

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

BTME 2001

& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME



THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The BTME 2001 event combines the National Education Conference - 'The Learning Experience' - sponsored by Textron Turf Care with the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. The formal conference is supplemented with practical Greenkeeping workshops and a Seminar programme which means there is plenty to interest everyone involved in the golf and fine turf industry from Master Greenkeepers to Assistant Greenkeepers.

The event attracts Golf Greenkeepers from all over the world, encouraging learning, debate and an exchange of ideas and experience. The programme is available to both BIGGA members and non-members, although members receive preferential rates. While the technical forums are primarily concerned with Golf Course maintenance and greenkeeping issues, many of the sessions are equally relevant to general turf maintenance and groundsman-ship, and would interest those working in other sportsturf sectors. The programme also has a keynote speaker and seminars which will be of particular interest for Chairmen of Green and Golf Club secretaries.



CONFERENCE

22nd and 23rd January 2001, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Sessions include the following topics and speakers:

Growing

David Lawson, STRI; Dennis Mortram, Reaseheath; Dr. Paul Rieke, Michigan Univ

Human Resource Management

Frank Newberry, Duncan McGilvray, Potters Bar GC; Brin Bendon, Vector Training

Water Management

Graeme Francis, Hydroscape; Junier Brown, NRA; Kneale Diamond, Hanbury Manor GC

Environmental Management

Martin Gunn and Malcolm Peake, Temple GC; Rob Witherspoon, Guelph Turfgrass Institute Canada; Jonathan Smith, Scottish Wildlife Trust

Workshops run concurrently with the Conference sessions and include:

Basic Machinery Maintenance, Computer Skills, Golf Course Design and Grasses/Soil Science



SEMINARS

Wednesday 24 January 2001

Keynote speaker: Richard Noble of Thrust 2 World Landspeed Record fame

The Law and the Golf Club, Health & Safety, Golf and the Environment - the US experience, Erosion Control and Mulching

Thursday 25 January 2001

Golfdom Magazine, Changes in Training Provision, Topdressing - Material Standards, An overview of Australian Golf Courses - problems and solutions

EXHIBITION

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held at Harrogate since 1989 and is the biggest indoor show of its kind in Europe. Over 6,000 visitors and more than 200 Turfcare Industry manufacturers and suppliers were present at last year's show, and there will be even more in 2001 with the addition of a new exhibition hall. The exhibition is open from 9.00am to 5.30pm Wednesday and Thursday and from 9.00am to 1.30pm on Friday.



BANQUET

The week's events are rounded off on the Thursday evening with a banquet in the Harrogate International Centre. Cabaret entertainment this year will be provided by 60's pop sensation 'The Searchers' and singer Susan Maughan.

24-26 JANUARY, 2001
EDUCATION PROGRAMME STARTS JANUARY 22
HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, HARROGATE, ENGLAND

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS SEMINARS BANQUET OVER 200 EXHIBITORS

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A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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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December 2000

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by January 8, 2001

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BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small, passes on his thought to those suffering in the floods, takes in the Northern Ireland Education Conference and the final of the Toro Awards

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the January 2001 edition of Greenkeeper International is Friday, December 8, 2000

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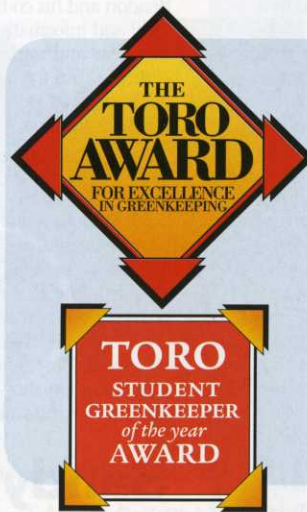
Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £36 per year, Europe and Eire £46. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

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The 2000 Toro Awards

The final judging of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student of the Year Award uncovered two wonderful winners in Iain Ritchie and Jonathan Cleland.

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Features

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Neil Thomas reports on the selection of the ten delegates who will represent the Association on the Bernhard-sponsored trip to the CCSA Conference and Show in Vancouver, Canada, next year

10 Budget Boosters

Roland Taylor looks at a few ways to generate extra cash

21 2001: A Greenkeeping Odyssey

Would you believe Harrogate is just around the corner again? The opportunities to inform and enjoy yourself are already in place for what should be a tremendous occasion



Beware of Groundhog Day

There can't have been too many occasions in the last 30 years that have witnessed the scale of flooding we experienced at the end of October and beginning of November. It was truly horrific and a large proportion of the population suffered to some degree or another.

At the sharp end, and that included a number of BIGGA staff, homes were flooded and incalculable damage done, not to mention the loss of custom for many shops and businesses in flooded cities, towns and villages. Further down the scale were those people whose routes to work were blocked, and down further to those people who had to cancel weekend trips or recreational pursuits. All in all, a sizable percentage of the British population were affected.

As Elliott Small says in his "As I see it..." column golf courses are not the top priority when compared to people's homes but members will no doubt expect to get back on their courses as soon as is possible, if not sooner, to work out their frustrations on a lump of balata.

I suppose it leads to the pointed question. How tall should the posts for "Course Closed" signs be to keep them visible above water lines?

Regular work schedules go out of the window, winter programmes shelved and the thought of the effort required to bring a course back to its best after the floods have gone is enough to bring grown men to their knees. Which is exactly where those Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers and their teams earn their stripes.

Clearing up debris from sodden ground, ensuring that still saturated areas are roped off and that course furniture is retrieved and repaired can be a thankless task. Particularly if conducted under leaden skies, in the certain knowledge that with water tables at record levels the whole rigmarole will have to be repeated, and not just once. Groundhog Day comes to greenkeeping.

The golf course at Aldwark Manor, home of BIGGA HOUSE, is divided by the River Ure - a tributary of the River Ouse. Normally this flows quietly on, gobbling up the odd ball misdirected from the 14th tee, but as I write it has totally overwhelmed the entire area to the extent that most of the course is under feet of fast flowing water - the same thing happened in June would you believe - and remember we're just at the beginning of the winter. It provides a perfect example of the frequency with which this is likely to occur in the short, medium and long term and the problems which Richard Gamble and his team now face.

Looking at the pictures on page 5 you will see that the 14th fairway at Aldwark Manor looks far more inviting to Steven Redgrave than Lee Westwood.

Perhaps it will not just be the Coxless Four's magnificent achievement in Sydney that is a major shot in the arm to the sport of rowing.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



Address your letters to **The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF**, or email them to reception@bigga.co.uk

Toro thanks from a valiant Terry

I am writing to thank Toro and BIGGA for organising the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping 2000.

I was fortunate to reach the final four candidates for judging and was England's representative.

Unfortunately I was unsuccessful in winning the main prize, but I feel proud of what the Greenkeeping team has achieved at Dartmouth Golf and Country Club and to have represented England in this prestigious award.

I would like to thank a few people for their part in this achievement. Starting with Ralph Hitchens who originally orchestrated Dartmouth Golf and Country Club and recognised my talent at a very early stage. Members of my greenkeeping staff, for their exceptional efforts in preparing the course during the assessment stages of the competition and their professional approach to their work throughout the year. They were Kevin Yeoman, Graham Sulley, John Farkins, Dave Sroka, Charles Crisp, Neil Carter, Neil Curtis, Steve Reeves and Gene Lee. Thanks also to Jamie Waugh and all the staff and

members of DGCC for their encouragement and good wishes.

This award gives the opportunity for Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers to show their golf course management skills, it motivates and will improve all those who take part in the competition. As golf course management becomes more and more demanding by the golfing public, it is vital that greenkeepers continue to develop themselves and keep up with modern techniques, this will all lead to better playing surfaces for longer periods and greater recognition to the Greenkeeping Industry. I would recommend all Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers to use this competition for improving and developing themselves.

I would finally like to thank everyone associated with this quality competition and wish all the Greenkeepers that I was fortunate to meet at Aldwark Manor, the very best for the future. Well done Iain Ritchie a worthy winner.

Terry Farkins
Course Manager, Dartmouth G&CC

Praise for BIGGA training courses

I recently attended a Budget & Project Management course which was held at BIGGA HOUSE. I would like to thank Ken Richardson and Sami Collins for supplying us with fantastic facilities and organising a faultless course. I would also like to thank Brin Bendon and his co-helper for once again delivering a good and informative four days of knowledge which was clear and understandable. I would like to congratulate Brin for his efforts in trying to understand our trade. Taking into account that Brin has no experience in golf course management he always relayed his knowledge across to us in a language in which we could relate to and which was received well by the group. This ability enabled the courses to roll along freely without anyone being left in the dark.

On my arrival at BIGGA HOUSE, I was surprised to hear that out of all the courses that had been organised, only the four days that I was attending would be run, even then, there were only six people attending. I have now attended a four day course, once a year for the last three years and I am amazed at the lack of support shown considering these courses have been set by information gained from Greenkeepers

and Course Managers alike. Like every single Greenkeeper, I have had a very busy year and am facing a hectic winter but I always manage to plan my programmes around the courses that I want to attend. I can't understand why a few more people who, like myself, take their careers very seriously and want to progress, don't do the same. Greenkeeping is a very specific art and requires a high standard of training. You guys at BIGGA deliver this standard.

I can strongly recommend that any person attending these courses, do get value for money and gain some sort of knowledge from precise and direct subjects. There is nothing scary or off putting because they have been put together especially for our trade, in a language that everyone can relate to.

Ken, I hope you and your team are able to gain the interest and support you need to continue to produce this high standard of education and the friendly environment to which it is delivered. I will see you next year.

Anthony Kyle,
Head Greenkeeper, Datchet GC

Sandy McDivot's right to reply

Just a short reply to the letter from A J Mannion in the November edition. Three things basically. Firstly lighten up.

Secondly, you may not like it but in the real world networking or "arse licking" as you so cynically and unimaginatively put it, is considered a highly recognised and essential skill. Big business, politics and industry are littered with people who are specialists at gaining friends and support and as a result become highly sought after as individuals who have the reputation of being able to get things done.

If you remain adamant that you know best, then I strongly suggest reading Dale Carnegie's classic book, "How to win friends and influence people" Although written some 80 odd years ago it is perhaps more relevant today than it has ever been. The title itself sums it up. If you want to influence someone, then the best way is first of all become their friend.

I was not trying to encourage BIGGA members to adopt the principles that have helped me so much, just trying to give people some ideas about how they may be able to relieve the pressure that is sometimes

placed upon them. Often, it is better to look at problems from a different angle and my ideas maybe unorthodox but, who knows, they may just work.

Thirdly, can I point out another basic fact to you? If you do not agree with what I have written, then ignore it. That is the marvellous thing about advice, you don't always have to follow it.

On a different note, can I say how delightful it was to see John Nudds writing in. John, who does not know my true identity, used to maintain Gerrards Cross in that traditional manner that produces greens that I so admired in my October article. He may have got a little bit of stick from some of the less discerning of his members as a result, but owing to his natural charm and friendliness would have come away with the respect that he deserved. No surprise that he became recognised as not only a superb greenkeeper but also as a first class long serving Captain of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon county golf team. Well done John, keep reading the magazine.

Sandy McDivot, alias, who knows?
Head Greenkeeper, Sludgecombe Pay and Play

The sad loss of a greenkeeper's friend

Immediate Past Chairman, Gordon Child, reflects on the debt greenkeeping owes Fred Hawtree, who died recently.

The 22nd of September 2000 saw the passing of one of the best-known men in golf. It was the day Fred Hawtree died. Fred, like his father before him, was a great ambassador of golf, as an architect. They were looked upon as the best in the business, a mantle that now passes to son Martin.

It is their input and support of greenkeeping, which I want to talk about. Fred's father was known as FG, and was the founder of the BGGGA back in 1912, and along with Beatrice, his wife, administered the Association affairs from their offices in Woodstock. He later became the second President, following his great friend Lord Riddell, who as Chairman of the News of the World presented the trophy that we still play for today.

Fred junior, or FW, followed his father in his support of greenkeeping. He edited the BGGGA magazines for many years and wrote regular columns, as well as being our President. I always think Fred's feeling for greenkeepers showed in everything he did, the way he designed his courses, always took in greenkeeping and maintenance prob-



Fred receives his honorary membership flanked by Gordon Child; wife, Mary; Marion Child and son, Martin

lems, and in a way, many would do well to copy today. Fred never missed an opportunity to promote greenkeeping, giving us a mention in many of his books and papers produced over the years. He travelled all over the UK giving talks to sections or BGGGA, and later BIGGA, never charging a penny for expenses.

It was an honour to be counted as one of his many friends, and Marion and I knew him as Uncle Fred. I will always recall that it was Fred and Mary, his dear wife, who were having dinner with us when I got a call to say that the three Associations had at last agreed to come together to form BIGGA. The approval on Fred's face said it all. He loved to talk about golf and greenkeeping, and

his wonderful collection of golf artefacts. They show his lifelong love affair with the game, indeed a love affair in which he was so generous, that it makes us realise just how little we contribute. My final thoughts of Fred are of when Marion and I travelled to Woodstock on the 28th June last year, when I as your Chairman, presented him with his Honorary Life Membership of BIGGA. Fred was absolutely delighted.

Fred is a great loss to us all and he will be sadly missed. We should be very grateful for everything he represented. The loss will be even greater for Mary and the family, but at least he was spared until after their Diamond Wedding.

Grass breeders accelerate pace of innovation

New gene mapping technology is helping plant breeders accelerate traditional 'back crossing' techniques and remove much of the trial and error involved in conventional turfgrass breeding methods.

That was the message delivered to turf care professionals from all sectors of the amenity industry at a recent turfgrass breeding open day organised by British Seed Houses at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER).

"Thanks to the latest gene marker technology, we can now identify desirable turfgrass characteristics more quickly and precisely. This means the pace of innovation in the turfgrass industry is set to accelerate of the next few years," said IGER turfgrass breeder Dr Danny Thorogood.

The IGER turfgrass breeding programme - funded by British Seed Houses since 1987 - has already produced two perennial rye grasses and thanks to new technology, more new rye grass, fescue and bent cultivars will start to emerge shortly.

"Both AberElf and AberImp are rated in a league of their own by the STRI in terms of tolerance to close mowing," Danny Thorogood said.

"AberImp in particular can tolerate being mown to 8mm or less and still maintains complete green cover with unparalleled shoot density.

"These attributes make the varieties good choices for cricket pitches and other closely-mown turf areas. In fact, AberImp is the ideal choice because it has 10% higher summer shoot density under 8mm mowing than any other commercially available rye grass variety," Dr Thorogood pointed out.

Visitors also heard that IGER scientists are now looking at other development issues. For example, turf professionals are demanding low maintenance, sustainable grasses that look good under a variety of environmental conditions.

Consequently, the IGER programme is now combining recognised sportsgrass requirements such as wear tolerance, fineness of leaf and shoot density with aesthetic traits such as colour retention; be this over winter, during drought or under low nitrogen fertiliser regimes.

Flooding causes havoc at Aldwark Manor



The scale of the recent flooding can be illustrated by the affect it had on Aldwark Manor Golf Club, home of BIGGA HOUSE. The joint 4th and 14th fairways looked like a potential venue for the World Angling Championships while the depth can be seen by how little of the 4th pin is visible. If you have any similar photographs of the extent of the flooding on your course, or the damage which was left after it went down please feel free to send them to the magazine to share with your fellow greenkeepers.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

www.tonyhusband.co.uk



IOG invites grant applications

The IOG is inviting applications for grants following the creation of a fund to help education and research within the industry, with particular emphasis on turf management. Applications, within GB&I, can be made by individuals or organisations and money made to fund special projects providing the benefit to the industry can be demonstrated.

Applicants should obtain an application form from IOG Head Office at Milton Keynes Tel: 01908 312511.

New appointments at Rolawn

Paul Dawson has been appointed Operations Director of Rolawn, having worked for the past year as Corporate Development Manager. Prior to that he spent the previous five years with the Shropshire Group.

He now turns his attention to developing and expanding Rolawn's 3000 acres of turf production. He will use his skills and experience to further the expansion and development of Rolawn's business. Already the main instigator of the new bulk products recently added to the Rolawn product range (Topsoil and Soil Conditioner) Paul will now focus the overall level of service provided by Rolawn to its customers and the operational efficiency of the business.

Andrew Langford, 32, has joined the company as Marketing Manager. Andrew, who will be based at the company's Head Office, Elvington near York, joins the company from Express Dairies Plc where he was Marketing Manager for three years, responsible for supporting household doorstep deliveries, national accounts and development of a foodservice business.

New premises are just the Tonick

Tonick Watering, established in Worthing in 1995 is moving to spacious new factory and offices in South Wales. Having outgrown the existing 1200 square feet premises, the company is moving to a 4000 square feet factory on a 17 acre site.

Hayter founder passes away

Douglas Hayter, founder of the renowned lawnmower manufacturing company which bears his name, has died at his home in Old Harlow at the age of 86.

After the Second World War, during which he had been a member of the Home Guard he directed his energies into timber built, temporary homes and agricultural machinery, both of which were treated at the time as priority occupations. Almost by chance, to clear the unwanted growth between his timber drying sheds, he developed the product that was to be his lasting monument - the rotary lawnmower.

Among his proudest personal achievements was the granting of a Royal Warrant in his name for the supply of agricultural machinery to HM the Queen.

He retired from business when he sold his company in 1985 to FH Tomkins plc. It is a fitting legacy to the foundations he laid that the company continues to prosper, offering employment to over 200 people locally and having a sphere of influence in many parts of the world. It is ironic that, only three weeks before his death, the company was sold into foreign ownership.

He is survived by his wife, Susan and by his daughter from his first marriage, Janet.

Northern Ireland Conference success

The Inaugural Northern Ireland Education Conference proved to be a major success. Following the coming together at the end of 1999 of our two Northern Ireland Sections to form one strong Section for the new millennium, this Conference was very much a yardstick for measuring the progress of BIGGA in Northern Ireland.

The occasion was a sell-out at Greenmount College in Antrim and I was pleased that we were able to provide a platform of speakers which has probably been unsurpassed in BIGGA's conference history. The speakers provided a broad spectrum of expertise and interest across the greenkeeping profession. Each session was stimulating and often controversial providing for excellent questions and subsequent debate. The speakers gave freely of their time despite heavy professional commitments and our appreciation is due to David Garland, Chris Kennedy, David McIndoe, John Quinn MG, Frank Ainsworth, Jim Arthur, Gordon Child and Peter Jones for ensuring a conference which delegates will look back upon as a memorable experience.

Not everything goes according to plan at such conferences. Triumph and disaster can go hand in hand. On this occasion two of our illustrious speakers were flying into Belfast on the morning of the Conference only to arrive at the local airport and find that their tickets were dated for the



previous day. Fortunately our intrepid travellers stood their ground and cancellations enabled them to board a flight. Had they failed, a decimated programme would hardly have been ideal for our Northern Ireland Section in terms of adverse reaction and publicity gained.

These problems can so easily arise and it does no harm to be reminded now and again of how vital the checking procedures are to the successful outcome of an event. BTME draws near the organisation of which is both complex and demanding. No doubt there will be problems along the way but if the week runs smoothly then the planning and organisation will have achieved its ends and staff will

breathe freely once more!

In Northern Ireland our thanks are particularly due to Graham Wylie and Frank Ainsworth for their input to the Conference and provision of excellent facilities, to Greenmount College for hosting the event and not least to the sponsors Evergreen Lawns, Golfing Union of Ireland, Graham Prosser - Tacit, Hortasoils Ltd, John Lindsay Professional Sports Turf, Laird Grass Machinery, Lely Ireland Ltd and Turf Care Irrigation Ltd. I am reliably informed that plans are underway to make this a biennial event. If so, I strongly recommend early booking of places next time around.

Neil Thomas

Avoncrop play host to distributors

Avoncrop hosted the 6th annual European Golf Distributors Conference in Bristol over four days at the end of October.

Members gathered from all over Europe including delegates from Holland, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and Sweden.

The group consists of distributor principals who all service the turf and amenity markets within their respective countries. The objectives of the group are to exchange information and ideas.

This millennium meeting proved very successful and areas of discussion included the dynamic market trends that are occurring across Europe. New products and technologies were also discussed, presentations from members on new developments proved very interesting, each of the group may well have potential new products to take back to their own markets.

Commitment to continue this useful exchange of ideas and market trends was made and next year's conference is to be hosted by Portugal.



Elliott Small presents Max Hedingham, Ashton & LGA GC, Preston, with the Whitelaw Bowl at the Whitelaw Cup played at Penrith recently. Watching on is Course Care, Managing Director, John Wood, the competition sponsor.

Can you help?

Waterbridge Golf Course, near Crediton, in Devon, is currently looking for spare parts for a SISIS Hydromain 17 and 20 models. If you have a machine surplus to your requirements please contact Martin Petherick Tel: 01363 85711 or golf@waterbridge.fsbusiness.co.uk

New online venture for Sovereign Turf

Sovereign Turf has launched its new website www.sovereignturf.com - which includes webpages in English, French, German and Spanish.

"These pages should be of particular interest to European golf greenkeepers and Course Managers," said Steve Williams, Sales Manager at Sovereign, because they have an overview of the turf operation in their own language.

Turf currently available is listed and the quality section posts up the turf declaration. This shows the results of the TGA quality assessment for the fields being harvested.

Sad passing of Mike Upton

Mike Upton, who recently joined Green Pride to cover the East Midlands, has died after a short illness.

"Ever cheerful and conscientious he will be greatly missed by customers and colleagues alike. Our sincere condolences go out to his family," said Duncan Bell, of Green Pride.

Mycorrhizal structures associated with turf roots

Intelligent disease control

Harmless to beneficial turf fungi

Still effective against disease

Amazingly, some species of fungus are hugely beneficial to your turf.

Mycorrhizal fungi develop a mutually beneficial relationship with turf roots for effective nutrient exchange, and increased resistance to drought, insect pests and disease.

As a result, turf associated with Mycorrhiza tends to be healthier.

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You'll also be glad to know that Rovral Green is still as effective as ever at controlling the harmful species like Fusarium, Red Thread and Dollar Spot. No wonder it's still the UK's No 1.

Rovral Green - it thinks for itself.



Fusarium



Dollar Spot



Associate Member



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Neil Thomas reports on the selection of the BIGGA Delegation to visit Canada...

TEN GOOD MEN AND TRUE

The Delegation

Midland Region

Anthony Bindley
Ray Clark

Northern Region

Anthony Davies MG
Jimmy Richardson

Scottish Region

Andrew Forrest
Archie Dunn

S West & S Wales Region

Peter Lacey
Richard Whyman

South East Region

Tom Smith
Raymond Day



From top; Neil Thomas, Sam McLean and Stephen Bernhard

"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" wrote John Keats of Autumn many years ago. My October odyssey around our Regions to help select our Delegation to Canada would suggest that times have changed! In a recent conversation with Chris Kennedy he informed me that Wentworth had just experienced its 37th consecutive day of rain to a greater or lesser degree. Where now the autumns of long ago!

What a rewarding experience the interviews around the Regions proved to be while Bernhard & Co are to be applauded for this initiative in enabling ten of our members to participate in a Delegation which will be not only beneficial for their personal development but will help cement relationships with an Association who seek close ties with BIGGA. Clearly there will be expectations from the perspectives of both BIGGA and Bernhard & Co and as one candidate so succinctly put it "this will be no jolly". Far from it. Already the successful ten have been advised to begin preparatory work in relation to researching the visit and it is hoped that they will renew or make contacts in Canada. There will be a full briefing for the Delegation and we will be working to ensure that it has a high profile, while on their return we will be looking for the ten to pass on their experiences to fellow members in a number of practical ways.

Each interview panel comprised, in

addition to myself, two Regional Board nominees and either Stephen Bernhard or Sam McLean as the company representative. This ensured a broad cross-section among the panels and enabled us to judge candidates from both regional and national perspectives together with a business viewpoint through Stephen and Sam. In the course of 26 interviews many valid points were made in relation to the Association and from a personal angle it was a valuable learning experience. The project is something new for BIGGA and to be widely welcomed in the opportunity it has provided for members at "grass-roots" level to benefit themselves personally as well as their Association and profession.

Of course, when selection was involved there were always going to be those who would not make the Delegation. Sixteen members were runners-up and their initial reaction will surely and very naturally have been disappointment. They will be assisted with their trip to BTME 2001 in recognition of being nominated for panel interview as worthy representatives of both Section and Region. Standards set at interview were invariably high and reflected well on the professionalism which so many of our members now demonstrate in their working lives, their Association activities and to their profession in general. I do hope that those disappointed will

consider that they have gained from the experience.

So to Canada and we look forward to strengthening our ties with the CGSA. They have had a strong presence at BTME in recent years and all the indications are that they will be well represented again at BTME 2001. This lends credence to our exhibition as truly international and demonstrates the commonality of greenkeeping worldwide with many shared aspirations and problems. BIGGA is far and away the second largest greenkeeping Association in the world and we have a key role to play in promoting the profession in a global context, particularly assisting the smaller Associations worldwide, and especially in Europe, to develop and progress. We have much in common with the CGSA and our relationship with them has growing importance in terms of influencing positive developments for the profession worldwide. These are considerations which our Delegation to the CGSA event in Vancouver will come to understand and appreciate. Bernhard's initiative may well prove to be the forerunner not only for closer international co-operation, but also in terms of the future greater impact of greenkeeping within the world of golf in its widest sense.

Neil Thomas
Executive Director, BIGGA

A message from our sponsors

Bernhard's are delighted to have the opportunity to develop their relationship with British Greenkeepers by sponsoring a group of BIGGA members to travel to the Canadian National show in February.

Meeting many candidates from the several regions during the selection process has been enlightening. Many candidates were able to discuss views and attitudes aimed at developing the professional standing of BIGGA and its members. Several had strong views on the national and local manage-

ment and communications while others were determined to improve local awareness of the many activities and career development opportunities offered by the BIGGA regions.

Education proved to be a hot topic for many and reinforced the views held by the Bernhard Company, who dedicate a great deal of time to providing a broad range of educational seminars based on the impact of mowers upon the growth of turf.

We were particularly pleased to note how many of the candidates expressed

a desire to improve not only educational standards but also to improve the expectations and examination processes in our industry.

The British industry will be well represented by this interesting and widely differing group of first class Greenkeepers who come from all over the British Isles and we are proud to be associated with them all.

Stephen Bernhard
Managing Director, Bernhard & Co



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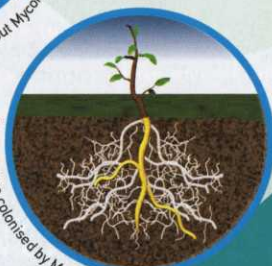
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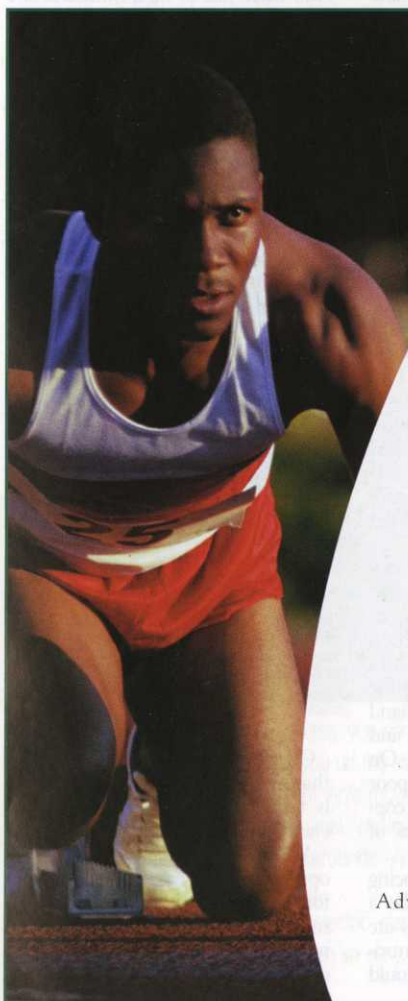


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Roland Taylor looks at a few ways of making a few extra bucks for the golf club or even yourself...

BUDGET BOOSTERS

It should be said from the onset that this feature is written with tongue in cheek. It is fully realised that readers have plenty on their plates in maintaining courses to the standards that players, management and committees now demand. There are odd occasions, however, when an opportunity arises that can save money, generate extra cash and at the same time eliminate a problem.

Many courses are built in old parklands or include large areas of woodland and these require some form of management. Sometimes these sites are the responsibility of an estate manager but they can come under the jurisdiction of a course manager. While outside sources may be brought in to carry out the tree work the residues from these operations can often be put to good use. Wood chippings are ideal for pathways, especially in areas, which become water logged and muddied with all the through traffic.

At this stage it should be pointed out it is not being suggested that one should buy the equipment to carry out the operation, since hiring is usually the more cost effective option. Most tree specialists will have their own chip-

pers so it is therefore just a question of making sure the resultant material is left so it can later be easily transported to the required site.

One point worth mentioning is that when using chippings, it is a good idea to contain them in the area by putting down some edging. This can be simply made from suitable branches pegged down to form the path's borders. If large amounts of chipping have been generated they could be offered to members for use in their gardens.

This also applies to leaf mould. Every year large piles of leaves accumulate and gradually rot down, and the result is an ideal soil conditioner and mulch to suppress weeds in the shrubberies and flower beds that may surround the clubhouse or hotel complex. Again, members may be induced to buy quantities of this valuable natural product for their own gardens.

If large branches and tree trunks are available they could be sawn into logs for use in the clubs or hotels where a fire is part of the heating system. Likewise they too can be offered for sale.

For a logging operation there is a mobile unit available from Charterhouse Richmond the Lumbermate. This portable sawmill is a one-man operation with the saw bed at ground level so loading timber is safe and easy. The standard bench handles logs up to 13" and 28" in diameter. As the saw head is manually fed the rate of cutting can be adjusted to suit the timber.

Another possibility is having woodland areas coppiced. This could generate some return as timber from these is used in charcoal production and hurdle making. It also has another advantage in that by removing the tree canopy, light reaches the woodland floor and a wide variety of plants and flowers will become established. On the downside, this generates a poor return and the rotational cycle of coppicing, depending on the species of trees, can be up to 15 years.

Where new areas of trees are being planned Christmas trees could be a consideration. Again, any returns are going to be long term, but by introducing a planting cycle, a harvest could be established ever year.

Other possibilities Regrinds

Apparently there are some clubs already offering the service of regrinding members lawnmowers. Modern in-situ grinding equipment makes this operation very quick and where a club has this installed it looks a relatively good idea. However there could be a major drawback and that is the fickleness of the mower owner! It is possible that a great deal of time could be taken up dealing with what amounts to be something very petty. Also there has to be an infrastructure introduced to recover payments. Unless the workshop personnel have a great deal of patience, tact, diplomacy and time this service could create problems.

Knowledge

Greenkeepers have a wealth of knowledge and experience on turf maintenance so why not put this to good use by imparting it to others (for a fee). Anyone who is prepared to give up their time by talking or lecturing to other parties could generate extra income. It is never going to be a fortune but it can be very satisfying and enjoyable, especially if you like meeting people.

Ways of using your knowledge include:

Relate it to lawns and talk to gardening clubs in your locality.

There are plenty of amateurs who look after bowling greens that are desperate for information on how to get the best out of their patch. The same applies to football and cricket clubs. Looking after pitches often falls to a part timer with limited experience.

On the downside, you could find that all your spare time in the winter is taken up addressing these audiences.

As said at the beginning there are opportunities if one chooses to look for them, but it is very much a personal choice and careful thought needs to be taken before embarking on any ventures outside ones normal field of operation.

