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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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## February 1998

Your next issue of  
Greenkeeper International  
will be with you by March 9



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# Smooth running

Reports and pictures from BTME98

Gordon Child 58



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Use our post-paid reader reply card to obtain further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the company's Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us, and we'll arrange for further information to be sent direct to you.

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Wet, wet, wet



# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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## Stick with what we know

As the dust settles I hope you can all look back at your Harrogate experiences with equal doses of pleasure and satisfaction and join in the general belief that the week was another to mark down on the list of memorable occasions.

I must admit I do enjoy the whole experience the only downside having to constantly end conversations with the phrase - "It's been great talking with you but I should really have been somewhere else five minutes ago." It must be as wearing to hear as it is to say.

It is amazing, however, even when you are at your busiest your mind finds opportunities to wander and at one stage during the week I found myself thinking what a great job James McEvoy, our Sales and Marketing Manager, has.

It seems pretty simple to me. He calls up people in the industry asks if they are interested in advertising in the magazine or whether they would like to take up any of the many exciting sponsorship possibilities BIGGA has to offer.

They then answer in one of two ways. 1. "That's a great idea, thanks for offering me the chance to be associated with such a superb organisation. For how much shall I make out the cheque?" Or they say. 2. "I'm sorry, James, I'm afraid we've allocated our budget for this year in other areas. It's a shame because it really is a stonking good idea."

In the latter case he merely continues to make calls until someone gives him answer number 1. Easy!

I know he's been to college and read enough books to be able to spout forth about any marketing phenomena which has ever existed but I reckon I could probably do his job in the few spare moments I have when I'm not editing this magazine.

I know such things happen because one of the PGA Regions sent a letter to its members suggesting that they, the club professional, could also take on the additional role of Course Manager.

I've also seen a recruitment ad in another magazine for a "Golf Manager" - "combining the responsibilities of the Head Greenkeeper with the Club Professional". It's true.

Let's face it, I couldn't do James' job, just as he couldn't do mine. The same goes for golf club staff. Obviously at the turn of the century circumstances dictated that a club professional combined duties but making a case that the jobs then are the same as now would be as pointless as arguing black is white.

The roles are not interchangeable. In this highly advanced, fast changing, age you need to work hard just to keep up to date with the role that you know best. The thought of making a decent fist of a completely different job just because it happens to involve the same subject is plainly ludicrous.

Let's continue to produce the best possible Course Managers to work alongside the best possible Club Professionals.

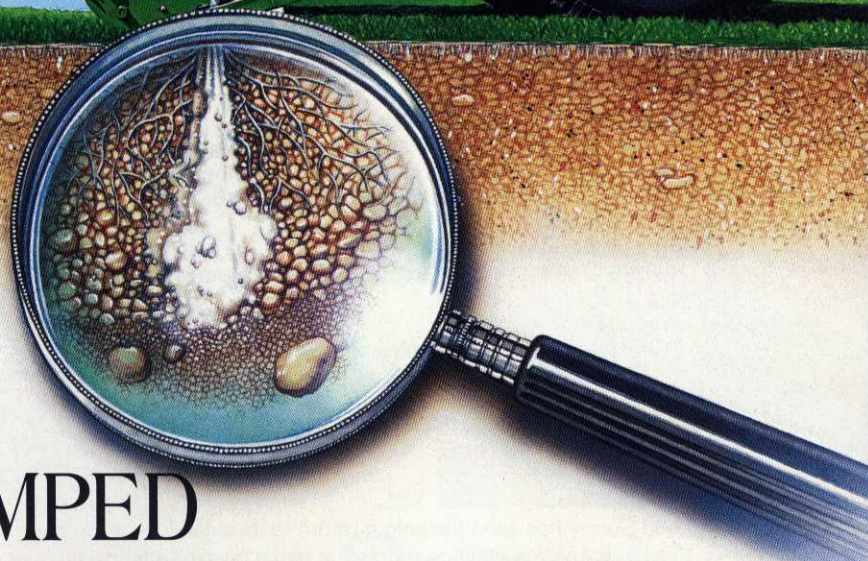
PS. I hope you like your new style Greenkeeper International.

Editor: Scott MacCallum



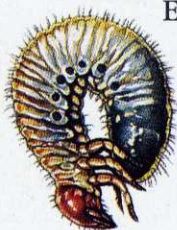


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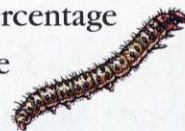
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In fact, tests show that a high percentage of grubs are killed from the force of injecting water alone. Hard to get more environmentally friendly than that.



NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE

C 626 E



# Pat starts work on new headquarters

As soon as the bells to welcome in the new year had died down work began on BIGGA's new Headquarters and training facility and it was on Monday January the 5th that Chairman, Pat Murphy, arrived at Aldwark Manor to perform one of his last official duties before BTME.

The cutting of the first turf on the ground which will house the new Headquarters marked the culmination of months and years of negotiation and planning.

The new building will be adjacent to the 16th hole of Aldwark Manor Hotel Golf and Country Club, just north of York, and only 100 yards from the Association's existing rented accommodation. Once complete - the projected completed date being September of this year - it will offer superb facilities for Headquarter's-based training courses as well as accommodating 14 staff members.

"Today is a moment many of us have dreamed about for several years and I am extremely proud and fortunate to be the man to start off the building work," said Pat Murphy.

"The fact that we are in a position to build our own Headquarters is a measure of the success the



Left to Right: Pat Murphy; Project Manager, Stewart Broadhurst; Quantity Surveyor, Bridget Pearson; BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas, and Contract Manager James Moody, of RBA Moody Brothers (Contractors Ltd).

Association has enjoyed to date, and with the excellent facilities the new building will provide, BIGGA is sure to go from strength to strength," he added.

Within hours of the first turf

being turned site preparation work began in earnest and a matter of days later the site was virtually unrecognisable as it had been fenced off and heavy machinery had been moved in.

## Patron's receive their just desserts at Award dinner



The Scottish Region Patron's Award Dinner at the Terrace Hotel, in Stirling, saw an excellent attendance of Patron's, Regional Board and Section representatives.

The Region and Patrons congratulated all winners of the awards each of whom was presented with a scroll, books and given a three day trip to BTME.

The awards went to members who had devoted a great deal of

time to Section business.

Picture shows award winners L-R. Stuart Sime, Leven Links GC; George Morrison, West Kilbride GC; Kenny Duncan, Dunfermline GC; Gordon Trotter, Glencorse GC; Dale Robertson, Newmarcher GC; Stuart Taylor, Killermont GC; John Morton, Alford GC, Robert Thomson, Peebles GC and John Scott, Kirkhill GC with Scottish Regional Chairman Sam Morrison.

## Abbott wins holy water for Sunningdale

M J Abbott Ltd has begun work on the installation of a new irrigation system to both the Old Course and New Course at Sunningdale Golf Club.

The contract incorporates the design, supply of equipment and installation of the irrigation system to 36 golf holes, putting greens, practice area and turf nursery.

Rain Bird Europe has designed the system which incorporates the Maxi Nimbus Control System, Maxi Weather Station, Eagle, Falcon and R50 series sprinklers and PEB pressure regulating solenoid valves.

All staff working on the site are directly employed by M J Abbott Ltd which owns and operates a fleet of specially adapted machinery for use on golf courses.

M J Abbott Ltd are no strangers to working at prestigious Clubs. Their portfolio includes The Belfry, Celtic Manor Hotel and Golf Club, and Killarney Golf and Fishing Club among many others.

## Members get Open invitation

Applications are invited from members to join BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support team for the 1998 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale GC.

Those wishing to be considered must be Full Members of the Association and should be available from Wednesday evening July 15 to Sunday evening July 19. The opportunity to take part in the most important golf event of the year is open both to team members from previous years and also those members who are wishing to participate for the first time.

Duties will be allocated on a rota basis over the four days of play and include early morning course preparation, bunker raking while matches are in play and evening course maintenance.

Members may also be asked to co-operate with the gathering of information for distribution in the Press Centre which helps raise the profile of the Association at the Championship. All members of the Support Team will be expected to remain on the course throughout the day and be available in the event of any unforeseen circumstances arising.

Accommodation, all meals and transport will be provided by the Association but successful applicants will be expected to pay their own travelling expenses from home to the Championship and return.

Those members wishing to be involved should put their names forward in writing to John Pemberton, Administration Manager, at BIGGA's HQ, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO6 2NE, to be received no later than March 16.

All names will then be placed into a draw to select the successful applicants. If you have not been to this event before in this capacity and wish to learn more about what will be expected please do not hesitate to contact John. Tel: 01347 838581.

I use **RiteFeed** because



It suits my course  
Alastair Tough, Muckhart GC

## CBE honour for Neville

British Seed Houses Managing Director Neville Bark was awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours List for his contribution to agriculture.

He has been Chairman of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany for the last two years and was instrumental in establishing a dedicated amenity grass seed division in 1976.

"I'm naturally delighted to receive this award but I regard it as recognition of NIAB's reputation and continuing value to the agricultural industry as much as an honour for myself," said Neville.

## Matt moves up

Jacobsen Division of Textron Ltd has become increasingly involved in sales of golf course equipment to large Companies (conglomerates) owning more than one golf course. In recognition of the huge potential growth in this area Jacobsen has appointed Matt Gough to the position of Sales Support Executive reporting to David Withers, National Accounts Manager.

Matt, who has been with Jacobsen for five years, brings a wealth of both product knowledge and demonstration skills to this position.

# Charity begins at home for Swanston

Swanston Golf Club, in Edinburgh, held a charity golf day in aid of the Sick Kids' Hospital, the Intensive Care Unit and Radio Lollipop.

They were chosen because of the care and help they gave to Swanston Course Manager, Chris Yeaman's, young son, Christopher, who was in hospital for six months after having a terrible accident on his father's golf course during the Christmas period two years ago, while out sledging with his friends.

After the golf there was a disco and presentation of prizes, and presentation of cheques to the various charities.

"We would like to thank East Section Scotland for the kind donation of £200 to Ward 4," said Andrew Forrest, Deputy Course Manager, at Swanston.

"A Swanston GC member, Ronnie Reid, also held a charity golf event at Dalmahoy Country Club. Thanks to Ronnie for the organisation of the event, and to those who played in the event which included some football celebrities.



John Macaulay, of Radio Lollipop with East Section Chairman, Jimmy Neilson, and Chris Yeaman.

"Our thanks go to the members of Swanston G.C. who took part in the days event. And to everybody at Dalmahoy Country Club," said Andrew.

The total raised from the two events was £2,200 this was then divided between the various charities.

Chris' son went in for his six monthly check up in December and while there he presented a cheque to Ward 4 for £625 and to Intensive Care Unit also for £625. His check up went well and everything looks promising for the future.

## A BIGGA thank you to Tim



To mark the conclusion of seven years of unstinting work on Greenkeeper International and many of BIGGA's promotional material, Tim Moat, of Headline Communications, Design and Production Editor since the magazine's inception was presented with a token of the Association's appreciation.

The presentation was made at Tim's offices in York by Sales and Marketing Manager, James

McEvoy, and Editor, Scott MacCallum.

"Tim has been a big part of the development of Greenkeeper International and I know we all wish him well in the future," said James.


This issue of Greenkeeper International is the first to be designed by David Emery, who joined the Association as its first in-house Design and Production Editor late last year.


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# Wisley experience for Declan

As part of his Master in Education Award, Declan Gallagher, Programme Manager in Golf Greenkeeping at Cannington College, spent 12 weeks working at the Wisley Golf Club in Surrey. Under the guidance of David Whitaker, Master Greenkeeper and former Greenkeeper of the Year, Declan was able to fully participate in the daily routine maintenance operations.

"I wanted to get my hands dirty and be an accepted part of the crew, three of whom were ex-Cannington

students, so I had to be on my toes," he said.

Declan was able to mow greens, tees and fairways, rake bunkers, flymo and hand pick Poa Annua from the greens, and was able to observe and ask questions about the tasks he couldn't participate in.



The primary purpose for working at the Wisley was to carry out field research into the importance of vocational updating for lecturing staff. Cannington College strives to ensure its lecturing staff are technically competent in their respected vocational subjects. Last summer Huw Parry, Senior Lecturer in Golf Course Management, worked on a golf construction project in Portugal and recently employed Brain Jones, Greenkeeping Instructor was Head Greenkeeper at East Dorset Golf Club.

## New training role for Geoff

Geoff Porter, previously of Forest of Arden, Royal Antwerp and GolfClub Issum in Germany has taken up a project managing and training role in India with architects David Hemstock Associates.

He would like to keep in touch with the greenkeeping world while in India and can be contacted by e-mail through Geoff Porter@golf-design.demon.co.uk

## Cheers, John!

The winner of the case of wine from the free prize draw at the Sisis Direct "Direct-to-Your-Door-Tour" was John Scotney, of Sleaford GC. He was presented with his prize by Area Representative Jason Briggs.

## A free lunch...?

At a recent company day Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacolm GC, won a prize of lunch and a round of golf for four people over the Monarch's Course at Gleneagles... but he did not have to swing a club to do it.

Ronnie won the prize for his skill as an after dinner speaker and is now having to show similar skills as a diplomat in choosing which of his old, and many new, friends he is going to take with him.

Plumpton College in East Sussex has become the first college of its type to be awarded a Charter Mark for excellence in service to the public.

"The award is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of College staff who, despite cuts in funding, are providing a better service to the public each year," said Principal John Brookham.

Picture shows staff from the College with John Brookham on the right dispensing the drink.



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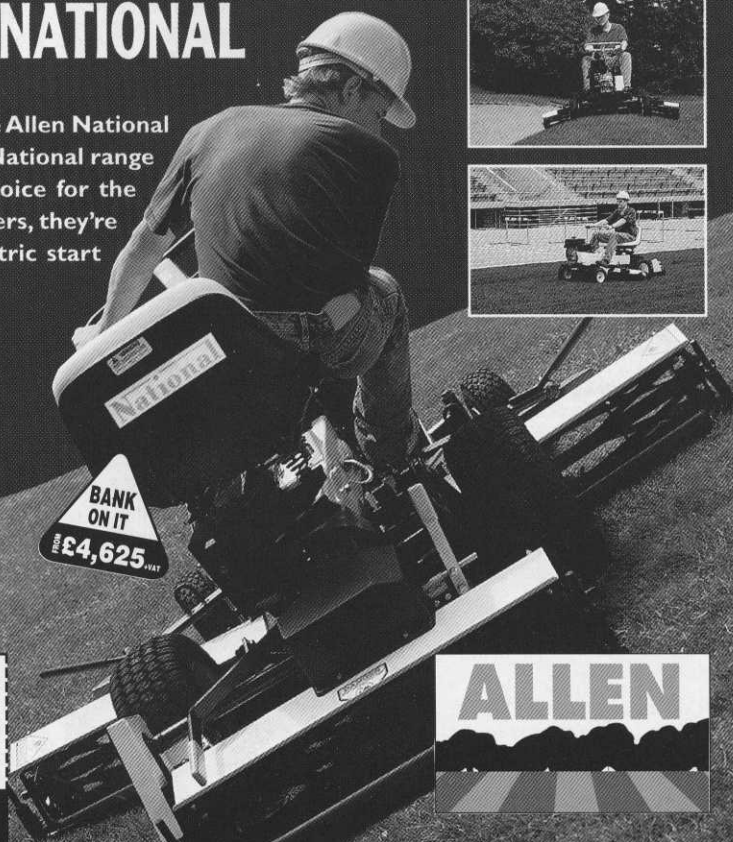
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**ALLEN**

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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:** Gordon McKie

**Club:** St Andrews Links

**Position:** Deputy Head Greenkeeper

**Age:** 30

**1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?**

12 years.

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**

HNC Golf Course Irrigation Systems.

**3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?**

Building and revetting bunkers

**4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?**

Not many but probably cleaning ditches.

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

Motor Mechanic

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

Iain MacLeod, Head Greenkeeper at Tain Golf Club.

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

Teach golfers how to rake a bunker property.

**8. What are your hobbies?**

Golf, football and music

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**

Magazine, BTME.

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

Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager at a top course

Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. You can also fax them to 01347 838864, or e-mail them to [general@bigga.co.uk](mailto:general@bigga.co.uk)

## But why should I join BIGGA?

As a BIGGA member who was the beneficiary of two exceptional events in November, I feel duty bound to write to the magazine and share my experiences with all of you who care to read on.

My first sojourn took me to the deep south to participate in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc award ceremony. Our club was chosen as the Scottish regional winner, which was a real surprise to me knowing the quality of the work already carried out at other Scottish clubs such as Loch Lomond. So with this in mind, it was with great pride that I travelled down to the highly impressive Hankley Common to accept our award.

This is the second year in a row that we have won this specific award and I would like to say that the people who I have met at each award ceremony, in conjunction with the award itself, have provided me with a great deal of motivation and inspiration to drive on with our conservation management plan at Linlithgow. I am sure that our club is not the only one which gains so much from this competition and I think Rod Baker can take great personal satisfaction from the way this whole concept has grown, and from the good that it has engendered.

Part two of my week of travelling took me to sunny Marbella (although it was pouring when I arrived and left), to deliver a talk to the inaugural FEGGA conference.

When first asked by FEGGA Chairman, Dean Cleaver, to represent BIGGA by delivering the paper on the environment I was stunned, honoured and delighted (in that order), but I became so concerned with trying to live up to Dean's expectations that I travelled to Spain with very few expectations about what I could learn from the whole experience. This state of affairs did not last too long though because literally from the moment of my arrival, which was fortuitously just in time for dinner, I was put at ease by the assembled company, which by the nature of the event consisted of many of the leading lights of greenkeeping in Europe.

During the two day conference I learned a great many things not only about greenkeeping, but about life in continental Europe in general, which in these days of common Governmental policies may prove to be very important. Consequently I came away from listening to the many varied and stimulating talks given with the impression that we greenkeepers in the UK may have

our problems, but they are in no way comparable to some of the things that our colleagues on the continent have to put up with.

It was struck home to me in Spain that not only do our continental cousins have to put up with difficult climactic conditions, oppressive pesticide legislation and a populace that generally has no time for golf, but they face these difficulties with much smaller Professional Associations than ours. This is a very important point and one that is far too often taken for granted in this country. In BIGGA we British greenkeepers not only have a very well run organisation led by motivated and capable people, but we have a collective voice for the profession that is taken seriously by others in the golf industry and beyond.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I have had an exceptional year, taking part in many wonderful events including the Loch Lomond Invitational, The Open, The National Tournament as well as that fabulous week in November which was all made possible for me only through my involvement in BIGGA. So if anyone has to ask me "Why should I join the BIGGA?" my answer will be ready for them!

**David Roy  
Course Manager  
Linlithgow GC**

### Jim'll fix it...

Having been in greenkeeping for the last 43 years and therefore seen many changes I have reflected on who has been responsible for the major changes in the game.

Firstly, professionals I am sure would agree that Arnold Palmer was the prime mover for making things happen even to the point where more golfers wanted to see and listen to his passion for the game.

From the greenkeeping side I have to say nobody, and I mean nobody, has done more for greenkeepers than Jim Arthur. He started off as a lone voice in the wilderness telling us - not to overwater, that green is not everything, don't try to be like the States etc, etc, etc. How true this has all turned out to be.

He is the man who makes greens committees sit up and take notice with his forthright views. Of course, lots of people do not go along with Jim's views but as we all know the truth can sometimes hurt.

One thing I am convinced of is that greenkeeping would be a lot poorer without Jim Arthur.

Greenkeeping has progressed dramatically over the last ten years or so and, believe me, in no small measure this is due to Jim and people like him who see the future and are not afraid to state their case.

I am not like the fellow who said "I don't mind progress so long as it doesn't mean change" but I think we need to take stock now and again and make sure that every road we take is the right one with no dead ends.

**John Nudds  
Course Manager  
Gerard's Cross GC**

### Toro-mendous

I would like to thank BIGGA and Toro for a very enjoyable time at the finals of the Toro Awards held at Harrogate. Meeting the other finalists and swapping stories of greenkeeping times.

**Tom Murray  
Ratho Park GC**

PS. All the best to Ian McMillan and Steve Nixon who were worthy winners of the awards.

PPS. Harrogate has lots of shops so any greenkeepers taking their wives or girlfriends beware! Don't let them loose it's fatal - hence my empty wallet.

### A northern thank you

The Northern Region has had its ups and downs, its highs and lows but over the course of many years the Region has become a credit to all members who have participated in Regional events and Seminars. Major events such as the Hayter Golf Challenge, which the Northern Region has won on numerous occasions, with all Sections thriving. Since Bob Lupton took over we have had three National Chairmen, George Malcolm, Barry Heaney and our immediate Past Chairman, Pat Murphy. So between the three of them they must have clocked up more miles than Michael Palin!

Bob and Sarah had worked tirelessly for the Region with the introduction of the Patron's Scheme so without the support of the Patrons the Region would not be as prosperous.

I have to thank Bob and Sarah for the support they have shown me