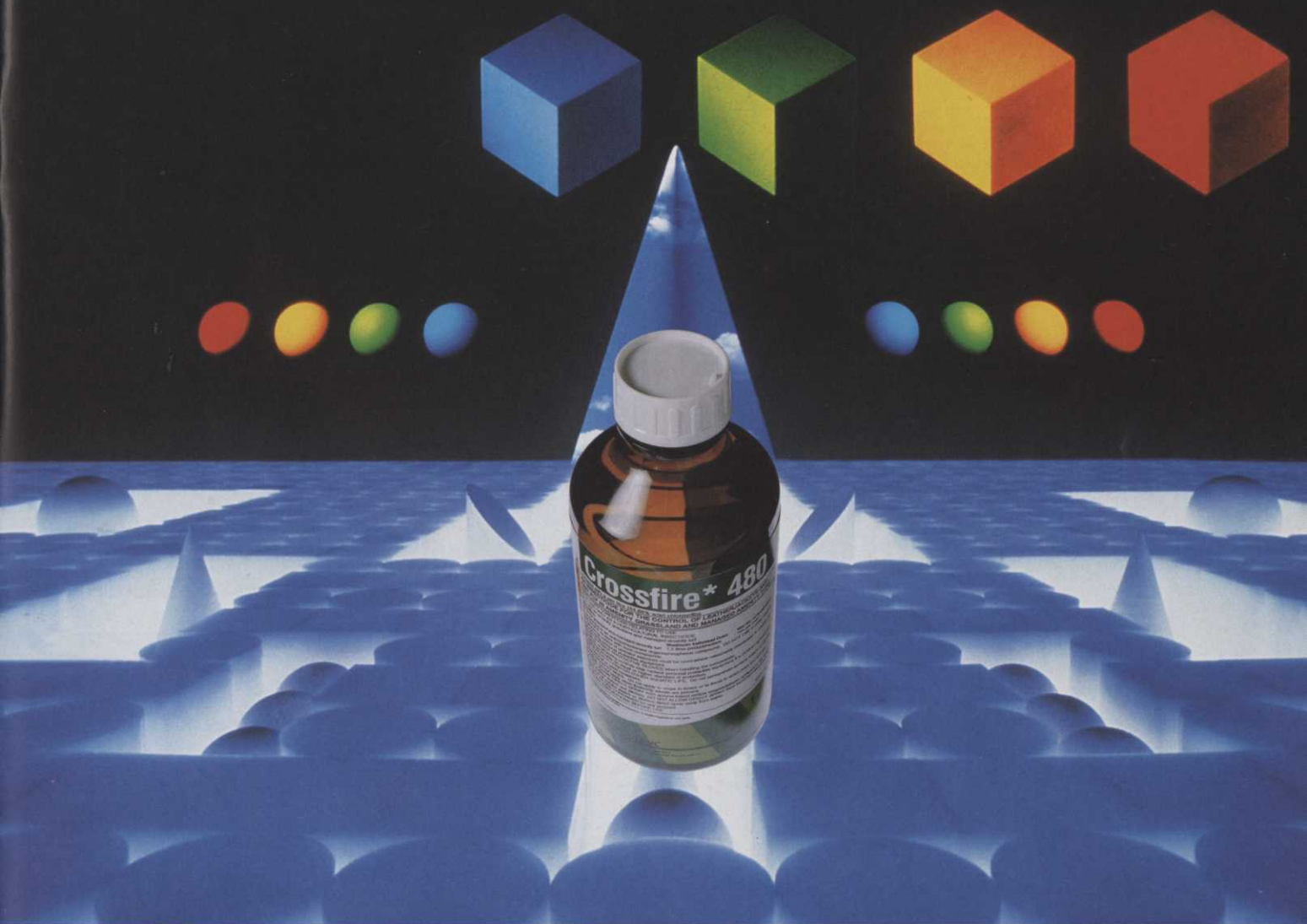


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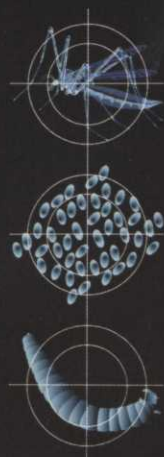


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Top and bottom left: Despite the horrendous rain prior to the Championship Andy Campbell and his team had both courses looking magnificent

Above: Tony James receives the wonderful National Championship trophy from Richard Minton, National Sales Manager of Scotts, and David Jenkins, Managing Director of Charterhouse/Redexim

Bottom right: Players and caddies ready themselves before tackling the Cheshire Course







**The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship supported by Softspikes, was a truly outstanding event. Carden Park showed its true quality in every way and both on and off the course it was an occasion which will be remembered by all who attended.**

Pictures by Alan Birch

# CHAMPIONSHIP Gold

THE CHARTERHOUSE/SCOTT'S  
**NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIP**  
FOR THE BIGGA CHALLENGE TROPHY



Sitting six shots off the lead going into the final round, Tony James' thoughts may well have gone back to July and Carnoustie where Paul Lawrie recovered from ten shots back to win.

If this were indeed the case such memories obviously inspired the 30-year-old to some outstanding deeds over Carden Park's Nicklaus Course. Where he had putted poorly over the first round, with seven three putts and a four putt, he was inspired on the greens and shot a nett 64 to snatch the title of BIGGA's Champion Golfer by a single stroke.

"I got up early on the second day, bought a course planner and spent an hour on the range. I thought I had an outside chance," explained the Tehidy Park Assistant.

"It is by far the biggest event I've ever won and I feel just brilliant.

"It was a beautiful place to stay and to play and it was a great honour to be a part of the event...an even greater honour to win."

Since returning to work he has spent time fielding the congratulations of his club members while the replica trophy has pride of place among his BIGGA memorabilia in his home.

While Tony was a deserving winner credit must also go to David Cuthbertson, who led after the first round then chipped in twice at the beginning of the second round only to be overtaken by Tony's late charge.

The quality of the golf and the golfers was extremely high with 13 entrants at two handicap or better and a further 26 between three and five handicap.

The gross prize went to one of the scratch men Tony McLure, whose two round total of 147 was a superb achievement with the courses playing so long.

While the honours on the course

were handed out there is no doubting the real heroes of the event - Course Manager Andy Campbell and his team.

With five and a half inches of rain falling four a half days before the event and both courses closed the day before everyone arrived and the Nicklaus course under three feet of water in places Andy did a more than passable impression of King Canute to have them playable at all.

The fact that both courses were played, as per the programme, is a tribute to the endless hours of work carried out, often well into the night.

We look forward to returning next year...hopefully after a long dry spell!

## Results

### Winner of the BIGGA Championship

1. Anthony James, Tehidy Park, 139 Nett;
2. David Cuthbertson, Slaley Hall GC, 140;
3. Anthony Knight, Kingsdown GC, 142.

### 36 Hole Aggregate, Gross

1. Tony McLure, Whickham GC, 147;
2. Lee Corfield, Golf de Rimaison, France, 149 (better second round);
3. Greg Evans, Ealing GC, 149.

### 1st Round Winners

- 0-9. D. Davies, 72; 10-17. T. Bremer, 75; 18-28. C. Pennyquick, 72.

### 2nd Round Winners

- 0-9. S. Harvey, 67; 10-17. A. Howarth, 70; 18-28. P. Neve, 73.

### Regional Team Cup

1. Northern - 1176, T. McLure, T. Weston, D. Collins, D. Davies, D. Hayes, D. Cuthbertson, P. Neve and P. Bowler.
2. South West & South Wales - 1181, J. Hamlet, A. Knight, M. Grogan, A. Gawman, T. Smith, A. James, L. Corfield and N. Webber.

### Putting Competition

- Brian Turner, Sunningdale GC, 33

### Par 3 Competition.

- Allen Lewis, Llanymynech GC, 26





Above: Did you hear the one about the wonderful After Dinner Speaker? John Simonett involved a huge number of the guests in his act.

Below: It's not how, it's how may. The scoreboard conceals many a story behind its simple numbers.

BRITISH & INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
CHARTERHOUSE / SCOTTS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

PLAYER	SCORE	NET	GRAND	NET	GRAND	AGE
11 BARTNEY	72	72	72	72	72	38
12 JUDITH	73	73	73	73	73	38
13 JUDITH	74	74	74	74	74	38
14 THOMAS	75	75	75	75	75	38
15 THOMAS	76	76	76	76	76	38
16 THOMAS	77	77	77	77	77	38
17 THOMAS	78	78	78	78	78	38
18 THOMAS	79	79	79	79	79	38
19 THOMAS	80	80	80	80	80	38
20 THOMAS	81	81	81	81	81	38
21 THOMAS	82	82	82	82	82	38
22 THOMAS	83	83	83	83	83	38
23 THOMAS	84	84	84	84	84	38
24 THOMAS	85	85	85	85	85	38
25 THOMAS	86	86	86	86	86	38
26 THOMAS	87	87	87	87	87	38
27 THOMAS	88	88	88	88	88	38
28 THOMAS	89	89	89	89	89	38
29 THOMAS	90	90	90	90	90	38
30 THOMAS	91	91	91	91	91	38
31 THOMAS	92	92	92	92	92	38
32 THOMAS	93	93	93	93	93	38
33 THOMAS	94	94	94	94	94	38
34 THOMAS	95	95	95	95	95	38
35 THOMAS	96	96	96	96	96	38
36 THOMAS	97	97	97	97	97	38
37 THOMAS	98	98	98	98	98	38
38 THOMAS	99	99	99	99	99	38
39 THOMAS	100	100	100	100	100	38
40 THOMAS	101	101	101	101	101	38
41 THOMAS	102	102	102	102	102	38
42 THOMAS	103	103	103	103	103	38
43 THOMAS	104	104	104	104	104	38
44 THOMAS	105	105	105	105	105	38
45 THOMAS	106	106	106	106	106	38
46 THOMAS	107	107	107	107	107	38
47 THOMAS	108	108	108	108	108	38
48 THOMAS	109	109	109	109	109	38
49 THOMAS	110	110	110	110	110	38
50 THOMAS	111	111	111	111	111	38
51 THOMAS	112	112	112	112	112	38
52 THOMAS	113	113	113	113	113	38
53 THOMAS	114	114	114	114	114	38
54 THOMAS	115	115	115	115	115	38
55 THOMAS	116	116	116	116	116	38
56 THOMAS	117	117	117	117	117	38
57 THOMAS	118	118	118	118	118	38
58 THOMAS	119	119	119	119	119	38
59 THOMAS	120	120	120	120	120	38
60 THOMAS	121	121	121	121	121	38
61 THOMAS	122	122	122	122	122	38
62 THOMAS	123	123	123	123	123	38
63 THOMAS	124	124	124	124	124	38
64 THOMAS	125	125	125	125	125	38
65 THOMAS	126	126	126	126	126	38
66 THOMAS	127	127	127	127	127	38
67 THOMAS	128	128	128	128	128	38
68 THOMAS	129	129	129	129	129	38
69 THOMAS	130	130	130	130	130	38
70 THOMAS	131	131	131	131	131	38
71 THOMAS	132	132	132	132	132	38
72 THOMAS	133	133	133	133	133	38
73 THOMAS	134	134	134	134	134	38
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81 THOMAS	142	142	142	142	142	38
82 THOMAS	143	143	143	143	143	38
83 THOMAS	144	144	144	144	144	38
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86 THOMAS	147	147	147	147	147	38
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94 THOMAS	155	155	155	155	155	38
95 THOMAS	156	156	156	156	156	38
96 THOMAS	157	157	157	157	157	38
97 THOMAS	158	158	158	158	158	38
98 THOMAS	159	159	159	159	159	38
99 THOMAS	160	160	160	160	160	38
100 THOMAS	161	161	161	161	161	38

Above: The Championship Banquet on the Monday evening was a most enjoyable occasion and (bottom) After Dinner Speaker John Simonett did manage to confuse Bert Cross with a knotty problem.

Right: Richard Minton; BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, David Jenkins and Carden Park Course Manager and Master Greenkeeper, Andy Campbell pictured with the impressive array of silverware.







Above. Richard Minton with Tony McLure winner of the Gross prize, Tony James, with David Cuthbertson, runner-up in the individual but winner of the team event with the Northern Region; Bert Cross of the Northern Region and David Jenkins



Above: Tony McLure played some fine golf to clinch the gross prize



Above: David Cuthbertson led after the first round and only Tony James' 64 denied him overall victory.



Above. Anthony Knight finished third on 142 after two solid rounds.

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Photos: AllSport Photography

# Meet BIGGA's



**BIGGA's new President, Sir Michael Bonallack spoke about greenkeeping and BIGGA with Scott MacCallum in the R&A Clubhouse, just after the Dunhill Cup in October.**

Sir Michael Bonallack is truly a remarkable man. As a golfer he won the Amateur Championship five times, including three times in succession – the last time it was won by the same player more than once was by Peter McEvoy more than 20 years ago.

He also competed in nine Walker Cups and was twice leading amateur in The Open Championship. He is arguably the top British amateur golfer of the century. He was also recently listed as number 132 in Top 200 Male Players in History... of any nationality.

Having retired from the top class amateur scene he then turned his attentions to golf administration and, if anything, his achievements in this field have all but eclipsed his playing record.

As Secretary of the R&A from 1983 until September of this year he has overseen the well being, and expansion, of the game and masterminded the development of The Open Championship. In both these endeavours he can be justifiably proud of his record and he has handed the reins of the R&A over to Peter Dawson with the game and The Open in rude good health with the future just as rosy.

Uniquely the day after he retired from the role of Secretary he "drove in" as Captain of the R&A and the next 12 months will see him travelling the world attending Championships and functions in his new role.

He is undoubtedly one of the most respected figures in the game and it is therefore a huge honour that he accepted the invitation to become BIGGA's new President.

**Greenkeeper International:** After a lifetime in golf what are your first recollections of the people who look after the golf course?

**Sir Michael:** I was a junior at Thorpe Hall Golf Club in Essex and the Head Greenkeeper was a Scot called Jock Glass. He was to my mind almost the most important man in the club. As a junior you'd be playing a lot, going round and round and round in the school holidays, and Jock was always there working like a beaver. If you didn't put back a divot or rake a bunker you were soon told by Jock.

As I grew up the importance of the job became more and more apparent to me. Whereas nearly every club regarded their clubhouse as the be-all-and-end-all, you actually went to play the course. You could put up with very inadequate clubhouse facilities but if the course was good that's why you'd remember it.

# new President



## Meet BIGGA's new President

**Greenkeeper International:**  
What do you remember about the quality of golf course conditioning in those days?

**Sir Michael:** The greens were probably a bit slower but on the other hand the overall condition of the course was probably as good, if not better, than it is now. That's because they didn't have any problem getting rid of worms and there weren't any inorganic fertilisers used then. It was all very natural.

In the summer the grass got very burnt but the turf was still good. Indeed, they probably had far more natural, fine grasses in those days than we do now. It's only latterly when fertiliser and water came in that meadow grass really took over.

**Greenkeeper International:**  
What do you believe to be the major milestones that the greenkeeping profession has passed over the last 30 years or so?

**Sir Michael:** Certainly the amalgamation of the three associations and the formation of BIGGA was the big milestone as it really did focus attention on to the greenkeeping profession.

Also the education programmes that have been set up to encourage young people to see greenkeeping as a profession they can move into.

The profession has moved from being an art to a science and is now not so much by the seat of your pants. The older greenkeepers almost did it by feel and you can't teach that although you can hand it down.

**Greenkeeper International:**  
What are your views on the current state of the greenkeeping industry?

**Sir Michael:** I think it is very healthy. The overall standard of greenkeeping has gone up enormously. There are very few bad greenkeepers now and if they are bad they don't last. That is a very healthy sign.

It is a science now. The greenkeeper has to be an agronomist, he or she has to recognise all sorts of diseases and know the appropriate treatment.

People expect far more out of a golf course now than they did. Courses used to be closed in the winter now they have to be open 365 days a year and stand up to a lot of rounds.

It is also good news that we are getting more young people coming into the job as a profession. They are ambitious and look up to the top people in the good jobs on excellent salaries and see that the rewards are there if they work hard.

Nowadays the Head Greenkeeper has more responsibility than the Club Secretary and a much bigger budget. In the past greenkeepers very rarely had responsibility for their own budgets. Chairmen of Green told them what to spend on and when to spend it. Now they control and draw up their own budgets. They are greenkeeper managers really.

**Greenkeeper International:**  
What would you say modern greenkeepers are particularly good at?

**Sir Michael:** They are very good at recognising and tackling diseases at the early stages. They are also exceptionally good at course presentation while their man management skills are something which have improved

no end. They know how to get the best out of their staff.

The equipment they now have available to them is improving, and becoming more sophisticated, all the time and this has helped in the general conditioning. They have to keep up to date with it all and know what is right for their course. It's a long way from the days when they used to cut the greens with a scythe... although I don't remember those. I read about them!

**Greenkeeper International:**  
Conversely what would you say today's greenkeepers need to brush up on?

**Sir Michael:** I don't find too many complaints. Greenkeepers get brow beaten by members and good greenkeepers don't let themselves be influenced too much by the criticisms from the members.

Having praised their course presentation I do believe there is over presentation on occasion. For example with contrived scalloping of fairways. There is nothing wrong with reasonably straight lines and it doesn't look natural if it is in and out in and out all the way down the fairway. It is a matter of luck if you finish in one of the bays on the fairway or in the rough.

**Greenkeeper International:**  
How do you feel greenkeepers are regarded by club members generally?

**Sir Michael:** It is altering all the time now. I think they really do regard the greenkeeper as a superior technician. Many courses have good young keen greenkeepers who have had the advantage of better education now than they did in the past. Members realise that they are looking after their greatest asset. They appreciate how valuable a good greenkeeper is and hopefully the wage structure is reflecting that.

**Greenkeeper International:**  
Talking about that are you in favour of the new Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries, rather than BIGGA, making salary recommendations?

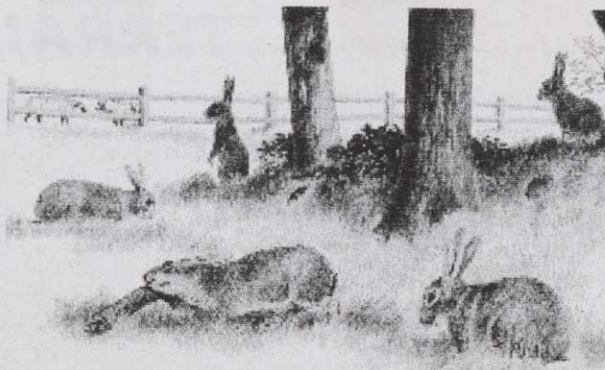
**Sir Michael:** It was always a danger if the Association was seen to be setting salaries for its own members that it would be viewed as a trade union, and that wouldn't have been a good image for a greenkeeping association to get. It's gone through that and the Association is now no longer seen as a trade union but as a professional body.







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Greenkeeper International:

How would you see the game of golf progressing as a whole over the next few years and where would you see the greenkeepers fitting into that progression?

Sir Michael: Golf is going to continue to expand globally and a lot of the expanding countries will look, as they do now, to this country for support. For example Elmwood College has formed a liaison with the China Golf Association.

I hope that our greenkeeping skills, which are in some ways a lot different to the Americans in terms of grasses and as well as different ideals, will be taken to a lot of these countries.

There will be tremendous opportunities for greenkeepers. They are going to have to learn foreign languages as well as all the other things they do.

As golf becomes more and more popular and more and more people playing the courses there will be much more responsibility on greenkeepers to be able to maintain their courses.

Greenkeeper International:

Do many of the top pros have a particular empathy with greenkeepers - any who stand out?

Sir Michael: All the top pros have a close empathy with greenkeepers and many single out the greenkeepers and find out who they are. I noticed Jose Maria (Olazabal) last night (at the presentation of the Dunhill Cup) meeting Eddie Adams to thank him and tell him that the course was in great shape.

Greenkeeper International:

What are your views on BIGGA and how the Association has progressed?

Sir Michael: It has come on by leaps and bounds. The service it now gives the membership, the way they are informed; the success of the magazine; Harrogate and BTME. These are all focal points for the members and makes them feel that they are part of a very worthwhile body. It also lets them keep up-to-date with all the latest developments in greenkeeping, and enables an exchange of views. It has raised the whole status of the profession.

Greenkeeper International:

How would you hope to contribute as President?

Sir Michael: Well my knowledge of greenkeeping is minuscule I'm afraid but I'll certainly work to raise the status of both the Association and the profession as a whole and try to enhance the reputation that it's already got.

BIGGA's members are looking after the most important asset that a golf club has and the golf club member tends to forget that.

Willie Whitelaw is going to be a hard man to follow. He was very supportive of the Association and took a very close interest in it. I've always tried to support the Association through my job at the R&A and the R&A has been very sympathetic to the aims of the Association and given financial help over the years and advice when and where it's needed.

I'll try to act as a link between the Association and the R&A, and any other bodies if necessary.



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