

Parent company **Textron** announced a new generation of Ransomes compact tractors was on show for the first time at Harrogate with the introduction of the TT series.

Replacing the smaller models in the CT range, the TT series offers a more ergonomic control layout; improved engine technology producing greater power and quieter performance, a new hood design for improved accessibility and a more rounded shape to aid operator visibility. This new Class 1 series is available with hydrostatic or mechanical transmission for the 18hp and 21hp derivatives and hydrostatic transmission on the 24hp option.

Also introduced was the MowerCaddy, a walk-behind mower trailer for transporting mowers from one job to the next quickly and easily.

Designed for durability it features a lift and lower level with a comfortable rotating padded handgrip that makes loading and unloading easier.

Textron also introduced new side discharge cutting decks to the Ransomes AR250 rotary mower.

Complementing the existing 'Envirodeck' - the patented twin blade mulching system, the new side discharge deck will prove popular with greenkeepers that require less frequent mowing regimes. The cut grass is discharged immediately from the side of the deck enabling higher heights of grass to be cut compared to the 'Envirodeck'.

Another feature when cutting around bunkers is the two-position setting for the front caster wheels on the left-hand deck. When the inner position is used it prevents damage to the bunker wall. With a choice of two decks and a wide range of cutting heights, the Ransomes AR250 will provide a quality cut on driving ranges, semi-rough and deep rough, whatever your cutting regime.



Making its first appearance at BTME was the Kubota AM3000 ride-on triple cylinder mower with its hopper grass collection system which can be emptied without the driver having to leave the seat. Powered by a low emissions 33hp Kubota diesel engine, the AM3000 features on-demand four-wheel drive which engages

automatically when loss of traction is detected. All three cutting units are positioned ahead of the wheels and are offered with either five or seven bladed 200mm diameter cylinders. Instead of the standard grooved front rollers, the cutting units can be specified with side rollers which allow the heads to still follow ground

contours, yet without flattening the grass before it is cut.

Other new Kubota products making their debut at the show were the GiS GlideCut - the world's first triple-bladed through-cut mower with integral rear grass collector - and the I4hp B1410 compact tractor with mid-mounted rotary cutter deck.

Charterhouse Turf Machinery, who announced sales of over £100,000 on the second day of the show alone, launched the new higher horsepower Ergit TTR Series from Antonio Carraro.

The new TTR 9400 fitted with an 87HP, turbo charged 4 cylinder diesel engine is capable of reaching speeds of 40kph and is well suited for a variety of applications in the amenity market.

With standard features such as ACTIG (full chassis with oscillation), with up to 30 degrees ensures grip and traction, four equal sized wheels with wide track gives good stability, balance and safety when operating in the most testing of conditions.

The short wheel base and steering characteristics of this tractor gives accurate manoeuvrability and a high work rate when working on areas with severe gradients, such as elevated fairways, golf greens and motorway bankings. Four oil bath disc brakes add to the all round safety of this tractor.

The synchro-shuttle transmission giving 16 forward and 16 reverse gears is added to with the addition of a 'Hi LO' transmission which reduces each gear by 20% and is operated through an electro-hydraulic control switch.

The latter is a standard feature on this model, as is the 'RGS' reverse guide system allowing the operator to change the direction of operation and use many attachments in front mounted mode.

The TTR range is also available in 60 and 64hp.

A new form of biological treatment for use in the professional turf and landscape market and developed and manufactured by **Biotal** was on display. The products are available through the recently-formed Pentagon Group.

The health of the grass plant is directly linked to the microbial health of the soil. Microbes are involved in the processes of recycling and processing of nutrients as well as natural defence mechanisms against potentially pathogenic disease. Biotal's 'Restore the Balance' programme is a three part natural solution that utilises standard cultural methods to enable environmentally aware greenkeepers to selectively enhance the microbial profile of their soil.

Combining three products, the programme reintroduces, feeds and boosts beneficial microbial concentrations in fine turf. The three products known as Microbalance, Biofeed and Microbooster, are also available for application separately. Microbalance is a blend of microbes researched, developed and produced in the UK. Selected for its ability to re-balance the soil micro-flora, Microbalance replaces protective microbes destroyed by intensive use of toxic chemical treatments. Biofeed is a natural seaweed extract used as a soil and foliar feed and specifically selected for natural surfactant content. Microbooster is an organic plant extract, which creates a suitable environment for the development of beneficial microbes within the soil profile.

Vitax's new Vitax Vitaliser was launched at the Show after trials by the STRI. This 100% organic, naturally slow release fertiliser, is designed for use all year round but, according to Clive Williams, Commercial & Amenity Sales Manager for the company, the product comes into its own before Spring sowing.

"Vitax Vitaliser has naturally occurring trace elements combined with a balance of both quick and slow acting nitrogen which means that the product avoids rapid leaching of nutrients during heavy Spring rains and nurtures the young shoots of an emerging sward rather than encouraging flushes of growth," he said. Vitax Vitaliser is a rich source of humus which improves soil texture and retains moisture, while also providing good colour.

John Deere Limited exhibited four new machines at the show, two of which - a wide area mower and a hydraulic top dresser - are being seen for the first time in the UK. The 1600 wide area mower is John Deere's first commercial rotary machine to use hydraulic mower drive, while the TD100 top dresser is a new hydraulic attachment for the heavy duty Pro Gator utility vehicle, which is being featured alongside the super quiet E-Gator electric model. Designed for easy servicing and increased productivity on golf courses and in parks and public areas, the new 1600 wide area mower incorporates an Eaton axial piston pump, which transfers power more efficiently compared with gear type pumps and motors, especially in tough working conditions. John Deere's two pedal forward and reverse foot control combines with a three lever mower deck lift control for easy operation. Good traction is also provided by the two speed transaxle with standard differential lock and mechanical four wheel drive on demand. The new John Deere 1600 wide area mower, is available from February 2000, priced at £25,600.

Barenbrug introduced three new varieties at the Show. Barpearl is a new slender creeping red fescue from the same breeding programme as Barcrown which has been shown in tests to have excellent shoot density, short grown characteristics and good resistance to Red Thread. It has also been shown to have good fusarium resistance in both summer and winter. Bar Fescue contains 25% Barcrown, 23% Barpearl, both slender creeping red fescues; 30% Bargreen and 20% Baroxi, both Chewings fescues. Bar Fescue has been shown to have good shoot density, drought tolerance and disease resistance while is extremely fine textured and displays slow re-growth. Bar Platinum is 30% Bareine (perennial ryegrass); 25% Barcrown and 25% Barpearl, 10% Baroxi and 10 Heriot (browntop bent). It displays rapid establishment, good wear tolerance and slow regrowth while it is tolerant of mowing down to five mm. It is the first mixture in Europe to contain perennial ryegrass for applications on golf greens.



Bernhard & Co launched its new Anglemaster 3000 at this year's BTME exhibition. Being at the forefront of 'Preventative medicine' for golf green management across the globe, demands that Bernhard & Co., continue to provide a range of equipment which maintains their premier position in this sector. The new Bernhard/Atterton Anglemaster 3000 has been developed to match the accuracy of the Express Dual to one thousandth of an inch. This provides easy loading, flood cooling and an auto cue system angle finding. Other major aspects include a unique central grind position to

minimise error plus an independent 'end feed' and single point advance. To provide stress free grinding a magnetic load assistant has been included plus a quad coolant dispersal and separation system. A worthy twin to the Express Dual 3000, the Anglemaster 3000 bottom blade grinding system is a result of five years research and development. Faster and more convenient than its predecessor, the Anglemaster 3000 has all the power and 'split thou' accuracy and convenience of the Anglemaster 2000. The Anglemaster 3000 is so called because it allows the mechanic to read

and set the exact angle for perfect bottom blade grinding. As the newest version of the world's finest precision grinders, this refined machine is even faster and easier to handle and provides leading golf courses with further affirmation of quality and performance. Also being launched is the Anglemaster 3000 DX, which has an up-rated control and feed system to standard AM3000. Incorporating a digital electronic auto cue control and feed with an 'auto line' feature, this 'high spec' version has a work centre case and operating height control.



Sisis launched the Robbi ride-on brush at the show. The Robbi is used on the golf course to disperse the dew; to lightly brush in top dressings; to lift grasses prior to mowing; to improve the presentation of the greens in the winter months. It can also be used on synthetic surfaces to lift the pile; remove scuff marks; level the sand. It features specially designed brushes to

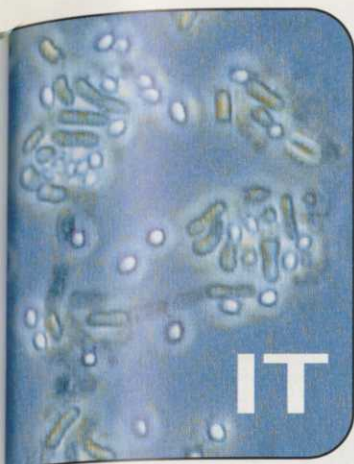
give improved brushing and "float" over contours, which are also ram-assisted to hold them down in use and to lift and fold them back when not in use. Handle bar steering with twist-grip accelerator and axle brake. Fold over seat with suspension springing and carrying box below. wheels have low ground pressure slicks to the rear and low ground pressure ribbed tyres at the front for traction on slopes. 6 forward gears, one reverse and one neutral.



Above: John Akers and Dave Phillips of Advanta Seeds at this year's BTME

BTME saw the Mommersteeg and Sharpes brands of amenity mixtures re-launched under the **Advanta** brand name. These will be available in two distinct ranges - Advanta MM's and Designer from Advanta. "By combining the product portfolios of Mommersteeg and Sharpes International, we now have the strongest ranges of grass seed mixtures in the UK sports and amenity market," said John Akers, UK commercial Manager for Advanta Seeds.

"The merger of the two companies has allowed us to streamline operations, increasing efficiency, while retaining the product and service quality that the two original companies were well known for" explains John. "Our customers will now benefit from a much greater pool of production and research resources and experienced personnel. Advanta's aim is to continue developing new cultivars appropriate to our customers' needs, now and in the future."



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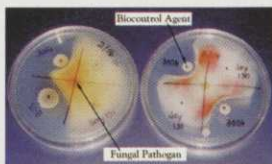
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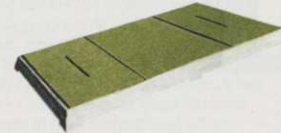
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BIGGA ESSAY COMPETITION

Over the next three months we shall be publishing the winning entries in the BIGGA Essay Competition which has been relaunched after a break of at least several decades. As you will see when you read the work of Kerran Daley (Course Manager), Simon O'Hara (Over 25) and, this month, William Bowden (Under 25) the standards are high and the three winners fully deserve their reward of £500. They have set the levels expected from this year's entrants.

The main judge for the 1999 BIGGA Essay Competition could not have been better qualified for the task. Donald Steel is a rare man. He reached the top in the field of golf writing, as one of the top journalists in the country before turning his attention to golf course architecture where again he rose to the top of the tree. Having assessed the leading entries he made the following comments on the competition and greenkeeping in general.

Sherlock Holmes may no longer be the modish standard bearer among detectives. Poirot, Taggart and Perry Mason have fought for his crown but it was Sherlock Holmes who, on being complimented that he was a wizard for seeing everything, replied, "I see no more than you but I have trained myself to notice what I see."
If I were allowed one word to highlight the most necessary qualification for a good greenkeeper, my choice would be for him to be observant. Powers of observation

(allied to correct deduction) are an invaluable part of everyday lives and what better way to express those observations than through an Essay Competition?

It is easy to understand the natural diffidence of some at bursting into print. Taking the plunge can be as difficult as giving a first lecture at a seminar but belief and confidence are other crucial attributes of a successful greenkeeper. As a result, it is the facts that you accumulate that matter. Allowance will be made if ideas are not presented as well as they might be, either in print or out loud, but, as with cutting greens, you will find you will get better the more you attempt. Whether they are made public or not, records or diaries are another means of storing knowledge although commitment to print may have been anathema to former generations of greenkeeper. They preferred to store everything in their heads. However, unless you are one of the few, you will soon find that memory plays tricks and, in any event, records can be handed down to a successor but writing essays or articles is a wonderful way of pooling information and airing hobby horses. I have enjoyed greatly reading the winning entries and congratulate the authors for having given of their time to set an example for others to follow. Make sure you start off the new century with a bumper bundle.

Donald Steel

AN ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACH TO GOLF GREENKEEPING William Bowden

Winner of the Under 25's Section of the BIGGA Essay Competition

Today more than ever, sport and recreation occupy much of our leisure time. It is therefore important to ensure that the pressures involved in terms of associated land-use, resource consumption, and pollution are continually minimised, not least within the golf industry where harmony with the natural surroundings is a fundamental element of the games heritage and enjoyment.

To this end, the future must involve the wise use of natural resources, and this should be the goal of every 'responsible' greenkeeper.

As we move into the next millennium, more than ever there is the potential for our industry to serve as a 'role model' for good environmental practice, this potential must be fulfilled. And while there are aspects from the past we can learn from, equally there are mistakes that we cannot afford to repeat.

Since the publication of the "Demand for Golf" produced by the Royal & Ancient in 1989, (in which it predicted that between 1989 and the year 2000, as many as 700 new golf courses were required just to keep pace with the growth of the game), then the emphasis has been on the appropriate and responsible care of both these new developments and established courses. The importance of such responsible

management can be put into context if one considers that within Britain alone, a total land area in excess of 102,950 ha is occupied by golf courses, a figure that highlights their significance within our landscape.

Further statistics show that nearly 36,000 ha of this total constitute 'rough areas', which in practical terms would equate to 1,800 potential wildlife sites, each measuring 5-50 ha in size. Furthermore it is estimated that a mean area of 58 ha is taken up by golf courses, while in comparison an area of just 40 ha is occupied by County wildlife reserves!

The concept of 'Environmental Management' is not a new one, for decades greenkeepers have been managing sensitive areas of their golf courses successfully. Particularly since the early 1970's at which time the general awareness regarding ecological issues increased. The public began to scrutinise both themselves and industry with regards to: Chemical use, and the health of the ecosystem. Borne from this awareness, many recreational industries (not least golf), had to come to terms with the tightening of legislation, and the increased interest regarding their effect on the environment.

Such restrictions have made it the policy of every conscientious green-

keeper to appreciate how their regimes can adversely affect their surroundings.

Although this is the case for the majority of golf clubs, there has to be some form of standardizing and monitoring attitudes and progress within the industry, to ensure the continued move towards a realistic and sustainable future which will see a massive reduction in the range of chemicals available to the greenkeeper.

Since the mid 1980's there have been a range of initiatives launched, all of which have set out to increase both environmental awareness and activity. Of these perhaps most successful has been the recent "Committed to Green" initiative, introduced by the European Golf Association (EGA), in 1998.

The scheme lays down basic guidelines for greenkeepers to follow, on how best to instill a comprehensive and worthwhile management strategy for their golf course. The goal of any such campaign must be to promote a move away from the unsustainable developments witnessed so often in the past, with the influx of so many "American" style courses requiring an incomprehensible level of input both in terms of capital and resources to maintain to the desired level. This cannot be an endorsable path for future developments to follow.



BIGGA ESSAY COMPETITION

Progression

There are several areas that need to be addressed, to help ensure golf courses continue to form a valuable and integral part of our landscape well into the future, of these paramount must be:

- Increasing environmental awareness, within both the playing fraternity and greenkeeping.
- Encouraging and supporting any positive environmental activity, making available qualified advice and guidance wherever necessary.
- The development of education and providing easy access to all information regarding greenkeeping and the environment.

Although not mentioned above, another important issue that needs to be addressed is the improvement of communication lines within many of our golf clubs. This should include the breaking down of out-dated and archaic communication barriers, enabling members and greenstaff to work together towards what must be their common goal: A quality golf course, set among attractive surroundings that is both enjoyable and rewarding to play.

Upon addressing any environmental issues regarding the golf course, it must be remembered that although not a particularly rare or threatened species, the golfer has to be the most important fauna of any club. As without his/her co-operation even the very best plans will be thwarted! I would be surprised if many golf clubs do not have keen environmentalists within both their membership and staff, however without satisfactory communication such underlying enthusiasm is wasted and with this the potential for the golf course to become a valuable site for both wildlife and the golfer.

Only from 'within' can a compro-

mise be reached, for the good of the golfer and the countryside.

All too often we see articles in magazines, often based more on opinion than fact, that heap praise upon the lush, green 'Augusta type' courses many of which are American. Unfortunately this opinion leads to unrealistic demands being put upon the greenkeeper to embark upon a course of extreme management, instead of maintaining the course within less intensive, and more viable parameters. It appears very often that the consensus of opinion within the golfing fraternity is for a 'Picture postcard' golf course, and as a direct result their enthusiasm to support a move towards a more sensitive 'style' of management could be less forthcoming, as this may not result in the production of intensively manicured, lush green fairways that many regard as the way a golf course should look.

The following quote was taken from a recent golfing publication which was previewing the Augusta Masters, it epitomises the attitude among many of today's golfers, and how they perceive the perfect course to be presented.

How can this industry move towards a more environmental stand point, if golfing magazines continue to publish articles like this?

"Ladies and Gentlemen, we would like to introduce you to the most beautiful holes on the world. If they play golf in Heaven, then this is what the members are enjoying" - alongside a picture of a lush heavily striped Augusta National.

Unfortunately as long as golfers (however small the minority), view golf within such limited horizons, then what we can achieve from an environmental standpoint will be severely limited. You need only to talk to a cross section of any membership to realise how many still regard the extensive areas of rough found on our

more established courses, as nothing other than untidy. Such individuals require educating, so we can counteract this widespread desire for what amounts to little more than 'Theme Park' golf, and ensure more golfers appreciate how the game should be played; in natural settings wherever possible.

Due in large part to the development of so many badly designed golf courses, a number of organisations have become concerned with the environmental impacts of golf, many of these groups condemn golf, claiming among other things that it is:

- Destroying natural habitats
- Suburbanising the Countryside
- Depleting water resources
- Over-using chemicals
- Restricting public access

Such is the enthusiasm of these individuals, that a group known as the "Global Anti-Golf Movement" operating out of Japan and Malaysia has begun a campaign focussing on the development of major golfing resorts. The organisation claims to monitor golf on a worldwide scale, and in 1993 they initiated "World No Golf Day".

Although an extreme group, it would be foolish for the golfing industry to ignore it. As history has shown repeatedly that yesterday's 'fringe' groups have often become today's mainstream! Unless we adopt a more active and visible environmental philosophy, at a practical level, then the claims of such 'Anti-golf' campaigners, (that the industry is endangering our environment), will become increasingly substantiated.

A positive aspect has to be the continued development of greenkeeping as a profession, with the improvement and greater accessibility of education, there will be an acceptance that good environmental

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management should be an integral part of any regime. The present lack of environmental awareness is understandable if one considers that it was not until 1991 was the subject of golf course ecology fully acknowledged as part of greenkeeper training at SNVQ & NVQ level.

Steps to Success

All management plans should be drawn up with the help of a qualified expert, the aim is to ensure that a viable and sustainable plan is put into action. The concept that such ventures bring with them a drain upon resources, and require a large investment of capital is unsubstantiated.

A worthwhile 'EMP' is not only relevant to multi-million pound resorts, on the contrary, such plans will often bring saving benefits e.g. The recommendation that 'Tiger' rough be cut just once or twice each year, would surely save on time and resources at many clubs, who continually chop down all areas of rough throughout the year, so members don't lose their balls!

Above all an effective plan should be realistic and achievable in relation to the circumstances of any given club. All too often greenkeepers have embarked on elaborate projects, with good intention, only to find that the level of input required to make these schemes successful is impossible to sustain. Often resulting in a messy scrub, or weed infested rough, worthless both from an environmental and golfing view point. The overall aim should be to maximise the potential of natural areas on the golf course, while avoiding any interference with regards to its playability.

When embarking upon a management plan it is important to maintain written records, including: initial policies, and the short and longterm goals. The following points highlight some important issues:

1. Define your objectives: What are your aims? How will they be achieved? Over what time scale?

2. Focus on specific areas for development, decide how these areas will be improved, i.e. the establishment of buffer zones, no spray zones, areas to be left unmown at certain times of the year etc.

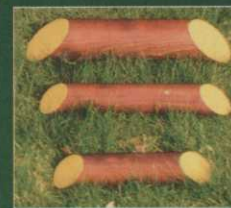
3. Delegate individuals within the greenstaff, to be responsible for specific areas. Encourage the involvement of anyone who has enthusiasm and interest!

4. It is vital that any work carried out should be recorded and monitored, this will ensure initial targets are being met, and also highlight areas for review and improvement. Ideally a set period of time (ie two yrs), should be established at which point the success and/or failings of the plan can be assessed, and if required addressed.

Every management plan must be carefully thought out, and not undertaken lightly. With careful and thorough planning, not only will wildlife benefit, but also the playability and general appeal of the golf course.

In summing up, it must be said that environmental factors are among some of the most significant external influences on the future development of the World's golf courses. How golf is perceived from an environmental point of view, will have a direct effect on the future growth patterns of the industry! The major benefit of a more environmental approach will be the improvement of golf's image, both within and outside the industry.

An Environmental Approach to Golf Greenkeeping - William Bowden
Winner of the under 25's section of the BIGGA Essay Competition



Elliott Small is BIGGA's New National Chairman and Scott MacCallum sat down at BTME to find out a little bit more about him...

Small beginnings

The honour of being BIGGA's National Chairman for the Year 2000 has fallen to one of the best known faces in British greenkeeping.

Elliott Small, who was helped into the famous red blazer by outgoing Chairman, Gordon Child, at this year's AGM, will lead the Association for the next 12 months and there can be few who would doubt his credentials for doing the job.

Like his predecessor, Elliott is a former Regional Administrator - holding the Scottish position until relatively recently - and as a result knows the workings of the Association, and all of the personalities within it, like the back of his hand.

"I was absolutely delighted when Gordon asked me to be his Vice Chairman, although I was a little apprehensive about what it meant - Gordon is a tough act to follow. He's had a number of tough situations to handle and has dealt with everything that has been thrown at him extremely well," said Elliott, as he grabbed a few quite moments during this year's BTME.

"I'm hoping that I have a comfortable year and that everything runs smoothly," he added.

Although well aware of the honour Elliott did have to think carefully about accepting the Vice Chairmanship - which automatically leads on to becoming Chairman.

"My first thought was that I couldn't do it while still a working greenkeeper, such is the amount of time that today's National Chairman has to devote to the role. It would also involve my club backing me 100%, otherwise it would not have been possible," said Elliott, who has been Head Greenkeeper at Tulliallan Golf Club in Kincardine-on-Forth, in Central Scotland, for the last 23 years.

Elliott talked it through with wife, Edna, who is as much a recognisable face in British greenkeeping as her husband, and she encouraged him to go for it.

"Originally I'd felt that if I ever was to be Chairman it would be like Gordon, when I was retired, but as Edna said I could be forgotten about in five years time."

He then spoke with his Green's Convener who was fully supportive

and he subsequently put the matter to the full committee.

"My Green's Convener was also Vice Captain as well so he'll be Club Captain at the same time as I'm Chairman. The committee supported me and said I could have the time off I needed to do the job."

BIGGA's new Chairman was born in Galashiels, in the Scottish Borders, into a greenkeeping family.

"My father, Bob, was the greenkeeper/pro at Galashiels Golf Club for 32 years. My brother, George, took over from him and was there for the next 30 years."

Now you would expect that with such a pedigree Elliott's future as a greenkeeper was preordained. But that is not the case.

"My father tried to put me off the profession initially. He didn't want me to become a greenkeeper because there wasn't any money in greenkeeping, or professional golf, at that time. Although I did work with him briefly after I'd left school."

Elliott had been a keen sportsman during his time at school. As well as golf he was a fine rugby player representing South of Scotland Schoolboys as a wing forward alongside a legendary rugby figure, and fellow Galashiels Academy pupil, Jim Telfer, the former Scottish and British Lion's coach.

Discouraged from greenkeeping it was to one of the Scottish border's famed industries that Elliott turned for employment and the tweed industry.

"I spent almost five years as an apprentice designer in the tweed mills designing skirts, travelling rugs, scarves, jackets... anything that is made out of tweed."

He left after completing four and a half years of a five year apprenticeship.

"My father retired and decided he would go out to New Zealand to see my sister who lived out there. I decided I wanted to go as well."

After Small Senior had been in New Zealand a few months the local golf club asked if he would take over the shop and he did that for another 10 years in his "retirement"

Elliott got a job driving a truck and worked in the golf shop or on the course in the afternoons.

"I'd start work at about 5am and deliver bread to the country stores and when I finished at 12 noon I'd go straight to the golf course to work on the course and hit balls.

"At that stage I had aspirations of becoming a professional golfer. I used to enjoy working on the course but I was very keen to play golf and I got down to a handicap of 1."

He also had a brush with another couple of golfers who did make a decent fist of becoming professionals.

"I actually played in the first tournament that Bob Charles ever won as a professional. The New Zealand Open was held at Invercargill Golf Club and on the Sunday after it finished our club, Queen's Park on the other side of the city, held a pro-am to which some of the top pros and amateurs in the country were invited. I was invited as one of the four of five up and coming players. Another Open Champion, Kel Nagle, also played in the tournament," said Elliott, who still retains the programme of the event as a souvenir.

Having met Edna before he first went to New Zealand they kept writing and Elliott returned to Scotland in 1963 and they were married the following year.

They went straight back out to New Zealand for another two years before the lure of the home country brought them back.

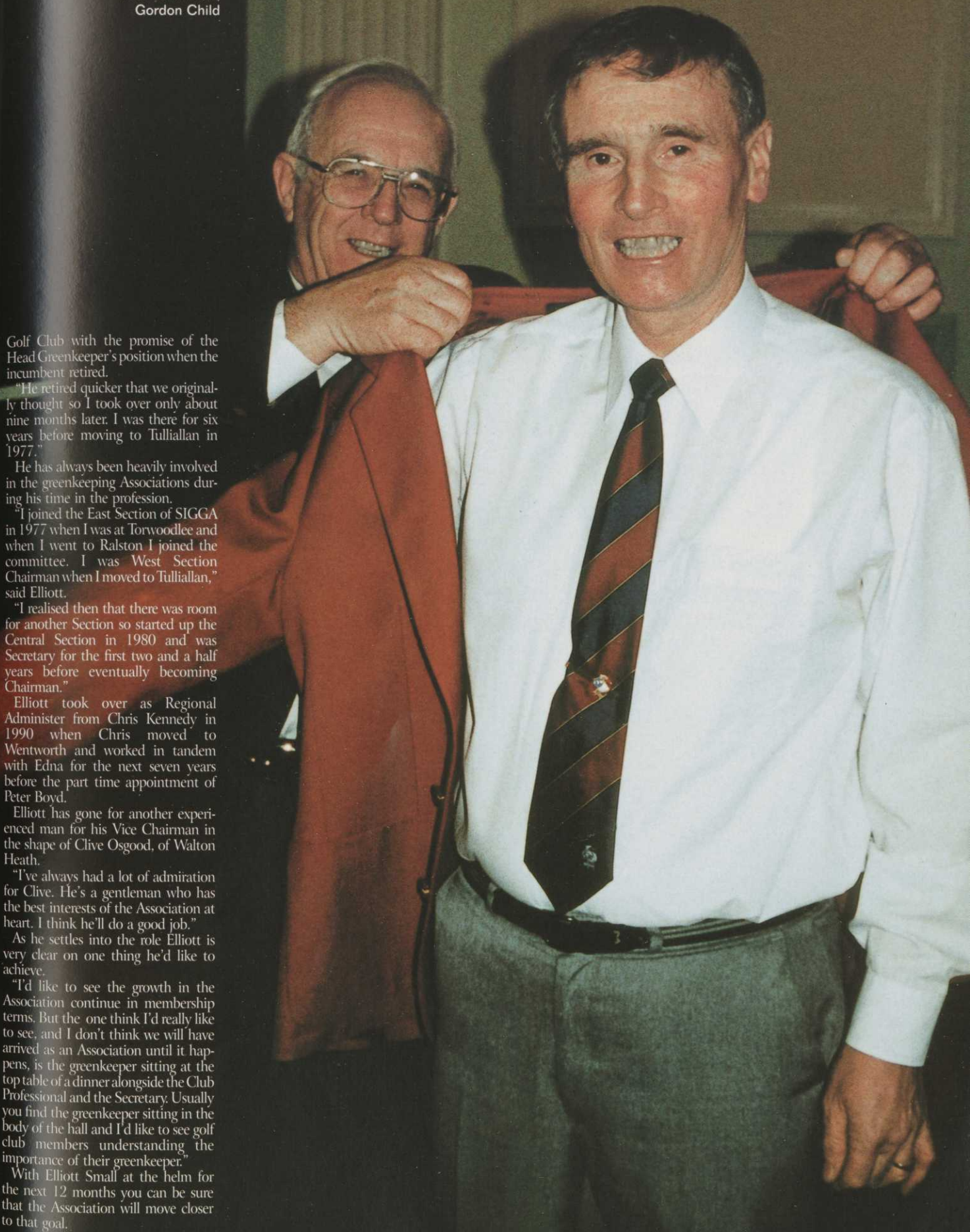
Another potential career almost snared Elliott on his return as he spent a few months working for an electronic's company before a greenkeeping job emerged working with his brother at Galashiels.

After Galashiels, Elliott worked at Hartsbourne Country Club, in Bushy Heath, before taking on the job of Greenkeeper/Pro/Club Master at the nine hole Torwoodlee in Galashiels.

"We did everything. Edna did the catering while I used to start at 6am out on the course - I had one person to cut the fairways in the summer - come back in and work in the shop and then the bar. We never finished before midnight," he recalled.

With the arrival of children, a move to something less time consuming was deemed necessary and Elliott was appointed First Assistant at Ralston

Elliott dons the
prized Chairman's
jacket, helped by
Past Chairman,
Gordon Child



Golf Club with the promise of the Head Greenkeeper's position when the incumbent retired.

"He retired quicker than we originally thought so I took over only about nine months later. I was there for six years before moving to Tulliallan in 1977."

He has always been heavily involved in the greenkeeping Associations during his time in the profession.

"I joined the East Section of SIGGA in 1977 when I was at Torwoodlee and when I went to Ralston I joined the committee. I was West Section Chairman when I moved to Tulliallan," said Elliott.

"I realised then that there was room for another Section so started up the Central Section in 1980 and was Secretary for the first two and a half years before eventually becoming Chairman."

Elliott took over as Regional Administer from Chris Kennedy in 1990 when Chris moved to Wentworth and worked in tandem with Edna for the next seven years before the part time appointment of Peter Boyd.

Elliott has gone for another experienced man for his Vice Chairman in the shape of Clive Osgood, of Walton Heath.

"I've always had a lot of admiration for Clive. He's a gentleman who has the best interests of the Association at heart. I think he'll do a good job."

As he settles into the role Elliott is very clear on one thing he'd like to achieve.

"I'd like to see the growth in the Association continue in membership terms. But the one thing I'd really like to see, and I don't think we will have arrived as an Association until it happens, is the greenkeeper sitting at the top table of a dinner alongside the Club Professional and the Secretary. Usually you find the greenkeeper sitting in the body of the hall and I'd like to see golf club members understanding the importance of their greenkeeper."

With Elliott Small at the helm for the next 12 months you can be sure that the Association will move closer to that goal.



BIGGA Golf Environment Competition 2000

in association with



Thanks to the continued sponsorship of Amazone Groundcare and the support of the R&A, the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition will continue to run in the Year 2000.

Golf courses will be judged on their commitment to environmental management and assessed on the following Committed to Green criteria:

Nature Conservation

Landscape and Cultural Heritage

Water Resource Management

Turfgrass and Pest Management

Waste Management

Energy Efficiency and Purchasing Policies

Education and Training

Communications

Public Access and Awareness

Whether your course is small or large or rich or poor, it provides an important link in the environmental chain, helping to achieve long term ecological benefits. Let your members, local residents and the world at large see what you are doing by entering this year's competition.

Prizes

The National winner receives £4000, a trophy and a plaque to display in the clubhouse.

4 Regional Winners receive £500 and a plaque to display in the clubhouse.

The judges also award certificates of commendation and an award for the best environmental project.

For further details and an application form contact the Education Department, BIGGA.

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