



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL GREENKEEPER MEMBERS

If you are a Greenkeeper Member of BIGGA, then as part of your membership, you can take advantage of the 24 hour, 365 day a year Legal Helpline, as can any member of your family who live with you.

Please note that from January 1, 1999 a new **freephone** number will be in operation

F R E E P H O N E
0800
068 1893

This service has been extended to include all Greenkeeper members within EU countries


British Seed Houses Ltd
MEMBER OF THE GERMINAL GROUP

GRADE A
AMENITY MIXTURES

Staying ahead of the field...

A seed mixture is as good as its blend of proven grass varieties. But we believe in the right mix of expertise and service too.

With scientists on our IGER breeding programme developing new and improved varieties all the time - and our direct-to-market fieldforce helping you specify the mixtures you need - you can rely on British Seed Houses.

Make sure you pick the right mixture.



SEEDS • SERVICE • SOLUTIONS

Warrington
01925 654411

Lincoln
01522 868714

Bristol
0117 982 3691

Edinburgh
01968 678480

Ad Ref 87

The difference is Flowtronex

Whether you want to keep your green green or your pitch perfect, Flowtronex makes the difference.

Flowtronex variable speed pump sets are the heart of any irrigation system, boosting flow and pressure wherever it is needed to make the most of your landscape.

Integrating the latest in variable speed technology with superior design, engineering and construction, Flowtronex brings you energy savings of up to 50% and reduced maintenance costs.

And when you order a Flowtronex pump set you can have every confidence that it has been designed to meet your specific requirements - from bowling greens to championship courses.

With a pump set from Flowtronex you can see the difference.

FLOWTRONEX

2 Relay Road, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 7XA, England

Tel: +44 (0) 23 9226 8511 Fax: +44 (0) 23 9224 1263



Ad Ref 610



The presentation to the winners of the 1999 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Groundcare and the Grass Roots Trading Company, was hosted by the National Winner – Temple Golf Club in Maidenhead. The club's pride in winning the competition for the first time was obvious, and they delighted in the opportunity to show off their course to the five regional winners who attended.

An environmental temple

The first part of the day was held at neighbouring Berkshire College where the guests were welcomed by John Lambert, Captain of Temple Golf Club, who was performing his first duty since taking over the role three days earlier.

He described just how pleased the club was with the award and added that a booklet celebrating 20th Century Temple had been held back from the printers to ensure that mention of the award could be made.

He then outlined the history of the club and its prestigious past - it was designed by Willie Park Jr, was owned by the Oppenheimer family and boasted Henry Cotton as its professional.

He also explained how it had fallen victim of the "Green is Great" mentality in the 70s and 80s before, thanks to the sterling work of Chairman of Green, Malcolm Peake, and Course Manager, Martin Gunn, the pendulum swung back and the course returned to its natural roots.

John was followed to the lectern by Bob Taylor and Jonathan Hart-Woods, of the STRI, and two of the competition judges.

Bob said that all of the entries deserved to win but that Temple did stand out for the level of commitment that was apparent and the amount of outreach to other golf clubs and conservation groups.

Jonathan admitted that coming from a conservation background he had been a little bit cynical about golf course ecology and that initially he had been embarrassed to talk to his fellow conservationists about the competition.

However, he is now a convert and gets indignant when others scoff about golf's contribution to conservation and found something at every club he visited to get excited about.

The other judge, Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist at English Nature, said that the golf industry should be braver about blowing its own trumpet about the good work that is done.

He ended by saying that nature conservation and golf do go together.

Martin Gunn then gave a talk on the conservation management that is carried out at Temple while Kevin

Hazelhurst, Course Manager at last year's winning course, Lindrick, spoke on the benefits winning the award had had for the club.

"For the last 10 years the club has been returning the course to its original architecture while improving it agronomically. This gives golfers at Temple the opportunity to enjoy the traditional British game of golf which is played along the ground as well as in the air, and is part of our golfing heritage.

"I cannot improve on a quote from the BIGGA Judge, Dr Keith Duff, of English Nature, who said, "Temple provides the elusive feel good factor (often intangibly) when you play a course which both challenges the skills of the golfer, and at the same time, inspires you with its setting," said Malcolm Peake, speaking before the presentation.

"Temple has long been associated with good environmental practice and it is fitting that the club should be the recipient of the main award in this the third year that BIGGA has run the competition," said BIGGA's National Chairman, Gordon Child.

"We are deeply indebted to Rod Baker, of Amazone, who inaugurated the competition five years ago and who

has continued to joint sponsor it for the last three years, and to The Grass Roots Trading

Company, who joined as a sponsor this year," said Gordon.

"As the founder of the Golf Environmental Competition it is particularly pleasing for me to see the interest in, and impact of, the event growing year on year. It is obvious from the standard of the entrants that the possibility for environmental enhancement of golf courses has struck a cord with greenkeepers and club committees and it is only fitting that their efforts be recognised and encouraged," said Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone.

"The achievement of Temple in securing first place in 1999 against this level of competition cannot be overestimated. To all those who have exercised the skill, dedication and sheer hard work necessary to produce results such as those at Temple and the other entrants I offer my sincere congratulations.

"To those preparing to enter the competition in 2000, a daunting standard has been set," added Rod.

"We are delighted that this influential and prestigious competition carries our name. The caring and environmental approach adopted by all the entrants at

present is undoubtedly the path every golf club will be taking in the future," said Jamie Bennett, Managing Director of Grass Roots.

After the formal morning presentations everyone moved on to Temple for lunch and a course walk or game of golf.

As winning golf club Temple receives a plaque, a trophy and a cheque for £5000 for use on environmental projects on the golf course.

Regional Winners

Scotland - Kilmacollm GC
North - Wilmslow GC
Midlands - Temple GC (National Winner)
South East - The Dyke GC
South West - Broadstone GC
Wales - Cardiff GC

Each Regional Winner receives a plaque and a cheque for £250

Below: Bob Taylor, Rod Baker, John Lambert, Gordon Child, Martin Gunn, Keith Duff and Jonathon Hart-Woods





We don't cut
grass, but we
sharpen the
tools that do...

A sharper cutting cylinder
produces healthier, stronger
and more attractive grass...



To find out how Atterton Express Dual and Anglemaster,
the world's fastest mower grinders, dramatically
improve your golf course, cut costs and save time...

call **01788 811600** today!

BERNHARD & COMPANY LTD

Rugby England CV22 7DT

email: info@bernhard.co.uk web: www.bernhard.co.uk



Ad Ref 535



One of the judges of the 1999 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, BOB Taylor, Senior Ecologist for the STRI, gives some thoughts on this year's competition



GRASS ROOTS
—TRADING COMPANY—

Environmentally aware

Possibly one of the greatest challenges within the golf industry today is the need to focus our attention on raising the environmental profile of golf. We need to show that with the appropriate management golf can contribute positively towards bio-diversity and play a part in the conservation of our wider countryside. This is clearly an issue that I over the past 10 years have been developing and it is one that Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone UK Ltd, was keen to pursue when he introduced the Amazone Environment Competition for Golf back in 1995.

The competition, has grown since then and three years ago became the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and, this year, The Grass Roots Trading Company, and is an excellent forum from which environmental good practice can be recognised, encouraged and promoted.

It also clearly highlights to the Statutory Conservation Bodies such as English Nature, Scottish Natural

Heritage, the Countryside Commission for Wales and others like the RSFB, that golf can be an acceptable land use providing valuable wildlife corridor (linking) habitat throughout the countryside. Being of general interest the competition provides an ideal platform, in which to educate non participating golf clubs and possibly more importantly the players.

I am extremely grateful to BIGGA, for organising and administering the competition as well as to Amazone and Grass Roots for the level and interest behind their sponsorship and this clearly shows that even commercial companies are aware of the need to demonstrate golf's environmental good practice and image, particularly in light of the increasing level of European legislation which I am sure will be adopted in the UK in the near future. Such interest also shows that commercial companies, often thought of as insensitive towards environmental matters, are both aware and keen to enforce their standing.

This year (1999) a total of 53 entries were received from throughout the UK, 22 of which had not previously entered. As in previous years the level of entry was very high indeed with several very comprehensive and detailed applications being forwarded. The level of entries always makes judging extremely difficult but it is the role of Jonathan Hart-Woods and myself to narrow the field to a workable level.

Of the 53, 30 golf clubs were chosen and assessed and it would be fair to say that every entrant visited and possibly most of those not this year receiving any visit, would be worthy winners in their own right. Indeed the time taken to complete the application form and compile any additional information does show in itself a degree of commitment and interest.

Judging the competition is possibly one of the most difficult duties that we perform. Every club has its own areas of intrinsic interest, some have a greater level of financial help, others are more educated in ecological matters and several golf clubs do benefit from SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) status and thus receive varying degrees of help from the statutory conservation bodies. It is difficult when visiting clubs in the late summer/early autumn not to be seduced by the very impressive nature of the heathland sites as it would be the case throughout the earlier summer period with the downland and botanically rich parkland courses. Given these problems a scoring system has been devised to address the level of interest shown throughout the whole of the club, the quality of the work being undertaken and the way in which the message is being spread through the club and beyond.

From the 30 clubs visited six finalists were chosen and it was from these that an overall winner was decided.

The clubs reaching the regional finalist stage included Kilmacollm Golf Club (Scotland), Wilmslow Golf Club (North), Cardiff Golf Club (Wales), Temple Golf Club (Midlands), The Dyke Golf Club (South) and

Broadstone Golf Club (South West).

Having selected the regional finalist it was time to bring in the Chief Scientist of English Nature Dr Keith Duff to assist the STRI in choosing an overall winner. Although the level of environmental enthusiasm and commitment is clear at all of these clubs it was eventually decided to give the first prize of £5,000 to Temple Golf Club.

One of the outstanding features of Temple is the level of outreach being shown. Golf clubs are regularly visited and often contact Temple to discuss environmental management. The level of enthusiasm is clearly shown at all levels within the club management structure including the whole of the greenkeeping work force. In terms of good environmental practice Temple had through their own initiative improved the golfing environment considerably and as Dr Duff was keen to point out the extent of rough grassland now being managed must be over 50 acres in total. This may be one of the largest areas of chalk grassland in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire outside existing nature reserves.

The level of commitment being shown at Temple should not however detract from the quality of management being shown at other courses. Without constant management attention The Dyke Golf Club would clearly change from a grassland dominated course to a hawthorn/scrub woodland. At both Cardiff and Wilmslow Golf Clubs an increasing level of commitment is being given to both tree management and grassland management which through regular communication is becoming much more widely accepted by the Clubs. Cardiff Golf Club has an ecological sub committee of over 20 enthusiastic representatives.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank BIGGA for running the 1999 Golf Environment Competition, and the sponsors for their obvious commitment and level of enthusiasm. But most of all, each of the Golf Clubs that have taken the time to complete the application forms. This clearly shows that the golfing industry does care about the wider environment.





Clockwise from right:

Teign Valley Golf Club are extremely committed to environmental good practice. The owner regularly collects flowers from the course and labels them for members within the Clubhouse

The level of enthusiasm towards rough management at The Dyke Golf Club is considerable

A very enthusiastic commitment to environmental management is given at Merrist Wood Golf Club

The judges discuss heathland management with the greenkeeping staff at Broadstone Golf Club

Improving the golfing interest within the woodland edge at Mid Herts Golf Club

Just one of the very attractive golfing features at Hamptworth Golf Club on the edge of the new Forest





Toro Fever

BIGGA HOUSE was alive to the sound of sharp answers to incisive questions when the third combined running of the Toros was held in October.

The six finalists of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the eight in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year were put under the spotlight by the two sets of judges and it would be fair to say that if any one of the 14 had taken the place of Brian Turner, of Sunningdale, and Tommy Givnan, of Bowring Golf Course and Myerscough College, there could have been no complaints.

To have even made the final each of the Excellence finalists had to impress a judge on a course visit at regional level - there was one wild card used at the judges' discretion - while the students had to be nominated by their college before surviving another regional interview.

It ensured a rich crop of talent arrived at BIGGA HOUSE to be put before the judges.

The Excellence judging panel was Walter Woods, who had also visited each of the finalist's courses; Graham Dale, Managing Director of Lely (UK); Bob Buckingham, Toro's European Sales Manager, and Neil Thomas, BIGGA's Executive Director. The Student judging panel comprised Andrew Brown, Toro's Corporate Accounts Manager for Europe, the Middle East and South Africa; Pete Mansfield, of Lely (UK); Jim Paton, BIGGA's Education Sub Committee Chairman, and Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager.

In the end after a full day of interviews and deliberations, at which Walter's assessment of the finalist's golf course and course management practices were built into the final marking, Brian Turner, emerged as the narrow winner.

Brian received a trophy, a trip to the GCSAA Show in New Orleans and visit to Toro's US Headquarters; Sunningdale wins a Toro 3000 triple and his team a set of BIGGA waterproofs each.

The five runners-up each received a crystal trophy to commemorate their achievement in reaching the National final.

The winner of the Student Award was announced as Tommy Givnan, with the two runners-up Michael Bush, of St Mellion G&CC and Cannington College and Andrew Wood, of Singing Hills GC and Plumpton College.

Tommy won a residential study course in the States while Michael and Andrew won all expenses paid trips to BTME.

Brian Turner has no doubt about what becoming Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner means to him as he told Scott MacCallum

Icing on the cake

When Sunningdale Course Manager, Brian Turner, was asked what becoming the third Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner meant to him he said "It's the icing on the cake."

And in Brian's case, when the cake in question means his own greenkeeping career, you can tell he is particularly proud of his achievement.

Sunningdale Golf Club has always played a huge part in his life. He is a native of the town, he'd caddied at the club, he was, and still is, an Artisan member and, when he started greenkeeping, it was as a 19 year-old member of the Sunningdale staff having shelved thoughts of becoming a professional golfer - his current handicap is 1 and he has been as low as +1.

That affection was the magnet that drew Brian back to the club three years ago when he had an excellent job at Worplesdon Golf Club.

"It was always my dream to return to Sunningdale as Course Manager and I was delighted when I got the job in '96," said Brian.

His CV contains the names of three prestigious golf clubs located within a radius that would be covered by very few number of Tiger Wood drives.

"I left Sunningdale to move to Wentworth. I was in my early 20s, about to get married and there was accommodation with the Wentworth job," explained Brian.

Over the next 12 years he rose to become Head Greenkeeper on the West Course before the job of Head Greenkeeper at Worplesdon came up. He spent 13 years at the club, even winning the famous Worplesdon Foursomes during his time there.

"Sunningdale was the only place I would have left Worplesdon for

as I had a really good job there - I could play golf with the members and had a very good relationship with everyone at the club. I thoroughly enjoyed my experiences," he said.

When the job became available in '96 Brian wasn't going to apply as, for him to get it, a tradition going back to when the club was founded, would have to be broken.



"All the club's Head Greenkeepers or Course Managers had been Scotsmen until I came along," explained Brian.

"But the club also broke with tradition when appointing its last club professional because when Keith Maxwell got the job he was the first not to have been a Ryder Cup player. They obviously don't mind breaking with tradition now and again... which was good for me."

"Finally I decided to give it a go as there was no harm in trying and I made the short list."

The fact that he felt he had nothing to lose relaxed him come the big day.

"I went in and it was a carefree interview for me. I've played here

all my life so I knew the courses inside out and when I was asked questions I gave totally honest answers," said Brian, who was 50 when he took the post.

Since taking on one of the most sought after jobs in greenkeeping, Brian has concentrated on the presentation of the Willie Park-designed Old Course and the Harry Colt-designed New while he has also worked hard to reduce the thatch build up in the greens.

"We do a tremendous amount of aeration which can be a nightmare for the golfer and, as a result, a nightmare for us...you know you're going to get flak but you just have to bite the bullet."

Should the golfing calendar oblige, Brian likes to do his major aeration in August, something he started while at Worplesdon.

"Hollow tining was always something that was done in spring and autumn but I never felt it was the right time of year because the recovery rate is slower and the greens are bobblier because they are softer. I thought August would be a great month to do it as the soil is warm and the grass is still growing, while you don't have to worry about smearing as the cores come out nice and cleanly."

"I said to Worplesdon that I'd like to do it, we tried it and within two weeks you wouldn't have known we'd hollow tined. You'd be surprised how many people now hollow tine in August," said Brian.

In addition he makes a point of combining his hollow tining with vertidrainage.

"The vertidrain does leave the surface a little bobbly and uneven but if you put the hollow tiner on it smooths out the vertidrain holes to the extent that you can't tell it's been vertidrainaged."

Brian has a team of 22 plus a gardener and this includes a full time mechanic a mechanic/greenkeeper



and someone who handles the irrigation.

While Brian is overall Course Manager his Deputy and Head Greenkeeper on the Old Course is Mark Openshaw with Tony Bonnett, Head Greenkeeper on the New Course. Each course is maintained to the same high standard.

"One of the problems we have is that we have many more rounds over the Old than we do the New - 35,000 against 27,000. If members have a choice they would just play the Old so we have course order on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday with two balls on one course and three balls on the other and we change this around.

"Since '97 when Abbotts installed the new irrigation system we've closed the old for four days a week Monday to Thursday through January to give the course a rest and you can really see the difference on the strength of it."

In recent years Sunningdale has been the venue for several large events including the European Open and the Walker Cup while it hosted the Weetabix British Ladies in '97 and will do so again in 2001.

"During the biggest of the events the practice range was used as a car park and the 18th hole of the New Course became the practice range and it's not really big enough for European events now.

"We do miss them as they are a real buzz and I admire people like Chris Kennedy who cope with two a year."

That's not to say that big name players don't visit Sunningdale which is close to where many of Europe's top golfers base themselves.

"Darren Clarke and Paul McGinley play a lot, Paul actually walks his dog around the course, while Sam Torrance was at Sunningdale as an assistant, and often comes over for a game."

Others include Wayne Riley, Richard Boxall and Tony Johnstone, who often can be seen honing his renowned sand skills in the practice bunker.

Brian was entered for the Toro Excellence Award by his Secretary, Stuart Zeuill.

"I'd thought about entering before but there was always an element of fear that you're not going to do well and coming from a well known club puts on added pressure.

His regional course visit was conducted by Eric James and Brian wasn't 100% confident of getting through to the final.

"I didn't think I was going to get through, to tell you the truth, as Eric also had to see other people who entered before who must have had a very good chance."

This modesty continued to BIGGA HOUSE where Brian was genuinely surprised when his name was read out as the winner.

"It was a bit like being at the Oscars hearing 'And the winner is...' and I was really surprised when it was my name that followed. I'd spoken to the other five guys and any one of them



could have won it.

"The thing I was pleased about was the experience of taking part. It's all right reading about it in the magazine but until you do it you don't know what it's about and what you can gain from it," said Brian.

"I was self taught when I started as BIGGA wasn't around then. To learn about the grass plant I went to evening classes at Kingston College and had to pay for it myself."

The reaction within the club to Brian's triumph has been very positive.

"The Secretary is over the moon as are the lads here as it is not only a feather in my cap, but for them as well."

Above: Matt Maryon, Graham Dale, Bob Buckingham, Walter Woods, Neil Thomas, Stuart Hogg, Kim Blake, Brian Turner, Andy Campbell and Barrie Lee



Scott MacCallum meets the artist who is now painting a rosy future for himself as a greenkeeper

From canvas to turf

If life had taken a slightly different path Tommy Givnan may well have been collecting the Turner Prize rather than the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

Tommy, Head Greenkeeper at Bowring Golf Course in Knowsley, near Liverpool, has a Fine Arts degree and lectured in the subject before moving into greenkeeping.

"I was obsessed with painting, both studying it and producing work of my own," explained Tommy.

"My aim was to have exhibitions and make a living selling my work but I was asked to teach at St Helens College so, at the age of 21, that was what I was doing," he explained.

After a year Tommy moved south to Winchester when an opportunity of a job with house attached arose for his wife Dawn.

He tried to continue his teaching career in Wiltshire but his broad Liverpool accent proved a stumbling block.

"As soon as I opened my mouth and they could hear the Scouse accent I could see their eyes glaze over. So I knew straight away I had no chance," he recalled.

It was through a trawl of Winchester Job Centre that he spotted a position at Hockley Golf Club, in Twyford, just outside Winchester, and the seeds for rest of his career were planted.

"Head Greenkeeper, Terry Patchett, made me very welcome and I just thought what an ideal place to work. One morning I was taking a tractor through woodland and two deer jumped across the path just in front of me. I thought to myself that my dad had worked on a production line at Ford's for 33 years and this has just happened to me."

He worked on the course for six months before the need for a higher salary forced him to look around for something else.

"I loved the job and took to it so well that if the pay had been better I would have stayed but I just couldn't afford to."

"A friend put me in touch with a landscaper who took me on at weekends while I was still at the golf course and when he offered me a full time job I took it."

Tommy and Dawn moved back to Liverpool for family reasons a couple of years later and he got a job as a temporary gardener with Knowsley Council which soon became a full time position.

Then when the Council started its own full time landscaping team he became Charge Hand and such was its success the team won a BALI Award for work carried out on Kirby Town Centre.

"I missed golf but, at that stage, I didn't see a way of getting back into it as I didn't have the experience to earn what I could landscaping. I was married with two kids so money was essential."

At this stage fate lent a hand and around the same time as the Landscaping team was disbanded Knowsley Council took over the running of Bowring Munciple Golf Course from Liverpool Council who had been running it.

"It was the ideal opportunity for the Council to place me and I was rubbing my hands at the prospect," said Tommy, who explained that he was just one of a team of five gardeners who were put onto the course.

The course was in poor condition. People would lose their balls in the fairways due to the clover and nobody paid to play, feeling that it was not worth paying for.

"I'd just finished my Level 2 in landscaping and said that I'd like to carry

on to Level 3, but change over to Sportsturf as I needed information quickly to apply to the course."

He started Level 3 at Myerscough on day release and immediately found himself mixing with people with a great deal more knowledge and experience than himself.

"I thought I might have bitten off more than I could chew and worried that I might make a fool of myself, but on the second week the Tutor, Phil Sharples, gave us a test on turf diseases based on what we'd learned the previous week and I got 17 out of 20. I thought then that I might be able to pull it off," he said.

He threw himself into the work, studying each night and bought a computer so he could type up his course work.

Meanwhile the course was starting to get good feedback from golfers, despite the fact that they were having to make do with grounds maintenance machines not really suitable for many golf course duties.

After a few months, when the team had been sharing responsibility, the Council commissioned a report before putting in place amore traditional team. They advertised for a Head Greenkeeper and Tommy, applied for, and got the job.

He was operating under pressure as he was told by the Council that if the course didn't pay for itself it would be turned into a park.

"I was under pressure to get the place on its feet but because of what we've achieved it has a lot more credibility now," he explained.

"I won the Student of the Year for my first year at Myerscough which was a big boost as it was a talented class and that spurred me on. I began to think that I knew what I was doing as what I was learning each week I was applying to the course the next and it was working."

Such has been the success of Tommy and the team that the number of rounds has risen from 18,000 a year to over 50,000 a year and the golfers have been extremely appreciative.

"One of the golfers who plays regularly and is unemployed with four kids knocked on my door at home and pre-





sented me with a crate of ale for the lads and said we were doing a great job," said Tommy, who tells the story still with a degree of amazement.

The course is six miles from the centre of Liverpool and is surrounded by housing estates and does suffer from vandalism.

"We get a lot of stolen cars left burnt out on the course. One came over a mound and landed on the 18th green taking a load of turf out of the green. Fortunately I was doing renovation and repair NVQ 3 at the time and this provided good evidence.

"We planted a load of huge boulders around the entrances to stop cars getting onto the course and erected gates. These were rammed down in a Ford Escort so we've had to put a barrier in front of the gates," explained Tommy, who also introduced railway sleepers set in stone as tee markers as the pathing used previously kept being smashed.

"The Secretary of the club says that he sees something new every time he plays and it's comments like that that make you improve."

Tommy was flattered to be nominated by the college for the Award and shocked when he learned that he'd made the final.

"Before the first interview my palms were sweating and I was a bag of nerves but when I went in I was made to feel at home. I didn't expect to reach the final and my first thought was that I was in with the big boys now, guys with years of experience."

On the Sunday of the final, which he attended with Dawn, they took the chance to visit York Minster then, on the morning visited the city art gallery which relaxed him before his interview. "Panic started to set in as Dawn

waved me off as I walked from the hotel to BIGGA HOUSE. I was thinking this was my one chance and I've never felt so much pressure in all my life. I still felt it was a long shot as I'd met all the other students and was impressed by them all."

Once he'd finished he was able to enjoy a drink before the pressure again began to mount.

"When the announcement was made I was stunned. It was an unreal feeling as though it wasn't really happening but I must admit I celebrated well that night."

The opportunity to go to the States is an exciting one for Tommy who admits that he will miss Dawn and their two boys, Lee, 8, and Sean, 5.

"We've talked at length and Dawn reminds me that I said I'd never win and I truly believed I wouldn't. Being in the final was an accolade for me and I had loads of guys congratulating me on that achievement and wishing me well for the final - there was a piece about me in the Liverpool Echo," said Tommy, who has again featured in the press following his win.

"This is an opportunity of a lifetime and it's up to me to make the most of it and enjoy it," he said.

Far left: Tommy Givnan left, with his Course Manager, Terry Hall

Top: Tommy with Michael Bush (right), Andrew Wood (left) with the Toro Student judging panel

Above: Back row; Vincent Gilroy, William Collins, Simon O'Hara, Kevin Scarce, Jim Gilchrist. Front row; Andrew Wood, Tommy Givnan and Michael Bush

SEE US
AT BTME 2000
STAND Q116



The changing face of Turf Maintenance

Why compromise your soil when you can "Restore the Balance" naturally with Biotol Biological Products.

BIOTAL PRODUCTS	
✓	Liquid, easy to use
✓	Non toxic / non corrosive
✓	Promote disease resistance
✓	Strengthen root development
✓	Enhance nutrient utilisation

Our range of Amenity products are the result of over 15 years research and development into microbial and plant extract technology.



RESTORE THE BALANCE

MICROBALANCE - Select the right microbes for your soil
MICROBOOSTER - Boost for compromised soil
BIOFEED - Seaweed extract for Soil or Foliar feed

Use as stand alone treatments or as part of the Restore the Balance Programme.
 A proven natural alternative.

Tel: 02920 747 414

Call us today for more information, and put a smile on the face of your turf.



Feed, Boost and Balance your turf with Biotol Environmental Solutions for the Amenity Market.

Biotol Limited, 5 Chiltern Close, Cardiff CF14 5DL.
 Tel: (029)20 747414 Fax: (029)20 747140 e-mail: bjp@biotol.co.uk

Joe Paulin gives some helpful advice that might just see you through the trauma of course vandalism

Criminal

I was recently called in to do some consulting work at The London Golf Club where, you may have read in the papers, nearly half of their 36 USGA greens have been criminally damaged not once but twice! The management and greenstaff have dealt with these blows in a very professional and efficient manner and are to be commended as well as commiserated with. This is every club's worst nightmare, but how many clubs are prepared for the worst?

Vandalism is too soft a word in most cases - it is a criminal act that should be treated and prepared for as such. Criminal damage can occur in many forms from graffiti on buildings, tee marker, ball washer, flag and flagpole damage or theft to the physical and or chemical damage to the turf. Criminal damage often takes place in the commission of a burglary as well.

Most clubs have security of some description. The clubhouse will certainly be alarmed along with the pro shop if it is in a separate building. These areas are probably fairly well lit and often will be protected by security cameras. But what about the maintenance buildings, pump house and other out-buildings? What about the biggest asset in the Club - Your turf?

You and the rest of the club's management need to ask yourself questions such as:

What does our insurance actually cover?

Are you covered for criminal damage to the greens and other fine turf areas?

Is the club covered for loss of earnings as a result of criminal damage?

Has the club's insurers given the club advice on security measures that will help prevent an incident from happening and reduce premiums? Such as:

- Check that all buildings are well lit
- Check that all possible access points are secure especially skylights
- Make sure all stock and machinery is properly inventoried (photographic records)
- Insure that all vehicle keys are kept secure
- Insure that petrol tank caps are locked
- Check that any and all security fencing is well maintained and checked regularly
- Introduce security cameras or additional security cameras and/or motion sensors
- Use vehicle immobilisers
- Use in-house security guards or a security company
- Know who has keys to what
- Change locks if keys cannot be accounted for
- Ensure that padlocks are high quality and difficult to get at with bolt cutters or hack saws.

Is our water supply as secure as possible from intentional contamination?

Do we have an emergency plan to deal with possible chemical and/or physical damage to greens and/or tees? Consider items such as:

- Call the police and the insurance company
- Notify club management and club officers
- Document any and all damage with photographs
- Inform the members as to what has happened and what actions are being taken

Dealing with the actual damage itself -

- If you don't have your own source of turf to repair the

damage, have a turf grower who can supply you at short notice.

- Have the name and address of a reputable laboratory in case of the need to identify chemicals or substances used
- Take samples of soil that may have been contaminated and try to germinate seed in them to try and determine if the substance has a residual effect
- If you have trouble identifying the substance used
- Have a supply of activated charcoal available which may help to nullify the effects of contamination
- Consider flooding the affected area (a wetting agent will usually aid in this operation) in order to wash off and/or dilute the substance used bearing in mind that the run-off could cause damage to other areas
- Be prepared to core, verticut, overseed (always have a supply of seed in stock) and topdress in order to repair any damage in conjunction with any turfing requirements as the circumstances dictate
- Be prepared to fence or rope off the damaged areas
- Along with the photographic evidence, you should accurately map any damaged areas for your historical records.

Can we use this negative incident in a positive way? Such as:

- If the green or tee is severely damaged, it gives you the opportunity to rebuild, turf or renovate an area that required improving anyway
- If a green is out of play for a period of time, it is an opportunity to carry out needed work in surrounding areas

THE HOTTEST in TOWN

TICKET

The
AMTEC BTME
RECEPTION
on January 19th
2000. 5.30pm-7.30pm
Old Swan Hotel



Organised in
association with

COMPANION SOIL INNOCULANT



AMENITY
TECHNOLOGY

PLEASE RUSH ME MY FREE
AMTEC RECEPTION TICKET

NAME

POSITION

CLUB

CLUB
ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TEL/FAX

EMAIL

- TICK HERE TO RECEIVE THE AMENITY TECHNOLOGY CATALOGUE
 TICK HERE TO RECEIVE THE BAYCO GOLF CATALOGUE
 PLEASE ASK A TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE TO CONTACT ME

YOUR LAST CHANCE

**'NO STRINGS'
ATTACHED**

Indicator
OFFER

BLUE

GREEN

GREEN SPRAY PATTERN DYE

Buy 20 litres of
Indicator **GREEN** or
NEW Indicator **BLUE** to
receive your **FREE**
Cordless Screwdriver



A GREAT ADDITION TO YOUR CLUB'S MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

- High quality spray pattern dyes
- Highlights skips and misses
- Highlights blocked nozzles

*Indicator is available in 1 litre
and 10 litre containers.*

OFFER FINISHES 17/12/99



5 ARKWRIGHT ROAD, READING, RG2 0ZT

TEL: +44 0118 931 1111
FAX: +44 0118 975 0344

email: amtec@btinternet.com
<http://www.amenitytechnology.com>

AMENITY TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS LTD
5 ARKWRIGHT ROAD,
READING,
RG2 0ZT

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE
Licence No. SCE 8935

2

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE
Licence No. YO 331



Subscriptions
BIGGA HOUSE
Aldwark
Alne
York
YO61 1UF

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE
Licence No. YO 331



Membership
BIGGA HOUSE
Aldwark
Alne
York
YO61 1UF