

I have, over the years, under-used water in an effort to maintain a bent/fescue dominant sward. But, in hindsight, it may have been our cutting policies, in an effort to maintain high levels of pace for long periods, and the dramatic increase in the volume of play on our golf courses that have been the main villains.

Water is an increasingly valuable commodity, your irrigation system is an expensive tool, look after them both.

## AGRONOMY

**Michael Wattam, superintendent at Loch Lomond Golf Club, said:**

Compaction is a big problem on the greens here. There is a great deal of rain in the area and there is no downward movement of water in the greens due to severe compaction. The greens are USGA-spec with a gravel base and drains but they are totally useless because the water can't get down to them. The water gets away from the greens purely by run-off. After a downpour they puddle badly. What we intend to do is use sand to topdress and after deep hollow-tining and Verti-draining. (These will allow for not only water movement but air movement.)

The grass on the greens is creeping bentgrass, Pennncross. As far as I am aware it is the most northerly site for Pennncross. It is doing extremely well, especially considering the soil it is on. Any *Poa* on the greens is being hand-picked out.

**Dr James Beard, president of the International Sports Turf Institute and Professor Emeritus, turfgrass science, at Texas A&M University, said:**

It is critical to educate the golfers that the darkest green turf, which many people strive for, is in fact not the healthiest turf. A medium green turf with a moderate growth rate will have the deepest root system with less thatching, reduced disease and insect problems, and increased tolerance to environmental stresses such as heat, drought, cold and wear.

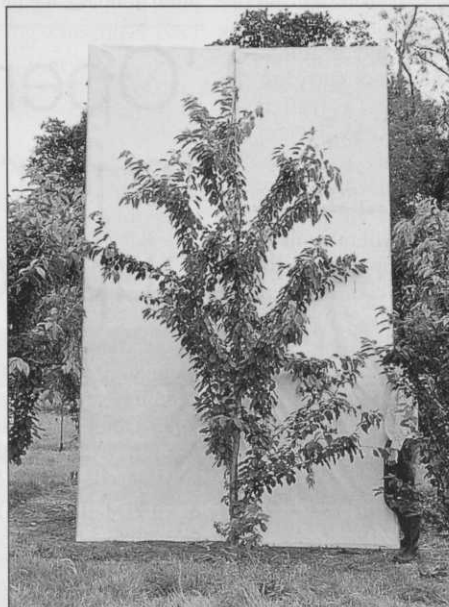
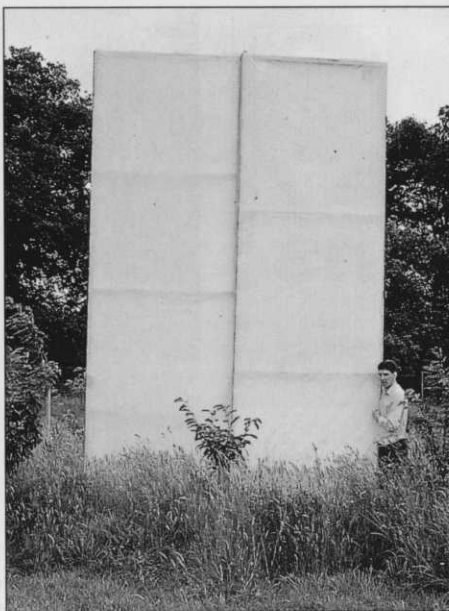
**Dr Beard also said:**

Among the less well-known benefits of turfgrass are noise abatement and glare reduction...

"The surface characteristics of turfgrasses function in noise abatement as well as in multi-directional light reflection that reduces glare. Studies have shown that turfgrass surfaces absorb harsh sounds significantly better than hard surfaces such as pavement, gravel, or bare ground. These benefits are maximised by an integrated landscape of turfgrasses, trees, and shrubs."

**Billy McMillan, course manager at the Wildwood Golf Club, said:**

In an ideal world we would all have golf



**Wally Grice, woodland officer of The Forestry Authority, showed these two photos of four-year-old wild cherry trees. The difference in the trees' height is put down to weeding. Both were placed in rich brown earth, one was left unweeded, the other (the taller one) had 1m sq around it kept weed free by herbicides. Pictures courtesy of the Forestry Authority.**

courses covered with bents and fescues, and no wear and tear from golf. However, the reality is not as simple as that. With today's levels of play it's not always possible to keep these ideal grasses. We all, I am sure, have to contend with *Poa* infestation on some part of the course. The most likely situation is that we have a percentage of *Poa* on our greens and at worst we have *Poa* dominant greens. I am not advocating that this is the best situation to find ourselves, however the reality is we have to manage what grass we have got, rather than to worry about the grass we haven't in most cases got.

We have been advised over the years by some experts that creeping bentgrass will not grow well in the UK, I would just say that in my present position I am working with this grass and I must say the observation by the experts has not been true. At Wildwood I have been very impressed by this grass. The most important factor is does the golfer like playing on it? Well again, in our case, they all seem very pleased with our bentgrass greens.

## ECOLOGY

**David Stubbs, executive director of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, said:**

One of the buzzwords in ecology at the moment is biodiversity. Even if you are conserving a common species you are contributing to the preservation of biodiversity. Here are the ways in which a golf course can relate to biodiversity:

- **Habitat protection** – there is a wide range of habitat types among golf courses, from sand dunes to woodlands and grasslands.

- **Species protection** – there are plenty of examples of rare species thriving on golf courses.

- **Species diversity** is a product of the diverse habitats on a golf course – from the open in-play areas to the rough, trees and water features.

- **Golf courses** also serve as valuable habitat links – green corridors. On a broad level the whole golf course may serve as a link in a whole chain of environments around an urban area or it might be within a golf course that there might be certain links such as ditches or hedges which can be very important connectors for wildlife.

- **The golf course** might be a buffer zone between say a residential area and an adjacent nature reserve site.

- **Ecotones** is the gradation of one environment into another. Along these borders or edges between habitats you get a very rich variety of wildlife

- **Habitat management.** One of the great things about a golf course is that it is a managed environment and the need for constant management of habitats is important

Also important is the ability to create new habitats. Obviously you're doing that with new golf courses but also within existing courses you can create new features, whether it is planting trees and extending woodland or wildflower meadows or building new ponds.

**Bob Taylor, the STRI's ecologist, said:**

If you put a bird table up in your back garden, blue tits and robins will come onto it and take the food from it. But if you stop putting nuts and seed out there is a problem. A lot of those birds will have moved from an area of stability to your area of relative instability because you can't afford to keep putting the seed out at the rate that it's needed. If it gets cold and we get snow for a number of weeks it is likely that the smaller birds will actually die because they can't get back to the area they left. It's the same with your golf course. Whatever you do needs to be sustainable into the longer term. So if you start developing and encouraging wildlife onto the course, you've got to appreciate the costs of it and you need to develop a practical method so that you can keep your programme going.

## Education update

BY KEN RICHARDSON



# Search begins for next year's speakers

It hardly seems possible that the National Education Conference and BTME are over for another year as last week passed so quickly.

We had a varied list of speakers who gave some very interesting and thought-provoking talks, with a little controversy thrown in as well.

I am already planning for next year and I would welcome thoughts and suggestions on topics for next year. I am also searching for greenkeepers and non-greenkeepers who would be willing to speak at the conference or seminar programme. Please contact me if you can help.

For anyone who missed the 1995 Conference or BTME Seminars, tapes of both events are available from BIGGA headquarters. Prices are £25 for the whole of the Conference and £5 for each seminar.

### Zeneca Premier Greenkeeper

As reported in the last issue of *Greenkeeper International*, entries for the 1995 Zeneca Premier Greenkeeper of the Year can now be submitted to BIGGA headquarters. Entries can be from individual greenkeepers, greenkeeping teams or golf clubs and can be made by returning the card facing Page 62 in this issue or by writing to HQ.

The first prize is an all expenses paid trip to Florida for the 1996 GCSAA Exhibition and Conference plus £500 to the winner's team. Runners up prizes include a weekend in London with tickets for a top West End show and a weekend for two at Aldwark Manor. Remember, the competition is to find the greenkeeper who gets the best from his course with the facilities that he has available and aims to recognise services to the greenkeeping industry.

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

Entries are invited for the Toro/Lely/European Tour Student of the Year competition 1995 from colleges in the United Kingdom and southern Ireland. Full details of entry criteria are given in a leaflet, obtainable from BIGGA HQ and nomination forms must be returned to Aldwark Manor by 31 May 1995.

Regional finals will take place during September and the national final will take place at Aldwark Manor on 8/9 October.

### Master Greenkeeper Certificate

The latest recipient of the coveted title of Master Greenkeeper is Richard McNabb. Richard, who is the Course Superintendent at Palmetto Golf Club, South Carolina, received his award at the National Education Conference. The next MGC examination will take place on Friday 21 April and a pre-examination day will be held at Aldwark Manor on 27 February.

### Management Training Courses

Planning has started for the 1995 Supervisory and Management Courses which will be held over five weeks during October and November.

Course content will be similar to last year's courses, ie. covering the underpinning knowledge requirements of the GTC Training Manual level 3 but will also include one week at level 4.

Additionally, we are planning a series of Health and Safety and Management courses for autumn 1995/spring 1996, to be presented at locations around the UK and Ireland and we are working with the GTC to set up county based one day training course for autumn/winter 1995.



Michael Hunter, 27, has joined the board of his dad's business, Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd. Eric's wife Shielia and daughter Michelle also work for the company which produces the well-known Jupiter and Juno grinding machines.

## 'Open' invitation to join the BIGGA support team

Applications are invited from members to join BIGGA's greenkeeping support team for the 1995 Open Championship at St Andrews. Members wishing to be considered must be working greenkeepers and should be available from Wednesday evening, July 19, to Sunday evening, July 23. The opportunity to take part in this prestigious event is open to both team members from previous years and also those members who are wishing to participate for the first time.

Duties will be allocated on a rota basis over the four days of play and include early morning course preparation, bunker raking whilst matches are in play and evening course maintenance. All members of the support team will be expected to remain on the course throughout the day, to be available in the event of any unforeseen circumstances arising.

Accommodation, all meals and transport will be provided by the

Association, but successful applicants will be expected to pay their own travelling expenses from home to the event and return.

The team consists of a small organising committee and 50 greenkeepers. Those members wishing to be involved should put their name forward in writing to John Pemberton, administration manager, at BIGGA's HQ, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, to be received no later than March 6 1995. All candidates' names will then be placed into a draw to select the successful applicants. If you have not been to this event before in this capacity and wish to learn more about what will be expected before putting your name forward, then please do not hesitate to contact either John (tel: 01347 838581), Elliott Small (tel: 01259 731445) or Bert Cross (tel: 0151 7245412).

## Ransomes appointment

Andrew Sunaway has been appointed sales and marketing director of Ransomes, Sims and Jelferies Ltd. Formerly international sales manager and customer service manager, Andrew's new responsibilities cover the planning, development and co-ordination of Ransomes' commercial grass machinery sales, marketing and promotional strategies and functions in the UK, Europe and all other parts of the world outside North America. His principal objectives are to consolidate and extend the use of Ransomes' equipment on a global scale.





By Appointment to H.M. The Queen  
Manufacturers of Horticultural Products  
Levington Horticulture Limited  
Bramford Ipswich

# Turfcare has never been this simple.



## New water soluble sachets

Turfclear® from Levington is now available in a brand new presentation, which is unique in the Turfcare chemical market. Turfclear WDG in water soluble sachets - an idea that really makes your life easier. Turfclear WDG is a highly effective fungicide proven against Fusarium Patch and Dollar Spot, which also controls worm casts. The water soluble sachets mean no more painstaking measuring.

## For more convenience and control

The sachets come in measured doses which you just add to water to get the correct application level required. The sachet and contents dissolve readily for easy application, and the systemic action Carbendazim quickly gets to work on the problem.

If you want to know more about how Turfclear WDG can make your life easier or about our range of other excellent products including Greenmaster, just call the man from Levington, our technical advisor, on 01473 830492.

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READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY: USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.  
TURFCLEAR WDG contains Carbendazim. TURFCLEAR is a registered Trade Mark of Levington Horticulture Ltd.  
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Rhône-Poulenc is not a household name yet its products can be found in every house. It makes silicas for use in Colgate, Signal, Crest and Aquafresh toothpastes. It is one of the world's leading producers of xanthane, guar and locust bean gum emulsifiers and stabilisers, which are used to make ice-cream. And it is a leading producer of polyamide yarn for stockings and tights made by companies such as Pretty Polly. Rhône-Poulenc is also one of the leading manufacturers of agricultural chemicals and is the latest company to take out golden key membership of the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. But who are they and how do greenkeepers benefit from other parts of the business? *Greenkeeper International* went to Essex to find out...

**R**esearchers at Rhône-Poulenc have more chance of winning the National Lottery than discovering a new active ingredient for their chemical products. Even if that's not quite true statistically, it must seem that way to the 300 chemists and scientists at the company's UK research centre in Ongar, Essex.

Every year they help produce 10,000 potential active ingredients which are tested on the world's major weeds and crops. They're looking for ingredients that have an effect on the weeds but not on the rice, cotton, wheat or maize. When an active ingredient shows potential, the crop and weed spectrum is widened, taking in second level crops such as potatoes and beans. But from the 10,000 potential herbicides that go through the initial screening, only about 150 get to be tested at commercial dose rates. And from these 150, on average only 20 of the original potential candidates proceed into field studies.

The tests these ingredients are put through are as tough as in any industry because of their potential impact on the environment. Environmental studies trace what happens to the chemicals in soil, water and living things. Laboratory tests show how the chemical breaks down and what it breaks down into, how it reacts to ultra-violet light etc, measuring things in parts per trillion – the equivalent of 0.2 of a second in the average human lifetime. Field trials are conducted in a variety of soils and climates in up to 13 different countries including Brazil, Japan, the United States, France and the UK.

"So strict is the legislation governing the potential development of an active ingredient that from the 10,000 potential candidates per year, the industry average for approval is only one new active ingredient every ten years – or one from 100,000," says Jonathan Hill, product manager at Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products.

At the Ongar research centre they have been doing much better than this, having developed three new chemical families of worldwide importance in the last ten years. These are a herbicide for cereal crops, a herbicide to control bracken and an insecticide that works on a wide range of pests.

So the odds are better than those given by Camelot, but the outlay is far greater than any jackpot prize.

Rhône-Poulenc, the world's third largest agricultural chemicals company, spends £600 million on research each year. Nearly £100

# Chemical kings have the golden touch



Rhône Poulenc's John Arthur receives Golden Key acknowledgement from BIGGA president Viscount Whitelaw at this year's BTME

million of this goes on agro R&D.

Rhône-Poulenc has two other research centres: at La Dargoire in France, which concentrates on fungicides, and at the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina, USA, which looks mainly at insecticides. Each centre tests active ingredients developed at other centres – just in case it has potential in another area. In fact an insecticide invented in Ongar is now being developed in North Carolina.

With research being so expensive, the only

way Rhône-Poulenc and other chemical companies can see a return is if they succeed in developing a new product that works wonders in paddy fields, cotton plantations or cereal farms. The amount of weed killer greenkeepers spray on their fairways or the fungicide they use on their greens does not pay for the initial research.

"The amenity turf market wouldn't support research for a complete new active," says Hill. "An agrochemical company needs at least one major breakthrough every ten years to compete and to generate revenue for further research."

But once an active ingredient has been found and approved, then Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products starts testing it on grass. Fortunately grass has a lot in common with cereal crops.

Spearhead, which was launched last year as "a powerful new weapon for the control of weeds in turf", is a prime example of this. The active ingredient diflufenican (DFF) was discovered at Ongar in 1979. It was approved in the UK in 1986 for the use on cereals and has gone on to become the number one choice for winter wheat farmers, generating annual sales in excess of £60 million. Knowing it was particularly effective against weeds such as speedwell, in 1987 Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products took DFF and started mixing it with other known and approved active ingredients. The researchers were looking for a broad-spectrum turf selective herbicide. They found it quite quickly but it took a further eight years of turf specific research to



Potential active ingredients are tested in a 750m totally computer controlled glasshouse. The temperature inside is 22°C and the air is changed six times per hour

gain approval for the product Spearhead. In the agro chemical industry you not only have to get approval for the active ingredient but for every individual product. Researchers had to gather all the data on efficacy and safety from five years of field trials before the new selective herbicide could be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries in 1992. MAFF then took two years to evaluate the data (which is normal) and give it MAFF approval before it was launched last September.

As you can see, developing an active ingredient is only half the story. The active ingredient must be turned – either alone or in combination with other approved actives – into a product that is stable in storage, can demonstrate efficacy in its use area, is available to the user in a format which enables effective application and passes all the relevant tests.

Products destined for golf courses are tested on golf courses. Spearhead, for example, was tested at The London Golf Club in Kent among others. The problem with tests though is that you have to have a “control” area, an area that is untreated. Most course managers and head greenkeepers don’t mind someone coming onto their course and spraying, but they’re not willing to let part of a green get rife with fusarium patch and other diseases.

At Ongar there is 65x25m trial site which is

sown with some great seeds – and then totally mis-managed. One strip with bent and fescue grasses is fed so much nitrogen it almost glows. Fusarium patch, not surprisingly, develops quite quickly. And just to make sure it does, infected cuttings are also put on the turf. The strip next to it is sown with meadow grass and fescue and mis-managed again to bring on fusarium patch. Other strips are sown with pure bents and slender creeping red fescue and starved of nitrogen to bring on red thread. When the disease has got hold, each metre square of the plot is sprayed with a different formulation and the results are monitored.

The final strip on the trial site is divided into five sub-blocks – pure bent, chewings fescue, creeping fescue, smooth stalk meadow grass and ryegrass. When a formulation shows promise it is applied here to show there is no damage to the turf at double and triple rates of application.

About 20 years after discovering a new active and spending at least £20 million developing it, a new product is launched.

“R&D is the key. Fortunately Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products is part of a huge company which is investing millions in research in a whole variety of areas, especially agriculture. We are able to ride on the back of that research,” says Hill.

## Toothpaste and tyres, to fungicide and herbicide

Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products, previously known in the UK as May & Baker with whom they started working in the 1920s, is part of the multi-national Rhône-Poulenc Group, which has an annual turnover of £10 billion.

The group, which returned to the private sector in November 1993, has developed an enormous range of products that helps enhance everything from toothpaste and tyres to tights, ice-cream, rubber balls and video cassettes. It also has a hand in things we hope we don’t see – airbags. Rhône-Poulenc makes the silicone coating that keeps the folded fabric from sticking together during storage in Fords and Renaults. It also produces the flame-resistant fibres used in protective clothing for firefighters.

For greenkeepers it has a range of 30 herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and growth regulators. It also offers the Guardian range of fungicide and polymer film coated grass seed mixtures. Leading herbicides include Clovotox, Dicotox Extra, Supertox 30, Vitesse and Spearhead. Among its top fungicides are Rovral Green and Mildothane Turf Liquid. Insecticides include Castaway Plus and Crossfire.

Rhône-Poulenc employs more than 80,000 people worldwide, of which nearly half work in France. The products are manufactured worldwide too, with two of the plants in England at Norwich, Norfolk and Belvedere, Kent. Most of the herbicides are manufactured in the UK. The fungicides come from France and the insecticides are made here and in the USA.

“Rhône-Poulenc Agriculture Limited is not just a British business, but a world centre of growth,” states its publicity blurb. And now it is investing in another growing organ – the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Education and Development Fund.

● Casual burning or burial of empty pesticide containers is not possible without specific consent from the National Rivers Authority and/or HM Inspectorate of Pollution or from the Environmental Health Department of your local authority.

To assist users of professional pesticides dispose of empty containers correctly, Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products is offering vouchers which give up to £75 off the cost of a three-year disposal contract with Envirogreen Limited. Tel: 01277 301115.



# BIGGA THAN EVER!



Pictures, clockwise from top: John Millen cuts the ribbon to open the show... followed by a scramble to get in... Checking out the latest Iseki SF300 are David Moss, proprietor of Adlington Golf Centre, Macclesfield and Tony Cundall of RJ&J Campey... Visitors examine the Wiedemann Terra-Spike, which comes in four widths starting at 1.35m for use with compact tractors increasing to 2.1m for larger tractors... Delegates in the Royal Hall listen intently as George Brown, on the podium, takes them through his preparation of Turnberry for last year's Open Championship.



# 'I can't remember the last time we were so busy at an exhibition'

There is no stopping the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. Despite six inches of snow falling in Harrogate at the end of the first day, everyone was hailing it as the best show yet.

Graham Walker of Gem Professional said: "Harrogate is brilliant and BTME is the best show because everyone who comes is a customer."

Ray Burniston, of show newcomers the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, said he would recommend that they came back in '96. "I like it in Harrogate," he added after speaking with more than 50 club secretaries during the opening day.

"We were exceptionally busy," said David Stephenson, managing director of D&E Turf Maintenance. "We experienced 40 per cent more bookings and 60 per cent more enquiries than previous years."

Vitax's commercial sales manager Trevor Holmes echoed this statement: "It's been exceptional. It's been the best show despite the snow. It's a good format and we will definitely be here next year."

Stephen Fell, executive director of Lindum, said: "I can't remember the last time that we were so busy at an exhibition. Obviously our new product launch attracted a lot of interest but there were a lot of important buyers there which demonstrates that BTME is attracting a wider professional range of visitors."

Greenkeepers were equally impressed. "Harrogate was a complete success," said Mike Lathrope from Eaton GC, Norwich.

Marion Child of the South West and South Wales region, making the trip from Devon, said: "What an exhibition! Better than ever before and that's hard to imagine. There is an incredible almost family atmosphere at Harrogate."



**THE FACTS:** Despite the surprise snowfall, 4,053 visitors attended the seventh BTME. Seven days after the '95 BTME, three-quarters of the exhibitors had made space requests for the '96 event in Harrogate - and many are requesting twice as much space.



The biggest piece of kit at the show was this Mastenbroek trenching machine from contractors WE Hewitt & Son Ltd. Pictured with it is managing director John Hewitt.



Among the greenkeepers from 11 countries were these



two Russians.

Sergey Dolmatov (top) and Vladimir Matskovsky are from the



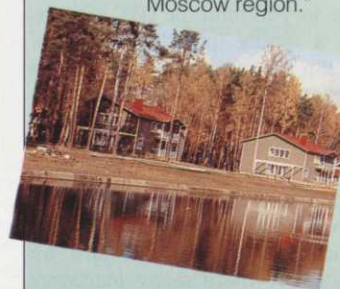
Moscow Country Club, the first 18-hole course in Russia. The first nine holes opened in 1993 while the

second nine opened in September last year after being sown in July. The course is designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr and the project was financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The course is run by an American superintendent, Dean Watkins, who is on site from March through to October/November. The very latest equipment from America is used to maintain the Pennlinks greens, Penncross tees and Kentucky bluegrass/fescue fairways. There is a Toro irrigation system and machinery from Toro, John Deere and Jacobsen.

The course is closed in winter and the greens and tees are covered to protect them from frost and snow. For members who wish to keep their swing in, there is a simulator in the clubhouse. There are about 300 members, mostly foreigners. To encourage local children to take up the sport, coaching is free for them.

"Things are changing," says Sergey. "There is only one golf course at the moment but three more are under construction in the Moscow region."



# Association goes in the black as membership continues to climb

A large attendance of members on a snowy night was present to hear executive director, Neil Thomas, present his annual report.

After commenting on the major events of the year, he advised members that at last year's AGM the Board of Management had determined that a review be undertaken with the aim of agreeing a five year plan to take the Association up to the year 2000. Much progress had been made but such was the growth of the Association and the need for consultation at all levels that the Board at its September meeting decided to extend the review by the setting up of a Review Body which would make recommendations to the Board. It had originally been planned to report back to the AGM but the Board would now report to the 1996 AGM. It was considered important "to get it right" particularly in terms of any amendments to the Constitution and Rules of the Association. To this end the Review Body had already held two meetings.

In outlining the progress of the Education and Development Fund, the executive director pointed out that resources would now be made available for localised management training linked to the new NVQs/SVQs. Management training made affordable and accessible to members within their own Regions would be another great step forward for the Association. He referred to a fundamental issue simply defined as "who pays for greenkeeper education?" The Association was greatly dependent on the Education and Development Fund without which the videos, booklets, courses and educational aids provided by the Association would not be possible. It was generally considered that the levy to fund the GTC remains at a totally unrealistic level of 6.25p per registered golfer. Much depended therefore on how much or how little course managers and head greenkeepers could incorporate for training in their annual budgets and it must remain a great source of wonderment to outsiders that this remains an industry where many managers



John Millen helps Barry Heaney to don his jacket as BIGGA's new chairman

and employees are expected to pay themselves for their further education and training.

BIGGA's membership had increased by 390 to a final figure of 5,552 for 1994. At the conference dinner, the ninth recipient of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, Richard McNabb from Palmetto Golf Club, Aiken, South Carolina had been recognised and it was pleasing that at present 105 members are registered for the award with 65 in Stage 1, 32 in Stage 2 and 8 in Stage 3.

There is concern at the continuing trend of golf clubs to disclose greenkeeper salaries and wages to fellow golf clubs in the area. These cartels appear to be widespread. They are felt to be in existence to establish a norm which is unlikely to be to the benefit of the greenkeeper. Neil Thomas suggested that at the very least the confidentiality which should be enjoyed between employer and employee is broken through the existence of these cartels and a greenkeeper has every right to complain when he knows that this practice has been applied to his own contract of service. When evidence is forthcoming it is a practice which needs to be exposed through the pages of *Greenkeeper International*.

At the conclusion of his report, the executive director analysed the issues concerning the future of the BTME and the threat of a competing show organised by P&O Events in conjunction with the English Golf Union and

planned for 16-18 January 1996. He pointed out the potential financial implications for BIGGA whilst outlining the need for BIGGA to remain a strong, respected and independent body within the game – a position which could be threatened by absorption into a new show organised by those motivated purely for profit and with no intrinsic regard for greenkeepers or greenkeeping. He believed that exhibitors remained loyal to the BTME in Harrogate and a solid base existed for further growth and development of the BTME. Essentially as executive director he needed to go away from the AGM with a clear mandate from the membership in general meeting as to how they wished to proceed. On a show of hands there was unanimous backing for the continuation of the BTME in Harrogate.

BIGGA's administration manager, John Pemberton presented the financial report which showed a transformation from a deficit in 1993 to a small surplus in 1994. He pointed out that the Association continues to rely heavily for its funding on the three main activities of membership, *Greenkeeper International* magazine and BTME. He reminded members who pay their own subscriptions that they are approved by the Inland Revenue for personal tax relief and may be claimed through the annual tax return. Advertising revenue for *Greenkeeper International* had increased

by 17.8% reflecting the quality of the magazine which remains a significant net contributor to the Association's funds. The BTME of 1994 had been the activity which had brought about a dramatic change in the Association's financial position. It was pointed out that the Board of Management had agreed to establish an independent Building Fund to generate funds towards the ultimate purchase of the Association's own premises. Areas of funding were being investigated to link into whatever capital the Association could raise itself.

Following questions from members the meeting went on to elect Messrs Roger Robinson and Bill Lawson as Trustees. This was followed by backing for a constitutional amendment allowing for the implementation of a rolling membership year after the executive director had pointed out that this alteration would assist the workload involved with renewal, especially as membership grows, by phasing renewal processing. It might also encourage recruitment as greenkeepers would receive a year's membership from whenever they chose to join. The meeting then unanimously approved the Board's proposals for life membership for Mr Eric James and Mr Bert Cross.

The outgoing Chairman, John Millen, thanked the Board and staff for their efforts during the past year and then invested the incoming Chairman, Barry Heaney, with his red blazer. The new Chairman thanked the retiring Board members for their services. George Malcolm was replaced on the Board by Pat Murphy. Huw Parry was replaced by Robin Greaves and John Millen was replaced by Chris Mardon. In Scotland John Crawford was stepping down and a replacement would be announced shortly. Barry Heaney announced that his Vice-Chairman would be Dean Cleaver. He concluded by thanking BIGGA's President, Viscount Whitelaw, John Millen, the Board of Management, staff and all members of the Association for their support and his golf club and by no means least his wife, for their encouragement.



## Richard makes it nine for MGC

Richard McNabb, who has been greenkeeping for more than 20 years, is the ninth Master Greenkeeper.

The 43-year-old American, pictured receiving his award from John Millen, is currently working as golf course superintendent at the 103-year-old Palmetto Golf Club in South Carolina. He moved to this 18-hole exclusive private club, which is maintained by six staff, after a couple of years at St Margarets in Dublin. This is where he heard about BIGGA and started working towards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

"I thought it would be a great achievement," he said. He flew in from a seminar in New York, stayed two nights in Harrogate and then went on holiday to Jamaica.



## Prize guys

Prize winners in our BTME competition, Nigel Buxton, assistant head greenkeeper at Cavendish GC, and Stuart Hogg, assistant course manager at Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC, are congratulated by BIGGA's executive director Neil Thomas.



## On a lighter note

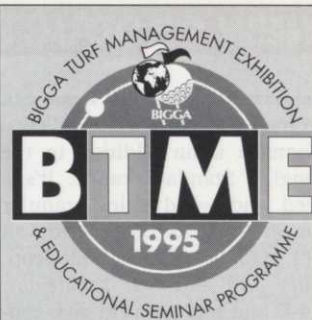
"A consultant is someone who knows 50 ways to make love but doesn't have a girlfriend." – Jim Moore of the USGA

"I believe a green should be like a woman – it should be rounded and well contoured; it should be firm but still receptive, but of course it should be free from all fungal diseases and thatch." – George Brown, course manager at Turnberry.

"My wife figured why there aren't so many women superintendents – they're too damn smart." – Jim Moore of the USGA.



Tom O'Connor, Jim Moore and a sizzling Linda Nolan provided a night to remember



### Chairman's message to all BIGGA members

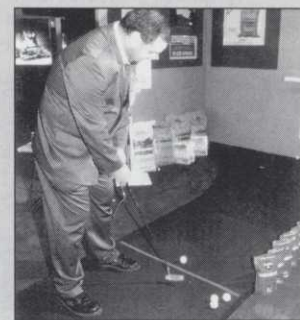
Many thanks to our members who attended this exciting event. Your support is very much appreciated.

May I invite all our members to make an early diary note for next year's presentation – January 22-26 1996 – again in Harrogate. I can assure you of a rewarding learning experience.

– Barry Heaney



Barry Heaney draws the winner of a £100 BIGGA gift voucher on the Vitax stand, assisted by Vitax commercial sales manager Trevor Holmes. The lucky head greenkeeper is Jeff Dickinson of Hucknall GC in Nottinghamshire.



Geraint Williams, head greenkeeper at Llangefni, a public course owned by Duglesey Borough Council, putts out on the Zeneca stand. But it wasn't good enough to beat J Sheehan of West Derby GC or S Booker of Hawkstone Park GC, who win a mini hi-fi system worth £250. Barry Heaney and Zeneca's product manager Steve Hall made the draw.

**Zeneca Professional Products** promoted two new fertilisers. Cleanrun is an addition to the Longlife Standard range. It's a 'feed and weed' mini granular conventional fertiliser with an NPK analysis of 9:7:7. It also contains two selective herbicides, 2,4-D and mecoprop to give control of most fairway turf weeds. Recommended price is £8.64 per bag. The other new fertiliser is Renovator, a triple action product offering turf managers the opportunity to feed, weed and control their moss problems in one operation. Longlife Renovator is a mini granular fertiliser with an NPK analysis of 8:1:1 containing 2,4-D, dicamba and ferrous sulphate. Recommended price is £15.88 per bag.

**Lindum Seeded Turf** announced an agreement with StrathAyr, an Australian based company. The new agreement sees them importing and installing the patented StrathAyr BAyr Root Processing system which involves removing all soil from harvested mature turf so that a vegetative mat free of soil is achieved. Recently returned from Australia, Lindum chief executive Stephen Fell said: "I have been very impressed with how the concept of washed turf has been accepted and successfully put into practice." Fell is convinced that BAyr Root Washed Turf is right for sand green construction. "Too often I see that conventional turf results in poor rooting which means slow establishment as well as the turf soil/sand interface causing drainage impediment and the development of a lateral shear plane. It is vital that all soil is washed off the turf to avoid any sand rootzone contam-



Lord Whitelaw admires the Beaver FM 514 fairway mower. Features include newly designed 26in fully floating cutterheads which are available with 7 or 11 blade cutting reels offering a clip rate of 131 or 206 per metre. Power is provided by a 29hp Lombardini diesel engine.

ination and the BAyr Root Washed Turf System that we have installed is the only system that I have discovered that will achieve this."

**Supaturf** launched five new products: Primer 604 matrix flow soil surfactant, Infiltrix soil penetrant, Supaturf SS/G spring and summer granular fertiliser, Greenit turf colour restorer and Supa Mark aerosol line marking equipment.

**Groundsman Industries** launched a new tractor/utility mounted

aerator, the 8120. This model can be mounted on the normal three-point linkage of any mid-range compact tractor capable of 15hp at the PTO or on any specialist turf vehicle such as a Cushman. Groundsman claims the new unit is both durable and robust and offers quick-change tine holders which will take hollow, solid, slitting and micro-hollow tines. Features include linkage mounting (either standard three-point or using a spring ballast frame for turf vehicles), adjustable rollers and storage wheels.

**Rolawn** is now supplying turf in 'budget roll format'. The new rolls are approximately 15 sq yds each. Their dimensions are 21ins wide by 25 yards long and they weigh about 5cwt. All are provided with netting as standard and have a circular core running through their centre which takes a standard forklift tine. Rolawn also has a new laying machine which is 48ins wide, 35in high and weighs 60 kilos. It costs £395 plus VAT or can be hired for £15 a day.

**Jacobsen** showed the new LF 128, a lightweight five unit ride-on fairway mower. Powered by a 28hp Kubota diesel engine, the LF 128 is fitted with hydraulically driven 22in wide cutting units offering a total cutting width of 100ins. It is available in 4WD

form and comes with large hydraulic pump, large diameter hoses and large displacement cylinder motors. For improved ground clearance, the cylinder motors are mounted on the outside and a new cylinder mounting frame and a new hydraulic hose configuration are used. For those wanting an inexpensive 2WD fairway mower, the LF 123 with CARB approved 23hp engine is available. For bunker maintenance, Jacobsen is importing the Sandstar 2 Bunker Rake which is powered by a Vanguard 16hp 2 cylinder engine. The 1.8m (72in) Sandtrap Rake which can be hydraulically risen and lowered from the operator position comes as standard. Available as an option is the hydraulically lifted and lowered sand cultivator which spans 1.5m and a front mounted aluminium sand plough. For easy access, maintenance and repairs there is a swing-away fibreglass body.

**Tildenet** has added two types of bay dividers to its range: made-to-measure padded bay dividers made from foam-filled PVC which can be printed with logos and advertising, and net bay dividers made from golf practice replacement netting. The Bristol-based company also launched an anti-ball plugging net that's designed to reduce the number of lost balls on waterlogged driving ranges



Lilleybrook GC's Paul Jenkins, centre, had more reason than most to celebrate the launch of Supaturf's Primer 604. The Gloucestershire course manager won a trip to this month's GCSAA show in San Francisco in a competition to promote the new product. Pictured congratulating him are Supaturf chairman David Palmer, Aquatrols' international marketing manager Demi Moore (no, not that Demi Moore), and BIGGA chairman Barry Heaney, who made the draw.