "The sentiments expressed echo all that is good about the game and should be good reading when, as often happens, one walks in the door wondering why we persevere but for some unknown reason can't give it up."

So with due credit to author David R. Morgan:

Golf is a science, a study of a lifetime in which you may exhaust yourself but never your subject.

It is a contest, a duel, or a melee calling for courage, skill, strategy and self control.

It is a test of temper, a trial of honour a revealer of character.

It affords a chance to play the man and act the gentleman. It means giving into Gods out of doors, getting close to nature, fresh air, exercise and sweeping away the mental cobwebs plus genuine recreation of tired tissues.

It includes companionship with friends, social intercourse and the opportunity for courtesy, kindness and generosity.

It promotes not only physical health but moral force.

Salute to Robert Burns

Robert Trent Jones Jnr is to create his first Scottish course, on the Dalquharan Estate in Ayrshire. The new club will commemorate Scotland's national poet.

As the owner of the estate Westway is developing the club and the Dalquharan Castle Hotel and Country Club at a total investment of around £12.5 million. Work begins on-site in early autumn.



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

A timely reminder for greenkeepers considering attending the supervisory and management courses; an update on the TORO/PGA European Tour Student of the Year Award, information on the Zeneca Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Competition, news of a new training course on the Ecological Management of Mammals and Birds and news about BIGGA's latest training booklet.

BIGGA SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT COURSES

This year's BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses are filling up fast. Be sure to reserve your place by returning the card in this magazine, together with a cheque for £117.50 to BIGGA HQ at Aldwark Manor. These courses provide the ideal opportunity to help head greenkeepers bridge the gap to course manager and to prepare all greenkeepers for management roles. Head greenkeepers who have not received any formal supervisory or management training should advise their

clubs that grants of £150 may be available from the GTC to help with the cost of sending their greenkeepers on one or more GTC endorsed management courses.

The 1995 series of BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses has been designed not only to meet the underpinning knowledge requirements of NVQ/SVQ Level 3 Units but also to introduce elements of NVQ/SVQ Level 4. BIGGA courses are open to all greenkeepers who need to improve their supervisory and management skills. The courses are:

Module 1: Managing People 1. October 16 - October 20. Covering team building, interpersonal skills, leadership, time management and computers in greenkeeping.

Module 2: Managing People 2. October 30 - November 3. Covering assertive communication, influencing skills, grievance and discipline and computers in greenkeeping.

Module 3: Managing Operations

and Resources. November 6- November 10. Covering planning and organising, estimating cost, budgets and project management.

Module 4: Managing Information. November 13 - November 17. Covering writing memos, letters and reports, communication skills, collecting and recording information.

Module 5: Management Techniques. November 20 - November 24. Covering level 4 management techniques. Topics include maintenance and improvement of service and operations, project management, negotiation skills and quality assurance.

All course delegates and employers will receive an end of course 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 BIGGA non-members.

If you need advice on which week to attend or have any other queries call me on 01347 838581.

Regional Supervisory and Management Courses

Places on the Scottish Region two-day supervisory and management course are going fast. These residential courses, which will be held on October 16/17 and October 18/19, have been introduced to make management training more accessible to all BIGGA members. Each course costs £50 for BIGGA members and £150 to non-members. Reserve your place by sending a deposit of £10 to BIGGA HQ.

Planning is being finalised to hold two two-day courses in the Northern Region, the Midland Region and the South Eastern Region, three two-day courses in the South West Region and one two-day course in Killarney, Southern Ireland. All these courses will be held in late February/early March 1996.

TORO/PGA European Tour Student of the Year

Congratulations to all the students who have been selected to take part in this year's Student of the Year Competition. All entrants

will, shortly, be receiving news of the locations of the Regional Finals which will take place between September 11-18. The National Final will take place at Aldwark Manor on October 8/9.

Zeneca (Miracle Care Professional Products) Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

Congratulations to the 15 regional finalists who have now been selected, three by each BIGGA region. Regional judging is currently taking place. The National Final will take place, at Aldwark Manor, on December 3/4.

The Ecological Management of Mammals and Birds

This one-day BIGGA training course/workshop, run by the Central Science Laboratory, is designed to enable greenkeepers to plan and conduct cost effective mammal and bird management programmes and determine the appropriateness and cost effectiveness of management programmes undertaken by pest control companies. Completion of the course can be used to provide evidence of competence in Task 117 (Pest Control) of the GTC Training Manual. The first course will be held at Walton Heath Golf Club, Surrey on October 23. The course, which is limited to 25 delegates costs £60 per person which includes all course materials, lunch and tea/coffee. CSL will be sending full details to all golf clubs in Surrey. To reserve your place, call me at BIGGA HQ.

A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course

As pressures increase on greenkeepers to practise environmentally friendly maintenance procedures, it is timely that BIGGA, in co-operation with the STRI has commissioned this very readable practical guide. Thanks to a subsidy from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, the book can be obtained for the extremely low price of £3 for members and £10 for non-members. BIGGA members can obtain their copy by sending £3, made payable to BIGGA, to BIGGA HQ at Aldwark Manor. Non-members can obtain copies from either BIGGA or from the STRI. Orders are being dispatched, currently, so be sure of obtaining your copy. Order now.

MEETINGS



INDUSTRIAL ENGINES LTD

For all your engine and spares requirements from stock

Tel: 0181-946 4244

Fax: 0181-947 2595

122-269 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London SW20 0RH

European architects get together

The first meeting of The Council for European Golf Course Architects took place recently at the Berkshire Golf Club, Ascot.

The delegates pictured represented the British, French, and European Groups and made substantial progress towards the formation of a Federation.

Standing: Howard Swan, Rainer Preissmann, Peter Harradine and Mark Adam. Seated: Jeremy Pern and Alain Prat.



Skin cancer fears lead to warnings about sunburn

The Health and Safety Executive has launched a new free booklet warning of the dangers of sunburn.

The leaflet "Keep Your Top On" is aimed at all those who work outside and are in excessive danger of exposure to the sun.

"It is extremely important for outdoor workers to realise the danger of over-exposing the skin to the sun," said Dr Paul Davies, a senior health policy official at HSE. "Too much sunlight can be damaging - especially to people with sun-sensitive types of skin. Excessive exposure can prematurely age the skin, leaving it wrinkled and leathery and

increase the chance of skin cancer in later life."

In England and Wales there are nearly 40,000 new cases of skin cancer registered among the general population every year and around 1,600 deaths. This number has increased over the last decade and this is believed to be linked to the increased extent to which people expose themselves to the sun for a suntan.

"In our climate the sun is not as strong or as intense as in the tropics but workers are advised to protect their skin from undue exposure to the sun while working out of doors in the summer - particularly during the three or

four hours around the middle of the day. Recommended precautions include wearing a long sleeved top and a hat with a wide brim which will shade the face, head and back of the neck," said Dr Davies.

The leaflet also explains that some people are more sensitive to the sun than others and gives simple advice on how to recognise skin types most at risk.

Copies of the leaflet "Keep Your Top On - Health Risks from Working in the Sun", ref IND(G)147(L) are available free from HSE Books PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 6FS. Tel: 01787 881165.

STRI sets out its policy statement for golf clubs

The Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) has led the field for many years in providing sound, independent advice to golf clubs.

Golf courses are an integral component of our countryside supporting a wide diversity of habitat types, often contributing significantly to the conservation of the landscape, much of which is under continual threat of habitat destruction and/or modification. Many golf courses are important in conserving nationally and internationally important plant and minimal species. Golf clubs are gradually realising the importance of the surrounding natural landscape for the enhancement of the game, realising the need for sympathetic approaches to ecological management.

In working alongside golf, the STRI is striving to promote a greater ecological awareness through:

- Education to establish a greater depth of underpinning knowledge behind ecological management and naturalistic approaches to landscape

development.

The STRI will strive to:

- Consider all issues related to golf course management, especially those with ecological implications.
- Keep abreast of, and comply with, relevant environmental legislation.
- Work with the management of the golf club to develop and implement environmental enhancement programmes and their future monitoring.
- Avoid activities which could result in undue or excessive danger to plant, fish or wildlife, or which could threaten or damage their habitat.
- Provide recommendations for the most effective and most efficient use of resources.
- Ensure that contractors and managers recognise their environmental responsibilities.
- Provide recommendations for the most effective use of fertilisers and pesticides and to minimise their movement from target areas to the immediate environment through transport in air, water or soil.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ A new report shows that nine out of ten golf courses built within the last five years are in financial difficulty.

The report "Financial Performance of UK Golf Developments" by the Golf Research Group claims that of the 388 courses built since 1989, 88% have incurred losses and many have been forced to cut joining fees and reduce standards to attract new members.

An analysis of the accounts of 78 new courses found that 28 made a combined profit of £17.85 million with two of them accounting for almost £12 million of that while the other 50 had combined pre-tax losses of £32.79 million. The report is available from the Golf Research Group price £195. Tel: 0181 987 9950.



■ Andre Baylis formerly Claymore Area Sales Manager for Midland, Wales and East Anglia has been charged

with running the company's new replacement parts division. "Over the past few years we have seen a considerable increase in the growth of the company and this has meant more machinery being used and a great demand for replacement parts. Andre Baylis will coordinate the whole of the replacement parts operation to ensure we meet our commitment to our customers," said Managing Director Keith Christian.

■ UK based companies considering whether to attend the GCSAA show in Orlando will be interested to know that Department or Trade and Industry funding is available to assist with the cost of a stand. The funding is only available to UK based exhibitors and only goods made in the UK may be displayed. To apply for a grant register through the the AEA - servicing the Amenity, Environmental and Agricultural Industries - by Friday November 3. For further information and an application form contact Debbie Dale on 01733 371381.

Honour for Fazio

Tom Fazio has been named as recipient of the Old Tom Morris Award by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The presentation, to one of the game's top course designers, will be made during the GCSAA's 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando in February.

Fazio joins Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, Gerald Ford, Patty Berg, Robert Trent Jones Snr, Gene Sarazen, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Sherwood Moore, William Campbell, Tom Watson, Dinah Shore, Byron Nelson and Dr James Watson as recipients of the award. The winner is selected by the GCSAA.

■ BIGGA's presentation to Arnold Palmer: Pages 12-15

SMALL IS Beautiful

Scott MacCallum meets Bryan Griffiths – a man who builds courses for those new to the game.

How often have you read of a new golf club which, the literature boasts, is “a championship course over 7,200 yards in length” and has cost the equivalent of the prize fund for half a dozen weeks on the lottery?

Membership fees are invariably five figures and the courses are always in immaculate condition partly because when you pass they are usually devoid of play unless of course there is a visiting merchant bank entertaining clients.

They are all aimed at the elite end of the market and many have failed to break the shackles of enormous debt and seen more bankers pass through their gates. On these occasions though they are wearing business suits and frowns and talk is of rescue packages, not how they contrived to make seven at the short 8th.

These clubs do little to promote the game on a popular level. Even if juniors were subsidised and encouraged to join, the courses are so long and difficult they would soon drain any confidence golf's wannabees had in them.

So where can the young and, indeed, old learn the game and, in the case of the younger students, take the first steps to emulating the likes of Faldo and Montgomerie.

There is an answer but unfortunately it is an option which is being embraced by the game's sleeping giant – Asia – and is being virtually ignored in the United Kingdom.

Short, or par-3, courses built as part of an integrated golf academy allow youngsters, and those oldsters new to golf, to build up skills and confidence in an environment not designed to intimidate before they move onto the rigours of the par 72 7,000 yard monsters.

One man who has been at the forefront of the short course concept is Bryan Griffiths, Chairman of Golfconsult International Ltd, who has found the bulk of his current business in Asia. He has designed over 50 courses in 44 countries and pioneered the introduction of suspended water table green in the UK.

“There are 24 million active golfers in Asia and the latent demand is huge and they are showing a great interest in the short course concept. Unfortunately there is little interest

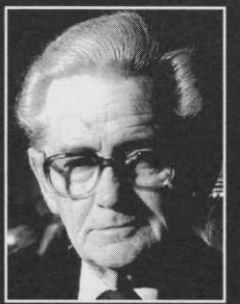
here,” explained Bryan who worked with leading architect the late John Harris.

“We generally build an adults’ short 9 hole course with perhaps two short par-4s, a children’s par-3 course, putting facilities, practice ground and teaching facilities. It is all there. Beginners can play and handicap players can brush up their short and medium iron play on the short course and their long game on the driving range,” he said.

“They can be built on a third of the land of a conventional 18 hole course for two thirds of the cost and the capacity is four times greater than an 18 hole course so they are extremely profitable,” said Bryan, whose company philosophy is “Feasibility Followed by Design.”

“It only takes an hour to get round so many people can play a quick nine holes in their lunch hours. Doing that soon sharpens up your game and handicaps will drop,” said Bryan.

**‘There is an unending supply of people who want to play but can’t’
– BRYAN GRIFFITHS**



“I design for the 95% of people who pay for the industry and not for the pros who, if you forgive me for saying so, take their money out of the game.”

The par-three concept is not new. Sir Henry Cotton advocated the idea many years ago with his plea for “cow grass” courses where the course merely consisted of cut grass for greens.

“That was great at the time for encouraging people to take up the game but things have moved on and the short courses must be built to the best possible specification. They have to be available for use all the time in all weather so they have to be hard wearing built to top spec using all the modern technology.”

Par 3 course greens are generally two thirds the size of conventional greens and Bryan includes very little rough and no water hazards.

“I did break that rule once where I put in one hole across water. The reason was that the complex included two signature courses which were stuffed with water and the client thought it no bad thing to give them a bit of a knee trembling experience.”

On the whole however the aim of the short course is to encourage and not intimidate.

“There is nowhere in this country where a beginner can feel comfortable and have all the facilities available to them to become a rounded handicap golfer. Beginner demand is almost infinite. There is an unending supply of people who want to play but can’t because they can’t afford it or snobbery keeps them out of the exclusive private clubs.

“The longest par three I’ll have is 190 yards off the back tees anything else is just a waste of money. What’s the point of putting down 200 yard par-3s when most of the users are beginners. Brute force should not be encouraged. Anyway some of the finest holes in the world are some of the shortest. Just look at the Postage Stamp at Royal Troon.”

With land at a premium and extremely expensive many developers, or existing clubs with some spare land, could do a lot worse than consider building a complex dedicated to beginners.

“The smallest course I have done is a kid’s nine holer at 625 yards and this requires only two acres. The standard short course is around 1,500 yards and needs only around 15 acres,” explained Bryan.

Just because a course is designated for children doesn’t mean that older handicap players should shun it.

“You mustn’t be snobbish. Play the 10 year olds. It’s quite a challenge for the adults and I can tell you if you play for a bar of chocolate you don’t win very often.

“Even very experienced players can take out their wedge and play. It requires real discipline. I’m a great advocate of the saying ‘Adults may play if accompanied by a child,’” said Bryan.

So there you are. If there is anyone out there with the wherewithal and desire to invest in a golf development don’t rule out the short course concept. It need not be an act of selfless philanthropy. In the location with a sizable catchment area it can be extremely profitable venture almost guaranteed to make a return on investment much more quickly than a conventional 18 hole golf club.