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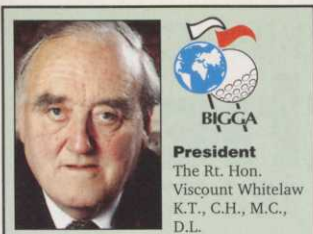
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■ The next edition of
Greenkeeper International
should be with you by June 5

GREENKEEPER

International

MAY 1996

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Bright sunshine at Lingdale GC eases the shudders of last summer... when an awful secret was revealed

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GREENKEEPER

International

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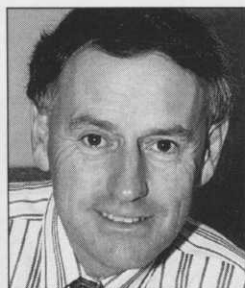
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A coming together

History will surely record that 30 March 1996 was an important day for European Greenkeeping. For this was the cold and snowy day in Amsterdam when 16 representatives of greenkeeping associations throughout Europe sat down at the Vlijmen Headquarters of Mommersteeg to discuss the formation of a European Greenkeeping Association. From the meeting emerged the "Federation of European Golf Greenkeeping Associations" or FEGGA as it will inevitably come to be known. While the concept of such a body had long been discussed by greenkeeper leaders throughout Europe, it was during 1995 that the pace quickened and a number of discussions took place. During the BTME in January, the International Forum determined that the time had come to call a formal meeting of interested parties and this resulted in ten countries being represented in Amsterdam with a further six declaring their support by proxy. So it came about that FEGGA was established from a strong base of sixteen countries' support.

Why then has this Federation been deemed necessary? The underlying reason is quite clear and very simple – within the European Community greenkeepers were perceived as being unable to speak with one voice and the reluctance to invite greenkeeper participation in environmental discussions within the European Golf Association's Ecology Unit based in Brussels highlighted the need for European greenkeeping associations to come together. During the Amsterdam meeting the enthusiasm for the new Federation was marked as delegates could envisage the long term benefits for greenkeepers. The environment is a key area for consideration and so too is education and here the establishment of common standards throughout Europe must be the ultimate aim. There can be little doubt, also, that FEGGA will be able to assist those greenkeeping associations still in their infancy to flourish and grow. There is much that can be achieved and I sense that the commitment for FEGGA to succeed is very much in evidence.

Initially there is much work to be done in order for FEGGA to be



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

established and accepted within the game of golf. It has been agreed that FEGGA will not become a bureaucratic body while administration will be jointly shared by BIGGA and the Swedish Greenkeepers Association. The postal address will be that of the SGA. An Interim Board of Directors has been appointed which will take the Federation forward to its first AGM which will be held during BTME '97 in Harrogate. After that it is planned to take the AGM to other European countries. Meetings of the Board of Directors will similarly rotate within Europe and it is planned to initially hold two meetings of the Board before the AGM. These will essentially be planning meetings enabling a structure including organisational arrangements, statutes and financing proposals to be presented to the AGM during the BTME. Five representatives of Associations have been elected to the Interim Board and these are:

Dean Cleaver – BIGGA – Chairman, Per -Olof Ljung – SGA- Vice Chairman, Claus Detlef Ratjen – Greenkeepers Association of Germany, Roland Favrat – Spanish Greenkeepers Association, Elise Jarvinen – Finnish Greenkeepers Association.

Elections to the Board of Directors will then take place at the AGM and it is envisaged that Board Members will serve for a minimum period of two years. It is appropriate to record the other delegates present at the meeting who were: Etienne Bruier and Rudy Duyck – Greenkeepers Association of Belgium, Rob Spruit and Gerard Koster – Dutch Greenkeepers Association, Patrick Guinan – Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland, Stal Bo and Fridtjof Myhre – Norwegian Greenkeepers Association, Gilbert Ayer – Swiss Greenkeepers Association, Frederick ten Hage – Holland – BIGGA member, Tommy Lindelof – Chief Executive – SGA, Neil Thomas – Executive Director – BIGGA.

The other countries to indicate their support for FEGGA were France, Denmark, Estonia, Austria, Northern Ireland and Italy. It should be pointed out that the new body is not one which an individual greenkeeper can join. It will represent associations rather than individuals. As such it will be for individual greenkeepers to make their views and suggestions relating to FEGGA known to their own Associations who will then ensure that appropriate consideration is given by

the Board of Directors to the worthwhile proposals of individuals. One matter receiving immediate consideration is that of a logo for the new body and any suggestions in this regard will be welcomed and can be forwarded to BIGGA Headquarters.

So FEGGA has finally come about. Many will argue that it is long overdue. This may well be so but until recent years communication between greenkeepers and greenkeeping associations within Europe has not been a strong point. Now those difficulties are being overcome and the profession is set to speak with a strong voice within the EEC's corridors of power as well as within the European golf community. Few will doubt the necessity for this strong voice if greenkeepers are to be key players in setting standards within the game and the profession. Within the EEC only a strong voice will gain access to the funding so necessary to advance the profession. No-one should pretend that an easy road lies ahead but a significant start has been made and the future can be viewed optimistically.

Finally a big thank you to John Akers, Commercial Manager for Mommersteeg for his assistance in arranging the inaugural meeting and the use of the excellent facilities at the company's Vlijmen Headquarters. Here is yet another example of BIGGA's partnership with a Golden Key supporter working for the benefit of greenkeepers and the profession.

● Pictured: FEGGA delegates.



Toro quality recognised at highest level

Toro has been awarded the prestigious ISO 9000 certification for international quality consistency at its US manufacturing plant in Wisconsin. It is the first commercial turfcare equipment manufacturer to receive the designation.

"It's long been Toro's practice to provide our customers with innovative quality turf products that provide superior long-term value," said Graham Dale, Managing Director of Toro distributors, Lely UK.

"This accomplishment is further evidence of Toro's commitment to market leadership, continuous product improvement and meeting our customers' needs."

A company whose processes meet the rigorous ISO standards is considered more capable of manufacturing products to a level of consistency and quality respected around the world.

NEWS

New man joins IOG at 'crucial time'

The Institute of Groundsmanship has appointed Patrick Gosset as its new Chief Executive.

Mr Gosset, 50, joins the IOG from portable accommodation hire company Premier Transline where he was Managing Director.

"I am joining the Institute of Groundsmanship at a crucial time in its development across a broad spectrum of sport and leisure activities," said Mr Gosset.

"I recognise that as a member organisation we must provide - and continue to develop



- a package of really worthwhile benefits and to market ourselves professionally so that those involved in our ever widening range of interests will recognise the value of membership."

Patrick Gosset lives in Oxfordshire and lists cricket and rowing among his sporting interests.

Does BIGGA need an Essex Section?

Over recent months there has been a great deal of debate about the need for an Essex Section of BIGGA.

It has been proposed that an Essex Section be formed as part of the South East Region and that the revised East Anglia Section be transferred from the South East to the Midlands Region. The proposal has been made purely on the number of current and potential members within geographical boundaries and the benefits of ease of access to Section events that the changes would produce.

A general meeting of interested members has been arranged for Thursday, June 27 at 7pm at Ravenwood Hall, Hotel, Rougham, approximately four miles east of Bury St Edmunds, off the A14.

The proposal is only viable with sufficient support and members interested in learning more or in having their opinions heard are urged to attend. If the proposal is adopted then there may be vacancies for Section Committee members for both East Anglia and Essex.

Think about the proposed change and talk to your colleagues.

How will it affect you?

Come to the meeting and have a say in how your Association is organised.

Lord Whitelaw opens complex

The new Eden Greenkeeping Centre at St Andrews was opened officially by BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw.

A former Captain of the R&A, Viscount Whitelaw said how pleased he was to see this investment in first class greenkeeping facilities and that the high standards set by the Eden complex reflected the growing professionalism of greenkeeping. He then unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion.

The Centre provides accommodation for greenkeepers, machinery and materials required for the Eden, Straththyrum and Balgove Courses and the Golf Practice Centre. It also houses the Course Rangers and orderlies and their equipment. It has an overall floor area of 12,220 square feet and cost around £500,000 to complete.

Links Trust Chairman, John



Lindesay-Bethune, said that the new complex was the first physical sign of the Trust's heavy investment in its greenkeeping operations.

"The good condition of the courses is vital to providing golfers with enjoyable experiences and this facility will help

our greenkeepers to achieve that aim," he said.

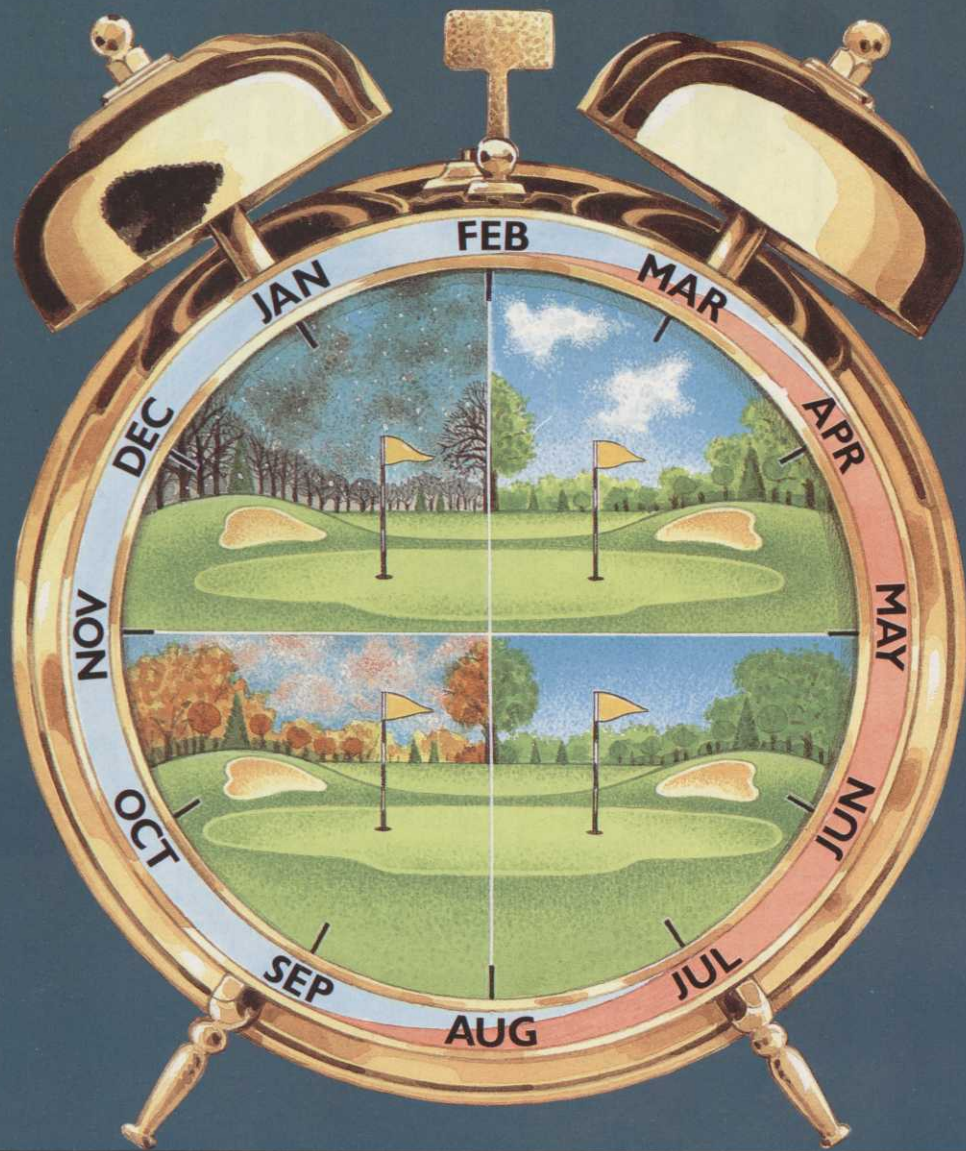
Mr Lindesay-Bethune singled out the R&A for special praise for its contribution of a £1 million loan towards the construction costs of both the Eden Centre and the Jubilee Sheds, on which construction is about to start.

THE ONE JOB I DO WHICH GIVES ME MOST SATISFACTION IS:



"Walking down the 18th fairway at the end of the Volvo PGA Championship after the last putt has gone down thinking, 'Thank God it's over.'"

Graham Matheson,
The Wentworth Club



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Golf course wildlife advisor appointed

Joint funding between the Scottish Golf Union, the R & A and Scottish Natural Heritage has resulted in Scotland becoming the first country in Europe to appoint a Golf Course Wildlife Advisor.

Jonathan Smith, 25, pictured above, was recently employed by the Duke of Buccleuch on his Bowhill Estate and took up the advisory position on 29 April. Initially he will be based in

Glasgow in premises provided by the Strathclyde Greenbelt Company.

"We see this appointment as a positive step to integrating golf courses into the environment," said Ian Hume, Secretary of the SGU. "We have been considering this move for some time and are now pleased to be able to offer advice to new and existing golf courses on the positive aspects of working in harmony with the landscape and

its wildlife in line with current conservation policies."

Karen Morrison, Urban Conservation Officer with the Scottish Natural Heritage said, "Golf Courses are an important element of Scotland's natural heritage. We hope that this initiative will make people more aware of the positive contribution their course can make to the environment, if it is managed in sympathy with its surroundings."

Consultant joins firm



Jason Sinden has joined Eamonn Wall & Co as an associate consultant. Jason has an Honours degree from

Aberdeen University in Forest Management as well as a range of practical experience. His duties will include site surveys, design, planning and management with specialist duties in mensuration, contract tendering and supervision.

"Although the production of timber is a secondary consideration on golf courses, the opportunity should not be missed to attain a return from assets which already exist. The good silvicultural practices which are required to achieve a suitable commercial crop (a long, knot free stem) are conducive to the needs of the golf course. The branch free stem allows play from underneath and facilitates turf management," explained Jason.

In the last three years Eamonn Wall and Co has been responsible for planting close to half a million trees on golf courses.



Thoughts while on the seventh

by Roy T.G. Hudson, First Assistant at The Lambourne Club

If it's not Fusarium, it's bloody Poa, It's about time we backlapped that mower!

Cut the greens and tee surrounds, Collect the balls from the practice ground.

Slit, scarify, perhaps hollow tine? When was the deadline?...Next Tuesday...fine!

Tournaments, medals...What? Not another one!

C.O.S.H.H. assessment forms, "Christ, that'll be fun!"

Heath and Safety, locks, security,

Training for staff...finish at three! Members suggesting greener greens with softer grass?

"As if pressure to play in frosty mornings wasn't enough!"

Holes to be changed, Repts to call, "Hell!...Where'd that come from? "Hey, next time mate, try calling Fore!"

Fine tomorrow, maybe frost, Damn!...Budget meeting with the boss.

But thinking, as I looked out from the 7th, towards the clubhouse, "Job wise...I just wouldn't give a four XXX for anything else!"

HAYTER CHALLENGE

Emotions run high



Flying the flag: Competitors at Oak Manor

The Devon and Cornwall Section Qualifier was an emotional occasion with the honouring of the host club's Course Manager, Gordon Child who retired last month. Gordon, the South West and South Wales Regional Administrator was presented with a television set from the Section to mark the occasion.

Qualifiers for the Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge to be held at Salisbury GC on Wednesday June 12 are:

0-9. G. Tamblyn, J. Mitchell, A. Parker, T. Gooch, C. Rawlings.

10-18. T. Farkins, M. Child, E. Barber, M. Parrish, W. Potter.

19-28. T. Blackburn, A. James, S. Getson, Miss L. Breyley, C. Pine.

The winners in each category were presented with a silver salver by Mike Lincoln-Smith of Hayter.

The South West Hayter Qualifier was played at the excellent Oak Manor GC, near Taunton.

A tough test (speaking from personal experience - Ed) Oak Manor was in magnificent condition thanks to the work of Nigel Pring and his team. Nigel also led the way in the competition as well posting a best gross score of 72.

Overall winner was Craig Fudge of Tracey Park who scored a fine nett 66.

Regional Final Qualifiers are:

0-9. C. Fudge, N. Pring, M. Fawcett, P. Godwin, C. Tozer. 10-18. A. Turner, J. Williams, D. Smith, A. Knight, O. Stevenson.

19-28. C. Sealey, T. Dabenett, J. Barr, S. Mitchell, P. Cox.

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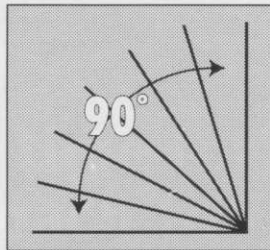
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Education Update

BY KEN
RICHARDSON

Get your name down now for some top titles

This month sees the deadlines for entry to two of BIGGA's major competitions, ie the Miracle Premier Greenkeeper of the Year and the Toro/Lely/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year, so make sure that your entry has been submitted by the closing date.

Miracle Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

The race to find the 1996 Miracle Premier Greenkeeper of the Year is hotting up. You still have time to nominate your choice, however, as entries need to be at HQ by 31 May, you need to make sure that your nomination is in the post. Does your Head Greenkeeper deserve to be recognised for his efforts? Does your greenkeeping team want to win £500? Do you want to visit the GCSAA show in Las Vegas in February 1997 for free? If the answer to any of the above is yes then get your nomination in TODAY by filling in the pre-paid card in the magazine, filling in an official entry form or by telephoning me on 01347 838581. Course visits, by a BIGGA regional representative and by a previous Master Greenkeeper finalist will take place throughout the Summer and the National Final will take place at Aldwark Manor on 1/2 December.

agers but are for all greenkeepers looking to improve their supervisory skills and become the course managers of tomorrow. Plans are well advanced for the next series of courses to take place in the Autumn of 1996 and Spring of 1997, in all five BIGGA regions and in Eire. By popular request, further Essential Management Skills courses will be held in each region and new for this year will be two day courses in Budgeting and Finance for Greenkeepers and Golf Course Health and Safety Management. All courses will, again, be heavily subsidised by the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, allowing the cost of courses to be kept to a minimum. Further details and an application form will appear in June's edition of Greenkeeper International. Make sure that you join the two hundred greenkeepers already trained this year by applying early.

Health and Safety Training

BIGGA can arrange Pesticide Training Courses and First Aid Training Courses in your region or even at your golf club. If you or any of your staff need to be trained or need refresher training then contact me at HQ. Minimum course numbers need to be six.

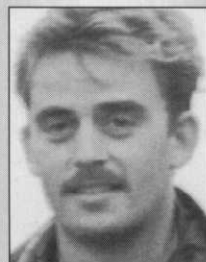
TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year

Entries for this competition need to be at Aldwark Manor by 31 May 1996. Regional judging will take place during the week commencing 2 September with the National Final taking place on 13/14 October at Aldwark Manor.

Regional Supervisory Management Training

These courses are not just for head greenkeepers/course man-

**THE ONE JOB I DO WHICH GIVES
ME MOST SATISFACTION IS:**



"Hand cutting greens"
Adrian Porter, Greatham Valley GC

New man takes over the helm at Kubota

Kubota's new Director of Tractor and Grass Machinery, Rene Orban, highlighted the back-up customer care service as the area in which he hopes to make his mark.

Speaking at a briefing called to formally announce his appointment, Rene, previously Jacobsen's Managing Director European Operations, said: "Anyone who ever worked with me will tell you parts and service and the back-up customer care service are things which are very dear to my heart. This is where I will start."

"This is no criticism of the current situation but the management team and I will be looking at new ways of making Kubota even more efficient in this area," said Rene.

He also outlined the strengths his new employer had in the industry.

"As well as our dominant position in the UK market we have in Kubota Corporation at our fingertips the resources of a truly global player with 18 factories in Japan

and five factories overseas employing over 20,000 people worldwide.

"Kubota is one of the world's biggest and most innovative manufacturers of diesel engines and it is this which gives us our cutting edge."

He also paid tribute to the man he is replacing.

"Behind Kubota's success is a team which was led by Brian Hurlley. Under his leadership Kubota has achieved its brand leadership. Brian will, I am sure, be remembered with great admiration and considerable fondness. He has worked hard and with great dedication to make Kubota a formidable force to reckon with. He has always been a person respected and liked by all his competitors."

Brian Hurlley, who was also at the briefing and who retires in June, explained that it was Rene's proven ability to work closely with Japanese colleagues which was one reason Rene was singled out as the man for the job.



Rene Orban, right, Kubota's new Director of Tractor & Grass Machinery takes over his new role from Brian Hurlley who is retiring

Anniversary conference

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects will mark its 25th anniversary by holding its 1996 International Conference at The Wentworth Club on October 2-4.

Entitled "A Celebration of Golf Course Design" the Conference will feature contributions from America, the Continent as well as from British Architects during the day long proceedings on October 3.

A workshop on golf green design and construction will be held on the morning of October 4 and the conference will be preceded by the Barenbrug Golf Architects' Trophy and the Silver Jubilee Dinner.

Dealer support

Sports Ground Irrigation Co has appointed Michael Riley as dealer support representative to cover the North of England. He will promote the company's range of sprinklers, valves pH system and controllers through the dealer network.

■ Iain Richardson has rejoined Patissons and will be covering the South West part of the country. He met up with many of his old friends at Westurf at the beginning of May.



■ Etesia has appointed Spencer Southall as After Sales Manager based at the company's

headquarters in Warwick.

Spencer has worked as Etesia's Demonstrator for two years and has a full working knowledge of the product range.

"We appreciate the importance of providing dealers and their customers with full after sales support in the field."

"It is vital that technical queries are dealt with speedily and efficiently, especially in the height of the grass cutting season," said Robin Taylor, Sales Manager.

Expansion sees Tony in Singapore



Tony Doe has been appointed Technical Sales Manager - Pacific Rim, by Ransomes.

Previously Area Manager for the south of England, Tony will be supporting Ian Mitchell, Ransomes' Area Manager - Pacific Rim, and the company's distributors located throughout the Pacific Rim and Australasia region.


Working from the Ransomes office in Singapore, Tony's brief is to provide technical, service and operational support to distributors and end-users of Ransome, Cushman and Ryan equipment being used to maintain golf courses, recreation and leisure facilities, landscaped grounds and other fine turf areas.

"This appointment is part of a planned expansion programme, building on the successes we have

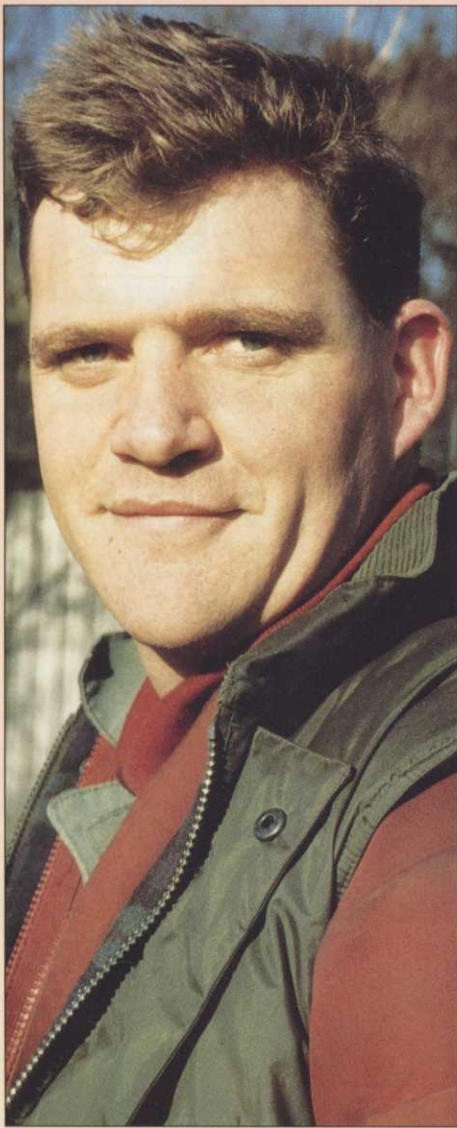
had already in this important part of the world," commented John Wilson, Ransomes International Sales Manager.

"Tony's presence in the region will provide additional support for Ian Mitchell and strengthen Ransomes technical back-up service to our distributors and customers."

THE ONE JOB I DO WHICH GIVES ME MOST SATISFACTION IS:



"Cutting difficult pin positions for the weekend medal"
Kevin Green, Filton GC



Gavin Robson: "I was devastated when I first saw the damage that was being done"

BOAY OF THE MADLINE



June the 21st last year is a date engraved on the memory of Gavin Robson. He relives the nightmare with Scott MacCallum

It is the sort of thing which would have normally calm, rational men waking in the middle of the night, drowned in chilly perspiration and voluntarily climbing into the straitjacket every greenkeeper keeps under his bed for such eventualities.

For Gavin Robson, however, this was not a recurring nightmare of an irrational greenkeeping fear – like reversing a triplex into the Captain's new car – but a living, painful reality and it was happening before his eyes on a bright summer's day at Lingdale Golf Club, near Leicester.

Like most horror stories the terror arrived unexpectedly but, unlike most horror stories, this one had a happy ending... thanks to one of the main characters – not a Freddie Kruger but a Barry Cooper.

Since it was built Lingdale, a beautifully located members' club, had hidden an awful secret. It held water, lots of it. So much that