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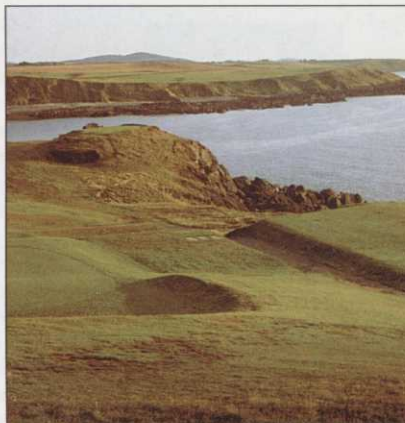
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Golf Greenkeepers Association

JANUARY 1995

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David Walden, ICI Premier
Greenkeeper of the Year.

Picture: Tim Moat

WIN £50 CASH IN OUR BUYER'S GUIDE COMPETITION: TURN TO PAGE 60

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Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 70 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.



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BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

BTME 1995

& 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
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- Ransomes • Rhône Poulenc • Rigby Taylor Ltd
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SILVER KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS:

- Fenchurch • Risboro Turf • Sisis



There's just one last chance to pre-register for BTME: you could win a prize! See the post-paid card in this issue

A year in the life of...

It is traditional at this time of year both to review the past 12 months and look forward in anticipation to a new year. For BIGGA 1994 was unquestionably a year of growth and development and financially this will be reflected in the Board of Management's Report and Accounts to be presented to the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

In membership terms we now have over 5,500 members – an impressive figure but still some way off realising the full potential for BIGGA membership. Whilst for 1995 we must initially target 6,000, we need to look beyond that figure and particularly galvanize current members into bringing others into the fold. The old adage of strength in numbers remains very true and whilst the last year has seen a considerable strengthening of BIGGA PR and publicity initiatives, there is no substitute for the local member convincing fellow greenkeepers of the benefits of joining BIGGA.

1994 saw considerable advances on the education front and our new education officer, Ken Richardson, is now making his mark. The recent restructured Management Courses were a great success and will now be followed up in 1995/96 with local training initiatives geared to NVQ qualifications. As BTME approaches the launch of our new video on 'Golf Course Preparation' is eagerly anticipated. This video is a product of our Education and Development Fund and made possible through the generous support, both company and individual, of our Golden and Silver Key supporters. How encouraging, therefore, that at the start of 1995 two new companies have joined as Golden Key members and another two as Silver Key. As we move through 1995, additional resources in the Education and Development Fund can only enhance our training initiatives. Look out for an ecology booklet and one on grass identification.

Our magazine, *Greenkeeper International*, enters 1995 widely regarded as the market leader. There are no grounds for complacency in a competitive market place and we are aware of aspects of the magazine which can and will be improved. Again we need



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

the input of members with articles, news items and indeed letters, whether these are specifically on greenkeeping matters or in critical appraisal of the magazine or BIGGA affairs in general.

As this magazine reaches you, many will be anticipating the visit to Harrogate for the BTME. A great week lies in store with the three exhibition halls sold out and indeed a waiting list situation. The intensive educational programmes available over five days are testimony to our ability to attract international as well as widely regarded home-based speakers. Already we are planning ahead to BTME '96 when it

is likely that we will need to move into a fourth exhibition hall. The development of BIGGA's own show since 1989 has been dramatic. From a personal viewpoint, my greatest pleasure in BTME week is to appreciate how much it means to our members as a focal point of their year and now, for many, an annual pilgrimage where old friendships are renewed and new ones forged. Long may it continue and your staff will spare no effort to ensure that the BTME continues to move forward with added strength and popularity.

Some brief thoughts therefore on membership, education, magazine and exhibition. Whilst one is justified in being upbeat on these important aspects of your Association as we enter 1995, there is a need always to be one step ahead in a competitive world governed by commercial realities. Mindful of this your Board was given the go-ahead at the 1994 AGM to undertake a review of the Association's activities and an initial draft report 'Towards 2000' has been compiled and been given initial consideration at the first meeting of the Review Body which was held in early December. There remains considerable work to be undertaken before the

final report is submitted for approval to the 1996 AGM. Members should note the composition of the Review Body and any proposals or suggestions for consideration will be welcomed by any Review Body member.

Review Body Membership

Chairman – Barry Heaney, Vice-Chairman, BIGGA
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 Richard Barker, Midland Region
 Clive Osgood, South East Region
 Gordon Child, South West Region
 Ian Holoran, Northern Region
 Neil Thomas, Executive Director
 John Pemberton, Administration Manager
 Ken Richardson Education Officer
 Bill Lynch, Sales and Marketing Manager

At the conclusion of the review process we should be able to put in place an infrastructure which will serve the Association's needs beyond the millenium and which, through the Review Body, can be regularly monitored to ensure its continued viability and effectiveness.

In the January 1994 issue of *Greenkeeper International*, I wrote of the need in 1994 for staff at headquarters to have more direct contact at "grass roots" level and that during the year the senior management team would seek to spend more of its time "out in the country" communicating directly with greenkeepers at all levels. This has certainly happened and staff have received a positive response on their visits to all parts of the country. Proposals and suggestions generated in discussion can now be assessed, prioritised and taken forward. Perhaps the overriding concern at present is for localised management training and this is now being developed for 1995/96. We at headquarters will seek to maintain and widen our contacts with members but please let us know your views. It is your Association and its ultimate development depends on your input – an input needed from the silent majority as well as the committed minority. The welfare of the greenkeeper in all its aspects lies at the heart of this Association but your help is needed in determining how best this can be improved, maintained and enhanced.

Sisis joins growing list of Education and Development Fund supporters



Sisis is the latest company to back BIGGA's Education and Development Fund. This brings to four the number of new companies already in Golden or Silver Key membership for 1995.

Commenting on Sisis' decision to take up Silver Key membership, BIGGA's executive director, Neil Thomas, commented: "BIGGA members are very much aware of the support Sisis has traditionally given to our Regions and Sections. The company's decision to additionally take out Silver Key membership is greatly appreciated and the backing of such a well-respected company gives added strength to the Education and Development Fund".

Sisis' membership brings to 15 the number of companies in either Golden or Silver Key membership.

BTME success assured as rival show attempts to gain ground

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) is set to break all records. A record 146 exhibitors will be at the Harrogate International Centre this month. A record number of visitors are expected following BIGGA's biggest promotion campaign, which included page advertisements in all the major turf magazines and direct-mailing more than 6,500 people in the golf industry. And a record number of international visitors have already signalled their intent to come to Europe's premier turf management show.

By early December BIGGA's offices at Aldwark Manor had received 23% more pre-registration cards than at the same time last year and 14% of them came from overseas. And this commitment from international visitors was before BIGGA sent out invitations to over 2,500 golf clubs and golf-related businesses on the Continent.

Bookings have also been flooding in for the National Education Conference – with a record attendance anticipated for the event, held in conjunction with BTME for the first time.

Bigger and better

"Every year the show gets bigger and better, and this year's success couldn't come at a better time for the Association," said Bill Lynch, BIGGA's marketing manager, referring to the launch of a rival show by P&O events.

The Landscape and Turf professional '96 show is scheduled for Olympia, London, a week before the '96 BTME. Whether it will actually happen is still the subject of much debate.

P&O have fuelled much of the confusion themselves by writing to potential exhibitors claiming that ten "industry leaders" have been "securing space to ensure their presence" at the proposed show.

After telephoning these industry leaders, we found that none had in fact secured space by putting down a deposit, although deposits were apparently required by December 22. Companies such as Kubota, John Deere, Hardi, Jacobsen and Hayters said they had reserved space in case the new show did go ahead.

"I'm waiting to see what happens. I'll know more by the end of January (after BTME)," said Colin Gregory, managing director of Hardi.

"We're keeping our options open – we're still hoping there will be just one show," said Brian Hurtley, vice president/director of Kubota UK.

European showcase

John Deere's managing director Alec McKee is also keen for one show that will become a European showcase for British and other manufacturers. "It's going to be a crying shame if we in the UK, where golf courses started,

lose our leading position," he said.

The Agricultural Engineers Association had originally approached P&O Events with the idea of an "umbrella" show because its members felt there were too many shows. With the Institute of Groundsmanship and BIGGA declining to come on board with P&O, all the AEA has achieved is the introduction of a possible new show – but with the profits going outside the industry.

Asked what they will do in January '96, many of the industry leaders echoed Alec McKee's words: "God knows, we can't afford to be at both shows." How-

ever, he added: "We want to be where our customers are."

Judging by the response to BTME '95, it looks as if a large percentage of those will be in Harrogate in 1996.

"It takes a long time to get to this stage," said Lynch. "It would be a brave managing director who would walk away from a successful show, a show he had helped make successful, for an unknown event. Especially an event based on research which involved only 406 individuals and 292 companies, most of whom, in any case, said their preferred location was the Midlands, not London."

BIGGA and IoG set up initiative to promote BTME and SALTEX

BIGGA and the Institute of Groundsmanship (IoG) are forming a cooperative marketing alliance to promote their respective trade shows – BTME (BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition) and SALTEX (Sports, Amenities & Landscaping Trades Exhibition).

According to BIGGA chairman John Millen and IoG chairman Ian Beaney, the two events are complementary. A joint statement issued by them to the trade states: "BTME is a spring-time, indoor, golf-related event with a strong educational focus. SALTEX is an outdoor autumn event with strong demonstration features and a broad profile."

The two shows share many common exhibitors and the new cooperative plans may include aiding companies that participate at both events. Both organisations feel that the two events, at separate ends of the year and in different parts of the country, offer a logical and effective combined exhibition programme that serves the needs of the UK industry and the broader

European market.

Details of the joint activities are still being worked out, but could include joint educational programmes, incentive pricing for companies exhibiting at both shows and cross promotion to further improve attendance for both shows, especially international visitors.



According to Millen: "It's a duty of professional organisations like BIGGA and the IoG to make some sense of the crowded exhibition calendar in the outdoor sports and amenities markets. Suppliers must be sure of real value for money and that members of both organisations will benefit from two strong shows."

Ian Beaney feels that the new alliance "has the good old fashioned virtue of common sense.

Suppliers and users don't want professional bodies slugging it out for cash. They want professional events that work and organisers that respect the value of their business."

One of the first companies to respond to this initiative is Amenity Technology which exhibits at both events. Managing director Carl Crome said: "The idea of having the BTME in Harrogate in January coupled with Saltex in Windsor in September is perfect, covering the north and south of the country. There is no need to have an additional show in London. Also, I don't see why people outside the industry should benefit. Any profits that are obtained by the show organisers should be put back into the industry for the education of greenkeepers and groundsmen – as BIGGA and the IoG do."

BTME will be held from January 25-27 at the Harrogate International Centre with the 1996 dates set for January 24-26. SALTEX '95 will be held at the Royal Windsor Racecourse from September 5-7.

It's one small step away



Touch down soon at the indoor show of the year

We're now only days away from the BIGGA Turf Maintenance Exhibition 1995. You will have had to have been on another planet to miss the build-up over the last few months. But if you're still not sure whether or not to attend, turn to Pages 23-50 of this magazine and be convinced. BTME '95 is for YOU. Be there!

Education space filling up fast ♦ Exhibition space SOLD OUT

BIGGA National Education Conference: January 23-24, 1995

BTME and Educational Seminar Programme: January 25-27, 1995

TO PRE-REGISTER, COMPLETE AND RETURN THE CARD FACING PAGE 70 OR CALL THE BTME HOTLINE ON 0347 838581

Pre-registering enters you in a free competition with prizes worth £200. It also ensures quick and easy entry into the event. Your badge and full information will be sent to you. TO PRE-REGISTER YOU MUST POST THE CARD BY JANUARY 17!

the Learning experience

Ask for more details

For comprehensive information of all that's going on, telephone 0347 838581 and ask to speak to Ken Richardson, BIGGA's education officer. He'll answer all your questions and send you a copy of "The Learning Experience". Event organisers are the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. You can also request a copy of "The Learning Experience" by fax: 0347 838864.

FINDING YOUR WAY TO HARROGATE IS EASY
BY RAIL: The comprehensive rail network means you can get to Harrogate very easily; for example 25 trains run daily from London King's Cross to Harrogate and there are some 15 trains from Edinburgh, 16 from Glasgow and 30 from Manchester

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION
BTME
1995
& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

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/ Zeebrugge to Hull, 60 miles away.



John Quinn, pictured, has been appointed manager of the new 18-hole course planned at Elmwood College in Cupar, Fife. John, 29, was previously employed as head greenkeeper at Alva Golf Club, Alva, Clackmannanshire.

Construction of the Elmwood course is likely to begin in March.

The course, which will provide realistic conditions for training students, is designed by John Salvesen and offers an exciting prospect for Quinn.

John is no stranger to Elmwood College, being both a past and present student there himself. He is currently awaiting confirmation of his Master Greenkeeper Certificate, stage one status, and is also studying part-time for his HND in golf course management.

● At Elmwood College's annual awards ceremony the greenkeeping section was well represented and full-time student prize-winners included Margeir Vilhjalmsen from Iceland (SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping and the St Andrews Links Trust Award) and Richard Barham from Cupar (SCOTVEC Higher National Certificate in



Manager appointed as preparation work starts at college golf course

Golf Course Management and the Carnoustie Golf Links Award).

Part-time students who received prizes for the SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping and also the BIGGA (Scottish Region) Awards were Robert Whiting, employed by Royal Cromer Golf Club (1st year) and David Williams, employed by Wentworth Golf Club (2nd year). Third year student Kenneth McManamon of Kildare Hotel & Country Club, Co Kildare, also received the Gleneagles Chal-

lenge Trophy.

Distance learning student David Ashley, of Great Barr Golf Club, Birmingham, was presented with the prize for the SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping Supervision (Distance Learning).

● Pictured: Professor Donald MacKay, chairman of Scottish Enterprise, and Carol Borthwick, head of greenkeeping section at Elmwood College, with the prizewinners from the greenkeeping section.

Students take the initiative

Students from the world's first HND in golf course management – run at Cannington College in Somerset – have taken the initiative and started marketing themselves before they hit the job market in April.

The students, who will graduate after three years' full-time training, are the first to complete the HND, initiated by BIGGA over three years ago.

But when they contacted golf clubs to introduce themselves, they discovered that few really understood the new HND course and qualification.

Said student George Simpson: "Because this is a new qualification, the greenkeeping industry does not yet know how it fits into the usual framework of jobs. We would like to see the qualification explained to potential employers."

Fellow student Graham Martin added: "While this HND is a highly specialised course in golf



course management, we don't expect to enter the industry at a very high level. We acknowledge that we need to gain experience before taking on senior positions."

Three of the students have previous greenkeeping experience and are taking the HND to further their careers. In total, 15 students are due to graduate in April, following a training which includes two work placements

totalling 10 months' work experience. Graham and another student, Chris Jack, worked in the Forest of Arden during the Murphy's English Open, while George worked at Gleneagles during the Scottish Open.

The HND course covers all aspects of golf course management including architecture, construction, greenkeeping, course management, consultancy and agronomy.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Construction of the North Weald Golf Club, an 18-hole David Williams-designed course just north on the M25 in Hertfordshire, has resumed. "Originally the course formed part of the ill-fated Compton Holdings development and although work had started nearly two years ago this proved to be a hindrance rather than a help," according to constructors Whitnell Contracts. The course will have a number of water features and two lakes when construction is completed and seeding takes place late spring.

■ A new £740,000 production facility for Terralift Fertilisers came on line last month. The facility, built in Co Monaghan, Ireland, has a capacity of 10,000 tonne per annum and will predominantly service the company's European distribution centres, including those in Glasgow and Peterborough. New products being launched at Harrogate this month include Greens Start 11:1:1 which has been developed to promote early colour and growth in fine turf, and Humiboost Fine Turf Liquor – a foliar spray finely tuned to an individual course with a tissue analysis.

■ Sign and plaque maker CB Designs International Ltd is so confident about a new form of fixing that the Rickmansworth-based company says it will replace any tee plaques that are stolen within three years of purchase free of charge. Tel: 0923 897160

■ Richard Aitkens of Glasgow is H Patisson & Co Ltd's UK Distributor of the Year. SBS of France is the European Distributor of the Year.

■ Johnsons Seeds is centralising its entire operations at its Boston headquarters, closing its branches at Woodley near Reading and Haydock. Johnsons says it has invested heavily in computerisation and upgrading production at Boston so there is no longer a requirement to retain the two branches, which were opened in the 1960s.

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Gypronit: an exciting new mini-granular turf fertiliser supplying good levels of sulphur.

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Greenkeeper of the Year

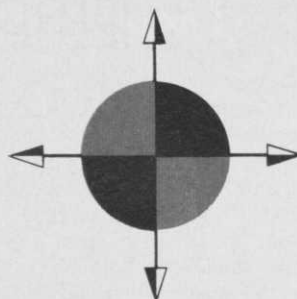
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L	G	L	E	E	E
S	H	E	R	R	Y

This is the solution to last month's Christmas puzzle. The deadline for entries was extended until January to allow for expected postal delays and so the winner will be announced in next month's Greenkeeper International.



**FULL SHOW
CATALOGUE:
Pages 23-50**

The search for a Super Grass

If you thought growing grass was a complicated business, think how hard it is for the people breeding the seeds. They have to think what greenkeepers will want in 15 years' time...

In an ideal world there would be one type of grass – super grass. This grass would suit every application and climate. It would cope with close mowing. It would be resistant to all diseases. It would be as at home on front lawns and football pitches as golf greens. And it would taste nice (at least to cows and sheep).

But grass is used for so many different purposes that breeders have given up searching for one super grass and are constantly trying to improve grasses for specific purposes.

This search is carried out throughout the world... and it could lead a breeder to your golf course. Old British golf courses are a great source of excellent grasses because they're used to close mowing and heavy traffic.

Barenbrug's Barkoel (*Koeleria macrantha*), launched last year after extensive trials in Scandinavia, New Zealand, France, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, the USA and the UK, is one example of this.

"The original breeding stock for Barkoel was located by chance on an old British golf course," says Michel Mulder, Barenbrug UK's managing director. "Despite drought conditions and infertile soil, certain very attractive green grassplants were found to be thriving whilst others suffered.

"This highly successful species was crested hair-grass, a grassplant common to many dry and sandy areas. A major programme of breeding and development followed, finally resulting in the uniform and stable variety of Barkoel, which was registered on the STRI list in 1994."

Between the first find and the launch, 21 years elapsed. Normally the process of developing a new variety takes 10-15 years and the

quickest it's been done is about eight years.

Barenbrug's breeders make a collection of new material each year. The crested hair-grass was collected in 1973 from a course which Barenbrug want to keep secret. "When you collect on old golf courses you can collect material which is already used under good conditions," points out Gerard van't Klooster, head breeder at the Dutch company's main research centre. "The collection was made for more normal amenity grass species like red fescue and bent grasses, but the *Koeleria* looked very good and was also taken away."

Back in Holland the grassplant was split in three and planted in a turf trial the next year. Its performance was "very good", so the breeder decided to harvest seed from the best plants. He split the good clones again and planted these in small plots in a field. The trial plots are separated by rye, which prevents cross-fertilisation.



Cross-fertilisation of plants: looking to the future

Harvesting the seed from grasses takes at least a year – you have to plant in the late spring to have a harvest the next summer.

The year after the harvest the new selection was used in another turf trial and the performance was monitored for three years.

Before a new variety can be released on the market, the breeders have to make sure that the fifth generation is the same as the first.

The tests, which included using a wear machine and close mowing, showed that Barkoel was excellent under short mowing without irrigation and without fertiliser. Mr Mulder says: "It provides an extremely dense turf, and very fine leaves which maintain an attractive green colour under the worst conditions. It has outstanding drought tolerance and remarkable disease resistance and can withstand very close mowing (under 2cm)."

In 1987 Barenbrug applied for Plant Variety Protection in the USA and in 1990 they made

The search for a Super Grass

the application in Holland. On May 4 1994 Barenbrug was granted the plant breeder's rights (a bit like a patent) for Barkoel, the first time these have been granted for a variety in that species.

Intensive testing has shown that Barkoel is best suited for fairways and semi-rough when used with other species, such as red fescue and browntop bents. It has also been tested on greens at the STRI's base at Bingley and at the Bristol and Clifton Golf Club, where former head greenkeeper Huw Parry says "it came up well".

But as companies like Barenbrug produce more and more turfgrass cultivars – and they have 610 varieties in their 'Fort Knox' in Holland – the already difficult task of choosing the correct cultivar for a particular project becomes harder. One tip, though, that most seed companies agree on is: don't buy on price alone; in the long run it will pay to buy good quality seed. Poor varieties offer no persistence under continuous wear, will require constant mowing, and be more susceptible to disease.

When you know how long it takes to breed a new variety and what goes into it, and you realise that after years of cross-fertilisation, testing and multiplying only a very small percentage of new grass varieties reach the stage of marketing, you wonder how they can produce a 25kg bag of greens mix for £150.



Top of the poppies: Duke's Dene golf course has been created out of chalky North Downs farmland

Choosing seed mixture for a new course

The cost of grass seed for a new course never amounts to more than one or two per cent of the total cost of construction, and yet often the seed is judged purely on price rather than quality.

When considering what type of mixture to sow, probably the most important factor is the choice of cultivar and the percentage of each variety needed to achieve the best results. The buyer has to identify the quality of turf he is looking for and then obtain a good balance of varieties that blend together to give a hard-wearing and close-knit sward.

Jonathan Franks of British Seed Houses advises new golf courses to consider all the



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