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

GREENKEEPER

International

SEPTEMBER 1996

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Start of the Finnish

Golf is very much a growth sport in Finland and despite a long non-playing season, its golf courses are second to none. In the first of a two part feature, Scott MacCallum looks at the way maintenance is tackled at eight golf courses **Pages 24-27**



Week of the Hayters

A full preview of the inaugural Hayter International Cup and the Hayter Challenge Final, plus full lists of the competitors taking part. **Pages 9-10**

Seacroft goes down a storm

BIGGA's 1996 National Tournament, in association with Miracle Professional, was a resounding success with many taking part claiming it to be "the best ever" **Pages 13-15**

From cows to birdies

Not too long ago, Tom King's life revolved around dairy farming. Now he's a Course Manager after setting up a new addition to the Edinburgh golfing scene **Pages 33-34**

Regular features

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News An American greenkeeper's verdict on the support team's efforts at The Open, plus new faces and changing places **Pages 5, 7, 53**

Education Have you got what it takes to progress in your career? asks BIGGA Education Officer Ken Richardson. Details of the supervisory management courses are listed plus there's a reply paid card to register your place **Page 16**

Cover

Laukaan Peurunkalgolf in Finland, just one of eight courses featured in this issue
Picture by Scott MacCallum

WIN £50 CASH IN OUR BUYER'S GUIDE COMPETITION: TURN TO PAGE 55

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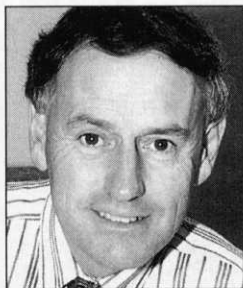
There are only a few exhibition spaces left for BTME 97 - for more details contact Louise Lunn on 01347 838581

Perceptions of BIGGA membership

I recently attended a meeting in Bury St Edmunds where some 50 greenkeepers had gathered to consider the formation of a new Essex Section.

It was a meeting where the situation was complicated by the fact that many of those present who were interested in joining the proposed new section were currently members of the long established East Anglia Section. In a wide-ranging discussion it was clear that the arguments had been well thought out and that members attending had come prepared and done their homework. I was impressed with the concerns expressed by those present, whatever position they were taking in the debate, to ensure that the best interests of the Association and particularly the East Anglia Section were served. There was no friction but much understanding. The outcome was a decision to proceed with the formation of an Essex Section which will become operative following the East Anglia Section's AGM in November.

Certain members currently serving on the East Anglia Committee will step down at the AGM with a view to taking up places on the new Essex Committee. They in turn will need to be replaced and a letter has been sent to all East Anglia members making them aware of the situation well in advance of the AGM. It is essential that two viable, forward looking sections emerge



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

from the changes and I believe that there is enough commitment from members to ensure that this will happen. The East Anglia Section will become more compact and hopes to align itself with a local college for the future benefit of its members. The Essex Section has a considerable potential membership and again will seek a close relationship with a local college. Here then are examples of member enthusiasm, commitment and a will to take the Association forward at local levels.

Decisions to form new sections are not taken lightly, for the failure of a new section would not reflect well on the Association. Indeed since 1987, the Essex Section will be only the second new one following the formation of the North Wales Section some five years ago.

Headquarters will be working

closely with both the East Anglia and the new Essex Committees to ensure that all is in place by the time of the East Anglia AGM and members are encouraged to make any observations or comments to Headquarters or locally over the next few months. So far this has been a most encouraging exercise reflecting very well on members who are determined to see the Association develop and continue on a growth curve.

In writing of these developments it is pertinent to consider the enthusiasm and commitment of members throughout the Association. In broad terms, I would suggest that they fall into three groups. You at local level will know far better than me which of these groups encompass your colleagues and yourself.

1. The first group are the really dedicated ones. Visible at section, region and national events, they are always eager to be involved, ready to take on new tasks, prepared to serve on committees and give freely of their time in the BIGGA cause. They have a clear perception of BIGGA's aims and aspirations and see the professional benefits of being part of and active in the Association.

2. The second group is supportive of BIGGA and willing to contribute to the ongoing development of the Association. Their work and family commitments militate against them being involved in BIGGA to the extent that they and the Association

would wish but they do attend BIGGA events and contribute in varying measures to BIGGA's cause.

3. The third group are relatively disinterested members, perhaps joining BIGGA as "the thing to do" under coercion from colleagues or because the club wishes its greenkeepers to be members. To them the BIGGA magazine is a welcome benefit of membership as is the membership card if they are golfers. Little thought is given to the benefits of the legal protection and insurance services unless they suddenly find themselves in need of them, whilst education is often a neglected area.

It is impossible to hazard a guess as to how many members fall into each group. The more who gravitate to group 1 the better but realistically many will fall into group 2 and serve BIGGA to the best of their abilities. The concern must be for those in group 3 and the need for them to become more active and involved, not only for BIGGA's sake but also for their professional development. Much can be done at local level to change attitudes and in the years ahead I would hope that group 3 declines in numbers with a corresponding increase in members who can be categorised in groups 1 and 2. As a member, in which group would you honestly categorise yourself? If it is group 3 then perhaps there is cause for thought.

Contract in Algarve

Bill Hawthorn, Chairman and founder of Watermation, seen here shaking hands with Mr. Sander Van Gelder, owner of the prestigious Vale do Lobo Course in the Algarve, on the signing of the contract to provide automatic irrigation to the new Royal Course, which is presently under construction and expected to be finished this autumn.

The Royal Course has been created on new land adjoining the existing nine holes of the Yellow Course which itself has undergone updating and recon-

struction. Great care has been taken by the architect however to retain the famous "cliff top" hole which has been in play now for over 30 years. It was decided to replace the irrigation on these original nine holes and design a completely new 18 hole system for the greens, tees, and fairways. This comprehensive scheme will require over 800 sprinklers throughout the course.

The irrigation system will have all the latest technology from Watermation including the TW2



irrigation controller complete with remote control operating in conjunction with PC central con-

trol. The sprinklers are the Watermation GR2 and GR3 models.

As I see it...

BY DEAN CLEAVER
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

It doesn't seem any time at all that I was talking about our time in Lytham at The Open and now here I am looking back at the National Tournament at Seacroft Golf Club in Skegness.

I must say it was nice to see so many families there and I am sure everyone, of all ages, enjoyed themselves. It was also good to see an international

flavour to the event with Thorbjorn Raun and Alan Brebion of Denmark and France respectively playing. It was particularly pleasing to hear how much they got out of their BIGGA membership.

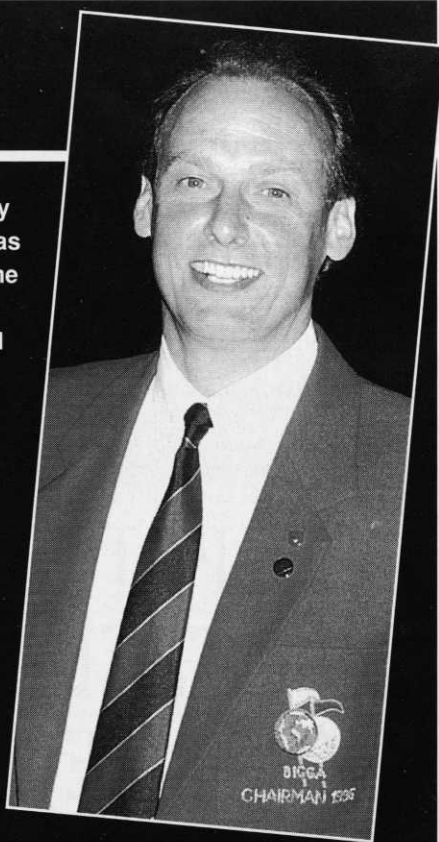
I would like to thank the Seacroft for the excellent hospitality afforded to us and, in particular, Head Greenkeeper Richard Hardie and his team who had the course in first class condition. Bearing in mind the weather we have all had to contend with over the last 18 months it was absolutely superb.

Congratulations to all the winners and I would personally like to thank all the sponsors and, in particular, Miracle Professional for their support, without whom the prize table would not have been the superb spectacle it was.

September is going to be a busy month for me. It begins with Saltex, then I'm off to Sweden to deliver a talk at the Swedish Greenkeepers Association Conference. I get back on the Friday and then on the Saturday we have the Hayter International and Hayter Challenge tournaments at West Lancs and Fairhaven golf clubs.

The Hayter International is a unique event and I am looking forward to meeting everyone involved. I am Captain of the Rest of the World team and I've already contacted Bernard Gallacher for some tips on captancy.

I am sure the events will be a great success and immense credit must go to Kim Macfie and Hayters who have been instrumental in ensuring their success.



NEWS



Paul takes the cup

Paul Rennie from Andover, who has just successfully completed his studies on the National Certificate Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sportsground Management

Course at Sparsholt College, Hampshire has been awarded the Kings Worthy Parish Council Prize given to the student who has produced the Best Major Course Project.

Sod growers to stage demonstration days

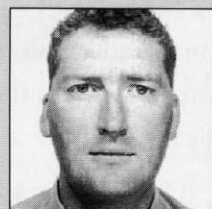
On October 10 and 11, especially for sod growers, demonstration days will be organised by the French Sod Growers Association in cooperation with Nannings v Loen BV, the Netherlands.

The demonstration will take place in the northern part of Holland. Latest developments and appliances will be demonstrated like "De Hy Tek" machine with automatic stacking system and the "Brouwer Rollmax" sod harvester.

Manifold manufacturers and suppliers will demonstrate all the essential devices required for an efficient sod cultivation.

This unique occasion provides you with the opportunity to become fully apprised of the latest European advancements in sod cultivation.

Further detailed information will be readily provided by Nannings v Loen BV, the Netherlands. Telephone: 00 31 33 4564 550, Fax: 00 31 33 4564 433.

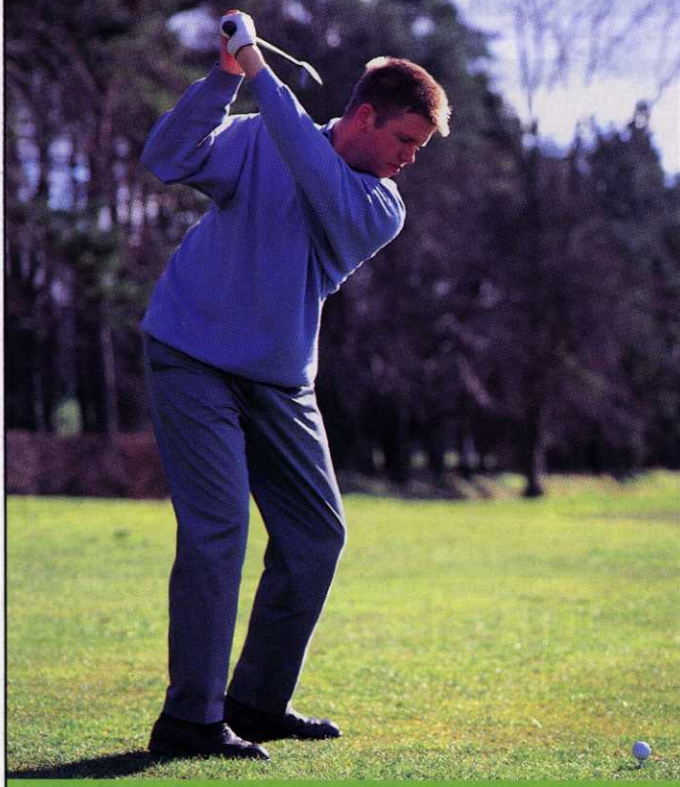


Stuart Ashworth has joined the staff of Amenity Technology as the company's Technical Sales Manager for the UK and Europe.

Previously Stuart worked in the North East of England for Rickerby Ltd as Technical Sales Representative and following his appointment will be moving to the South West of England.

Following Saltex he will commence an intensive training course on all products available from Amenity Technology.

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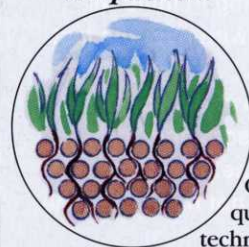
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Differences... and similarities

Brad Owen, pictured, of the Augusta National Greenkeeping Staff, made his first visit to the UK to work as a member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team. He gives his impressions of his visit...

Tom Lehman said it best with a single word, "Wow". Although he probably said it with a good bit more emotion, the same word can describe my trip and impressions. It was quite an experience to see up close and be part of "The Open" for the first time. To be inside the ropes and walk with the players gives you a better understanding of how the player attacks the course and how the course can fight back. It also was unique to walk the course from the player's perspective in the early part of the day and then to see behind the scenes maintenance in the late evening. The maintenance that so many people take for granted, or are not even aware of, is very interesting and I was surprised that it was not discussed more by the media.

There are many differences in philosophies concerning the maintenance of turf for a major golf tournament between England and the US but the most important philosophy is very similar to any other major tournament. That is, to pro-

vide a fast, firm and difficult challenge for the golfer that puts a premium on a well played shot and anything less is a take away shot. Other similarities include some of the goals of BIGGA and our Superintendents' Association and those include: projecting a professional image and furthering the education of its members along with educating the public on just what the superintendent's job is all about. During our stay in Blackpool, BIGGA proved to be a very good host as did many of the people we met along the way. I would strongly recommend this experience to anyone who appreciates golf and turf grass management. A big thanks goes out to BIGGA for making this trip a reality.

Finally, I found it interesting to see a course such as Royal Lytham St Anne's that was obviously a model for so many American courses that try to imitate the links style course (even if it is inland just a little bit!). You can read all you like and look at pictures all day but you really need to see it up close for the best impression. The very first course I worked on was designed by Jack Nicklaus and he incorporated many features such as the mounding, small bunkers and elevated tees along with penalising rough in his design.

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION



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★ Here's part two in our competition where you as a Greenkeeper can go to BTME 97 ABSOLUTELY FREE! Together with the BTME, the Learning Experience 1997 will provide a varied and informative education programme. The workshops have been so successful they have been expanded to four in the programme. These hands-on training opportunities cover golf course design and construction, surveying and levelling, communication with golf course committees and the magic of greenkeeping. The National Education Conference starts on Monday January 20.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of the three superb prizes is to answer six questions – there were two last month, two in this issue, below, and the final two plus the entry form appear in October's issue.

SEPTEMBER QUESTIONS

1. Name BIGGA's Education Officer?
2. What date does the National Education Conference start?

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The third full week in September could quite easily be renamed Hayter Week because during that time both the inaugural Hayter International Cup and the Hayter Challenge Final will be played at West Lincs and Fairhaven respectively.

The culmination of 25 sectional qualifying events and five regional qualifying events plus qualifying events in both northern and southern Ireland sees 63 greenkeepers converging on Fairhaven Golf Club in Lytham St Annes for the 1996 Final of the Hayter Challenge.

The event, which goes from strength to strength, will this year be run in conjunction with the inaugural Hayter International Cup which has brought a truly international field together for the Rest of the World v The Americas competition at West Lancashire Golf Club earlier in the week.

Once the spoils have been divided out the entire Hayter International Cup field will travel to Fairhaven and play their own singles event, the Hayter International Medal, in tandem with the Hayter Challenge competition.

West Lincs GC is no stranger to BIGGA and Hayter, having played host to the 1995 Hayter Challenge, and such was the warm welcome afforded to everyone by the club and the superb course presented by John Muir and his team it was the ideal venue to host what is likely to become a firm favourite on the greenkeep-



Head Greenkeeper Peter Simpson: Best of both worlds at Fairhaven

WEEK OF THE HAYTERS

ing calendar. It will be a biennial event with the United Kingdom and the United States sharing the duties of host.

Fairhaven, on the other hand, is a new venue for Hayter but such is the quality of the golf course it is sure to become an immediate favourite.

"The finalists are going to find a long golf course, it's 6883 yards off the back, and if the wind blows it can be quite tough," explained Head Greenkeeper Peter Simpson.

The course comprises two loops, an inner and an outer, and

as a result the wind can get you from any angle and unlike some courses, which offer up some shocks in the shape of hidden hazards, at Fairhaven what you see is what you get.

"Fairhaven isn't really a links, it's a semi links but all the links characteristics are there but with trees as well. You get the best of both worlds as it's probably the most picturesque of the four local courses," explained Peter.

Peter (32) and his team of five have a rolling programme of revetting the bunkers.

"We have around 126 bunkers and we've done about 65 so far."

Looking round the course you can see that he is not making any false boasts. The course is magnificent with a little touch of Woodhall Spa or Sunningdale about it.

It has been a busy time for Peter and his team as the course was used as a final qualifying course for The Open Championship at nearby Royal Lytham & St Annes while Peter returned to Lytham, where he began his career, to assist with the daily preparation of an Open venue which received universal acclaim at the end of a less than perfect spell of weather.

"I started at Lytham as a YTS trainee and was kept on and learned the ropes under Jimmy MacDonald. It was a terrific place to work and I felt that if I didn't move in 1991 I probably never would," explained Peter, who went to Huntercombe near Henley-on Thames before returning to Fairhaven in December '93 and becoming Head Greenkeeper two years ago.

HAYTER COMPETITORS

SOUTH EAST

Richard Hickford, Newton Green GC
Huw Morgan, Wilderness GC
Neil Gilham, Chart Hills GC
David Jones, Epsom GC
Ray Malt, The Ridge GC
Robert Washbrook, Porters Park GC
Douglas Smith, Thorpe Hall GC
Ben Abbot, The Ridge GC
Toddy Huddleston, Retired
DEREK FARRINGTON – Captain

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES

Nigel Pring, Oake Manor GC
Cyril Rawlings, Marlborough GC
Rob Walker, Queens Park GC
Anthony Knight, Kingsdown GC
Wyndham Potter, East Devon GC
Philip Wentworth, Army GC
John Barr, Bristol and Clifton GC

Clive A. Archer, Broadstone GC
Alan Crichton, Kington GC
GORDON CHILD – Captain

SCOTTISH

George Mitchell, Newmacher GC
Robert McKay, Prestwick St Nicholas GC
Ian Bell, Glencorse GC
Brian Hillen, East Moffat GC
Tom Hindmarsh, Erskine GC
John McLachlan, Brunston Castle GC
Graham Shearer, Balmore GC
Gordon McRae, Ratho Park GC
Garry Crosbie, Dumfries & County GC
ELLIOTT SMALL – Captain

NORTHERN

Paul Pearse, Stockport GC
Alex Russell, Bedale GC
Mark Hodgson, Woodham G&CC
Robin Smith, Gotts Park GC

Allan Allsop, Cavendish GC
Colin Hopper, Doncaster Town Moor GC
Anthony Cheeseborough, Wearside GC
Paul Neve, Brough GC
John L Jones, Abergele & Pensarn GC
BOB LUPTON – Captain

NORTHERN IRELAND

Brian Mulholland, Lisburn GC
Patrick Devlin, Belvoir Park GC
Lee Eager, Knock GC
Paul McBlain, Royal Belfast GC
Glenn Culbert, Clandeboye GC
Craig Posnett, Belvoir Park GC
Eric O' Neill, Portestewart GC
John Cuffey, Crossgar GC
James Logan, Edenmore GC
TERRY CRAWFORD – Captain

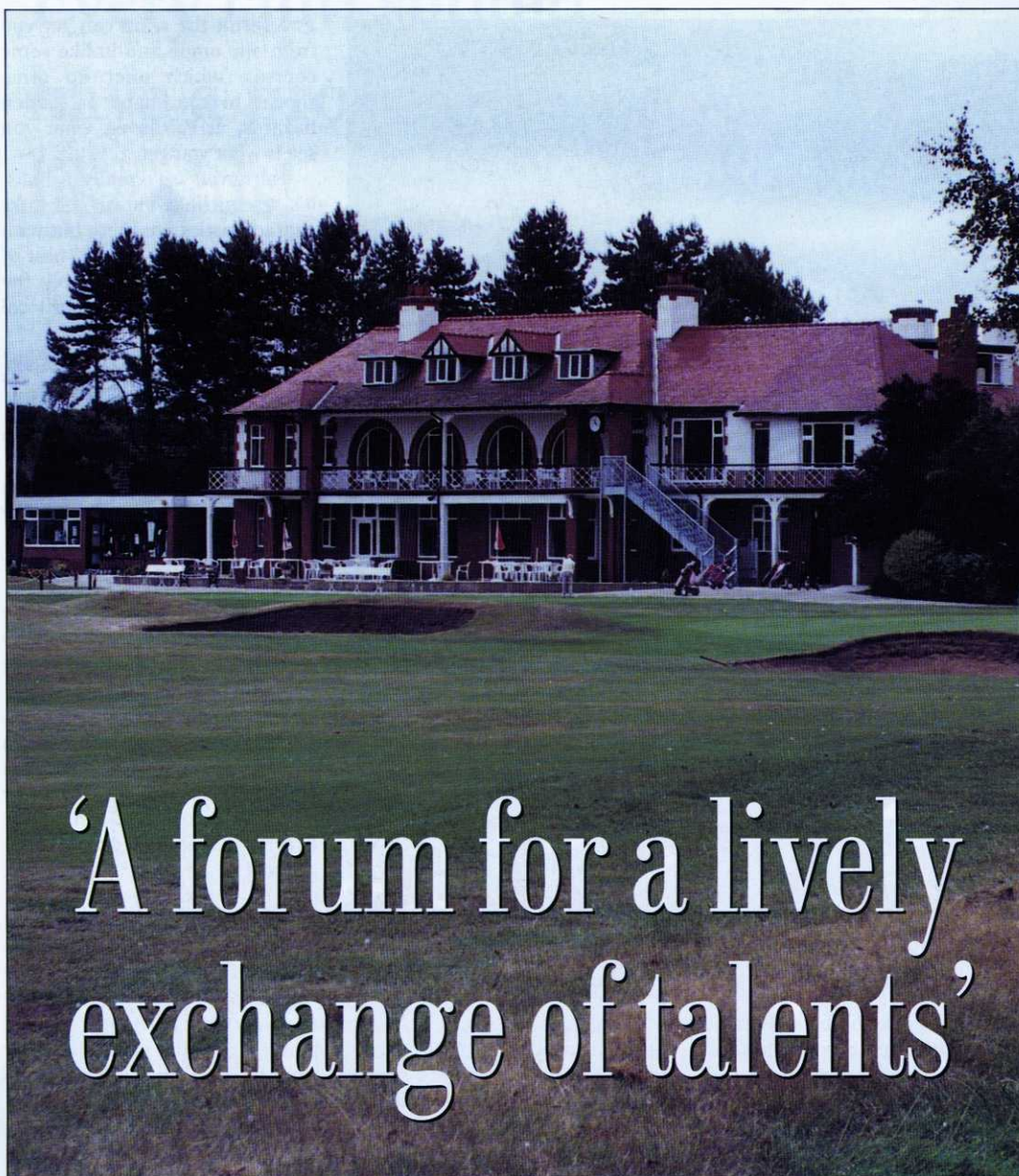
SOUTHERN IRELAND

Joe Bedford, Hollystown Golf Castle GC
Gerry Bryne, Luttrellstown Castle GC

Paul Fitzgerald, Beech Park GC
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John Hewson, Market Rasen & District GC
David Gibbons, Great Barr GC
ROGER WILLARS – Captain



All of the excitement of the Ryder Cup...

With the Rest of the World tackling the Americas the event promises to have all the excitement of the Ryder Cup coupled with the rare opportunity off the course to share greenkeeping experiences and knowledge with colleagues who cope with altogether different problems.

Like the Ryder Cup the Hayter International Cup will be biennial with Great Britain and the United States taking turns to be host country and the event will consist of six fourball matches in the morning and 12 singles in the afternoon.

"I am convinced that the Hayter International will become an established part of the greenkeeping calendar throughout the world and am thoroughly looking forward to both it and the Hayter Challenge Final – to be played at Fairhaven GC in Lytham St Annes on September 18 – which is already a popular and respected event on the domestic greenkeeping scene," said Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA.

"The Hayter International Cup aims to foster a fraternal yet competitive atmosphere among greenkeepers from all parts of the world. It will be the forum for a lively exchange of talents both on the course and about the requisites to maintain the great golfing venues of the world. I feel sure everyone will benefit from the opportunity," said Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter Limited.

'A forum for a lively exchange of talents'

The impressive clubhouse at Fairhaven

"I knew I preferred links courses before I went south," he explains, "but going to an inland course just cemented what I really felt."

During the Open Qualifying the Fairhaven course record was broken by Justin Leonard – who won on the US Tour a couple of weeks later – with a 64 when it was hot and there was no wind but perhaps the main story of the qualifying event was also produced at Fairhaven. It came from Paul Eales, Lytham's Touring Pro-

fessional, who birdied the final five holes to qualify right on the limit.

"The last five holes include three par fives, a short par four and a little par three and by birdying them all he fulfilled his ambition to play in The Open at Lytham," said Peter.

Ironically Peter could have been playing in the Hayter Challenge Final as well as preparing the course.

"I won the Sectional qualifier at Morecambe but had to pull out of

the Regional Final because of the Open Qualifying so it was unavoidable."

He is looking forward to welcoming not only the 63 Hayter Challenge finalists when they arrive but also the International competitors.

"I am looking forward to the event. It's been a good year for us with the Open Qualifying and now this. It's good to see the Hayter event snowballing and it's nice to have been chosen for the final."

HAYTER TEAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL CUP

Americas: Samuel T. Williamson, Ojai Valley Inn and CC, USA; Jim Dusch, Atlanta National GC, USA; Robert Heron, Beacon Hall, GC, Canada; Douglas Meyer, Cedarbrook G&CC, Canada; Ricardo de Udaeta, Olivos GC, Argentina; George Renault, Burning Tree Club,

USA; Dean Morrison, Calgary G&CC, Canada; Paul McGinnis, Moon Valley CC, USA; Alejandro Young, Las Praderas de Lujan, CC, Argentina; Randy Nichols, Cherokee Town CC, USA; Thom Charters, Bayview CC, Canada, and Gary Grigg, Royal Poinciana GC, USA.

Rest of the World: Cosme Bergareche, San Sebastian GC, Spain; Fredrik Goa, Ljunghusen GC, Sweden; Andreas Kauler, Club sur Vahr, Germany; Derek McJannet, Sherwood Forest GC England; Ignacio Soto Alarcon, Pineda GC, Spain; Peter Schumacher, The Grange GC, Australia;

Peter Frewin, Winchelsea GC, Australia; Michael Dohlon, Bro Balsta GC, Sweden; Ian Buckley, Northop Country Park Golf, Wales; Matthias Ehser, Clubcolf Duren, Germany; Alexander Reid, Letham Grange GC, Scotland; Brian Mulholland, Banbridge GC, Northern Ireland.