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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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February 1999

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Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International's previous articles

66 As I see it...

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Reader Reply Card

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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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact BIGGA on 01347 833800



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Avoncrop Amenity Products, Ernest Doe & Sons, Lambert/Fenchurch UK Group Ltd, Sisis Equipment Ltd, Weed Free



Have you recovered from BTME99 yet? Well, the fun never stops, and at BIGGA HOUSE, we are already planning for the millennium!

Call Jenny now, on 01347 833834 to book your place at BTME2000!



66 As I see it...



15 The Learning Experience



55 Win £50 with our new Buyers' Guide quiz

The best ever

Until the Olympic Games in Atlanta in '96 it was customary for the International Olympic Committee President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to declare each Games the "best ever" at the closing ceremony.

The fact that he didn't do so for the Atlanta Games was a bit of a kick in the teeth for the organisers. However, they would have been empty words had he maintained the tradition, what with the well documented traffic chaos and well meaning volunteers not up the task of ferrying athletes to their required destination on time... not to mention the horrible bombing.

As an aside, the first morning of the Hayter International Cup in Atlanta last year saw our bus driver get well and truly lost on the way to the golf club and add almost an hour to the journey. So, some things never change.

Anyway back to Mr Samaranch. I know he had other things on his plate around the time of BTME but had he found time to visit Harrogate he could have dusted down his famous phrase and announced that BTME'99 was the "best ever".

By most people's standards BTME'99 really did move on to another level. The Learning Experience, in association with Textron, provided genuine stimulation for those who attended and in Frank Dick, gave us a Key Note Speaker, who could motivate an army of ants onto even greater heights.

The Show itself attracted its highest every attendance - 6,093 people over the two and a half days - shattering the previous best. Of course, they were helped by the best weather in the show's history but they still had to make the effort to visit. From what I gather there was also some serious business done by some of the exhibitors which hints at the quality as well as the quantity of those who filled the halls.

The Thursday night banquet in Hall D had a changed format with Showaddywaddy, providing the entertainment and it provided the ideal opportunity for guests to showcase their nifty footwork and hip shaking talents. There may have been some spare room on the dance floor but I didn't see any.

It is extremely gratifying for all those involved in the organisation to see the months of preparation come to such a successful conclusion.

It does offer up a headache though. Next year Harrogate was always going to be a special occasion - the new Hall Q also seems to have caught the imagination - but now it will have to be extra special just to match this year.

Meetings to discuss BTME 2000 are just about to start at BIGGA HOUSE and you can be sure that everyone will be working hard to ensure that every element of Harrogate 2000 will be that little bit special.

Now that will give us a challenge when it comes to making sure BTME 2001 is "Best Ever".

But we'll cross that particular bridge when we come to it.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum



Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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64 Arabian Knight

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BIGGA Chairman to address IOG conference

BIGGA Chairman Gordon Child is among the speakers at a four day IOG Conference in Wakefield.

Other leading speakers during the event on March 27-30 include Stephen Studd, Chief Executive of SPRITO, the national training organisation for sport, recreation and allied organisations, and Ken Siems, Course Superintendent of Loch Lomond Golf Club.

Among a line-up of senior figures from the world of sports turf management and research will be Bob

Taylor, Senior Ecologist for the STRI.

Cricket will come under the microscope on the fourth day.

Other speakers during the conference include Peter Dury, sportsturf consultant, John Hacker of Professional Sportsturf Design, and Danny Thorogood, Senior Research Scientist of IGER, the grass research station backed by British Seed Houses. Mike Wattam, Course Manager of the East Sussex National Golf Club, will talk about

the control of turf grass pests and diseases, while Brian Robinson, sports and amenity consultant for Rigby Taylor, will talk on the future of sportsturf technology.

Study tours for delegates include a tour of the STRI headquarters at Bingley with Executive Director Mike Canaway and a visit to Headingley, headquarters of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club.

For more details of the event at the Cedar Court Hotel, Wakefield, call the IOG on 01908 312511.

Scottish Patron's awards

The traditional Scottish Region Patron's Award Lunch held in Stirling just before Christmas to honour the greenkeepers chosen as the year's Patrons' winners.

"We would like to thank all the Scottish Region Patrons as, if it wasn't for their help and input the awards would not be possible," said Chris Yeaman, Swanston GC Course Manager and Scottish Magazine Liaison Officer.

The winners each received a book and earned themselves a trip to BTME 99

The occasion was graced by the presence of a man who was once widely regarded as the Fastest Man in the World. Not Allan Wells, who won the 1980 Olympics, but George McNeil who many believe would have won the 1972 Olympics, had he been able to compete.

Unfortunately George was regarded as a professional having competed in the famous handicapped Powerhall Sprints and was



Picture: Chris Yeaman

thus unable to compete against the world's best on the greatest stage of all.

He is now a highly regarded after dinner speaker and Assistant Manager of Livingston FC (Who

have just knocked your Editor's team out of the Scottish Cup)

"I have to speak for everyone when I say he was absolutely superb and the best that I've heard," said Chris.

Expansion at Gem Professional

GEM Professional has significantly expanded its sales-team and has also appointed a new National Sales Manager to co-ordinate its activities.

The appointment of five new members - Tony Beaumont, David Orchard, Dean Stanton, Jim Nicholson and Richard Haynes provides the sales-team with a complement of ten full-time salesmen covering the British mainland.

Each member of the team has extensive knowledge of greenkeeping and groundsmanship and is able to provide full advice on GEM Professional's range of fertilisers, top-dressings, grass seeds and other turf care products and on the company's Diamond Partnership scheme.

Overseeing the operation of the sales-team is Clive Pearson who has been promoted to National Sales Manager after five years as Southern Area Sales Manager.



Volunteers required for the following events

Volvo PGA Championship, Wentworth May, 30-31, 1999

The Association will again be providing a team of 40 members for each of the above days. Each member will be allocated a match and will walk the course with the game, raking any bunkers found by the players. You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course and there is no provision for overnight accommodation. You may apply to help on either or both days. When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided.

The Open Championship Carnoustie July 15-18, 1999

The greenkeeping support team at the Open Championship will be involved in early morning course preparation, bunker raking while matches are in play and evening course repair. You must be available from Wednesday evening 14 July through to the close of play on Sunday 18 July. Whilst all transport, accommodation and meals will be provided between these dates it is the team member's responsibility for travel from home to the venue and return. When applying please give your polo shirt size and your golf shoe size as these may be provided.

Full BIGGA members only may apply, in writing, for either or both of these events to; John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne York YO61 1UF

Should you require any further information then John can be contacted on 01347 833800.

The closing date for applications is Friday, February 26, 1999

In the event of there being more applications than places available then a draw of names will take place. All applicants will be contacted mid-March.

CJ Collins success

CJ Collins Construction have had another successful year, having completed their biggest project ever by constructing a championship course at Killarney Golf & Fishing Club in Ireland which will open in the spring. This is Killarney Golf & Fishing Club's third course.

The Company are now embarking on their extremely busy Winter Schedule which includes the re-modelling of the 14th Greens and Tees on the Links Course at the Open Venue at Royal St Georges in Kent and major work at Walton Heath Golf Club to include Championship Tee, Bunker refurbishment and revetment on both Courses.

Further refurbishments include West Sussex, Littlehampton, Haywards Heath, Romford, Shooters Hill and Royal Wimbledon Golf Clubs.

Water storage Reservoirs and alterations are to be carried out at Bramley Golf Club and Buckingham Golf Club along with further works already in the pipeline for Dyrham Park, Cuddington and Corhampton Golf Clubs.

Fine Turf Agronomy

Greenkeeper International would like to apologise to Fine Turf Agronomy Ltd for a number of errors which occurred in the advert which appeared on Page 22 of the January issue. These were caused by a fault in the scanning equipment used to set the advert which has since been rectified.

Keith McKee

Greenkeeper International would like to apologise to Keith McKee Associates for incorrectly describing Keith as being an employee of Scotts in the article he wrote under the Learning Experience banner in the January issue of Greenkeeper International.

Keith, who was previously employed by Fisons and Levingtons, has enjoyed an active and practical involvement in the turf grass industry for over 30 years and has expertise in interpreting soil analysis and producing practical maintenance programmes for football, cricket, golf and tennis at venues across and beyond Europe.

Keith McKee Associates can offer advice on maintenance programmes, machinery, top dressings, health and safety, construction, drainage specifications, disease control, irrigation, fertiliser programmes and weed control.

Keith can be contacted at Miraflores, 78 The Street, Manuden, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 1DS Tel: 01279 813574 Fax: 01279 815191.

STRI launches new research

The new STRI Ecology Research Unit has launched a major research initiative funded by the R&A to assess the distribution and status of heather on UK golf courses. Initially the project will involve a comprehensive questionnaire to be circulated to every golf course in the UK. The questionnaire has been designed to determine heather distribution throughout the UK and management, as well as golfers perceptions of heather on the course. All clubs with or without heather are being asked to participate fully in this part of the project.

We urge all golf clubs to take the time and trouble to complete the questionnaires, as this heather survey provides an important opportunity

for golf to demonstrate its environmental role and responsibilities. The project presents a unique opportunity for the golf industry to work together with other national conservation bodies so contributing to the preservation of this important but declining habitat. Ecologically, heather is an important and unique habitat only found in North-West Europe. Approximately 20% of the European heather resource is found in the UK. It has been estimated that over the last 50 years the UK has lost 80% of its heather cover.

Golf as a sport is a major landscape user. There are over 2,500 golf courses in the UK occupying in the order of 130,000 hectares of land. Of these, 400 are estimated to support heather.

The STRI Ecology Research Unit believes that golf has a significant role to play in the conservation and management of heather but more detailed information is required. The heather research project is designed to provide this important information.

The work will be carried out over two years by Bob Taylor, STRI Senior Ecologist, and Jonathan Hart-Woods, Project Co-ordinator. The information collected in this first year will be used to determine sites for detailed survey work in year two.

If you require any further information on the heather survey research project or the work of the STRI Ecology Research unit please contact: Jonathan Hart-Woods on 01274 565131

Loch Lomond achieve new environmental status

Loch Lomond Golf Club has achieved designation as a 'Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary' by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International, endorsed by the USGA.

Loch Lomond is the first golf club in Scotland, the second in Europe and the 154th course in the world to receive the honour, which recognises commitment to developing and maintaining an environmental programme. The other European course is Valderrama in Spain.

In 1996, Loch Lomond joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programme for Golf Courses which provides information and guidance to golf courses to help them preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources.

"Loch Lomond Golf Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental programme. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Joellen Zeh, Staff Ecologist for the Cooperative Sanctuary System.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas. These categories include environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, integrated pest management, water conservation, and water quality management," explained Zeh.

Commenting on their achievement, Abby Miller, Conservation Manager at Loch Lomond, said:

"Since we joined the programme in 1996, we have been working hard to put in place a number of environmental initiatives and it is great to receive such recognition for our efforts. With this award under our belt, we are ready to continue with looking at ways to further improve and develop our commitment to the wildlife and environment at Loch Lomond. Taking care of such a sensitive site requires dedication and, while delighted with what we have achieved so far, we believe this is really only the first stage in a long term programme of environmental management."

Loch Lomond were the Scottish Regional winners of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and Rhône-Poulenc.

John Fife Memorial Trust travel and study awards

The Trust was established in 1979 in memory of John Weir Fife, a well known member of the Scottish Nursery trade.

It provides awards to assist those involved in commercial or amenity horticulture or related work to broaden their knowledge and experience. Applicants should normally be

resident in Scotland and should preferably be under 30 years of age. Awards are usually intended to enable travel either in the UK or overseas, but other purposes may be considered if they contribute to career development.

The normal maximum award is £500 but the Trustees may accept up

to £1000 for proposals considered to have merit.

The Trustees invite applications for suitable candidates for awards to be used in 1999. Application forms are now available from: Mr T.P. Smith, 12 Bruntsfield Crescent, Edinburgh EH10 4AH Tel: 0131447 1035 and should be returned by March 15.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



BAGCC news

Jonathan Franks, Administrative Secretary to the British Association of Golf Course Constructors, is to retire at the Association's AGM later this month.

His successor will be journalist and PR consultant, David White, who will be responsible for the administration, media, public relations and all other matters pertinent to the promotion of the Association.

David can be contacted at The Dorny House, Cooden Beach Golf Club, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 4TR Tel: 01424 84238 Fax: 01424 843375 e-mail: writelinks@telinco.com.

Textron renew Iseki link

Representatives of Japanese tractor manufacturers Iseki recently renewed an agreement with Textron Turf Care in Ipswich for Textron to continue to act as Iseki's UK agents.

Jacobsen Textron had previously marketed Iseki from their base in Kettering. The new five year deal is set to take the relationship between the two companies well into the 21st century.

Iseki were represented by Mr. Fukatani, Executive Managing Director; Mr. Abe, Overseas Business Managing Director and Mr. Hamada, Director Iseki Europe.

The agreement was signed on behalf of Textron by Peter Bell, Marketing Director.

Speaking after the signing, Peter said "Jacobsen has had an excellent relationship with Iseki and their tractors have built up a tremendous reputation in the UK for both quality and performance. Textron is delighted to continue the partnership and we regard Iseki as a fundamental part of our strategy to provide the strongest possible choice of products for our customers to meet all applications both now and in the future."

New appointment for John

Oliver Seeds has appointed John Hughes as Amenity Technical Manager with responsibility for Sales and Business Development in the North of England.

John has joined the company from British Seed Houses where he spent 10 years, most recently as Senior Technical Manager for Amenity Grasses. He has a degree in Applied Biology and has spent time working with the N.I.A.B., Welsh Plant

Breeding Station and as a lecturer.

"I am pleased to have joined a forward thinking and professional company that is committed to supplying quality amenity grass seeds to the industry. I am confident that with my experience I will be able to strengthen further their commitment to providing a first class level of support and advice to their Amenity Customers" commented John.



A GREAT ADDITION



Ian McMillan, winner of the '97 Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping, gives a review of his main prize - a Toro 2300 - after a year in use.

Hankley Common Golf Club were delighted to be the recipient of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the fabulous prize of the Toro 2300 has made our maintenance practices easier. "The quality of build of the new machine is superb and a worthy addition to the Toro stable. It also offers new features, such as back lapping, reel speed control as well as fully hydraulic drive. These features give this machine added refinements normally only found on

greens triples. This is also a measure of Toro's commitment to manufacturing market leading equipment

"The three wheel drive capabilities of this machine allow it to get gracefully to those steep areas around the course which require a finer cut. The fact that this facility can be engaged by the simple operation of a lever from the seat gives the operator full control in those sticky situations. The transport speed has allowed us to carry out the mowing of tees and surrounds

considerable quicker, therefore, keeping us ahead of early morning play. The construction, design and large volume of the grass boxes make for easier use and longer periods between empties.

All the operators of this machine have found it to be easy to use and set up. The quality of cut from the eight blade units is excellent. Coupled with the Toro links mounting system allows the units to hug the contours of the turf ensuring that top quality cut.

1998 winner



John Coleman is pictured astride his well-earned Toro Greensmaster 3200-D with the rest of the Abbeydale GC greenstaff, Chairman of Green, Jack Copeland (4th left), and Peter Mansfield of Lely UK Ltd (extreme right)



Sisis go online

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd, leading designers and manufacturers of turf maintenance equipment for sportsgrounds and golf courses now have a website. For details of the whole SISIS range, and topical news stories visit "www.sisis.com".

New BIGCA appointment

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects has appointed Sharon McGregor as Secretary.

She joins the Institute after the highly successful BIGCA International Conference held at Wentworth in November, which saw 110 delegates from all over the world attend the event, and the Conference Dinner.

The British Institute, now has 60 members including its Diploma Students, the third intake of whom are to commence their two-year programme at Merrist Wood College in February.

On the move

The Greenkeeper Supply Company has appointed Liam Galway to the position of National Sales Manager.

In addition Michael Fance, previously Course Manager at Stock Brook Manor Golf and Country Club, in Essex, has been appointed Southern Sales Representative and Richard Pull, previously an assistant at Knaresborough Golf Club has been appointed Northern Sales Representative.

Stalham win Kubota contract

Kubota (UK) Ltd has appointed Stalham Engineering as its exclusive dealer to cover the NR postcode area within the county of Norfolk.

Based at The Green, Stalham, Norfolk, the company is now providing comprehensive and professional sales, service and parts support for the full range of Kubota's market leading compact tractors and matching implements, ride-on mowers, power products and garden machinery. Customers include local authorities, golf and sports clubs, landscape contractors, farmers, growers, estate owners, equestrian centres, schools, colleges and domestic gardeners.

Stalham Engineering and its customers will receive full support on equipment sales, technical enquiries and demonstrations from Kubota's regional sales manager, David Roberts, backed by Kubota (UK) Ltd's sales, service and parts staff located at the company's Thame, Oxfordshire headquarters.



Ken Richardson was laid low during BTME but has compiled an excellent column from his sick bed...

Good planning is the key to your future

When I thought about the content of this column, I thought that I would be able to report on the successful outcome of the Learning Experience 1999, which thanks to the continuing support of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products continues to gain momentum and prestige as the Premier Education and Training event for Golf Greenkeepers in Europe. However, all my plans came to nought as I have been laid low by a mysterious virus affecting my balance mechanism causing me to miss most of the week at Harrogate.

However, thanks to Sami and all the other members of staff who filled in during my absence, there didn't appear to be any problems. Sami tells me that all of our planning over the past 11 months paid off and things ran very smoothly and I am eagerly looking forward to viewing the videos of the Conference and Seminars. Don't forget that videos and written transcripts are available for all Conference Sessions and for all Seminars, contact HQ for details. I did manage to see some of the Seminars during my brief visit to Harrogate on Thursday and Friday and it was

encouraging to see that numbers of delegates were up from last year.

I was very pleased to hear that three more Master Greenkeeper candidates had been successful in the November examination. David Duke, David Hannam and John Quinn joining Syd Arrowsmith, who passed the examination in March, to collect their awards during the National Education Conference. We now have a total of 20 Master Greenkeepers, five in the USA, 14 in Britain and one on mainland Europe.

The planning for the Learning Experience 2000 has begun and the theme for next year is Past, Present and Future. The plan is to show what we can learn from our ancestors, the greenkeepers of the past, relate that to what is happening now, at the end of one century and at the start of the next and to see, if possible, what the future holds, not just for greenkeeping but also for golf in general. If you have any ideas on subject matter or speakers the please contact Sami or myself at HQ.

The Local Training season is almost at a close with the Spring courses ending on 24 February. We organised four

extra courses, than those advertised but we also had to cancel three courses due to lack of support. I have already been approached to run computing courses, health and safety, first aid and budget management courses for this Autumn and I will be looking at the hundreds of feed back sheets from 98/99 to assess what other courses are most needed. If you have any ideas on the type of course that should be run then contact us as soon as possible.

We ran seven courses in our new training room, the Key Room, at BIGGA HOUSE, last year. All delegates felt that we had designed and implemented an excellent training resource where delegates could learn without distractions. More courses are planned for 1999 and details will be published in March. The Key Room is available for hire and we are working with Aldwark Manor Country Club and Hotel on delegate rates. Watch out for details in future editions of Greenkeeper International.

Readers of this column may remember me giving detail of the BIGGA HQ bid to become Investors in People. This is a Government Standard that

recognises that a company is fulfilling a range of criteria to develop its most valuable resource, its people. We have had to work hard to produce the evidence to support our bid and we are about to enter the assessment phase.

The BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition was re-launched at Harrogate.

The Competition will be sponsored, again by Amazone Ground Care and by the Grassroots Trading Company. Application forms will be sent to all golf clubs, in Britain, during February and entries need to be returned to BIGGA HOUSE by 3 May. Any golf club that entered in 1998 and wishes to enter in 1999 needs to complete those parts of their application form where major changes have occurred in the last year.

Watch out for details of this year's TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions, which should be arriving at your golf club/training provider soon.

Entries have to be back at BIGGA HOUSE by the beginning of May so make sure that you send yours back as soon as possible.



This month, Geoff Steel gives advice to those looking for a financial advisor...

Standing up for your independence

Financial Advisers come in all shapes and sizes but they are divided into two types. They are either tied to one company or they are Independent.

All Financial Advisers are regulated by the authorities and must be qualified, but it is still essential to check the advice you are given.

Advisers who are representatives of a company can only advise on the products sold by that company. Independent Financial Advisers have a duty to offer advice based on the whole range of products available from every source.

It therefore makes sense to consult an Independent Financial Adviser.

If you are not sure of the status of the individual you are talking to check their business card. It will tell

you quite clearly if the adviser is independent.

Most Banks and Building Societies have their own Insurance Companies and only sell their own products. However many of these companies do have Independent Financial Advisers which you can see if you insist. The banks will not usually make it easy for you to gain access to the Independent Adviser. Why should this be? It's purely because they make more profit from selling their own products than they do by offering independent advice.

Many customers will accept advice given by the first company representative they see, believing there is little difference between various companies and their products. There can be huge differences in the

cost and effectiveness of different policies. Unfortunately the large companies that you see on the High Street can take advantage of customer loyalty. Personally I have recently seen policies from major well-known names, which cost almost double those available from more competitive companies.

It is important whoever you see to ensure that you compare costs and charges of different companies. Would you buy a car from the first person you saw without comparing prices?

To contact a financial adviser you can telephone IFA Promotion hot line on 0117 971 1177. They will give you the names of your nearest Independent Financial Advisers. Nearly all of them will offer a free

initial review of your requirements. Many people think it is expensive to see someone Independent. This is not correct. It is very often cheaper than seeing a tied company representative.

If you would like a quick comparison of any existing quotation or policy you may have, please telephone me on my freephone number, 0800 783 5132.

Geoff Steel is an Independent Financial Adviser with Walsh Lucas & Co and he welcomes comments from readers. His freephone telephone number is 0800 783 5132. Walsh Lucas & Co are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.