



B I G G A M E M B E R S H I P

HOW CAN YOU **benefit?**

BIGGA membership isn't just for greenkeepers. We have four main categories to suit everybody. All membership categories are utilised by people seeking to create a greater understanding and awareness of greenkeeping, the skills, knowledge and training involved, and the rewards to be gained from this profession. All categories of membership benefit from a monthly copy of our award winning magazine Greenkeeper International and an annual copy of the BIGGA Golf Directory.



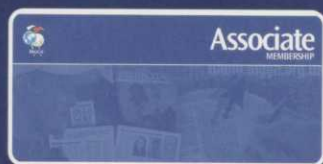
Greenkeeper Membership
(any person employed in the 'keeping of the green at a golfing establishment') offers:

Education opportunities for professional greenkeepers

Exclusive discounts and benefits for Greenkeeper Members

Exclusive access to our Greenkeeper Members Area

Through Membership, BIGGA also aims to create a safer working environment for our members



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(any person who is not a working greenkeeper, but wants to be part of a growing Association, i.e. Chairman of Green, Secretary, Company Sales Representative etc.) offers:

Engaging media products which educate and entertain

Networking with members, clients, suppliers and potential customers

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Online information & opportunities for Associate Members



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Student Membership
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BIGGA MEMBERSHIP IS ABOUT MAXIMISING RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS AND ENSURING THAT GOLF CLUBS RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE AND BENEFITS OF EDUCATION WITHIN THE PROFESSION



For full information on any of the four categories of membership, please ring Tracey or Susannah in the Membership Services Department on 01347 833800, email tracey@bigga.co.uk or susannah@bigga.co.uk or find us on the web at www.bigga.org.uk or write to us at BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF



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TIME TO TALK

HAVE YOU CLICKED ON YET?

Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS THAT GREENKEEPERS

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 November 2001 edition of *Greenkeeper International* is Friday, October 12, 2001

Greenkeeper International:

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Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear.

Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £38 per year, Europe and Eire £50. 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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8 Top award for Walter Woods



Photography: Brian Morgan 0141 221 0236

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Neil Thomas pays tribute to Walter Woods who has just been awarded the GCSAA's highest accolade

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Taking the time to reflect ...

I sit in front of this computer composing my regular Editorial just five days after the horrific events in the United States and it is fair to say that my mind, as well as those of my colleagues in BIGGA HOUSE, is still a little numb.

Sure, I didn't have any relatives or friends caught up in the nightmare but such has been the scale of the horror, the stories which have emanated from the States of personal and collective tragedy, have touched me, and many others, in much the same way as if we had.

What has happened will impact on many aspects of our lives from now on whether it be travel and the restrictions we will face every time we leave these shores to the possible recession such a strike on the world's principle financial centre could accelerate.

But in our world of golf one of the immediate casualties has been this year's Ryder Cup which has just been postponed for 12 months. I'm sure you will join me in sending our best wishes to Dave Sammels and his team at The De Vere Belfry who have just seen all their work, aimed at three days in September 2001, knocked on the head.

Such a crushing let down, even if it is seen in the entire scheme of such a disaster, must be extremely difficult to take and motivation over the next few months will undoubtedly be hard to come by.

I recall talking to Dave a couple of months ago and him telling me that every eventuality had been considered and contingency plans put in place. It would have required a crystal ball of considerable sophistication to cope with these developments.

One can only imagine the thoughts of everyone involved as they dismantle the grandstands and the tented village knowing that the job of erecting them again will be done not 10 months on.

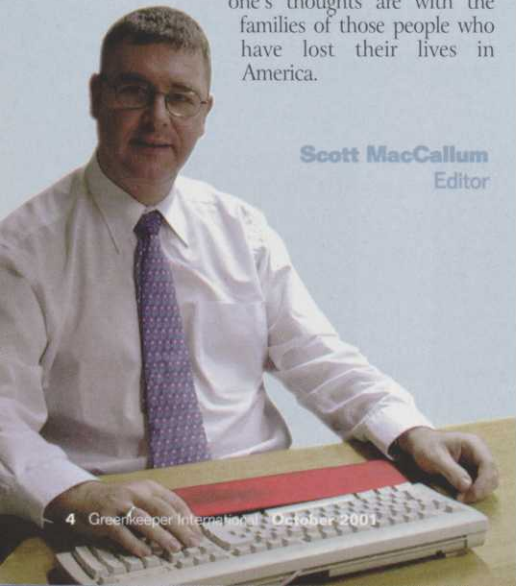
That is not to say that it is the wrong decision. Had the match gone ahead on the scheduled date the result would have been of little significance to many of those taking part. While the quality of golf from both sides would have been applauded equally by the European galleries, the fact that the significance of victory would have been downgraded in the minds of the 24 players makes postponement the correct decision - outright cancellation would have made too much of an impact on the finances of both the PGA and the PGA European Tour.

No, the thing which makes the Ryder Cup so special is that victory means so much to the players, the respective Tours and those they represent, whether it be the Continent of Europe or the United States of America.

Come September 2002 victory will mean everything once again and the golf will reach the levels we have come to expect from one of the greatest sporting events on earth.

But for now it is right that everyone's thoughts are with the families of those people who have lost their lives in America.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



Clive visits latest Golden Key supporters

BIGGA Chairman, Clive Osgood, caught up with the Association's two newest Golden Key members the Stoke Park Club and AGCO to present them with their plaques.

He travelled first to Stoke Poges to make the presentation to Alex Miller, the Estate Director (left) and Hartford King, the Managing Director of Stoke Park outside the famous clubhouse before making a similar presentation to Tim Lawrence, Agco's Sales Manager - Grounds Care during Saltex.

"We are delighted to have the support of both of these companies and the money they donate to the Education and Development Fund will go a long way to making our proposed educational projects a reality," said Clive.



The Stakeholder Pension Scheme

John Pemberton, BIGGA's Administration and Finance Manager gives some important information about company pension schemes.

As you may be aware most employers with five or more employees must, by law, offer a Stakeholder Pension arrangement to their staff after October 8 of this year.

Employees can choose whether or not to join the scheme. BIGGA has a solution that could be of assistance to you and your club.

Stakeholder Pensions have been introduced by the Government to encourage people to provide financially for their own retirement through a low cost savings scheme.

A Stakeholder Pension is a savings fund that belongs to the individual. The Government encourages savings into the fund by proving tax incentives. A gross contribution of £100 actually costs £78 after tax relief at standard rate. Anyone below normal

pension age, working or not, can invest up to £3,600 gross each year, the contributions can be invested in a range of different funds to suit the savers requirements. Contributions can be as little as £20 per month. On retirement the fund is used to provide an income for life. There is usually also an opportunity to take part of the fund as a tax free cash sum.

The advantage of the Stakeholder pension over other plans is that there is no initial charge. The annual charge is limited to a maximum of 1% per year and there are no other charges. There are no penalties for stopping or changing contributions and there is also no penalty for switching the pension fund to another provider.

To fulfil the legal requirements an employer must offer a scheme but does not have to make a contribution, although many employers may choose to do so. The main duty of the employer is to deduct contributions from

wages and pay the pension provider the premium within fixed time limits.

BIGGA have enlisted the help of an Independent Financial Adviser, Walsh Lucas and Co of York, and chosen Standard Life as a preferred provider. Standard Life is one of the world's leading mutual financial services companies whose mutual status is a key to their success. Walsh Lucas and Co has been known to BIGGA for several years and has the expertise to provide the additional financial advice that will be required by many Clubs and members.

Arrangements have been made that any member of BIGGA or employee of a Club joining the scheme can have free independent financial advice over the telephone. Anyone wishing to join the scheme can also do so by telephone.

Further details are available from Geoff Steel of Walsh Lucas and Co, 33 Micklegate, York YO1 6WE. Tel: 01904 610495

Andrew and Ian receive special medals

Andrew Wood and Ian Smith have each been awarded a special medal by the City & Guilds in recognition of the high standard of work they have achieved during their studies. These awards only go to one in every 3,000 people.

Andrew is studying NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance at Plumpton College while Ian, who is now at Mentmore Golf and Country Club, is studying for his National Certificate in Greenkeeping at Oaklands College.

Pictured are: Andrew, centre, and Ian, right, with Ian Merrick, Curriculum Team Leader at Oakland College.



National Championship qualifiers go through

The Northern Ireland Section had a very successful day at Royal Portrush at the end of August at which Andrew Wray, from Castle Rock GC, and Noel Crawford, Royal County Down, each won a place in the BIGGA National Championship field following fine performances over Portrush's Valley course.

Cyril Johnston and Co donated a fine Golf Trophy to Section, which will go to the best golfer from the competitions played this year. Sam Thompson from the sales team presented the trophy to Chairman Jonathan McCabe.



Sam Thompson presenting Jonathan McCabe with the Trophy plus the Northern Ireland Section with winners Andrew Wray and Noel Crawford front centre in the Royal Portrush clubhouse

Bunker Competition winner presented with Hayter prize

Mark Garrod, winner of the Great BIGGA Bunker Competition held during this year's Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes was presented with his prize by Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter Ltd at Brocket Hall.

Mark, who in addition to being the Golf Correspondent for the Press Association is the Secretary of the Association of Golf Writers, came closest in his estimate of how many balls would find sand during the four days of the Championship.

A grand total of 1585 balls found

one of the 197 Lytham bunkers and Mark's accurate estimate earned him a superb Hayter Harrier lawn mower donated for the seventh successive year by Kim Macfie.

Many thanks to Hayter for their wonderful support of a competition which always attracts a lot of attention in the Open Championship Media Centre and to John Wells and Brocket Hall for providing the venue for the presentation and for kindly giving a tee time on the Melbourne Course so Kim, Mark and your Editor could show off their skills.



Surf to Turf relaunch from Avoncrop Amenity

Avoncrop Amenity Products has re-launched its range of seaweed products Surf to Turf.

The new improved range will offer turf managers a wider choice of liquids and a new enhanced Soil Improver. Both Avoncrop Amenity and Aitken's will jointly market the New Surf to Turf range, giving nationwide availability.

The New range consists of one granular Composted Seaweed Soil Improver with 7% Potassium and five Seaweed liquids, Triple Seaweed containing 27% seaweed extract, Seaweed plus 6% chelated Iron; Seaweed with 20% Nitrogen, Seaweed plus 12-0-7 + 1% chelated

Iron and finally Seaweed plus 2-0-15 + 0.5% chelated Iron. This liquid range offers the turf manager analysis to compliment almost all nutritional programmes for use throughout the seasons. They will encourage deep-rooted healthy turf as well as stimulating beneficial organisms.

The Soil Improver is a powerful fermented seaweed rich in trace elements, carbohydrates and plant growth stimulant, providing sustained nutrition for plants and beneficial micro organisms. Soil Improver also releases alginate gel once moist, which helps tilth and crumb structure in all soil types, aid-

ing aeration, moisture and nutrient retention. The added potassium helps to produce tougher harder wearing turf.

For further details contact Chris Briggs, Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd on 01934 820868



Matt appointed new Scotts MD



The Scotts Company has appointed Matt Reed as its new Managing Director of Scotts Professional Business Group UK and Ireland. This follows the departure of Bernie Ford, Managing Director of UK & Ireland Professional Business Groups, who has left the Scotts Company and returned to the USA.

Matt, who takes up his position from immediate effect, has been responsible for business development and legal activities across the international division of Scotts and has previously help senior financial roles within both the UK and the international management teams. He has worked for Scotts since 1997 when Miracle Garden Care was acquired and has been heavily involved in building Scotts' international business through a series of acquisitions and strategic supply agreements over the last five years.

He will be based at Scotts Headquarters at Bramford near Ipswich.

Parkstone GC launch website

Parkstone Golf Club has launched its own website and members are invited to take a look on www.parkstonegolfclubgreens.fsnet.co.uk

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

The Missing Link

The final paragraph of Daniel Binns' article in on Soil Analysis in last month's magazine should have read;

There are now a plethora of green-keeping products available on the market and we are constantly bombarded with information on the latest development that will make all the difference to our turf. In terms of nutrition, try not to be blinded by science; instead keep it as simple as possible. The most important factors in maintaining healthy, disease tolerant turf are the physical maintenance of the rootzone and sensible nitrogen fertiliser applications.

Apologies for any confusion that may have arisen.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year 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



OCTOBER 1991

'Just where is all our water?' was the question posed in 'Greenkeeper International' as greenkeepers faced another year - the fourth - of water shortages. Rainfall for August in England and Wales had been only 32% of the average when taken long-term while the rainfall for the first 19 days of September was 1% of this long term average ... The main sufferers were in the south east and East Anglia - reeling from hosepipe bans and with tougher restrictions set to be imposed. The forecast for most of England read doom-laden for the greenkeepers - continuing dry!

Roger Evans of the STRI wrote on a problem created by concern for the environment - WORMS. He concluded that earthworm control is more difficult now than in the past, due to the increasingly responsible attitude taken by public opinion towards environmental matters. Effective chemicals may well be banned but there is every possibility that we may be able to keep worm populations down to acceptable levels by other means which are not ecologically unacceptable.

A leading American golfer turned golf course architect was reported to have sent one of his experts to report on the building and maintenance of a course in Scotland. His report concluded 'and if you follow my instructions you will have the best greens in England' ...

Tribute to former Turnberry Head Greenkeeper, Jimmy McCubbin

Jimmy McCubbin, who died after a long illness, borne without complaint and cared for by his devoted wife, Agnes, on July 29 aged 85, was a great friend of mine.

We first met when he took over the head post at Turnberry in the run up to their 1977 Open. He was responsible for the huge success of that event and in particular for restoring, in a very short time, links which had been neglected and mis-managed.

We had three years to get what was almost total disaster into condition suitable for the world's most important Championship. This was achieved to the surprise of many pundits, and illustrates how it could be done in very short order by following traditional methods and not taking too much notice of the members!

Although Jimmy had served his greenkeeping apprenticeship at Maybole, when he joined Turnberry Hotel in 1935 he started literally at the bottom in the kitchens before becoming Head Gardener, from which post he moved to take on the management of the course. When he retired in 1982 he had 47 years service with the Hotel.

When the R&A gave me the task of getting back MacKenzie Ross' wonderful links I needed someone with an instinctive feel for traditional greenkeeping and Jimmy came with no baggage! For over two and a half years I walked the course every month with Jimmy and for his part he built up a devoted team, faithfully implementing an agreed policy. The result was a highly successful Open for which

Jimmy rightly took his deserved plaudits, showing what could be done in a very short time to restore any course ravaged by the feed and water school. The 1977 Open was indeed the jewel in Jimmy's crown!

Jimmy was a quiet man of total integrity, who could and did inspire loyalty in his staff and got the best out of them. He trained many youngsters in the sound basics and many of them have gone on to very senior positions.

I am not alone in remembering him with affection and respect but so many of his contemporaries have left the fray. One things of the old Scots toast ...

Here's tae us, Whae's like us?
 Damn few. An' they're all deid!

Jim Arthur

David Stansfield

Agronomist David Stansfield has announced he is now carrying out consultancy work on behalf of a new company, David Stansfield Ltd. Although this is a new venture it will be a continuation of David's 23 years' experience of providing input into established course management, new course construction and course redevelopment projects. Over these years David's clients have included many of the leading established golf clubs throughout Europe. In addition he has been appointed Project Agronomist for new works in locations ranging from Canada to Poland and from Northern Scotland to Southern Portugal. More details can be obtained by telephoning 01535 656849 or on www.dstansfield.co.uk

GCA commission

The UK's Golf Consultants' Association has won a prestigious commission to assess potential golf course sites in Greece. The GCA has been appointed by the Fuji Bank (London) who are currently undertaking a tourism study on behalf of the Greek Government and Hellenic Tourist Organisation. One objective is to develop Rhodes as a golfing destination. "This is great news for the GCA, it effectively means that we will be helping to develop golf course sites in Greece and putting Rhodes on the map in terms of golfing excellence," said Bryan Griffiths, Chairman of the GCA. The GCA boasts a collective experience of 275 years client service in more than 50 countries involving 2,150 assignments.

Sisis' silver staff



Andy Walker, Product Evaluation Manager with Sisis, clocked up 25 years service with the Macclesfield-based company and begins his second 25 years with a gold watch presented to him by Joint Managing Directors Robert and William Hargreaves. Territory Manager, Robert Chesham, also celebrated his Silver anniversary with the company in May making a total of 10 Sisis staff with service of more than 25 years.

Sulphur burner installed at St Andrews

St Andrews Links has installed a sulphur burner to improve the quality of the borehole water which is used to irrigate the courses.

The burner, no bigger than a domestic cooker, heats raw organic sulphur in the form of small yellow pellets and converts it to a gas - sulphurous dioxide - which, mixed with water, becomes sulphurous acid. When this,

entirely safe liquid with an acidity level similar to lemonade is added to the irrigation reservoir it reduces significantly the pH level of the water from around 8 to between 6.5 and 7.

"We are always looking at ways of improving the condition of the golf courses. This is an environmentally friendly and effective solution to a problem which affects all the courses on

the Links," said Links Superintendent, Gordon Moir.

"As there has been high rainfall this summer we have conducted only a small trial but this showed early signs of improvement in targeted areas. I am looking forward to seeing the overall results in the long term."

The company providing the burner is AquaSO2.



Oundle GC clinch trophy

Oundle Golf Club clinched the final Midland Region Golf Management Trophy day at Ryston Golf Club, Downham Market. Pictured at Oundle Golf Club are: Head Greenkeeper, James Dair; Club Secretary, David Foley; Chairman Of Green, Mike Scholefield; Club Captain, Tony Hilton. Also pictured is Nick Martin, of Scotts.



After a recent East of England Section event at Spalding Golf Club the Order of Merit winner for the year 2000, Les Howkins, Head Greenkeeper at Cleethorpes, along with the '99 winner, David Hornsey, of Woodhall Spa, were finally presented with their BIGGA Blazers, kindly donated by Tower Sport. Pictured left to right are: Gary Cooper, Tower Sport, Les Howkins, David Hornsey, Kevin Hodges, Chairman of EOE Section and Graeme MacDonald, Section Secretary.

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

Amistar: Guidelines clearly defined

I am writing in reference to the August edition letter titled "Wellingborough rash problem" where Roy Tolman wrote about the club applying the fungicide Amistar on their golf greens.

The bare facts are that Amistar is not approved for use on Amenity Turf. It is only approved for Agricultural use. Please could you issue as statement in respect of this in your next issue.

Also, from the information provided below would it be possible it issue an explanation of the facts about the usage of Agricultural pesticides to make greenkeepers aware of the facts.

The reasons for not using correctly approved products can be summarised as follows:

It is illegal - Pesticide manufacture, supply, sale, storage, and use is heavily regulated. Prosecution may result in a fine, imprisonment or both. There are various acts of Parliament that cover pesticides. These are:

1. Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
Obliges the employer to provide training, safe equipment and safe working environment for the use of approved products and practices.
2. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH).
Regulations to control the risks in the workplace, arising from substances hazardous to health eg pesticides.
3. Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985 (FEPA).
To protect the health of humans, animals and plants, to safeguard the environment and ensure safe methods of controlling insects, weeds and diseases.
4. Control of Pesticide Regulations 1986 (COPR). Defines the conditions on those that advertise, advise, sell, supply, store or use pesticides. No product may be used unless it has Government approval on the grounds of safety and efficacy.

Everyone must comply with the conditions of approval. The conditions of approval, including recommendations for use, are given on the Product label attached to every product pack.

Only pesticides with a recommendation on the label for use on amenity sportsturf can legally be supplied, stored and applied.

Without this label recommendation the product has not been tested on sportsturf - it will leave you open to prosecution and insurance cover will be void.

Greenkeepers who use products on sportsturf with no label recommendation for that use are fully responsible and liable for any damage caused to property, persons and animals.

Be within the law, particularly now that the Government has decided to allow the industry to regulate the use of pesticides and not to bring in a pesticide tax. This could change with irresponsible usage.

John Hall, European Sportsturf Market Development Manager, Aventis Environmental Science

Toro Award thanks

I would like to thank the team at BIGGA for the effort that is put in to the Toro awards. In spite of not being a "Championship" course, or being "steeped in golfing history" I was honoured to receive a visit from Gordon Child for an assessment.

While extremely proud of our work and my staff, I never really had "greenkeeper of the year" aspirations, but saw a visit as an opportunity to learn from my peers. Many valid points were made and all hints, tips and advice were gratefully received. It was also the catalyst for the best tidy up the workshops had ever seen! I strongly recommend filling out your form next year.

R Challacombe, Mortehoe & Woolacombe GC

Wildside praise

I would like to say what an excellent booklet The Wildside of Golf is. It just goes to show that long grass in its proper place is not untidy.

Nice to see the Association getting on the right track.

Kevin Heslop, Head Greenkeeper, Brancepeth Castle GC

A tribute to Roy Spencer, March 1932 – 26 July 2001

Roy a true gentleman well liked and loved passed away after a long illness aged 69. Until recently Roy was an active member of the Northern section and last played in the Spring Tournament at Filey GC this year. Life for Roy first started out in the RAF but later moved on to fulfil his passion in greenkeeping. The start of his 30 year career was at Fulneck GC, where he ended up becoming Head Greenkeeper. After around 15 years he moved onto Calvery for a few years and then moved onto Hanging Heaton GC for 7 years before retiring.

As well as attending section events

Roy is a past section secretary, which he did for quite a few years and then moved on to be the section chairman. To offset all this work Roy was married to Sylvia for 50 years and between them raised 8 children, 15 grand kids and also became a great grandfather.

During his spare time Roy's other passion was fishing and as you can see a decent fisherman as well being a good golfer (16 hcp at the age of 69).

Life will not be the same without Roy and will be missed by all who came in contact with him.

Danny Lindley/Andy Smith



The finest turf from tee to green

Medallion turf for golf tees is typically sown as Aberelf (Perennial Ryegrass) 25%, Bargreen (Chewings Fescue) 20%, Barcrown (Slender Creeping Red Fescue) 35%, Limousine (Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass) 20%.

All the cultivars we use are highly ranked in independent testing by the STRI (see "Turfgrass Seed 2001" published by STRI).

If rapid establishment, high wear tolerance and slow regrowth after mowing are important to you – specify Rolawn Medallion for your tees.

For a quote, sample and peace of mind
 call Rolawn on Tel: 01904 608661



Rolawn®

BRITAIN'S FINEST TURF

www.rolawn.co.uk

Major American Award for Walter Woods

Neil Thomas writes an appreciation of BIGGA's first Chairman

'How fitting it is that as we celebrate GCSAA's 75th year of existence we recognise a person who was entrusted with maintaining the birthplace of golf. Walter Woods has given much to the game and the golf course superintendent profession. We are pleased to honour Walter for his lifelong commitment to golf.'

**GCSAA President
 Tommy D. Witt, CGCS**

Below: Presentation of the BEM - Walter, Lord Elgin, and BIGGA Chairman at the time, George Malcolm

Centre: Walter in younger days with Glen Campbell, Ben Crenshaw and Jack Nicklaus

It was with much pleasure that BIGGA received the news that Walter Woods has been selected to receive the 2002 Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America during that Association's 73rd International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando next February. GCSAA's most prestigious honour is presented each year to an individual who 'through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mould the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris'. As well as being the professional and golf course custodian at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Old Tom (1821-1908) was a four-time winner of the Open

(1861, '62, '64 and '67) and ranked as one of the top links designers of the 19th Century.

It is a fitting time then for us to pay tribute to Walter's services to the greenkeeping profession as well as to BIGGA. For many years now he has been regarded as one of the leading figures in British greenkeeping. Although officially 'retired', this is an incongruous term to apply to Walter as he continues in a consultancy role and is still hugely influential with his advice and guidance to greenkeepers and within BIGGA where he remains on the Board of Management in his capacity as a Guardian. When one recalls that he was BIGGA's first Chairman in 1987, it is surely testimony to his dedication and commitment that he remains so actively involved with the Association today.

I first came to know Walter when appointed Executive Director of BIGGA in 1987. My first impression was of his total enthusiasm for the cause and it did not take me long to conclude that I was to have the privilege of working with one who was at the very pinnacle of his profession. In a large member organisation, concern is for the individual and Walter stands out in this regard, ever willing to support and guide the greenkeeper, whether young or old, in times of adversity. Generations of greenkeepers have benefited in this regard as have those privileged enough to have received training under Walter's supervision. Practical training on the golf course at St Andrews where he was Links Supervisor for 21 years has produced many fine greenkeepers who now occupy top positions within the game, while Walter's work at Elmwood College in Fife was instrumental in raising the standards of greenkeeper education. He has been a major contributory force in establishing that college as one of our leading greenkeeper training colleges. Today, greenkeepers can gain first class qualifications and commensurate salaries and conditions of service. Much of the good work for this

enhancement of status can be traced back to the seventies and eighties when Walter and a few like-minded professionals grasped the nettle in leading the way as far as greenkeeper education and training were concerned. Their pioneering work led on to the structure which has produced the trained professional greenkeepers ever more apparent within the game today. In the past 20 years the greenkeeping profession within the United Kingdom has been transformed from a 'know your place' attitude to greenkeepers within many golf clubs to today when those working within the profession enjoy a status commensurate with their technical skills, knowledge, qualifications and dedication. To this changed scenario, Walter has contributed so much.

At St Andrews, Walter hosted numerous tournaments including four Open Championships and 11 Dunhill Cups and he remains an instantly recognisable figure to whom you are immediately directed on mention of his name. He is a true and worthy successor to Old Tom Morris,



Right: Two old friends and the first two Chairmen of BIGGA. Jack McMillan MBE and Walter Woods BEM

Bottom: The essential partnership - Caroline and Walter

Previous Old Tom Morris Award Winners:

- 1983 Arnold Palmer
- 1984 Bob Hope
- 1985 Gerald Ford
- 1986 Patty Berg
- 1987 Robert Trent Jones, Sr.
- 1988 Gene Sarazen
- 1989 Chi Chi Rodriguez
- 1990 Sherwood Moore, CGCS
- 1991 William C. Campbell
- 1992 Tom Watson
- 1993 Dinah Shore
- 1994 Byron Nelson
- 1995 Dr. James R. Watson
- 1996 Tom Fazio
- 1997 Ben Crenshaw
- 1998 Ken Venturi
- 1999 Jaime Ortiz-Patiño
- 2000 Nancy Lopez
- 2001 Tim Finchem

not only as a former 'Keeper of the Green' on the links of the Old Course at St Andrews, but in the legacy he will leave for the greenkeeping profession and the game of golf as was the case with Old Tom. As did his revered predecessor, he has taken greenkeeping forward albeit in different times and perhaps a world apart from Old Tom's days. However, the profession must continually evolve in line with the game and its increasing demands and expectations in relation to course maintenance and presentation. Walter is at the forefront in this regard in the finest tradition of Old Tom Morris.

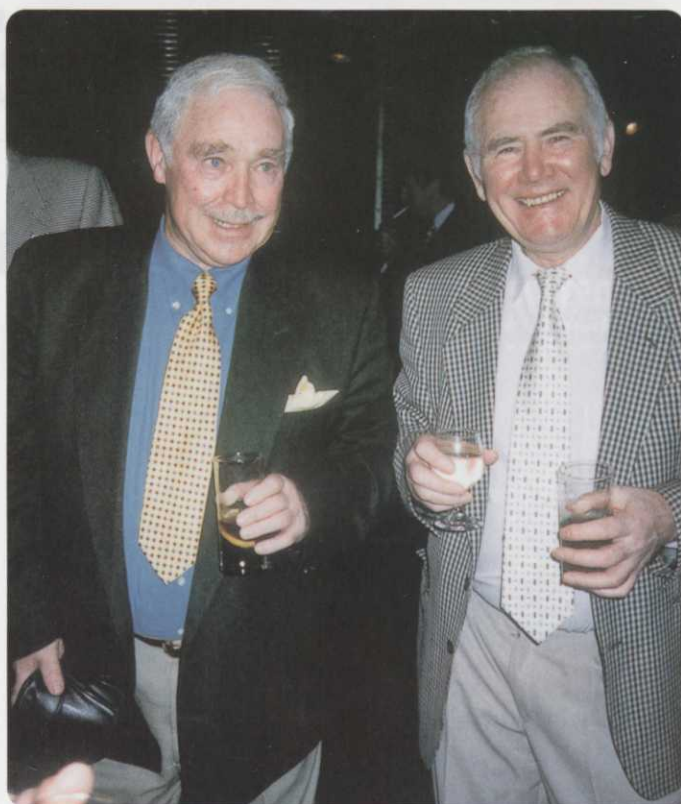
Walter had already served as President and Director of Education for the Scottish and International Golf Greenkeepers Association when he first took up the reins as the first Chairman of BIGGA in 1987. He had an unenviable task. The preceding two years, at the instigation of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, had finally seen the coming together of three previous greenkeeping Associations - the British, the English and International and the Scottish

and International to form the new British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association. These had been difficult times before the three previously volunteer led Associations finally united to form the first professional Association for greenkeepers in the United Kingdom. Walter was charged with the task of establishing the new Association and he spared no effort in this regard. BIGGA inherited 1200 members from the old Associations and today it has some 7300 members worldwide. Walter's work in BIGGA's formative years was crucial and I personally owe much to his wise counsel and leadership in those early days. We worked closely together and the embryo Association set off on a rapid growth curve. Moving through the intervening years, BIGGA today has its own national headquarters, employs 21 staff and has members in some 32 countries. As a professional body within the game of golf, BIGGA now stands shoulder to shoulder with its fellow organisations in the United Kingdom. This is a tremendous source of pride to Walter and BIGGA owes much to his drive and influence during the past 15 years.

In reflecting on BIGGA as an international Association, it is pertinent to reflect on Walter's global outlook. He has long viewed greenkeeping from a world perspective, has visited many countries and spoken to numerous greenkeeping and allied bodies on greenkeeping and his own experiences. He has spread the word abroad and I would venture to suggest that his influence stretches far beyond our own shores to many distant places.

Walter would be the last to extol his golfing achievements but they are significant. He has won many Championships, played at County level and been a scratch golfer. He has been able to bring the golfer's perspective to his role as a greenkeeper and this has been greatly beneficial both in his own career and latterly during his role as a consultant.

At home in St Andrews, the wel-



come to visitors is unsurpassed. Countless numbers of greenkeepers and their families have enjoyed the hospitality of Walter and Caroline. Guests have lifelong memories of playing the Old Course with Walter and learning much of greenkeepers and greenkeeping in the process. It is always 'open house' as far as Walter is concerned. Walter is never afraid to voice his opinions within the game of golf and has always promoted the greenkeeping profession in membership of influential committees within the R&A at St Andrews and elsewhere. His kindly and considerate manner masks a fierce determination to protect and enhance his profession. At times he may be perceived to move in 'mysterious ways' but I have long since realised that, with his intimate knowledge of all matters golf and greenkeeping and of the powers that be, his tried and trusted methods have stood the test of time and they work.

Essentially Walter has a love and passion for greenkeeping and the game of golf which come second only to his family. His integrity and concern for his fellow men are widely acknowledged and he was recognised in 1991 for his contributions to golf and greenkeeping when he received the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Now he is a most worthy recipient of the Old Tom Morris Award. Within BIGGA and the profession in the United Kingdom, there will indeed be much pleasure derived in learning that the GCSAA's most prestigious honour has been given to Walter and he joins a role call of illustrious names who have previously received this Award.

For me it has been a great privilege to have known and to have worked so closely with Walter in the development and progress of BIGGA and to have enjoyed his company and friendship throughout the years.





This month, Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, updates you on a number of Association initiatives

Get the most from your education

Continuing Professional Development

BIGGA's Continuing Professional Development Scheme is now in its second year. The Scheme is open to all members of BIGGA who hold a minimum qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsurf or equivalent and, thanks to contributors to the Education and Development Fund, it is free.



The scheme has several benefits as it allows greenkeepers to:

- Adapt outdated skills.
- Keep in touch with changes in legislation.
- Show current and prospective employers their commitment to education and training.
- Promote greenkeeping as a profession.
- Cope with change.

A certificate is awarded to all members registered on the scheme who accumulate 10 credits between 1 July and 30 June each year. Credits are awarded for a range of courses, seminars and conferences.

Contact BIGGA and ask for an application form.

Regional Courses Autumn 2001

Thanks to the continued support of company and individual members of the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, we can bring you Education and Training Courses at minimum costs whilst ensuring high quality training. The Education and Development Fund is providing a subsidy of £15,000 for this Autumn's courses which means that we can provide the following courses at the very low price of £35.25 for a one day course and £70.50 for a two day course (both inclusive of VAT).

- October**
- TBD Woodland Management Aberdeen
 - 23 Risk Assessment & COSHH Awareness Aberdeen
 - 25 Abrasive Wheels Bristol
 - 30 & 31 Basic Computer Skills North West
 - 31 Risk Assessment & COSHH Awareness North London

- November**
- 1 & 2 Health & Safety Awareness Mid Anglia
 - 8 Soil Science South Wales
 - 12 Soil Science North West
 - 13 & 14 Basic Computer Skills Ramsdale Park GC
 - 15 & 16 Essential Management Skills Manchester
 - 20 & 21 Basic Computer Skills (Full) The Burstead GC
 - 22 Soil Science Staffordshire
 - 26 & 27 Essential Management Skills Luton
 - 29 Mower Maintenance and Operation Lincs/Notts

- December**
- 3 & 4 Health & Safety Awareness Bristol
 - 5 & 6 Health & Safety Awareness South Wales
 - TBD Basic Computer Skills Ireland

Remember to apply early as places are going very quickly.

Minimum Qualification

The BIGGA Board of Management has agreed to introduce a minimum qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsurf or equivalent for greenkeeper membership of the Association for all NEW applications received after 1 February 2002.

All current members will retain their current level of membership.

Any applications for greenkeeper membership received after 1 February 2002 will have to include proof of competence in greenkeeping eg. a copy of an NVQ certificate.

Non greenkeepers ie. those who have not proved competence, will be offered a lower level of membership until such time as they become qualified.

BIGGA Essay Competition

The closing date for the BIGGA Essay Competition is rapidly approaching. However, you still have time to write and submit your essay on the subject of Pba Annua Friend or Foe by 26 October.

Thanks to contributions to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, we can, once again offer 3 First Prizes of £500 for the winners in the 3 categories of Golf Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, Assistant Greenkeepers and Students over 25 and Assistant Greenkeepers and Students under 25. With runners up prizes of £100 in each category, this is a chance not to be missed.



You've got m@il!

If you've got an email account why not send an email to the education department, where we can place you into our exclusive education email address book. We can then keep you up-to-date with education news and events as they happen.

Send an email to:
ken@bigga.co.uk
sami@bigga.co.uk

Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment 2002 Recommendations

Following the publication of the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment 2002 Recommendations in last months Greenkeeper International, there seems to be some confusion on how to use the scales for Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and their deputies.



The recommendations give a range of salaries and include the words depending on experience, range of duties, qualifications and size of course.

This means that a Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper at a 9-hole course, who has a minimum level of experience, is not qualified and has only a limited range of duties should be paid a salary near to the bottom of the scale. Whereas a Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper on a 36-hole course who has several years of experience, is fully qualified and has a wide range of managerial duties, should be paid a salary near or at the top of the scale. Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers on an 18-hole course, who are qualified, have several years of experience and a reasonable range of managerial duties should be paid a salary near the middle of the scale.

Any greenkeeper being paid a salary based on the 2001 Recommendations should, as a minimum, be paid an extra 4.9% for 2002 (the annual rate of wage inflation for June 2001).



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 Neil Thomas, Executive Director on 01347 833800 or via admin@bigga.co.uk

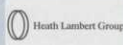


Golden Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Amazon Ground Care	01579 351155
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd	01428 661222
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Kubota UK Ltd	01844 214500
Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rain Bird	01273 891326
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 377777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Stoke Park Club	01753 717171
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319987

Individual Members

Mike Eastwood, J H Fry, J H Greasley, WJ Rogers, David S Robinson, Stuart Townsend, Douglas Smith



Silver Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Ernest Doe & Sons	01254 380311
Heath Lambert Group	0113 246 1313
Ocmis Irrigation	01460 241939
Sisis Equipment Ltd	01625 503030

Individual Members

Clive A Archer, John Crawford, Bruce Cruickshank, Douglas G Duguid, Alan Holmes, Kenneth Jones, Iain A MacLeod, Robert Maibusch MG, Richard S Mullen, Elliott R Small, Steven Tierney, CJ Yeaman

Keep checking www.btme.org.uk for the latest news on the various education and training options available at BTME2002