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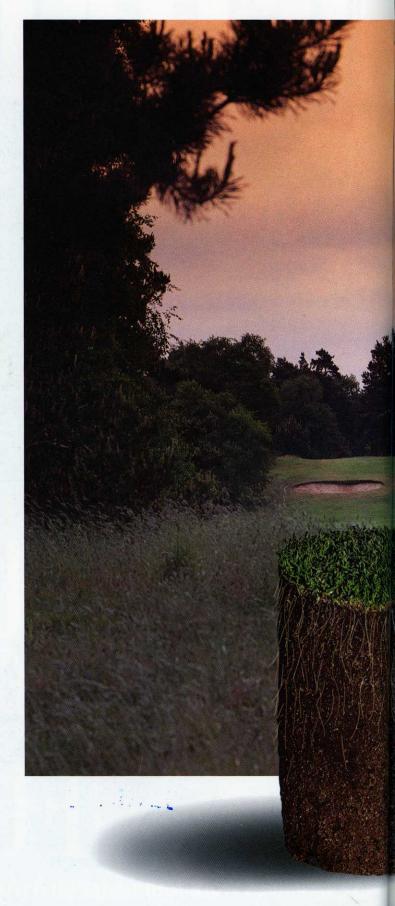
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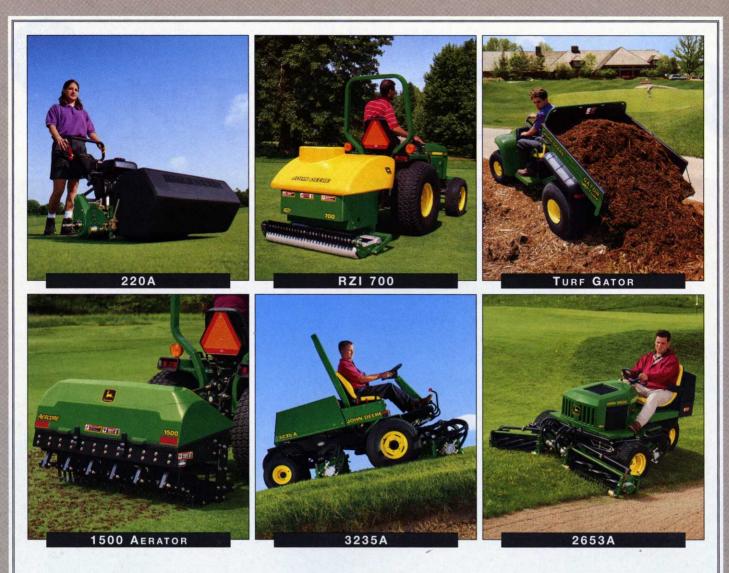
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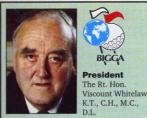
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International

JANUARY 1998

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of the year!

BTME 98 springs into life in only a few days time - and yet again, it's a record-breaker.

A comprehensive guide to who's who and what's on is contained within the catalogue section of this, the biggest-ever edition of

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DECADE OF SUCCESS

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Spain hosts FEGGA's first conference

Neil Thomas reports from the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers' Associations' conference and reveals differences and similarities in approach across EuropePages 14-15

When your feet don't touch the ground

Pat Murphy hands over the Chairmanship of BIGGA to Gordon Child at BTME. We take a look at what has been a hectic year for the Association – and for PatPages 16-17

Elmwood creates the real thing

Scott MacCallum travels back to his home town in Scotland to see the new golf course which is going to mean so much to students at Elmwood College Pages 26-27

Regular features

News Building work is about to start on BIGGA's new headquarters... and there's news of a campaign to help fund it. Plus, terrifying drama for Scottish greenkeepers and all the news from our world......Pages 7, 9, 11

Education Ken Richardson reports on some last minute changes to the schedule for the seminar programme at BTMEPage 12

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A seasonal picture of St Andrew's Photograph by Brian Morgan







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Building work starts soon on Association's new headquarters

BIGGA's goal of owning its own headquarters moved a step nearer reality in December when it signed a 999 year lease on a plot of land at Aldwark Manor.

Building is due to start early January with completion expected by August 31.

The purpose designed offices will be sited close to the existing rented building and planning permission has now been granted.

It has not been an easy task to produce a design that met both the Association's requirements and yet satisfied the local planning authority, which was quick to point out that the proposed development lies in a conservation area.

"We have used traditional materials of red facing bricks and plain clay tiles to provide a building which is in a similar traditional style to the existing hotel annexes," explained architect and Project Manager, Stewart Broadhurst.

The building will incorporate a



An architect's model of the smart new BIGGA HQ

board room and training and education facility and utilises a large glazed area to provide maximum natural lighting to most offices and the reception area.

The project is being funded by way of a substantial grant from

the R&A, donations from within the membership and a bank loan. Fund raising events are planned to contribute towards the repayment of the loan and the first of these will be launched at this vear's BTME.

Supporters urged to 'buy a brick'

BIGGA has instigated a "Buy a Brick" campaign as part of its initiative to raise funds for its new Headquarters building. As part of this campaign, BIGGA's first fund raising event will take the form of a major raffle to be launched at BTME with the draw taking place during BIGGA's Company Golf Day at Aldwark Manor, on June 22, 1998.

However, this will be a raffle with a difference. In addition to

major prizes, purchasers of tickets will be awarded either bronze, silver or gold lapel badges signifying their support for the "Buy a Brick" campaign. A bronze badge will be awarded for the purchase of £5 worth of tickets whilst purchasing £25 worth will secure a silver badge and £50 worth enables the purchaser to display a gold badge.

"The new Headquarters building will be an important landmark in BIGGA's growth and development" said Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

"I feel confident that our members, the industry and the game of golf as a whole will back our fund raising efforts for this major project."

■ Already Harrogate speakers have donated £850 to the fund by accepting bricks in lieu of expenses and forgoing the customary gifts they receive.

FLYING DIVOTS

British Institute of Golf Course Architects paid a recent visit to the Headquarters of the United States Golf Association, at Far Hills, New Jersey. Discussions on technical issues and presentations were given by both groups.

The Architects, not only from the United Kingdom but from the Continent, lceland in the north to Spain in the south, visited some of the north eastern states' greatest courses including Pine Valley, Shinnecock Hills and Baltusrol.

The visit was part of the Institute's continued Professional Development programme.

In early summer, five of the top courses in Britain are going to play host to their Region's greenkeepers. In Scotland the revered links of Royal Dornoch welcomes the Scottish Region on a date to be confirmed. On June 16, Mere Golf and Country Club welcomes the Northern Region. Stoke Poges opens its doors to the Midlands Region on June 24: Wildernesse GC hosts the South East Region on June 29 and St Mellion starts off the run on behalf of the South West and South Wales Region on June 4.



Avoncrop Amenity Products has appointed Nick Johnson (left) as Sales Representative

for the East and West

Midlands. ■ Practical Greenkeeping by Jim Arthur is available from BIGGA Headquarters, price £29.95.

The book will also be available at BTME. Anyone who wishes a copy should contact the office at: BIGGA Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, Nr York, YO6 2NF Tel: 01347 838581 Fax: 01347 838864.

Taking steps to avoid EC directives

A Levington Horticulture Conference at Woburn Abbey heard that there was a need to be responsi-

AGM date

The BIGGA Annual General Meeting will take place at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate at 5.45pm on Wednesday January 21, 1998. All members are urged to attend but membership cards must be produced. ble in the use of pesticides and other products to ensure that the increasing number of EC Directives do not ban more of them.

The warning came from Bob Daniels, the Research and Development Manager of Levington, who also Chairs a European body of manufacturers which lobbies the appropriate European Community Departments.

He explained that there was currently 55,000 pages of data about products with active ingredients and they were all to be reviewed.

He revealed that Sweden had already banned 250 products and said that already in the UK Roseclear was to be banned as it was an irritant and protective clothing was required before using it.

The conference, which is held every two years included several top Course Managers, agronomists, interested parties and Levington dealers and distributors from around Europe.

SCOTT MacCALLUM Make the most of the big show

ell it's that time again. The same old suitcases are packed, the same old instructions to phone home are given and the same old promises to be good are made. Destination Harrogate.

I must admit when I went to my first BTME in '96 I was amazed by it all. Yes, I'd been to all the preparatory meetings in the months leading up. I knew how many exhibitors we had. I knew that it filled four huge halls. I knew that we had speakers of the highest calibre, many of them flown in from around the world. I knew what was expected of me. I knew what everyone else would be doing. I knew all of this but nothing prepared me for just how good BTME was.

To be honest, amid the admiration for what my colleagues had achieved since BTME was first launched was a hint of jealousy. I was jealous that my profession, journalism, has nothing to compete with BTME and what BIGGA provides for those who work in the industry.

I would just love the chance to stand at a bar and chew the fat with Ian Wooldridge or John Inverdale. Or listen to a lecture by Des Lynam on how he prepares to front the World Cup. Or chat with the manufacturers of the laptop on which I'm writing this piece about what I'd like in their next model. Or take part in a workshop which might cure me of the nasty habit of being totally unable to use one word when - and I know I am prone to this - one is the optimum required number which would, under normal circumstances, be needed to complete the designated task.

Unfortunately there isn't anything on the scale or quality of BTME for journalists and I'd

wager that there aren't many industries which are catered for so well. Indeed, what other industry could cope with such a large percentage of those involved in it gathering at the same place at the one time.

Make the most of it and I hope that I'll meet a great many of you there.

This issue of the magazine marks the end of a long association with the man responsible for much of the success it has achieved. Tim Moat has been in charge of design and production from the very first issue back in January 1991. Since then he has put up with the foibles and peccadillos of several Editors but always ensured that, whatever the raw material he was handed on deadline day, a consistently fine magazine was delivered to the readers.

Next month, the magazine welcomes the arrival of **BIGGA's** new in-house designer, David Emery, but it certainly won't be forgotten that Greenkeeper International wouldn't be where it is now without Tim Moat.

On behalf of everyone at BIGGA I would like to wish Tim, and his company Headline Communications, every success in the future.



As I see it... BY PAT MURPHY **BIGGA CHAIRMAN**

began this month in Spain, at the FEGGA Conference, and guess what? It rained! And when it rains in Spain it doesn't half pour. Where do I have to go in the world to break the jinx?

However, it was a superb conference at which 12 different Associations were represented, each giving a paper on **Education within** his or her country and another on the environment. One of the outcomes



was that every country would attempt to standardise their education to a minimum level which equates to Level 2 NVQ.

I would like to thank Toro, for their generous sponsorship of the Conference and for the use of their conference facility, and also the FEGGA Board for inviting me to attend.

I had no sooner returned from Spain and I was off to Aldwark Manor for a GTC meeting. I had originally agreed to attend the South West and South Wales Seminar on the same day but due to some pressing business I had to cry off so apologies to everyone who was at Cannington College. However, I did hear reports about how excellent a Seminar it was.

Later that week I attended the Annual Dinner at my own golf club Shipley and was absolutely delighted to be presented with an engraved tankard by the Club Captain, Richard Cadman, to commemorate my year as Chairman.

The following Monday I was in Ireland for the Northern Irish Seminar where I gave a talk on the work of the Association. Ken Richardson also gave an excellent presentation on Educational matters.

Next, I went to the Northern Section AGM where it was good to see a strong working committee and a healthy balance sheet. The occasion also marked Alan Gamble's retirement from the committee after a long and fruitful innings. Thanks for all your work, Alan, and keep supporting us.

The Editor and I both attended a Levington Conference at Woburn and would like to thank Levington for their excellent hospitality. The dinner in the Sculpture's Gallery was a wonderful occasion.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Neil Thomas travelled to Shipley one evening to give me the privilege of signing the papers for the land on which the new Headquarters is going to be built. The builders will start on January 12 and I'll be rolling up

my sleeves to cut the first turf.

The Chairman gives an extended look back to his year in office on Pages 16-17.

Northern Ireland sections get off to a good start

Nearly 100 greenkeepers and trade from Northern Ireland met at Greenmount College on 1 December for the inaugural Seminar of the new BIGGA Northern Ireland Sections. Speakers included David Garland, Director of the PGA European Tour and Robin Blackford of Hayter Plc. The whole event was sponsored by John Lindsay Professional Sports Turf.

The seminar opened with an overview of safe mowing practices by Robin Blackford. The presentation certainly left listeners in no doubt as to the many potential dangers and accidents which can be caused by short cuts and lack of attention. Philip Baldock, Course Manager at Royal Portrush Golf Club and also Chairman of the new North East Section, followed

this with a look at some of the pests, problems and diseases he has to cope with on his course. It was interesting to note that Phil, as far as possible, avoids the use of pesticides preferring instead organic or natural methods of control. BIGGA's Education and Training Manager then gave an overview of the training offered by BIGGA and colleges throughout the UK for greenkeepers. This led to a lively discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of the NVQ system.

Following a brief repose, David Garland gave an insight into some of the problems of life on the Tour. Using video footage, David looked at a number of challenges to the rules of golf which have occurred in recent years and looked at how



At the inaugural seminar, from left, Phil Baldock, David Garland, Ken Richardson, Graham Wylie and Pat Murphy

the Tour resolved these. The Seminar which was ably chaired by Graham Wylie, Chairman of the South East Section, was concluded by BIGGA's 1997 National Chairman, Pat Murphy, who also presented 12 students from Greenmount College with their NVQ awards and gave the vote of thanks.

The afternoon was successfully rounded off with a buffet provided by the catering staff at Greenmount College. It is to be hoped that this will be the first of many successful events held by the two sections in Northern Ireland.

Our thanks must go to the sponsor without whom the event would not have been possible, the section committee members who worked hard to achieve the tremendous attendance figure, all the speakers for giving of their time and the staff at Greenmount College.

Impressive line up for conference

The Scottish Region will hold its annual one-day conference in the Dunfermline Conference Centre on March 3.

Each year the Region tries to introduce new and topical subjects relevant to greenkeeping and this year is no exception.

The Region consider themselves fortunate in having Bob Taylor, ecologist, and Jonathan Smith, wildlife adviser, both from the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group, speaking about environmental issues. From Turnberry Hotel and Golf Course, George Brown, Course Manager, will be talking about the work that goes on behind the scenes in preparation for an Open Championship. Steve Isaac from the STRI will be advising on how to survive winter play. From Cargill PLC, Steve Lucas will be discussing microbacterial populations in golf greens. Finally, Nick Lawson from OCMIS Irrigation will impart his knowledge on irrigation techniques.

Maximum pass marks for the 'fast track' Oaklands students

The pass rate for Oaklands College NVQ Level 2 "Fast Track" greenkeepers was 100%. The concept of the fast track course allows students with industrial experience to obtain NVQ Level 2 in one year. This system differs from traditional methods of training by using a combination of projects, accreditation for prior learning, work based assessment combined within college training.

Students can therefore progress as rapidly as their experience allows. Oaklands feels this means greater motivation for students who already possess a wide range of skills and sound knowledge base.

Missing from the group photo are K. Allen, Hanbury Manor; Neil Robson Harpenden GC and C. Little, South Herts GC.



On the right track: Oaklands College students



New Sales Manager for Johnsons

Adrian Hayler has been appointed National Sales Manager for the professional division of Johnsons Seeds. He will be responsible for the management, development and growth of the agricultural and amenity business sectors, and will look after all UK wide sales activity in these areas.

He brings a lot of industry experience to the new position, previously working for Dalgety Agriculture for nine years and, prior to that, for Seed Innovations and Bartholomews.

"I am delighted with the opportunity to work with one of Europe's leading seed companies. I look forward to meeting customers and ensuring that they get the best service from all our sales team," he said.



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