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August 1998

Your next issue of Greenkeeper
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by September 4

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Recollections from The Open

Sitting composing this a mere 50 hours after Mark O'Meara had clinched his second Major of the year the events of Royal Birkdale are still fresh in the mind... if fresh is a word which can be applied to me, the rest of the BIGGA Headquarters staff and the 55 members of the Greenkeeping Support Team. It is a hectic week full of hard work, early starts, late finishes and innumerable candles being attacked from both ends.

For me the week will be remembered for a well deserving winner who displayed the best course management skills and three shots which will go down as among the best ever played in their particular circumstances.

First, Tiger Wood's 35 foot putt at the last to give himself a chance of a place in a play-off. He has a history of making crucial clutch putts and although his putting through the week had been iffy the odds on him holing out when he needed to were to those who knew his reputation, evens at worst. Then there was Brian Watts' bunker shot which will surely earn its place, up there with Sandy Lyle's to the 18th at Augusta and Bob Tway's to win the '87 US PGA as one of the greatest ever played. With the pressure he was under, given a perfect lie, to get it to six feet would have been an achievement but with one foot in and the other out of the bunker the result was extraordinary and would have made him a worthy Champion.

However, despite those heroics the '98 Open will probably be best remembered for a 17 year-old professional-in-waiting who showed that even under the spotlight golf can, indeed should, be fun.

Justin Rose's chip from thick rough short of the green proved that there is such a thing as fate and will contest the title of, "Most spectacular Sign off to an Amateur Career" with the Lamborghini-winning hole-in-one of the Sunday Telegraph golf correspondent recently.

Such achievements are only possible when people become inspired and there is no doubt that the work of Chris Whittle and his team inspired the players fortunate enough to play in the Championship.

Certainly the condition of the course impressed the members of the Support team and the many experienced greenkeepers who visited during the week. The general consensus was that no Open had every been played over a better conditioned course.

The team itself had never looked smarter thanks to a splendid sponsorship deal with Stylo, which saw everyone sporting smart baseball caps, shirts, fleeces and shoes. Also thanks are due to Standard Golf, who supplied rakes, and Hayter who, for the fourth successive year provided a Hayter Harrier mower as a prize for the increasingly popular Great BIGGA Bunker Competition run in the Media Centre.

All these companies help to ensure that, at the biggest golfing event of the year, the work of BIGGA and its members is shown off to its best advantage.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Roland Taylor has a whale of a time examining the world of the leaf blower.

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Master Greenkeeper Gordon Irvine, has gone down the path of overseeding with fescue at Mill Ride GC with some excellent results.

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On course training has its pluses and minuses. Philip Michael Sharples wrote a thesis on the subject at college and reports on his findings.

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The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team was in fine form at the 127th Open Championship but, brought to a peak by Chris Whittle and his team, it was the course which stole the show.

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In two months Atlanta welcomes the two teams for the second Hayter International Cup and three magnificent courses have been chosen to host the match.

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Dr Catherine York, of the STRI, has noted an increase in the amount of Ditylenchus, and asks if any BIGGA members have noticed any signs of it.



23 In Praise of Fescue



19 Thar' She Blows

Photography: RS Taylor BSc. Tel: 01274 565131



COURSE CARD



HOLE	FRONT NINE	HOLE	BACK NINE
1	Ballybunion (Old)	10	Magnolia GC
2	The Belfry (Brabazon)	11	Merrist Wood GC
3	Carden Park GC	12	Reading GC
4	Celtic Manor (Championship)	13	Ring of Kerry G&CC
5	Coombe Hill GC	14	Royal Wimbledon GC
6	Forest of Arden Hotel G&C Club	15	St Enedoc GC
7	Happy Valley GC	16	Sunningdale Golf Club
8	The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers	17	The Wynyard GC
9	Killarney G&F Club (New)	18	Yeovil GC

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A future course is under development to include Farnham GC, Cavisham GC, Royal St Georges, Southport and Ainsdale, Royal Cinque Ports, Richmond GC, Ballybunion (New) and Woburn (New) due for installation this year.



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Boost for Building Fund

E&S Sportsground Contractors/Kestral Golf Ltd held a football tournament at Motpur Park recently for greenkeepers, groundsmen and trade.

The London English team ended up victorious which was particularly disappointing to the London Scottish team who had to sit and watch Scotland's unlucky

defeat to Brazil in the World Cup later in the day.

Richard Veitch, Managing Director of Kestral Golf Ltd, presented George Barr, of BIGGA's Board of Management, with a cheque for £500 towards the Association's Building Fund. E&S will also present a cheque for £250 to the IOG's Education Funds.



Contributing Golf Clubs

Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	Copt Heath GC	Kirby Muxloe GC	Ravelston GC	Sunningdale GC
Banchory GC	Coventry Hearsall GC	Knowle GC	Ravensworth GC	Sutton Coldfield GC
Beaconsfield GC	Coxmoor GC	Lincoln GC	Roehampton GC	Swinley Forest GC
Bedale GC	Crompton & Royton GC	Little Aston GC	Royal Birkdale GC	Tain GC
Bingley St Ives GC	Dore & Totley GC	Loch Lomond GC	Royal Burgess Golf Society	Tandridge GC
Birchwood GC	Dunfermline GC	Longniddry GC	Royal Cinque Ports GC	Temple GC
Bishops Stortford GC	Edenmore GC	Malone GC	Royal Guernsey GC	Tenby Golf GC
Blackmoor GC	Enfield GC	Manchester GC	Royal Liverpool GC	Tenterden GC
Brancepeth Castle GC	Flamborough Head GC	Masham GC	Royal Porthcawl GC	The Wisley GC
Bristol & Clifton GC	Glenberrie GC	Merrist Wood GC	Royal Portrush GC	Thorpeness GC
Bromborough GC	Goodwood GC	Moor Hall GC	Royal St Georges GC	Tidworth Garrison GC
Bungay & Waveney Valley GC	Haberley GC	Moortown GC	Royal West Norfolk GC	Tulliallan GC
Cardigan GC	Haggs Castle GC	Moray GC	Royal Wimbledon GC	Tynemouth GC
Chestfield GC	Halifax GC	Mullion GC	Sandy Lodge GC	Tyrrells Wood GC
Childwall GC	Haltwhistle GC	Murrayfield GC	Scarcroft GC	Uttoxeter GC
Chipping Norton GC	Ham Manor GC	Nairn GC	Seacroft GC	Wakefield GC
Chorlton-Cum-Hardy GC	Hampstead GC	Normanby Hall GC	Sedburgh GC	Walmley GC
Churston GC	Handsworth GC	North Hants GC	Sherwood Forest GC	Walton Heath GC
Clitheroe GC	Hankley Common GC	North Oxford GC	Sitwell Park GC	West Byfleet GC
Conwy GC	Haywards Heath GC	North Wilts GC	Sonning GC	Whitley Bay GC
Cooden Beach GC	Henley GC	Northenden GC	St Andrews	Whittington Heath GC
Coombe Hill GC	Hindhead GC	Pollok GC	St Bees GC	Woburn G&CC
Coombe Wood GC	Ipswich GC	Potters Bar GC	Stand GC	Worcestershire GC
	Kilmarnock (Barassie) GC	Purley Downs GC	Stanmore GC	Worksop GC
	GC	Pyle and Kenfig GC	Sundridge Park GC	York GC
		Ranfurly Castle GC		

Opening of Nicklaus-designed course

Master Greenkeeper Andy Campbell had his hands full on the Monday of Open week with the opening of the new Jack and Steve Nicklaus designed course at Carden Park Hotel, Golf Resort and Spa, near Chester.

Course Manager Andy had to cope with a 3000 strong gallery who had come to watch the inaugural match between the great man Jack Nicklaus himself and former Masters Champion and European number one, Ian Woosnam.

Nicklaus has previously withdrawn from The Open Championship - the first time he had missed it for since 1961 - but was desperate to fulfil his commitment to Carden Park.

He flew into the UK on the morning of the opening and, despite obvious discomfort, thrilled the galleries with a commentary and description of the match and the magnificent new course.

Caddying for the big two where Woosnam's Welsh World Cup of Golf winning partner, David Lewelwyn, who carried Nicklaus' bag and Ian Botham who totted the Woosnam bag.



Carden Park now boasts 192 room hotel, 45 holes, a Jack Nicklaus Golf School and a health spa with swimming pool, gymnasium, aerobic studio, tennis course, and mountain bike trails.

Carden Park, built by Kestral Golf Ltd, has also recently taken delivery of £300,000 worth of John Deere equipment.



From the Chairman's desk...

It is with great regret that due to a lack of support the National Tournament for 1998 has had to be cancelled.

This is certainly no reflection on Scotts, who in partnership with BIGGA staff, were preparing a wonderful event at a superb venue but is purely down to the lack of support from BIGGA members.

However from this major disappointment comes the opportunity for us to bring this event into the 21st century and this we intend to do for 1999.

Details will be announced in the near future.

May I say again how grateful we were for the support so willingly provided by both Scotts and the Letham Grange Resort who were so understanding of the circumstances which prevailed.

I would like to stress that any BIGGA event can only be successful with the support of its members and in this regard, members' views are always welcome.

Gordon Child.

Stateside link for Merrist Wood College

Merrist Wood College, in conjunction with Grass Roots Trading Company and Amenity Solutions Ltd, has created a library based computer link to Michigan State University's "Turfgrass Information File".

Access will be available to all commercial greenkeepers or turf managers as well as students at Merrist Wood.

"We do not have a restricted access policy at Merrist Wood. We want to encourage the industry to come in to the college to look at and use our extensive facilities," said Senior Lecturer in Turf Agronomy, David Rhodes.

The computer link allows readers to source or research information about all aspects of the turf world. Entering a key word will produce a bibliography or abstract list of all published work that makes reference to a chosen subject area. A full copy can then be printed off.

"I have been extremely impressed with Merrist Wood's facilities and their commitment to the future of turf grass training in the UK," said Grass Roots Managing Director, Jamie Bennett.



Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club.

Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



Name: Ben Whelton

Club: Merrist Wood GC

Position: Assistant Greenkeeper/Irrigation Technician

Age: 21

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

Four years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

NVQ Level 3 and the BTLIA Certificate in Turf Irrigation

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

Cutting Fairways

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Cleaning Sludge traps

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?

Always wanted to work on turf

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

Tom Smith, Head Greenkeeper at Merrist Wood

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?

A more understanding and closer relationship between greenkeepers and members

8. What are your hobbies?

Watching Chelsea and playing golf

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

A good monthly magazine and an excellent show in BTME

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?

Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a high profile course

BIGGA support group

The Midland Region has set up a support group on a trial basis. Because of the many factors involved in forming such a project, it was thought advisable to begin with a trial which would serve as a learning time, allowing us to assess demand and costs before embarking upon further training for support group (members) for other regions.

"The formation of this project comes from the many concerns we have about the high percentage of greenkeepers who are suffering from stress as a result of pressure at work. This often has a knock-on effect, leading to more serious illness, thus affecting families and also places of work," said BIGGA

Past Chairman Paddy McCarron.

"We are also aware that the demands on today's greenkeepers are many and varied and ever-increasing with all-year-round golf. People's expectations at times are too high for the greenkeeper to deal with and because of financial constraints and course limitations and/or poor communications, difficulties build up. It may be that the golf club and the greenkeeper are just not compatible," explained Paddy.

It is also a concern that too many greenkeepers are looking to change their jobs, often for the wrong reasons as many may be suffering from stress during the time that their grievances are

developing. What we are saying is: Talk to us first.

"Our desire is to see more greenkeepers happy in their work and more golf clubs happy with their greenkeepers. We do not promise success - that depends on you, but we are there to talk to," said Paddy.

The service will be totally confidential and the only cost to the caller will be that of the telephone call. Appointments will be necessary if someone wishes to talk in person.

Thanks to A.L.S. Amenity Land Services for their financial support of this worthy cause

Telephone: 0116 2739189 or 01480 437507

A Royal occasion for Chris

Christofer Rawlings, (right) who was a runner-up in last year's Toro Student of the Year Award, visited Buckingham Palace recently to receive a silver medal from the Duke of Edinburgh.

Chris (25), of Rodway Hill Golf Complex, Gloucestershire, was voted top Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance City and Guilds NVQ student in the country after put forward for the award by Hartpury College.

"It was a great honour and quite an experience," explained Chris, who was working at Royal Birkdale with Alan Owen, the other runner-up in last year's Toro Student Award.

"Congratulations to Chris on his wonderful achievement. It really does show that our education system, including NVQs, is working well," said BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child.



Hayter Harrier is voted "Product of the Decade"

Hayter's enduring Harrier rear roller lawnmower has been voted "Product of the Decade" by readers of Lawn & Garden Equipment.

The poll, which was commissioned by the magazine to celebrate its tenth anniversary, resulted in a clear win for a product that first entered the market in 1970.

Now in its fourth form, the Harrier was the trail-blazer of rotary mowers that make stripes. With thousands of satisfied and loyal users over the past 28 years, this accolade is a fitting tribute to the machine's place in

history. Commenting on the announcement of the award, Hayter's Sales & Marketing Director, Kim Macfie, said: "This is tremendous news - very exciting. We have always loved our Harrier model and this acknowledgment is a super vote of confidence for all our staff, our specialist dealers and our customers".

"What is doubly pleasing is that this award comes from the people who really know their products - those that sell them and those that use them. To be recognised for excellence by ones peers, is always very special."

BTME places filling up fast!

Places are filling up fast for the annual trip by the South West and South Wales Region to BTME to the extent that Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, is considering booking a second coach to travel directly up the M1 to Harrogate from somewhere in Hampshire.

If there is space left this coach facility will be available to members from other Regions at a cost of £25 return. Hotel accommodation may also be available at £32.50 per person per night in a twin room sharing.

All enquiries should be directed to Paula Tel: 01363 82777.

Wentworth sign up big deal with Toro

The Wentworth Club has signed an agreement committing itself to Toro as the exclusive provider of both machinery and irrigation products for the next five years.

It is the latest in a series of "big-name" signings by The Toro Company and its UK distributors Lely and Hydroscape with the next two Open venues Carnoustie and St Andrews, as well as The Oval and Murrayfield becoming Toro users.

Wentworth's 54 holes are already irrigated by Toro and the majority of equipment is also Toro but Director and Course Manager Chris Kennedy said that did not stop Wentworth from speaking with other suppliers before committing to Toro this time.

The machinery side of the contract will see £800,000 worth of Toro kit supplied to Wentworth in two phases this year and next. Phase one comprises a replacement fleet valued at just over £250,000 for the West Course and a further £355,000 worth of other equipment for delivery this year while phase two, to complete the contract, is scheduled for spring '99.



As for irrigation all three courses already have Toro systems so the new contract is for maintenance, repairs and some possible replacement or updating later of control systems.

"We chose Toro for our first job and we've been pleased to keep with them ever since. We felt more comfortable putting both our irrigation and equipment

with one manufacturer. It's easier to manage, plus we can get a better deal," explained Chris.

"Toro is the only manufacturer that can provide machinery and irrigation products and Wentworth chose us for both because it makes sound economic sense," said Toro's European Sales Manager, Bob Buckingham.

"Brand" new job for Dave



Mommersteeg have appointed Dave Philips to the position of Brand Manager - Mommersteeg Amenity Products. Dave, who was previously responsible for sales of Mommersteeg amenity grass seed in the south east of England, takes on the new role as the company introduces a new strategy for its amenity business.

It will now concentrate on sales through its distributors and, with the exception of a small number of specialist accounts, will no longer handle direct sales.

Scottish National Tournament

West Kilbride Golf Club was the venue for the the Scottish National this year by kind permission of the Captain and committee.

Conditions on the day were pretty miserable with rain forever present. However this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the members who attended and some very fine scores were returned and the course was in excellent condition due to the efforts of Jim Paton and his staff.

At the end of the day the prizes were presented by the

Captain, John Lyon, who was able to congratulate young Barry Crawford, of Old Prestwick GC, who became Scottish Champion for 1998.

Among the other winners were BIGGA Vice Chairman, Elliott Small, who won the Veteran prize.

Prize Winners.
Scottish Champion SGGG Challenge Cup - B.Crawford, Old Prestwick GC Scr 70.
Best Nett Friendship Trophy - I. Miller, Cowal GC, 77-9-68
Cat 1 Ransomes Trophy - 1. M. Kay, Bogside GC, 75-6-69; 2. D. Hutton, Hamilton GC, 77-7-70; 3. G. Morrison,

West Kilbride GC, 79-9-70.
Cat 2. Pattison Trophy - 1. A. McIntee, Bogside GC, 83-11-72; 2. D. Robertson, Newmacher GC, 91-14-77; 3. C. Wallace, Wishaw GC, 90-13-77.
Cat 3. STRI Trophy - 1. J. Bell, Kilmacollm GC, 93-20-73; 2. S. Briory, Wishaw GC, 99-23-76; 3. B. Napier, Retired, 104-28-76.
Best Head Greenkeeper, Dick Aitken Trophy - D. Gray, The Pines GC, 78-8-70
Best Assistant, M&M Trophy - W. Mercer, Skelmorlie GC, 78-8-70
Best Apprentice, Souter Trophy - S. McLean, West Kilbride GC, 78-9-69.
Best Veteran, SIGGA Trophy - E. Small, Tulliallan GC, 82-7-75.
Team Event, St Mungo Trophy - Ayrshire, 415
Trade, Kevin Brunton, Greentech.

New role for Chris Briggs at Avoncrop

Avoncrop Amenity Products have appointed Chris Briggs as Business Development and Marketing Manager.

Chris is well known in the industry having worked at ICI Jeallots Hill Research Station as well as with Fisons Horticulture, Mommersteeg International and latterly Levington Horticulture/Scotts Turf and Amenity.

The appointment has been made to expand Avoncrop's ability to provide professional expertise and quality products in the amenity market.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Best wishes from BIGGA

BIGGA Headquarters staff and all BIGGA members would like to send best wishes and hopes for a full recovery to Chris Cumming, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, at Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC, who was badly hurt in a road accident at the beginning of July.

David celebrates Silver anniversary



David Rea, Head Greenkeeper at Droitwich GC, recently completed 25 years service at the club and was presented with a watch to mark the occasion.

Prior to joining the club in 1973 David worked for 14 years at the seed trial grounds at Edward Webb & Sons, Wychbold.

In his 25 years David has been directly involved in the many changes to the course and seen the planting of over 2,000 trees.

"I'm proud of the fact that I've served at Droitwich for a quarter of of the club's 110 year history and am looking forward to the challenges that the new millennium will bring," said David.

A familiar Ring for new course?



Ireland's newest golf hole development, Ring of Kerry Golf and Country Club, opened during the week of The Open Championship and lays claim to the title of first quality upland course in the country.

Set in the foothills of the MacGillycuddy Reeks, overlooking the island studded Kenmare Bay the course also has the Caha Mountains

serving as a backdrop. Due to a site comprising bogland and rock, the fairways have been constructed entirely with sand, claimed as a first for any inland course in Ireland.

It was designed by Roger Jones, a member of the Professional Golf Architects Association and an Associate member of BIGGA.



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Courses in:

Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management for NVQ Levels 2 and 3 commencing in late September

GTC approved for the Craftsman Certificate

For further details contact:

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Cambridgeshire College of
Agriculture and Horticulture,
Milton Centre, Landbeach Road,
Milton, Cambridge CB4 6DB

Tel: 01945 581024

Buy a Brick raffle prizewinners



- 1 Hippo Golf Bag and full set of clubs - Mr K. B. Heaney
- 2 Weekend break for two at Majestic Hotel - Mr S. Ormondroyd
- 3 Golfing weekend for two at Aldwark Manor - Mr R. Greaves
- 4 Luxury day for two at Henley Regatta - Mr S. Cox
- 5 Weekend for two at a Marriott Country Club - Mr P. Grant

Hi-Tec Golf Shoe winners

Mr G. Dale
Mr K. Kent
Mr Phil Baldock
Mr John Darroch
Mr Mark Haver
Greenlands Landscapes
BIGGA South East
Mr Steve Harris
Mr Peter Hampton
Ms A. Wade
BIGGA Devon & Cornwall
Mr John Scott
Mr S. Lawrence
Mr Roger Jones
Mr Rodney Feltham
Mr Nathan Marsh
Mr Mark Broughton
Mr Lee Robertson
Mr Simon Gidman

Mr D. Smart
Mr Don Cartledge
Mr Ian J McMillan
Mr David Ward
Mr J. Weston
Mr Bruce Jamieson

- 31 Case of wine supplied by Hi-Tec Print - Brookmans Park Golf Club
- 32 Case of Yorkshire Terrier beer supplied - Mr P Arundel by York Brewery
- 33 Bottle of wine supplied by Course Care - Mr Carl Crome