

# Experience



The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held in Harrogate, each year, since 1989 and is the biggest indoor show of its kind in Europe. More than 7,800 visitors were present at the Show in 2001 and this figure is set to increase in 2002, due to extended exhibition space in Hall B accommodating an even greater number of exhibitors, and the addition of the Golf Club Show running alongside BTME.



The Golf Club Show, will take place for the first time in 2002. Whilst BTME will continue as an exhibition with the whole range of products and services for the Golf Course on display, The Golf Club Show will aim to succeed as an exhibition wherein Secretaries, Managers and Club Owners will find that all their additional equipment, furnishing and service needs for their golf clubs can be fulfilled.

## the most comprehensive Golf Club exhibition in Europe

### Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn with BIGGA at Harrogate, in January 2002, when the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme runs alongside the extended BTME Exhibition. The formal conference is presented in a new format to allow delegates maximum flexibility to gain the most from their visit. The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition Seminars provide an opportunity to mix the Exhibition with a range of Seminars allowing all delegates the opportunity to Continue to Learn. New for 2002 will be the Golf Club Show Education and Training programme which is aimed primarily at Golf Club Owners, Golf Club Secretaries and Chairmen of Green.

This programme incorporates the very successful Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century, run jointly with STRI, with a range of seminars. Both programmes are open to all delegates, although members of BIGGA receive preferential rates. The Key Note speaker is Roger Black and this Session is free to all delegates. Finally, the very successful Careers Clinic will run alongside BTME.

### National Education Conference

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January, The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

**Causes and Prevention of Turfgrass Stresses**  
Dr James Beard, President and Chief Scientist, International Turfgrass Institute

**Global Warming and the Golf Course**  
Keith Weatherhead, Cranfield University, John Bradwell, Turf Seed UK and Augustino Gaude, Turf Seed UK Ltd, Ruth Mann, Turfgrass and Plant Pathologist, STRI

**Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features**  
Jim Moore, USGA Green Section; Brian Pierson, Golf Course Constructor; Donald Steel Group, Golf Course Designers

**Preparation for Winter Play**  
Ed McCabe, Course Manager, Brokenhurst Manor GC; Arthur King, Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club; George Shiels, Consulting Agronomist

### Workshops

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January, The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Golf Course Design 1; Environmental Management; Emergency First Aid; Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century. All workshops run concurrently with Conference Sessions

### BTME Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Spa Royal Hall, Harrogate International Centre



Keynote speaker: Roger Black M.B.E. represented Great Britain at the highest level in the world of athletics, both as an individual 400 metres runner and as a member of 4 x 400 metres relay team.

Seminar topics are as follows;

Bunker Renovation, Biological Disease Control, Higher Education in Sportsturf - MSc, 24 Staff, 18 Holes and a 6 Month Season, A Career in Greenkeeping, Gizmos, Gadgets and Inventions, Sulphur Burner Technology, Is It Right for You?, Preparing for the Ryder Cup in 2005, Designing the Future with Strategic Planning, Turfgrass Management, Training and Professionalism go Hand in Hand.

### Golf Club Show Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Majestic Hotel

Programme includes: Health and Safety, Working Time Regulations, Minimum Pay, the Rules of Golf and Financial Aspects of Golf Course Management.

### Two Exhibitions

Running the Golf Club Show alongside the well established BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition is an exciting new concept which will enable golf club industry personnel of all disciplines to research and meet their product and service needs under one roof at the Harrogate International Centre. As such, visitors will be well rewarded for attending an event which enjoys a unique atmosphere and continues to be eagerly anticipated by exhibitors, delegates and visitors alike.

### Banquet

The weeks events are rounded off on Thursday 24 January by the BTME/Golf Club Show Banquet, which is open to delegates of both shows. Returning to the Majestic Hotel, the Banquet stars the comedy duo Brahm and Liszt supported by the Nightjars.

# JANUARY 22-24, 2002

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

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# December 2001

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by January 8, 2002

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**TIME TO TALK**  
www.bigga.org.uk

## HAVE YOU CLICKED ON YET?

Visit [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS WHAT GREENKEEPERS

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Prepare yourselves for the highlight of the year as the Harrogate looms up over the horizon



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48 Sandy McDivot

Duncan McGilvary's article in last month's magazine under the heading "Should we lead or should we be led" has already produced exactly the type of response he requested.

He ended the piece by urging you to respond and "show the 'powers that be' within the golfing world that we are ready and willing to take on the responsibility necessary to ensure not only the efficient management of our golf courses but our own futures."

As I write, the November issue has only been with you a few days but we have seen, by our standards, a huge post bag. You can read some of the responses on the Letters' page.

All agree that the job would be far easier if qualified, professional Course Managers had the autonomy to make decisions on the well being of the golf course without having to consider the opinions of a group of lay people in the shape of a Green Committee.

However, Duncan's point was also about how to get to that ideal state of affairs and how do qualified professionals persuade golf clubs that they should be given a freer rein to get on and do the job..

As one of the correspondents says, "we wouldn't tell an electrician how to wire a house or a mechanic how to fit a new engine".

The difference in golf, however, is that while an electrician and mechanic have one right way to do a job and many wrong ways, in greenkeeping there is a perception, rightly or wrongly, that you can choose from a range of approaches. That brings "opinion" to the table and, let's face it, everybody has one.

The Course Manager has, therefore, to persuade the Green Committee that his opinion carries more weight than that of the collective group of club members who make up that Committee.

Put it another way. The Committee can feel that, unlike on issues such as wiring houses or fitting engines to cars, its opinion on matters agronomic is worth hearing. Of course that, in the vast majority of cases, is nonsense and a typical case of little knowledge being a dangerous thing. However, subjects on which a Committee can, and does, have valid comments to make are the obvious matters of course tidiness and fault finding.

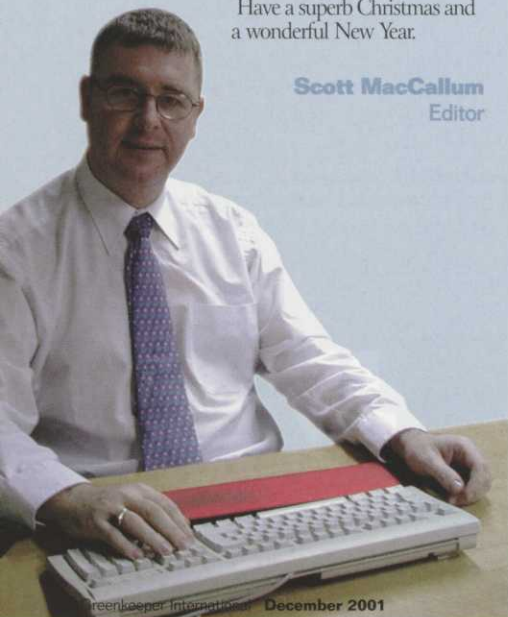
If the Committee can tell a Course Manager about a broken sprinkler head, or a litter bin which hasn't been emptied for weeks, it can then make the jump to wondering if the agronomic welfare of the course is also being "neglected".

One of the answers, therefore, is not to give a Committee any ammunition. By beating the committee to the punch on what might be otherwise regarded as the small things, it might ultimately give you more freedom to look after the more important issues.

I hope this doesn't come across as a case of teaching egg sucking methods to mothers but more a case of adding a few personal thoughts to the interesting issues raised by Duncan.

Have a superb Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor



## Gentleman's dinner a big success

The average golf club might have about 20 Members in the Spikes Bar when a proud golfer returns from his round having scored a hole-in-one. Not so for John Cook, the Chairman of Green at Orsett Golf Club, who chose the 155 yard par 3 17th hole at Walton Heath Old Course for his magical moment. On this occasion however there were 100 golfers plus another 20 guests ready to enjoy the evening banquet and entertainment at the South East Region's Gentleman's Dinner. Needless to say, in keeping with tradition everyone enjoyed a drink with John in the form of an after dinner brandy!

The event should have happened last March but had to be postponed due to the Foot and Mouth epidemic but the Region was indeed fortunate that Walton Heath Golf Club could accommodate us later in the year. With very heavy rains on the Saturday and Sunday things were looking very doubtful. Neighbouring courses had been closed due to the rain but Clive Osgood, Mick Haynes and their Staff did a

tremendous job in having ready for us on a beautiful sunny autumn Monday morning a course in superb condition and the Region's thanks are very much due to them for enabling the event to take place.

The Region's thanks are also due to the Trade who stayed with us during the postponement. It was nice to see Alan Stow who came out of retirement to renew a lot of old friendships.

The golf was incredible. The "Shullockie Putter" was won by James Seisun, Highgate Golf Club, with an unbelievable 42 points playing off 8. A full list of prize winners who received their prizes from Walton Heath Captain Peter Souster after first enjoying a superb banquet and after dinner entertainment from Bob Webb were:-

Cat 0-9. 1. James Seisun, 42 pts; 2. David Badham, 40 pts; 3. Mark Harvey, 37 pts. Cat 10-17.1. George Brown, 43 pts; 2. Lee West, 41 pts; 3. Richard Dunmow, 38 pts. Cat 18-24. 1. Malcolm Smith 35 pts; 2. John Jennings 31 pts; 3. Rae Sergeant

35 pts. Guests. 1. Gary Ogilvie, 39 pts; 2. Peter Russell, 36 pts.

Greenkeeper/Club Official. 1. John Davidson/Rae Sergeant; 2. Jon Hill/Chris Allen Longest Drive. Ian Semple. Nearest Pin 7th, John Payne. Nearest Pin 11th Tony Bremer. Nearest Pin 17th, John Cook.

Lastly the Region must mention and thank the Companies that sponsored this event and provided so many wonderful prizes:

Aventis Environmental Science; Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd; Bioseed Ltd BSP Landscapes Ltd; CMW Ltd; Ernest Doe And Sons Ltd; E. & S. Sports Grounds Ltd; Farmura Environmental Products; GEM Professional Ltd; Grass Roots Trading Co. Ltd.; Prime Irrigation Ltd; Rigby Taylor Ltd; Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd; The Scotts Co (UK) Ltd; John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd; Sheerwater Leisure Ltd; Sherriff Crop Care; Sisis Equipment Ltd; Tacit Ltd; Vitax Ltd.

Derek Farrington  
South East Regional Administrator

## Turf industry recovers

According to the Turf Growers Associations 11th market survey, carried out during the summer, members are well-placed to meet this demand over the coming year, having recovered well from the floods of autumn 2000 and the cold, wet start of 2001.

Autumn and spring sowings are largely in balance with crops heading towards maturity at sufficient levels to meet projected sales during 2002.

However, the survey shows that a market slow-down was being anticipated by members with sowings planned for this autumn leaning towards prudence.

According to TGA spokesman, Graeme Forbes, events occurring in the USA and Middle East since the survey was completed have heightened concerns also of a global slowdown and even a recession.

"Any fall in consumer confidence is likely to have a knock-on effect on the house building market, which is a key outlet for cultivated turf," he commented.

"Clearly, turf growers will be watching home and world events closely as they go through the winter and approach the spring sowing period."

## New man for Reco

Reco has appointed a specialist demonstrator for the Kioti range of compact tractors launched at Saltex this autumn.

David Broad has a degree in agricultural engineering from Harper Adams College and previously worked in the European export department at Renault Agriculture.

He has practical experience of tractor operation, including shop floor assembly, servicing, in-field operation and dealer product training.

He will be available to demonstrate Kioti tractors and provide detailed training to dealers and end-users as part of Reco's support for its range of ground care equipment.

## Happy retirement to Claus

Claus-Detlef Ratjen has been a long time friend of BIGGA and many of its members. Many years ago now he had a vision for uniting greenkeepers on a European basis and as Chairman of the German Association he worked unceasingly to that end.

His efforts came to fruition in March 1996 with the formation of the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations. Claus was the guiding light behind this Association and went on to become its Chairman. Greenkeepers throughout Europe have much to thank him for as today there is a close unity amongst greenkeepers and their Associations.

At the recent German



Greenkeepers Association Conference in Dortmund, BIGGA Chairman, Clive Osgood expressed the Association's appreciation of all that Claus-Detlef had done for greenkeeping and greenkeepers. In making a presentation to him on behalf of his many friends in BIGGA, Clive thanked him and wished him a very happy retirement.

# A call for regulation

Donald Steel reiterated his call for regulation of clubs and balls at the sixth American Society of Golf Course Architects International Golf Conference held in St Andrews recently.

During the same conference in 1997 he had urged the lawmakers to exert tighter control on the manufacture of clubs and balls, and suggested that the lawmakers consult with architects on the subject.

At St Andrews this year, he reminded Society members, who include 150 leading North American golf course architects, of his earlier statement and what has happened in the interim.

"In those four years, the advance in the realms of the manufacture of clubs and balls has perhaps been more dramatic than in any other four year period in the entire history of the game. There is no wish to be over dramatic, but there is a definite fear that the situation is riding out of control," he said.

After its latest St Andrews meeting the Society declared that there should be a "line drawn in the sand soon" or technology could render many courses obsolete.

In his talk Donald pointed out that five players on the European Tour were averaging 300 yards on their drives.

He noted that Donald Ross had said, "the most dramatic shot in the game is the well-struck long iron" and added that modern equipment has made that shot almost extinct.

Donald stressed that the American Tour players all have averages well above Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus when they were in their prime.

"Taking Jack's driver distance as 260-265 yards, and bearing in mind he was regarded as blisteringly long off the tee throughout his distinguished career, it is a sobering thought that the first 140 on the current European Tour are longer than Jack was in 1970," he explained.

"If a course could be created that demanded that Tiger Woods had to hit long irons for his second shots to the par 4s, mid-irons to the par 3s and the par 5s were all three-shotters you would need a course of at least 8,200 yards, and even then I doubt they would contain him," said Donald.

"Golf course architects are not magicians. Not so long ago, we positioned fairway bunkers about 240 yards from the back tees, then 260, and I recently watch on television while two young professionals gave not a second thought about carrying two bunkers at 280 yards.

"My own personal feeling is that golf and the length of courses were at their best when Tom Watson was at the height of his powers, a time when he needed a perfect drive and 2-iron on

the final hole - 473 yards - at Birkdale to win the 1983 Open. Perhaps that can be kept in mind as a model, but a question nobody has answered is why it has always been the courses and clubs, at great expense, that have had to adjust to cater to new equipment when a far easier solution has been at hand: Control the ball," he concluded.

The ASGCA called for the USGA and R&A to develop reasonable parameters for both clubs and balls.



## SGM Masterclass

The latest innovations on the newest models of Textron machinery were unveiled to greenkeepers and officials from 90 top golf courses at a recent Scottish Grass Machinery Fine Turf Masterclass.

The open day followed a recent announcement by SGM that it had sold 100 Jacobsen fine turf mowers, in deals topping the £3 million mark, in the past 12 months. SGM estimate that the sales of Jacobsen equipment accounted for 55% of all fine turf equipment sold in Scotland last year to top courses including the Roxburgh, Royal Burgess, Airdrie, Alloa and Blairgowrie.

The event was split into three fine turf areas where specialists in tees, fairways and greens had the opportunity to exhibit the latest innovative designs. Ian Bridges, Regional

Manager of Textron, demonstrated the new Greensking VI greens machine, which is the lightest mower in its class due to the resourceful use of metal and components.

The day ended with an opportunity to participate in the machinery driving competition and the chance for delegates to perfect their golf swing with John Caven and Neil Marr, from Meldrum House Golf Club. Each delegate left with a computer-generated profile of their golf swing.

"The day was one of our most successful open day's yet. Again, Textron had a great range of new products and it was a good opportunity for our customers to meet with the experts," said David Melroy, Managing Director of Scottish Grass Machinery.

## Satellite operation

To extend the areas serviced by their existing specialist distributors, Sovereign Turf has set up a number of new satellite operations to supply turf and grass seed.

Mill Race Nurseries, one of the largest wholesale nurseries in the South East of England, and Sibleys Green Nurseries based at Thaxted operate under the umbrella of Sovereign's distributor Crowley Turf. Significantly extending the area previously covered, clients from Harlow, Bishops Stortford, Braintree, Chelmsford and Colchester right out to the East coast can be serviced.

"This move is part of our on-going expansion plans designed to double the business in five years. It provides experienced agents who can promote our turf and seed to landscapers, local authorities and sportsturf managers," said Steve Williams, Sales Manager.

## St Andrews Bay

Sam Torrance, Europe's Ryder Cup Captain has opened the Torrance Course at St Andrews Bay the £50m golf resort, spa and conference centre, his first ever course design.

The 7020 yard, par 72 course set on cliff tops overlooking St Andrews will be joined next summer by its sister course the Devlin providing 36 holes of true championship golf.

"I've been asked to design courses previously and said no, but it's only once in a lifetime that you get asked to build a course with such a dramatic setting - especially at St Andrews. This time it had to be yes," said Sam.

The £7m design is part of the exciting new resort that opened earlier in the year, the vision of Don Panoz, an American pharmaceutical magnate. St Andrews Bay is the first European property of Chateau Elan Hotels and Resorts.

"Our investment has been significant at St Andrews Bay and our next phase of development is on schedule including the Devlin course. Although this year has been a difficult one for the entire UK tourism industry, we've developed a product and level of service that provides a point of difference to both the business and leisure sectors," said Don.

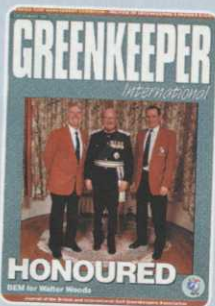
## Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year [www.tonyhusband.co.uk](http://www.tonyhusband.co.uk)



A LOOK BACK TO A DECADE AGO  
**Back Lapping**  
 FROM GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Take a time-honoured look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



**DECEMBER 1991**

Elliott Small paid tribute to Cecil George on his retirement as 'a man 'o many parts: greenkeeper; educator; committee member; secretary; chairman; president; editor; poet and sometime singer of 'auld Scottish songs'. Cecil had begun his greenkeeping career in 1943 at Whitecraigs Golf Club finally settling at Lenzie Golf Club where he spent 37 happy years. Above all perhaps Cecil remains synonymous with greenkeeper education with his active interest continuing to this day. He remains closely involved with BIGGA and his contribution to each AGM remains eagerly anticipated.

Jim Snow, as National Director of the USGA Green Section, covered the topic of winter play on greens. It is common knowledge that three topics are simply too controversial and should never be brought up at social functions; politics, religion and winter play on greens. The last mentioned topic - few subjects raise such an emotional response from greenkeepers and golfers alike. Jim concluded that winter play can do an inordinate amount of damage to the health and playability of the greens in relation to the number of rounds. Every club considering winter play should question whether or not it is worth the risk of damaging the greens and affecting their playability for a significant period of the regular season by allowing a relatively small percentage of the Club's members to use them all the time. In the view of most head greenkeepers, turf grass scientists and agronomists, it is not.

## Allen Power open day

Allen played host to nearly 200 dealers and their salesmen in a recent series of demonstration days in Scotland, the north and south of England. The first day at Murrayshall Hotel and Golf complex near Perth was well attended by dealership representatives from all over Scotland and the far north of England.

The entire range of Allen equipment was at the disposal of dealer sales personnel to test and try the machines in a variety of demanding situations.

Also in attendance from the suppliers was Mark Barnett from Honda who went through the new engines and Tim Mitchell from Friendly Robotics who manufacture the Robomow robotic mower recently taken on by Allen.

The culmination of the road shows came at Blenheim Palace, near Oxford. Over the two days 100 dealers and their staff had the Allen range presented to them against the stunning background of Blenheim.



## Try the Samuel Ryder Cocktail!

Celtic Manor has developed a cocktail in honour of the club's successful bid to host the Ryder Cup in 2010. The 20/10 might well have appealed to seed merchant, Samuel Ryder, as it is produced with ingredients which are based on grasses and herbs.

They include Zubrowka vodka, each bottle of which contains a blade of Bison Grass, Pikesville Rye Whiskey, and Galliano, the famous Italian herbal liqueur in a distinctive bottle.

### Preparation

25ml Galliano  
 25ml Zubrowka Bison vodka  
 25ml Pikesville Straight Rye Whiskey

### Preliminaries

Stirred not shaken over ice. Chill the glasses and shaker with ice and drain when ready for use. Add ingredients to shaker and stir vigorously for 30 seconds then strain into glass.

### Presentation

Garnish with the tip only of a sprig of fresh mint and a 1cm twist of lemon, preferably organic.

## Support boost for Hydroscape

Simon Squires has joined, the Hydroscape Group as the company's UK Technical Support Manager.

Simon's brief covers all technical aspects of the Hydroscape Group's distribution interests, ranging from Toro golf irrigation products, Otterbine Barebo (water) aerators, Global Atmospherics electrical storm warning systems to Sweetwater International sulphur burning units.

Simon recently worked closely with St Andrews Links Trust officials as Contracts Manager responsible for the second phase of the £940,000 irrigation update of the Old, New and Jubilee courses, completed in May of this year.

Prior to that, he managed phase one of the St Andrews project, involving irrigation for approaches, greens, tees and fairways on the Eden, Balgove and Strathyrum courses which was completed within budget and ahead of schedule, in 1999.

"We are delighted that Simon has become part of our team. He will ful-

fil a key role in providing technical support for the complete product range which we, a national distributor specialising in the use of water resources and its management - primarily in UK sports turf markets - view as extremely important," said Graeme Francis, Hydroscape's Marketing Manager,



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**Letters**  
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## Leading the way

I read Duncan McGilvary's article in November's Greenkeeper magazine with interest and found myself agreeing with much that he said, as well as being very concerned. It seems strange that as a profession we have progressed so far in developing ourselves in the last 10 or so years, yet many greenkeepers are respected less now than their predecessors of 30 years ago. Then the greenkeeper's words were law. As you talk to many greenkeepers the recurring statements seem to be "It's what our members want", "We can't do that as it upsets our members" or "I want to keep my job".

There are far too many people writing about, and teaching, greenkeeping principles with those statements in mind. I can't think of many other industries that employ professional, well-trained managers to manage their major asset, and then expect them to be told by committees and members how to manage this asset and, of course, if this asset is in poor shape then it's the manager's fault.

In answer to Duncan's question we should, of course, lead. We are well-trained professionals who have been trained to understand how our courses should be managed. But we need strong minded greenkeepers who have a sense of tradition and of what is right, who want to lead and if they are not out there already then managers from other professions will eventually end up managing many golf courses with dangerous implications. These managers will have no sense of tradition and will undoubtedly change the face of British golf. As greenkeepers we need good training and first-rate leadership to help us in these difficult times. Where this comes from is the real question.

Golf clubs also need to look at themselves very closely too, as their aspirations for their golf course are far too often wide of the mark and against what is traditionally right. We live in an "environmentally friendly" world yet many clubs want to produce a totally artificial environment instead of a natural course that enhances it.

First and foremost we, as greenkeepers, need to come to the front and lead the way forward. We then need our members, committees and professionals to leave us to do what we do best, without having to pander to them and work our management around them.

They are the ones who need education. Who does that is the next question...

Alex McCombie  
 Deputy Course Manager  
 Parkstone Golf Club

## Professional concern

I would like to thank Duncan for having the guts to stand up and say what he believes and to air his views in public.

I have spent most of my greenkeeping career working on the continent except for three years when I returned to work in the UK at one of Duncan's average members' clubs. All I will say is that the politics at this club caused a constant fight between me, trying to do my job as a professional, and amateurs trying to tell me what to do. We had four Club Secretaries in two years! I am not saying that all members' clubs are like this but I believe that, after talking with many colleagues, the majority are.

I talked with a leading consultant who advised me to return to the continent. His reasons were quite clear. The greenkeeping profession has come so far in the last 15 years but the attitude of the committees has not changed for the last 30 years and herein lies the problem. So where does that leave us. Good Course Managers become disillusioned and yes many are leaving the industry. Last year a drainage company advertised for a contracts estimator. I talked with the Managing Director of this company and he asked me what on earth is going on within the greenkeeping industry. He informed me that 70 Course Managers had applied for the vacant position. Need I say more.

We have a choice in life. You can either accept your present position or do something about it. In my case I left my club in the UK and am now working in Scandinavia where I am treated as a professional and allowed to exercise my abilities and management skills that I have acquired over the last 27 years.

So what is all this nonsense about golf professionals and interested club officials wanting to get involved in greenkeeper training?

Where were these people 20 years ago when we as an industry were educating ourselves as they did not want to know? As for greenkeepers not wanting to take on the demanding role of training here is one greenkeeper who did the opposite.

When I worked in Switzerland there was no greenkeeper education system at all and no contact between the greenkeepers themselves. The greenkeepers learned their profession by making mistakes and learning from them. I brought all the greenkeepers together by organising the first Swiss Greenkeepers' Golf Championship, and followed this up by organising education days at my club. I then helped create the Swiss Greenkeepers Association and set up the first ever greenkeeper education programme in Switzerland with David Golding at the GTC, using the Level 2 Training log book that we had translated into French and German. I did all this without any help from golf professionals or club members. I did all this for the love of my profession and to help my fellow colleagues and the end result is better maintained golf courses for the Swiss golfers and a greenkeeping profession that is now recognised by the Swiss Golf Association, with a far higher profile for greenkeepers in their country.

So after 15 years of going forward do we now need amateurs telling us what to do? Do these people not realise that if there is a problem today that they are the ones who have created it? What are golf club committees afraid of? It really is quite simple. You employ the best Course Manager that you can, give him the budget, staff and materials that he needs to maintain the course to the standard that everyone wants and then leave the professional to get on and do his job unhindered.

It would appear though that this solution is difficult to accept at members' clubs in the UK. I believe that it is something to do with "power".

Education of greenkeepers. Let's look at a recent advert in the October issue of Greenkeeper International. Hartpury College are looking for an experienced greenkeeper/sportsturf specialist to teach the skills and management of golf courses. The college is committing substantial resources to the development of its sports facilities. So why do I feel insulted when I see a salary of £16,800 offered for this position when a Course Manager can demand between £30,000 and £35,000? Do these colleges not understand that if we are to raise the standards of greenkeepers' knowledge today then the only way is to attract the top people from the industry into the education system to impart their knowledge. Offering £16,800 is hardly an incentive, is it?

So is Duncan right or wrong? I believe that he is right to be concerned about our profession. The way forward for the future is always going to be difficult until golf clubs accept the fact that today's greenkeepers are professional, educated and very committed to giving first class playing conditions if only they are allowed. They do not need interference from a Chairman of Green, Club Secretary or Golf Professional. By implementing a golf course policy document which will guarantee continuity on the course when committees constantly change and by communicating with members can we assure that the course will be maintained and managed correctly for the next generation of golfers.

Ian C Tomlinson  
Course Manager  
Rungsted Golf Club  
Denmark

## Leave it to us

Re: Duncan McGilvray's article in the November issue.

I could not agree more with Duncan's article. After being a Chairman of Green for 10 years at my own golf club and now working on another I have first hand knowledge. Chairmen of Green and Green Committees interfere far too much with greenkeepers.

They would not tell an electrician how to wire a house nor would they tell a mechanic how to fit a new engine. Greenkeeping is a very professional job with lots of skills.

Let's hope a lot of other greenkeepers write in.

We must lead. Not be led.

Well done, Duncan.

Harold Blackshaw, Assistant Greenkeeper  
Onneley GC, Staffs

## Run by committee

With reference to Duncan McGilvray's article in last month's magazine.

I feel that the issue is a very complicated one. As a greenkeeper of nearly 30 years I think that while we still have an industry that is run by mainly well meaning amateurs we have got a problem. Committees change too often and they don't have the right credentials to do the work that they put themselves up for, and there's the problem.

However I feel that will change as they become aware of their responsibilities in law. We are already seeing the shift in secretaries from the retired RAF types to the ex banking men and even women.

Only when the present private members' club structure changes will any of us be allowed to take on the responsibilities that we crave and know we can do.

It will happen but it will be legislation that will force the issue in the average members' golf club.

Dave Goodridge, Head Greenkeeper  
Denbigh GC

## Redexim clarification

I enjoyed the piece in the September issue about the Bargoed Golf Club, but I think the writer must have had trouble reading his shorthand!

I was somewhat bemused by the statement "the course uses a Wiedemann verti-dRAIN" as there being no such animal. VertiDrain is a Redexim Trademark and while it has been used as a verb over the years the name cannot be used in conjunction with Wiedemann.

The piece of equipment used at the

Bargoed Golf Club is indeed a Redexim VertiDrain, and is verified by turning the page and finding a picture of our machine in storage on a pallet!

While pleased to see our machine featured, I wonder if there is some way you could clarify the situation regarding the VertiDrain name and the correct company that manufactures it.

David Jenkins, Managing Director  
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Limited

## You've got m@il!

If you've got an email account why not send an email to us here at BIGGA, where we can place you into our exclusive email address book. We can then keep you up-to-date with news and event information as soon as it happens.

Send an email to: [reception@bigga.co.uk](mailto:reception@bigga.co.uk)

Remember to include the word 'updates' in your subject field

Neil Thomas reports on the selection of the second BIGGA Delegation – this time to the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando ...

# Bernhard's ten to hit Orlando



Neil Thomas

## The Delegation

### Midland Region

Philip Gates - Trentham Golf Club  
David Winterton MG - Maidenhead Golf Club

### Northern Region

Tony Smith - Hurlston Hall Golf Club  
Patrick McAteer - Nefyn Golf Club

### Scottish Region

Ronnie Bunting - Kilmacollm Golf Club  
Jim Paton - West Kilbride Golf Club

### South West & South Wales

Ivor Scoones - Long Ashton Golf Club  
Jeff Mills - Taunton & Pickering Golf Club

### South East Region

Ian Willett - Thorpeness Golf, Hotel & CC  
Tony Dunstan - Mill Hill Golf Club

Was it really a year ago, I thought, when my diary showed the October week allocated to the selection of the second BIGGA Delegation in association with Bernhard & Company? A year since we selected the ten BIGGA members to visit the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Conference and Show in Vancouver?

What a memorable event that had turned out to be, greatly benefiting our delegates who have since passed on their experiences in a number of both formal and informal ways to fellow greenkeepers. It was a pleasure, therefore, to hear from Stephen Bernhard of the success of the visit from his company's perspective and of his wish to support a second Delegation, this time to the 73rd GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida.

The itinerary looked daunting and the geography considerable, with the five BIGGA Regions to be covered in five days but with much to be gained - not only for those selected but also for the runners-up who will be assisted with their trips to BTME 2002 in recognition of their being worthy representatives of both Section and Region. It is not only the candidates who gain but also those who undertake the interviews.

From my own viewpoint, I interviewed 23 members during the week and again this year that proved to be a valuable learning experience. I feel sure, also, that both Stephen and Sam McLean learnt much from the exercise. Two Regional Board representatives joined each Regional Panel. I was ever present while Stephen joined us for the Northern and Midland Region interviews with



Above: Flashback to last year's Bernhard's delegation to Vancouver, Canada

Sam taking over in the South East, South West and South Wales and Scottish Regions.

Members had been asked to submit a personal profile including details of education and training and career summary as well as membership history within BIGGA. They had been asked to explain why they warranted selection for and would benefit from the Orlando visit. They would need to demonstrate an ability to represent BIGGA in a public relations role at an international event. From these criteria we developed wide ranging interviews which proved both demanding and stimulating.

At the end of each day, difficult decisions had to be made, decisions on the one hand which would elicit elation while on the other disappointment would be marked. I believe the chosen delegation represents a broad cross-section of our membership and there is every reason to believe that they will be equally as successful as the Vancouver Delegates in representing both BIGGA and the greenkeeping profession.

No jolly is this - as last year's inter-

pid travellers found out. The ten selected are already embarked on researching the visit - in terms of such issues as climatic and geographic differences, budget comparisons, personnel employed on American golf courses and educational development of staff. All this will contribute to the knowledge and experiences to be gained during the trip which they will need to record with notes and photographs for presentations to fellow greenkeepers on their return.

Bernhard & Company are a leading supporter of our educational and training programmes and we at BIGGA greatly appreciate this initiative over the last two years. Members can only gain from the experience as will the Association. The impact of the Delegation in Canada was considerable and I have no doubt this will again be the case in Orlando. Coupled with the Old Tom Morris Award to Walter Woods during the Show, BIGGA's international standing and leadership role within the greenkeeping profession will most certainly be further enhanced.



Stephen Bernhard



Sam McLean

## Bernhard's Managing Director, Stephen Bernhard, explains his thoughts behind the scholarships

Earlier this year Bernhard & Company were delighted to host 10 British greenkeepers to represent our industry by attending the Canadian National Turf Show in Vancouver. The visit was a great success, new friends were made and the connection between the British and Canadian greenkeepers was strengthened.

Bernhard's are delighted to again take the initiative in further developing this relationship with international greenkeepers by sponsoring another group of ten BIGGA members to travel to the GCSAA National show in Orlando next February.

The interview process has again been enlightening. As before, many personal views have been expressed by candidates. Certainly the need for more effective local communication has

become widely felt. Education is being asked for but at a local level and with greater involvement from suppliers. Bernhard's embrace this view.

We believe that involvement of this type in the British industry and sharing knowledge and experiences of our American customers, will boost standards of working practices and knowledge of participants on both sides of the Atlantic.

As the world is moving again into a cycle of economic constraint, we will all need to become more effective. That will mean working smarter and with greater flexibility. By hosting events of this type, Bernhard's enjoy the opportunity to listen to what our colleagues in the industry are saying, learning how best to help them by supplying grinding equipment that also works smarter

and meets the real needs of the market.

During this trip to Orlando, visitors will enjoy an opportunity to see a totally different type of "destination golf experience". Hopefully the information that they gather will be disseminated to their colleagues at home, for that is the objective of this venture.

Bernhard's feel that it is essential, this year, that each BIGGA Region and every individual Section ask the locally selected representatives to spend some time with members sharing the experiences of the trip during an evening presentation.

Once again, we have a varied and interesting group of British Greenkeepers who will represent our industry in Orlando. Bernhard & Company are proud to be the sponsor and wish all those travelling an interesting and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

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Tracey and Susannah from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like to welcome over 70 new members to the Association and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## December and January membership renewals

If your membership expires on 31 December 2001 or 31 January 2002, you should have received your membership renewal pack by now. If you haven't please contact Membership Services. Your pack will contain a pre-printed renewal form, please check

all your details are correct, if you have any changes please use the spaces provided. Don't forget to sign the form on the reverse and return to BIGGA HOUSE with a passport sized photograph of yourself.

Also included within your pack will be a Time to Renew Newsletter informing you of any new benefits and services or any changes to existing ones. Please take the time to read this, as it is aimed at keeping you up to date with all the latest news in membership. If you require new application forms please contact Tracey or Susannah, in the Membership Services Department, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or ring us on 01347 833800, fax 01347 833801, email, [tracey@bigga.co.uk](mailto:tracey@bigga.co.uk), [susannah@bigga.co.uk](mailto:susannah@bigga.co.uk) or click on [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)



### December's Monthly Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch. Our congratulations go to December's winner, Jonathan J Scoones, of Caversham Heath Golf Club.



## BIGGA Christmas Gift ideas



BIGGA's leisurewear, branded with the BIGGA logo, would make perfect gifts for Christmas. Quality clothing made by Cutter and Buck, Peter Scott and Sun and Rain with prices starting from £29.95 inc. VAT, post and packing. Choose from ...

### Cutter & Buck BIGGA logo Classic Polo Shirts

Available in sunflower and navy for only £29.95 inc. VAT, post and packing. Sizes Medium, Large, XL or XXL available.

### Peter Scott BIGGA logo Jumpers

Available in three styles: (1) Round neck, available in navy and charcoal, sizes from 40" to 48". £34.95 inc. VAT, post and packing.

### (2) V-neck long sleeve

available in navy only, sizes from 40" to 46", larger sizes available on request. £34.95 inc. VAT, post and packing.

### (3) V-neck no sleeves

available in navy only, sizes from 40" to 46", larger sizes available on request. £29.95 inc. VAT, post and packing.

### Sun & Rain Waterproof Suits

Available in navy consisting of a jacket with matching trousers with a drawstring waistband. Sizes from M to XXL. £59.95 inc. VAT, post and packing.

### Slazenger Baseball Caps

Available in khaki with light blue peak, one size fits all with adjustable strap. £12.95 inc VAT, post and packing.

### BIGGA Members Lapel Badge

BIGGA have introduced a new "Members" enamel lapel badge. Available to all members at the special rate of £2.50 inc VAT, post and packing.

## BIGGA WELCOMES...

### Scottish Region

John Bateson, Central  
Euan MacDonald, North  
Craig MacKay, North  
Kevin McColm, Central  
Alexander Steven, West  
Graham Sutherland, West

### Northern Region

Lee Fletcher, N West  
Scott Pavis, Northern  
Lee Richardson, Northern  
David Robson, Northern  
Andrew Slade, N West  
Kyle Stocker, N West  
Andrew West, Northern

### Midland Region

Harold Blackshaw, Midland  
Graham Blum, Mid Anglia  
John Button, Mid Anglia  
Philip Byers, Midland  
Benjamin Cumberland, E Midland  
Maxwell Fuller, BB&O  
Chris Garnett, Mid Anglia  
John Glover, Midland  
Richard Hawkins, Midland  
Aaron Pears, E Midland  
Jonathan Poole, E of England  
David Seals, E Midland  
Henry J Starkey, E Midland  
Stephen Tunnicliffe, E Midland  
Andrew Wood, E Midland

### S E Region

Stephen Coates, Surrey  
Edward Davison, London  
Gregg Hall, Kent  
Neil Kortas, London  
Sean O'Connell, Sussex  
Mark Poland, Sussex  
Jason Sarna, Sussex  
Michael Scriven, Kent  
Eric Simmonds, Surrey  
Roger J Smith, Kent  
Raymond Victory, Sussex  
James Webster, Kent  
Benjamin Whibley, Kent  
Jamie Wright, Kent

### S West Region

Keiran Dewbery, S West  
Martin Lane, S West  
Howard Mogridge, S Wales  
Dale Northway, S Coast  
Kevin Sturney, S Coast

### Northern Ireland

William Black

### Republic of Ireland

Daniel Crowley  
Keith Lowson

### International Members

John Jackson, Austria  
Francois Pujot, France  
Edward Kutt, USA  
Kenneth Nice, USA  
Troy Russell, USA  
Dean Baker, Canada

### Associate Members

James Finlayson, Central  
John Dobson, Northern  
John Marriott, Northern  
Simon Squires, Northern  
Les Emery, E Midland  
Daniel Beckley, London  
Colin Murphy, S Wales  
Oliver Sutton, Rep Ireland

### Corporate Members

Stewart Finney, Sheffield  
Neville Pearson, Sheffield  
Martin Buckland, N West  
Chris Stansfield, BB&O

### Student Members

Alasdair McLeod, West  
Michael Robinson, N West  
Scott A Wildman, N West  
Robert Dunkley, Midland  
Christopher Brownlow, N Ireland



You may have heard their names mentioned in conversation, or even seen them in print, but have you ever wondered who the individuals are who help BIGGA to run so smoothly as the leading Association in the fine turf industry? Read on...



## Elliott Small

Immediate Past Chairman

Name: Elliott Small

Golf Club: Tulliallan GC

Association Position: Immediate Past Chairman

How long have you been a member of BIGGA?  
From the start

Where do you hope the Association will be in 10 years time?

Still working for the good of all members and being given credit by some for work that has been done.

For what would you most like to be remembered?

Being Chairman in the Year 2000 and hopefully for doing the best I could over the last 30 years to improve our lot.

For what would you least like to be remembered?

For along with the late Harry Diamond and Bert Cross being the b\*\*\*\*\*s who woke poor greenkeepers at 5am for duties at The Open (poor souls only had two hours sleep). Sorry lads!

Why did you take on a more involved role in the running of the Association?

I'm old enough to remember terrible conditions greenkeepers used to work under and wanted to do something about it.

Name one thing which would improve the Association?

Bring the GTC in with BIGGA and make every golfer play for education and training.

What is your claim to fame (None, not acceptable)?

Riding in the Royal cavalcade in the Duke of York's security car to the opening of BIGGA HOUSE. I even had the cheek to wave to the crowds.

Describe BIGGA in 15 words

An Association where all the members are of equal importance from apprentice to Course Manager.