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should be with you by July 12

GREENKEEPER

International

JUNE 1997

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Cooden Beach, venue for this year's National Tournament. Picture by Scott MacCallum.
Inset picture by Margot Briscoe-Knight

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GREENKEEPER

International

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

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Water relief is sure to be temporary

There are occasions when a person's unflinching selflessness and general concern for others should be both recognised and rewarded. All too often good deeds remain in the background and the beneficiaries do not have the opportunity to make good their debt of gratitude.

I firmly believe that we have arrived at one of these occasions and I would like to put forward someone who in the last month has ensured that the lives of BIGGA members have been just a little bit easier.

It's me!

About a month ago I decided that such was the current situation regarding the drought I should turn a proportion of the June issue of the magazine over to the subject.

As you will see I have invited four experts to look at the current situation with regard to water shortages and project what potential solutions are available.

Since then it hasn't stopped raining and, for a short time at least, golf courses are looking a bit greener.

See, I'm your guardian angel and you didn't even know. All tokens of your appreciation gratefully accepted.

Seriously though, it may soon get to the stage that Britain is no longer considered a wet country and we will have to accept that water is a valuable, not to say expensive, commodity. Leaving taps, or irrigations systems, running will become a luxury few can afford. Umbrella, welly boot and waterproof salesmen must be extremely worried by the situation but in the league table of concerned professions greenkeeping is also well clear of the relegation zone.

Alleviating the problem will mean a major rethink in working practices on golf courses and irrigation water could well edge its way up the list of major annual

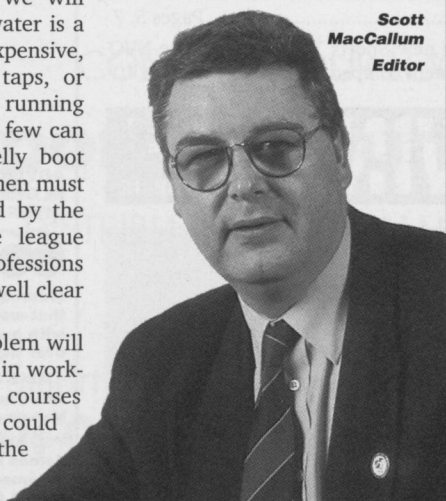
expenditure alongside that new ride-on triple.

I hope that the views of our four experts will give you food for thought and some ideas which could perhaps be put into practice now.

Elsewhere in this issue is a look at Cooden Beach, the venue for this year's National Tournament sponsored by Miracle Professional. This traditional event has a loyal band of entrants but anyone wishing to play for the first time will find an excellent golf course and a town, Bexhill-on-Sea and surrounding area, which offers much for the holidaying greenkeeper and his family.

As this month's Editorial is a general look at what's in the magazine can I make an appeal for something I'd like to see more of in future. I would like any member with a camera to take photographs at BIGGA events whether they be Sectional Regional or National. Try to avoid the posed presentation shot anything relaxed, unusual or funny has got a chance of being published.

You never know I may even offer up a BIGGA umbrella for the best picture of the month! Going by what I've said earlier it might well turn into something of rare value in the years to come and appear as an object on Going for a Song.



Scott MacCallum
Editor

As I see it...

BY PAT MURPHY
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

Last month was quite a quiet one for me and it gave me a chance to spend some much needed time on the golf course. It really has started to go and we're now cutting the greens every day, the tees three times a week and fairways three to four times a week.

I wasn't totally free from the duties of the Chairman, however, and one of the highlights of the month was a visit to Westurf on the last day of April – the day before the General Election. I remember clearly when it was because I was chased off the motorway on the way down by a bomb scare. I left home at 10am but didn't arrive at our hotel until 4.15pm.

It was certainly well worth the trip, though, as it was a brilliant day and quite a few people left with sunburn.

It was a good chance to meet up with one of my predecessors as Chairman, Ivor Scoones, who was Chairman in 1990 who is the Course Manager at Long Ashton GC, venue for Westurf.

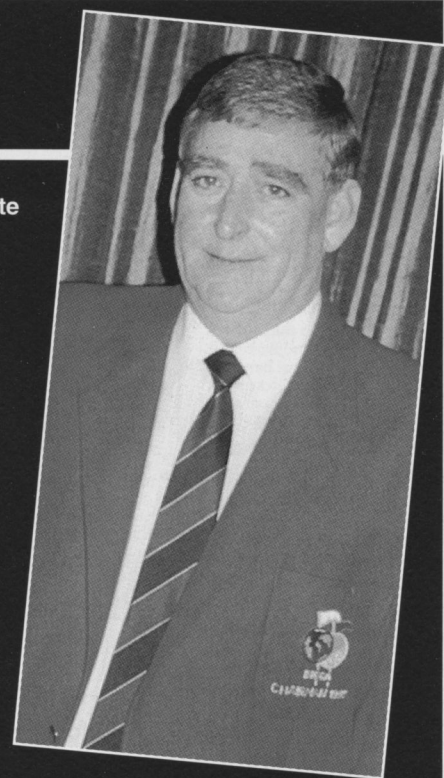
I was asked to judge the best stands along with the Captain of the Club and Jim Fry, the President of the South Coast Section. It was a task we took extremely seriously and it took us around two and a half hours to get round them all. It was a good opportunity to meet all the exhibitors and I enjoyed the company of my fellow judges.

It was also my first chance to meet the two newest members of staff, Jenny Panton, from the Sales and Marketing Department, and Paula Humphries, the new South West and South Wales Regional Administrator.

Paula is taking over from Gordon and Marion Child, who had organised their final Westurf Show. To recognise their magnificent efforts over the last ten years a presentation was made to them on behalf of the Region by Regional Chairman, Richard Whyman. I was also the recipient of a presentation and I would like to thank the Region for their kindness.

Another of my duties was much closer to home... at Shipley College where there was a careers seminar. I did a talk on greenkeeping looking back at the beginnings of the industry and describing how I have seen the job of the greenkeeper develop. I would like to thank the STRI and in particular Roger Evans for the use of the slides.

Towards the end of the month I had a Moderation meeting at Askham Bryan in my role as Internal Verifier and another GTC meeting at Aldwark Manor while I'm looking forward to visiting Scotland for the Hayter Regional Final.



Birdwatching 'Ryder Cup' sparks interest

Europe took on the USA in a special bird watching competition – on golf courses late last month. This ecological twist to golf's traditional transatlantic rivalry was billed as the first ever "Bird watching Ryder Cup". It was one of a number of green initiatives leading up to the 1997 Ryder Cup matches to be held at Valderrama, Spain, in September.

The competition proved a light hearted way to focus attention on the fact that properly designed and managed golf courses can provide important habitat for wildlife. It also provided some useful information concerning what species of birds are actually using golf courses.

Following the Ryder Cup format, a team of 12 European bird watchers on golf courses throughout Europe challenged a team of 12 Americans on prime sites in the US. Over the 24 hour period, each team member scoured a particular golf course with the task of observing as many bird species as possible. The team collectively scored the highest total won. However, to allow for America's naturally richer bird life, the European team had a handicap – they only had to find five species to match every eight species scored by the USA team.

Among the list of European golf courses competing in this event were famous names such as St Andrews, Falsterbo in southern Sweden and San Lorenzo in Portugal.

The premier site was none other than Valderrama, where local naturalist Martin Jacoby had the honour of spearheading Europe's bid to outwit the Americans. A site which is home to over 100 bird species, Jacoby thinks of Valderrama as "a nature reserve in which people play golf".



Lessening the burden

A new deal between Kubota and ING Turfcare Finance means that a new range of finance plans is now available to Kubota customers.

Called Kubota Credit, the joint finance venture is designed to provide finance solutions for compact tractors, ride-on mowers and implements.

Rene Orban, Sales Director,

Kubota (UK) Ltd said: "We believe this new scheme will satisfy the funding needs of Kubota users and owners operating in four distinct areas golf turfcare, estate management, amenity management and landscape and growing."

Pictured is Rene Orban, (right) and Bob Wilson, of ING Turfcare Finance Ltd.

Two golf courses in Hungary and one at Bled in Slovenia made up Eastern Europe's contribution to the team. These were important sites because more species occur in eastern countries than western ones. Another key location was the magnificent Domain Imperial set in wooded parkland on the shores of Lake Geneva at Gland, Switzerland.

Both teams had non-playing captains – David Stubbs for Europe and Ron Dodson for America.

Prior to the big day David revealed that the Americans would start as favourites. "They have chosen pretty wild places but we have some very good sites of our own. I think people will be surprised just how many species of birds will be found on these golf courses. It is only to be hoped that the Americans have not found a Tiger Woods with binoculars."

■ Stop press: Europe won by 347 (including handicap) to 237. Full story next month.

FLYING DIVOTS



■ Karen Smith who has worked for Jacobsen E-Z-GO Textron as a freelance for the last three years has

been appointed Marketing Manager of the company.

Peter Bell Managing Director of the UK Division of Jacobsen E-Z-GO Textron commented, "As a Sales and Marketing organisation we are delighted to announce the appointment of Karen Smith as Marketing Manager for the company. We believe that the role of marketing is of key importance to the long term development of the various brands we provide as a company."

Karen graduated from Cardiff University with a degree in business Studies and has worked within the horticulture, amenity and golf market in a marketing and PR role for over seven years.



■ Peter Clark has joined Charterhouse Turf Machinery as Product Manager of the new Connoisseur range of products. He has over 20 years experience within the trade promoting such products as Poulan, Alpine, Solo and Dolmar Chainsaws.

■ Ruud Francissen, who has been a Board member of Charterhouse for the last four years and Managing Director of Redexim BV has retired.



Ruud, as he is widely known, introduced the verti-drain on to a world market after it had been developed by Dutch contractor Aaron deRidder.

■ Leigh Siddon, Collier Turf Care Distributors Ltd's Sales Representative for East Bedfordshire, North Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, South Lincolnshire, East Northamptonshire and part of Suffolk has passed his Amenity BASIS exam.

Collier's has also appointed Daren Smith as Sales Representative for Norfolk and parts of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk.

Tribute to Gerald Haynes

On April 18 Gerald Haynes, Course Manager of the Hartbourne Country Club, Herts died. He was 52.

Gerald had fought an unrelenting battle against a lung illness for a number of years. In this time never once did he lose his dignity, his passion for his work or his sense of humour.

I only knew Gerald for a relatively short time but will always remember him for his unbiased

honesty and natural talents as a greenkeeper and manager. He had supported greenkeeper education for many years through student placements and it is surely a fitting tribute to him that a great number of young professionals owe their knowledge to working with him.

Gerald was laid to rest close to the family home in Powys, Mid Wales, a spot chosen by himself, to be near the two great loves of his life, his family

and the countryside of the area.

Gerald leaves two fine sons, Richard and Martin and a widow, Susan. On behalf of them I would like to thank the staff and members of Hartbourne GC for the support over the years.

I am sure all those who knew Gerald will be saddened by his untimely demise and our thoughts are with Susan for the future.

Pete Bradburn

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HAYTER CHALLENGE

Event is gathering pace

The Regional Finals are now looming into view and for those successful in the Sectional events, a rare opportunity of playing on one of the country's finest in-land courses is tantalisingly close. The fact that the chance involves playing on another excellent course is an added bonus. There are, of course, also places on offer to represent the Rest of the World team to play against the Americas in the Hayter International Cup to be played in the USA next year.

Ganton Golf Club, near Scarborough, has hosted many major events including the Ryder Cup, in 1949, and regularly welcomes The Amateur Championship.

Once there the player with a handicap of 12 or better, who represents and resides in each of the home countries and who performs best in this year's Hayter Challenge Final, will be selected for the Rest of the World team in the second Hayter International match, to be held at the Cherokee Town and Country Club, Atlanta, Georgia, in October 1998.

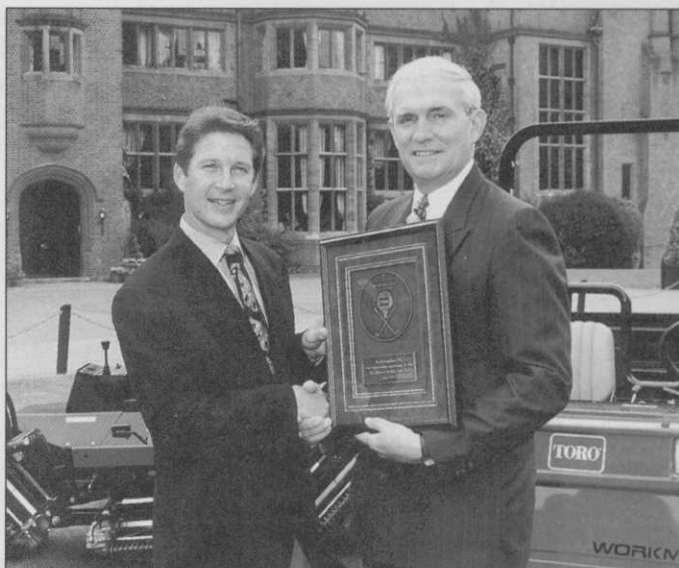
That team will have the chance to avenge the narrow defeat inflicted on the Rest of the World by the Americas at West Lancashire Golf Club last year.

The Regional Qualifiers are to be played at:- Scottish - Loch Green GC, Troon, May 27; South West and South Wales - Burnham and Berrow GC, June 11.; Midland - Warwickshire GC, June 26; South East - Ham Manor GC, June 27; Northern - Matfen Hall GC, July 9;

National Final: Ganton GC, September 17 & 18.

Supporting role

TIS now support any requirement for Toro Irrigation product installation, service or retail in the south of England. Contacts are Colin Clark, Tel: 01903 859933 and John Roberts, Tel: 01425 479232.



Don Masini, right, Toro's MD of worldwide sales and Marriott's Rob Baruck

Toro's hotel deal

The Toro Company has secured a multi-million-pound partnership agreement with Marriott Hotels in the UK, part of the Whitbread Hotel Company, as exclusive suppliers of golf course turfcare machinery and irrigation systems.

The deal covers all eight Marriott Hotel & Country Clubs with golf courses, as well as two others where new 18-hole courses are under construction. It is for an initial two-year term, with a view to a further three to five years after that.

"For six months the Whitbread Hotel Company golf development team has been assessing the turf management needs of the four 36-hole, one 27 and three 18-hole golf courses we own," said Rob Baruck, Marriott Hotels' Director of Golf and Leisure, speaking after the agreement was signed at Marriott Hanbury Manor Hotel & Country Club in Ware, Hertfordshire, the venue for the recent Alamo English Open.

"We made a detailed assessment of the turf equipment industry and short listed four companies that we considered potential partners for our company," he explained.

"Of the four, Toro was considered to be the most pro-active candidate to develop the partnership process."

"The Toro Company is also the largest manufacturer of irrigation equipment and brings the design and technical support of this specialist field into the deal," added Rob.

The deal was signed on behalf of The Toro Company by Don Masini, Managing Director of Worldwide Sales in the international division. He was joined by Toro's European General Manager of Sales, Bob Buckingham.

"It proves again that Toro not only has winning products, but provides a total solutions package which includes training, technical expertise and agronomic advice. Also, we are the only company in the industry who can cover both machinery and irrigation aspects together," said Bob.

As will be the case for all future machinery aspects, this was handled through Toro's UK commercial products distributor Lely UK in St Neots, Cambs; while the irrigation side will be catered for by TIL Irrigation in Ringwood, Hants, the UK distributor for Toro irrigation products.

Bailey's open their doors

Bailey's of Norfolk has issued a general invitation to BIGGA members and their families to join them in celebrating 21 years in the turf dressing business.

All the events happening throughout their open week, July 7-12 are free and include a Family Fun Day, barbecue and dance, machinery demonstrations and a chance to look round the production and laboratory facilities.

Two golf competitions with prizes worth over £500 will also be taking place. Bailey's will also be welcoming greenkeepers to come and look round the production and laboratory facilities.

The Open Week is designed to take place in a relaxed atmosphere. For further information call Bailey's on 01603 754607.

FLYING DIVOTS



■ Amenity Technology has made three new staff appointments. Steve Coleman, top left, becomes a Director of the company responsible for commercial development.



Lee Robertson, centre, has been appointed Northern Technical Sales representative and Gary Haines is the Technical Sales representative for the Midlands.



The company has also relocated to new offices with larger warehouse space. The new address is: Reading Business Centre, Weldale St, Reading, Berks, RG1 7BX.

■ Simon Hannam has left Inturf after seven years as Technical Advisor to take up a position with Allied Dunbar. Derek Edwards and all the staff at Inturf wish Simon well in his new career.



■ Briggs & Stratton has promoted Robert Preece to the new position of Technical

Sales representative. Previously Service Administrator and an Instructor at their Brentwood Training facility Robert, a Master Service Technician, will be supporting Registered Service Dealers in the Southern half of the country. Assuming Robert's previous roll will be Paul Shuttleworth, a Master Service Technician with 28 years experience problem solving and repairing Briggs & Stratton engines.

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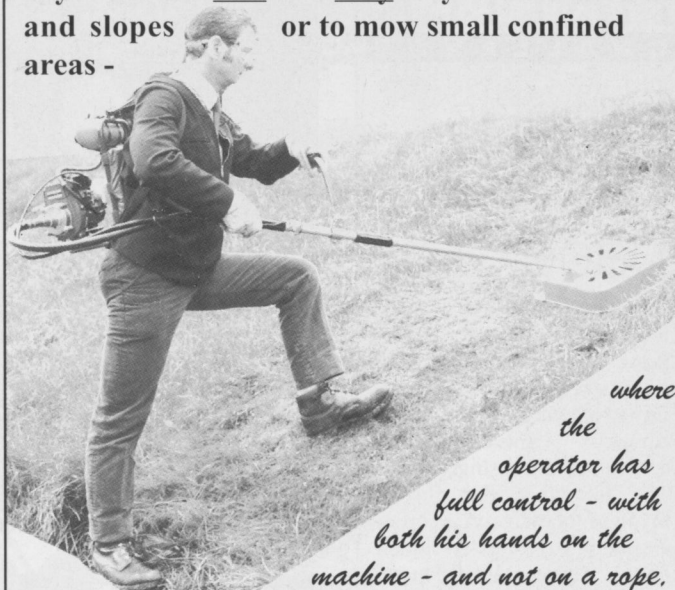


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Fintan Brennan, Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, reports on the "adventure" which followed winning the prestigious title



Fulfilling a dream

A wonderful weekend at BIGGA Headquarters at Aldwick Manor last October, during which I was fortunate to meet a lovely group of people, was capped by my becoming Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. As a result I found myself, at the beginning of January, en route to the Winter Turf School in the United States which was part of my prize.

Preparing for the trip I recalled my Irish colleague, Bridie Redican, winning the same competition in 1993. It was the year I started greenkeeping and I remember thinking will that be me someday? Then I realised that dream and it was me with my picture on the front cover of *Greenkeeper International!*

Sitting in the departure lounge in Dublin Airport with my family, wife Bernie and boys Mike and Joe I had mixed feelings... loneliness, fear of the unknown, excitement. Yes, I was very excited about setting off on my adventure.

And an adventure from start to finish it certainly was. Three flights and 22 hours after leaving Dublin I landed at Bradley Airport, Hartford, Connecticut and it was another hour's journey to the Econo Lodge which was to be my home for the next seven weeks.

The weather which varies from zero to minus 10 and colder was the initial shock and then there was the College Day which began at 8am and finished at 5.30pm. It had been a while since I had sat in a classroom for that length of time.

The course was more intense than I had previously experienced. Eleven subjects were covered including: Plant Physiology, Turfgrass Management, Turfgrass Insects, Weed Man-

agement, Arboriculture Calculations, Organisational Management, Irrigation, Soils, Golf Course Design, Construction and Turf Grass Disease. Examinations were to be taken on most of the subjects and two projects to be completed. Each of the 11 subjects were studied in depth and even though some of them did not apply to my present position they will be of great benefit to me if I wished to work overseas.

A trip to a trade show in Boston, organised by the college, was of interest to me but the highlight of my stay was the visit to the GCSAA Show and Conference in Las Vegas. My first port of call was, of course, the Toro stand which consisted of Toro Machinery, Toro Irrigation and the newly-launched Site Management Programme. I also visited the BIGGA stand where I met the newly-appointed National Chairman, Pat Murphy. While in Las Vegas I made a flight over the Grand Canyon and enjoyed a bus ride to the Hoover Dam.

During my total of eight weeks away I also visited Boston, Vermont, New York and had a very informative trip to the Toro Machinery Headquarters in Menna and Toro Irrigation in Riverside, California.

I have made quite a few friends while in the States and to Jim, Steve, Noel and Ron I would like to thank you all for your companionship, friendship and kindness during my stay.

I have gained an invaluable experience that I would not have got elsewhere and for this I sincerely thank Toro for sponsoring my trip and giving me an insight to other golfing worlds. I would also like to thank BIGGA for organising the competition.

BOOK REVIEWS

Several interesting books have arrived recently at BIGGA HQ from the USA. Although aimed at American Superintendents, they contain a great deal of useful information for the British greenkeeper. All of the following books are available from: Cassell plc, Stanley House, 3 Fleets Lane, Poole, Dorset, BH15 3AJ.

The Mathematics of Turf Grass Maintenance

A knowledge of mathematics is required when controlling budgets, applying pesticides and fertilisers and when trying to estimate resource requirements for the building of golf course features. This book gives examples of some of the mathematical problems that may be encountered by greenkeepers with hints on how to solve more complex tasks. Although the examples are in Imperial units ie feet, pounds and gallons the basic concepts still apply and conversion factors are given for those who wish to work in metric units. The authors, Nick Christians and Michael Agnew have managed to avoid the trap of making the simple complex and the book is reasonably easy to follow. Priced at £24.95, this book would be a useful reference for Head Greenkeepers' offices.

Colour Atlas of Turf Grass Diseases

One of several references for the identification of turf grass diseases currently on the market, this book, written by Toshikazu Tani and Dr James Beard, gives general information on diseases and more specific guidance on the identification of warm and cool season grasses. Although some of the full colour pictures would have been clearer if they had been enlarged, the notes accompanying each plate ensures that mistakes are not made in disease identification. A useful book for anyone with an interest in the identification of diseases especially students and academics, this book costs £54.95.

Guide to Golf Course Irrigation System Design & Drainage

This book's title is slightly confusing due to the term drainage at the end of the sentence. The book does contain information on the design of irrigation systems and on the theory and installation of drainage systems. As our weather changes and drought conditions worsen, irrigation is becoming increasingly important. Moreover, the demand for all round play and our damp winter conditions make adequate drainage equally essential.

Written by Edward Pira, Professor Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, this book looks at the theory of irrigation system design and compares and contrasts the various types of pumps, pipes, valves and controllers. The sections on drainage look at surveying, types of drainage system and some of the mathematics required. Each chapter includes practical examples to illustrate the principles involved. This book would be a useful introduction to the techniques of drainage and irrigation for those just entering the profession and for any greenkeeper thinking of installing a new irrigation or drainage system. Priced at £39.95 this book is good value, especially if it saved you from buying the wrong irrigation system and making a very expensive mistake.

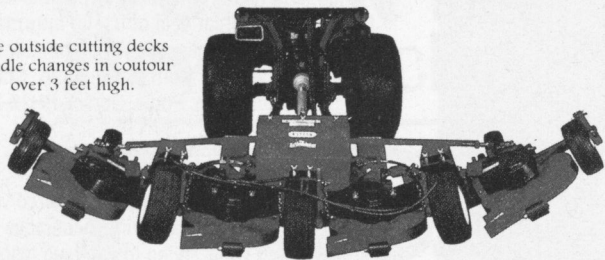
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Pace is hotting up

This month's article looks at the new Sports Turf Maintenance National Vocational Qualifications, the Slide Library, the Education and Development Fund the Golf Course Environment Competition and the Learning Experience 1998.



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

National Vocational Qualification in Sports Turf maintenance

As you may have read in the May Edition of *Greenkeeper International*, fine turf ie greenkeepers and groundsman now have their own National Vocational Qualification at Levels 2 and 3. This qualification supersedes the existing NVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) and it is a close match to the Standards in the Greenkeepers Training Manual. The GTC, with the support of colleges and BIGGA has lobbied hard for more than three years to gain acceptance for this Turf qualification. An exciting feature of this award is that the GTC will be responsible for setting and monitoring the levels of equipment, resources and standards of training needed by any training provider wanting to offer it. The industry now has a qualification that it owns and it is industry that must ensure that Standards are met.

BIGGA Slide Library

I am beginning to gather a wide range of 35 mm colour slides for the BIGGA Slide Library. After my appeal last month, two companies, Rhône Poulenc and Sisis have said that they will supply some slides. My thanks to them, their contribution is welcome. We still have room for more slides and if any company wants their product shown in green keeper presentations please contact me at HQ.

Education and Development Fund

You should all have received a copy of the programme for this year's Regional Supervisory Management courses, which thanks to contributions made to the Education and Development Fund are offered at a very competitive rate. Other projects supported by the Fund this year have been the Golf Course Ecology Video and a reprint of the Pests and Diseases Field Guide. Head

Greenkeeper members will shortly be receiving an ecology poster with three more field guides due later in the year and a full catalogue of all of BIGGA's education and training opportunities is "at the printers". The Education and Development Fund is supported by 26 companies, who are acknowledged on the inside cover of this magazine, and by many individuals. Our latest individual contribution of £100 was handed in, anonymously, at Westurf and we are very grateful to Mr X.

The Learning Experience 1998 in association with Ransomes

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to speak at Harrogate, in January, at the Learning Experience. We have been able to put names to sessions and, thanks to the continued support of Ransomes, we should be able to provide another excellent Conference, Workshops and Seminar Programme.

Golf Course Environment Competition

The Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc is reaching its next stage. Thirty excellent entries were delivered to STRI on 16 May and a further batch sent at the end of May. Bob Taylor now has the difficult task of judging the entries before we can announce the National Winner and four Regional Winners, later in the year.

■ Sami Collins is pictured below with just some of the entries before they were delivered to the STRI.

