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2

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## A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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Welcome

## A VERY SIGNIFICANT MONTH

In years to come July 2002 will be recognised in the BIGGA annals as one of the most significant months in the development of the Association.

That was the month when the ClubHouse Exhibition was purchased by the Association and joined with BTME to create a "Super" week at Harrogate each year.

Now it may pale into insignificance alongside the other transfer which occurred that month - that of Rio Ferdinand from Leeds United to Manchester United - but within our particular industry it may just create a similar impact.

Hyperbole? I don't think so, and if you consider the facts I think you may agree.

Next January 21-23, Harrogate will be the place to visit for everyone concerned with golf on the non-playing side. Now, to the layman, that may sound a little daft, but if you take the golf professionals and the club and ball manufacturers out of the equation there is still a vast amount of "golf" to consider.

Through BTME the golf course side has always been well catered for, with machinery, agronomic aids and products, advisory services, indeed everything required to ensure that the golf course can be maintained to the highest possible specification.

Now ClubHouse, which will be housed in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre, will provide exactly the same opportunities for those seeking the latest information and product advice on what goes on inside the clubhouse.

For those people with overall responsibility for both sides of a golf club's management Harrogate will provide a unique "one-stop" shop for all their professional needs, while Club Owners, Managers and Secretaries will be able to accompany their Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers to Harrogate and extract just as much from the week as their colleagues.

The much vaunted "Continue to Learn" programme which runs during the week will be augmented to ensure that educational opportunities are also available to clubhouse, as well as golf course staff.

As I said it is a hugely significant development within our industry and I hope that, as BIGGA members, you can take pride in what your Association has achieved on behalf of the golf industry in general.

While I am in the business of issuing good news I'd like to thank Bernhards for the continuation of the very successful Bernhards Scholarship programme for a third year. Over the last two years it has seen 20 BIGGA members attend first the Canadian Conference and Show and last year the GCSAA Show to develop their knowledge and experience as greenkeepers. Next year the 10 successful candidates will again travel to the GCSAA Show and will return full of new found knowledge and ideas. Thanks to Stephen Bernhard and his team for making this possible.

Finally I'd like to congratulate Colin Irvine and his fine team for the truly stupendous condition in which they presented Muirfield for the 131st Open Championship. It was absolutely fabulous and did so much to represent the greenkeeping profession to the highest possible standard.

Scott MacCallum, Editor



We reported on the Volvo PGA Championship Support Team last month but we are now in possession of photographs of the team with the Champion Anders Hansen, together with a picture of Anders with Chris Kennedy.

## IT'S A PENALTY!

It was the final practice day before the PGA Volvo Golf Championships at Wentworth and what was going on? Football on the fairway?

Well, seeing is believing and history was made that day when Shoot for a Million, the exciting new penalty shoot-out competition, set up a full-sized goal post in the picturesque setting next to the 18th hole of Wentworth's East course.



The greenkeepers, who had already entered a team in this competition, were the first to test their skills.

Golfers were intrigued by the spectacle and were soon lured down to take a few shots and to enjoy the tremendous feeling of putting the ball in the back of the net. Among others who joined in were Aaron Baddeley, the young Australian Pro, Jamie Spence and his caddie, Janet Squire.

In goal was Nick Beasant, whose father, Dave, was the first goalkeeper ever to save a penalty to win his team the FA Cup.

Shoot for a Million is open to anyone over the age of 16 who fancies their chances to test their penalty skills in teams of six with the ultimate prize of £500,000 to be won in a televised pre-Christmas final at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. With 10% of all entry fees going to the Variety Club of Great Britain it makes it not only a fantastic fun competition to be involved in but a worthwhile one too.

To enter the competition and for more details on when and where you play, event news and updates, visit the Shoot for a Million website at [www.shootforamillion.net](http://www.shootforamillion.net) or telephone for an entry form: 0870 442 1451

## TEXTRON PROMOTION

David Withers has been promoted to the position of Director, Sales and Customer Support, with immediate effect.

He will take responsibility for Textron turf sales and distribution throughout the world, excluding North America, focusing on the market leading Ransomes and Jacobsen brands.

In addition to responsibility for turfcare sales, David will also be appointing a new Customer Support Manager to ensure that customers receive the best possible assistance and attention. It will be a cross-functional role with a commercial rather than technical emphasis, and very strongly committed to customer satisfaction.

A new UK Sales Manager will also be appointed.



## EIGA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects was held this year in Vilamoura, Portugal.

Peter Harradine was elected President, succeeding Simon Gidman, and Alain Prat was elected Vice President.

During the AGM the recipient of the Toro Student Golf Course Architect of the Year Award was announced as Rolf-Stephan Hansen. The Barenbrug Award was awarded to Steve Pope.

The three-day event included a Continuing Professional Development Seminar. The topics covered included ecology, architecture and the commercial aspects of golf and EIGCA welcomed speakers from two of their sponsors, Toro and Textron, as well as their own members and Antonio Henriques da Silva, Managing Director of Lusotur Golfes SA.

Email press releases and new product updates to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)



## BILL BYTES THE BULLET

Bill Paterson is Head Greenkeeper at Beaconsfield Golf Club. He started work as an apprentice greenkeeper in 1964 and was one of the first students to study for the newly formed City and Guilds qualification in greenkeeping.

Throughout his career he has been fortunate enough to work for clubs who realise the importance of continual training to keep abreast of the latest legislation and improved practices.

"I have certificates for everything from first aid (to save things) to spraying (to kill things)," said Bill.

But the one skill he never learned was how to use a computer.

"My wife and two children have been using them for years and when I asked them to show me how they worked they used to say that it was much quicker to do the job for me. I just dictated my report or whatever it was and they did the clever bit with the machine," said Bill.

In January 2000, he tried the computer skills course at The Learning Experience in Harrogate, but found there was too much to take on board in two days – "I couldn't even use the spell checker!"

But Bill was determined not to give up, so when he came home he found an evening course run by

Buckinghamshire County Council called "A Gentle Introduction to Computing for Older Students".

"I phoned up and asked whether, at 52, I was too old. The young lady at the other end of the phone giggled, said that I wasn't and immediately signed me up. I turned up at my first class expecting to be with a bunch of twentysomethings only to find that I was the youngest in the class – by some years!

"There was a husband and wife with a combined age of 150 and an old boy of 86 who was writing a book and wanted to use a keyboard because his hands were too shaky to hold a pen."

He soon became 'Young Bill' and for the next 10 weeks had the time of his life learning about keying-in, saving, printing, cutting, pasting, copying and numerous other aspects.

The following year he again tried the Harrogate course and this time ended up using spreadsheets, graphs, file management, databases and PowerPoint.

"I now use my computer to produce reports, articles



for the club newsletter, presentations and for record keeping as well as for reading Hazard Data Sheets and information from suppliers."

Club Secretary Keith Wilcox added "Bill's enthusiasm has always been first class and his new-found skills are a bonus. He can present reports in a professional and businesslike way and this all projects a good image for the club."

Bill concluded, "You're never too old to learn, and you meet some smashing people while you're at it. If old 'Young Bill' can do it, anyone can!"

## OSPREY WATCH

One of Britain's rarest birds is a regular visitor to Piper Dam Golf Club, near Dundee, and Head Greenkeeper, Gordon Mitchell, has become very used to watching them "Ospreys have been using Piper Dam, near Dundee, for about 30 years for feeding only as the dam is ideal and stocked regularly with Brown and Rainbow trout," said Gordon.

In 1997 Piper Dam constructed an 18 hole golf course around the dam and this was opened in August '98 and although there was all the activity normally associated with a golf course it did nothing to affect the Ospreys behaviour or pattern of feeding.

"In '99 the Directors of Piper Dam, Tom Smith, Phil Mullholland and Murdie Smith decided to erect a nest and Osprey Centre so that the birds could be studied and also give visitors the chance to see these magnificent birds," explained Gordon.

"That year a pair of birds took to the nest and although no eggs were laid the thought was that perhaps the female was too young and this same pattern was followed for the next two years."

"However this year a new pair of birds arrived and

ousted the resident pair, who had worked hard at improving the nest which had been provided for them to the extent that they stole divots from the fairway to line it."

The new pair also improved the nest and in May there were three eggs which hatched in June.

"Sadly two of the chicks were lost, possibly because of the weather but we now have one thriving chick."

The nest is about 150 yards from the 18th tee and security is extremely tight and the nest is monitored 24 hours a day seven days a week with cameras and a very sophisticated alarm system.

"I will never get tired of watching them catch fish in the dam and feel very privileged to be able to observe such stunning birds," said Gordon.

## HSS

HSS, the UK's largest equipment hire group, has appointed Steve Hailing as divisional manager of HSS Ground Care.

Steve Hailing has worked for HSS since 1992 and joins HSS's GroundCare division having previously set up the company's Lift and Shift trailer hire service.

"Everyone from the enthusiastic DIY gardener to the professional groundsman or greenkeeper can hire a range of specialist equipment from HSS GroundCare to get the job done," said Steve.



## DIVING FOR GOLF BALLS

Recovery of lost golf balls from golf course water hazards is covered by health and safety legislation, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) points out as the golf season hits its peak.

Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers have a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all their employees, and that persons not in their employment are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.

This includes other contractors working on or visiting the golf course as well as members of the public.

The guidance on the general health and safety topics are in HSE's booklet: Health and Safety in Golf Course Management and Maintenance.

"This guidance does not have a specific section on the recovery of lost golf balls from golf course water hazards. However, a general risk assessment of any

water hazard associated with the golf course should have included risk control measures to prevent foreseeable incidents like drowning," said Nigel Hammond, acting head of HSE's Local Authority Unit.

If the recovery of lost golf balls requires the use of divers who are at work then the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 apply and an Approved Code of Practice for Commercial diving projects inland/inshore gives further practical advice on how to comply with the regulations.

If the divers are not at work then the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 still applies and a similar duty of care standard would be expected.

## NEW MAN AT THE NEW

Euan Grant has been appointed Head Greenkeeper on the 107-year old New Course at St Andrews Links Trust. He was selected from around 50 applicants. In his new position, he will be responsible for a team of seven greenkeepers who maintain the New Course, which in 2001 was rated among the top 50 golf courses in the UK by Golf World.

Coming from a greenkeeping background, Euan, 32, has worked on several

different golf courses in the UK. His previous job was as Head Greenkeeper at Marriott Forest of Arden Golf & Country Club. Before that he was responsible for building two 18 hole golf courses for Westerham Golf Club and Happy Valley Golf Club.

As a student, Mr Grant was awarded Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award in 1994.

"We are delighted to have found a candidate with so much experience and a good eye for detail," said Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent at St Andrews Links Trust.

"Euan has very good course presentation skills and is used to managing large teams. We are looking forward to his contribution to greenkeeping at St Andrews Links."



## Royal Inverdivot GC...

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





## MOX UK

Mox UK has set up a division for the operational hire of grasscare products.

Heading up the division is Ray George, Product Development Manager (Grasscare).

"We are delighted that Ray has joined us. He brings with him a wealth of experience in the hire and the grasscare industry as well as significant management skills. With his knowledge, enthusiasm and drive, he will play a major role in Mox UK and contribute greatly to our expansion plans," said Campbell Young, General Manager for Mox UK.



## JOHN DEERE

John Deere has appointed three people to the new territory based position of area manager, parts & service sales (AMPSS), reporting to parts marketing manager James Morley.

Clare Brindley and Philip Selby, appointed from within Deere Limited, and Andy Rostron, from Vapomatic, are primarily responsible for promoting parts sales through the John Deere dealer network. They cover both the agricultural and commercial & consumer equipment (C&CE) business divisions, and work closely alongside the existing sales and service field teams.

They also provide support for all types of after-market sales, including PartsCountry, merchandising and PREP (parts retail environment preparation), as well as service programmes such as PowerGard, which also involve dealer development.

Clare joined John Deere in 1998 after several years' commercial experience in the textiles business. She has worked in the credit department and as parts marketing assistant. She covers the south of England.

Philip joined John Deere in 1977 and worked his way from warehouseman, through the parts and complete goods departments to his last position as team leader in complete goods. He looks after central England, Wales and the whole of Ireland.



## SISIS

Sisis has announced that the Sisis Rotorake 600 combined thatch remover and linear aerator now has "Registered Design" protection status.

Export sales of this new machine continue to grow. In addition to the many sold in Britain, users can now be found in USA, Canada, South America, Egypt, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, France, Ireland and even Papua New Guinea.



## THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Scottish National Championship at West Linton Golf Club, south of Edinburgh, was an outstanding success. The quality of the golf played by certain members at least was matched by the magnificent condition Course Manager Chris Yeaman and his team had produced the course, the hospitality of the club and staff, and the organisational acumen of Peter Boyd, the Scottish Regional Administrator.

West Linton is the home course of former Open and Masters Champion, Sandy Lyle who is a regular visitor to the club and it is no exaggeration to say that he certainly would not have been unhappy to have posted the winning scratch score of 71 which Robert Patterson, of Royal Aberdeen, made to win the SGGA Challenge Cup and be crowned new Scottish Champion. In conditions which ranged from beautiful sun to torrential rain, Robert was more than a match for anything and fully deserved his victory.

The Friendship Trophy for Best Nett went to Steve Nicol, of Winterfield, with a score of 71, winning on the better inward half.

The prizes were presented by Scott McKay the West Linton, Vice Captain, who expressed his and the club's pleasure at hosting the event and promised everyone a warm welcome should they decided to make a return visit.

Results SGGA Challenge Cup, Scratch, Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, 71; Friendship Trophy, Best Nett, Steve Nicol, Winterfield, 71 (bih); Ransomes



Trophy, Cat 1. 1. George Mitchell, Newmachar, 71; 2. David Leith, St Andrews, 73 (bih); 3. Daniel Murray, Dalmahoy, 73. Patisson Trophy Cat 2. 1. Stephen Brown, Newmachar, 75 (bih); 2. Dale Norquay, Irvine Bogside, 75; 3. Chris Yeaman, West Linton, 77. STRI Trophy Cat 3. 1. Mark White, St Andrews, 74; 2. Albert Amott, Lochore Meadows, 81; 3. David Mowatt, Glasgow, 83; Dick Aitken Trophy Best Head Greenkeeper, George Brown, Turnberry, 73; M&M Trophy Best Assistant, Robbie Breingan, Muchart, 73 (bih); Souther Trophy Best Apprentice, Ben Brookes, Newmachar, 91; SIGGA Trophy Best Veteran, George Thompson, Goswick, 75; St Mungo Cup Team Trophy, North - G. Mitchell, S. Brown, R. Patterson, G. Lornie; Trade, Ian Henderson, Golf Finance, 71; Guest, Scott McKay, West Linton, 75. Nearest the Pin, Ronnie Frame, Rigby Taylor and Longest Drive Daniel Murray, Dalmahoy.



## NEW DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR

BIGGA's new Design and Production Editor is 27 year-old Marie Whyld, who took up the post at the beginning of July.



Marie has extensive design experience and joined the Association from a Consultancy in Pontefract. Prior to that she worked in her home town of Derby where she designed material for among others Derby County FC and the David Lloyd Racquet Centre. Two

other well known names for whom Marie has undertaken work are Sainsbury's and Harvey Nichols, whose gift vouchers she designed.

She was born in Nottingham and went to school in Bromsgrove in Birmingham before attending Derby University where she completed a Foundation Course in Art and Design and then Wigan and Leigh College where she took a Graphics and Communication Design HND.

She now lives in Ellerton, south of York, with her boyfriend, Johnny - also a graphic designer - where their interests in the two "Gs" gardening and golf keep them occupied.

"I'm looking forward to working on the magazine, the website and all the other BIGGA promotional and educational material," she said.

## BIGGA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2002

Hillside Golf Club – 30th September

Hesketh Golf Club – 1st October

Only a very few more entries can be accepted. If you want to play book today!

Contact Sarah for further information: 01347 833800



# Available October this year

## Tillers Rootzone Turf

If you're planning to turf your new greens, talk to us now.

Our new Rootzone Turf produces firm, fast, free draining greens. It ensures compatibility with the rootzone used in your construction. And avoids the problems of layering and soft, waterlogged greens associated with normal turf.

Tillers Rootzone Turf will be available this October. It's grown on three commonly specified rootzones:

1. USGA spec rootzone from Prestige, using sand from Messingham, plus peat.
2. USGA spec rootzone from Banks, using sand from Leighton Buzzard, plus Fensoil.
3. 1742 Grade rootzone from Rufford, using sand from Messingham, plus soil.

A full particle analysis for each rootzone can be supplied on request, or visit our website. The grass used in our rootzone turf is a Barenbrug 50/50 bent/fescue seed mixture, giving a bent dominated sward at maturity.

### Custom-grown Rootzone Turf

In addition we can grow any mixture of grasses on any rootzone to match your individual specification. But you do have to

plan ahead as it takes 6-8 months from sowing to delivery.

### Trouble-free establishment

Maintained at a height of 8mm, all Tillers Rootzone Turf is regularly top-dressed with the same rootzone that it's grown in. This produces a dense, firm sward that can be brought into play within a short time after lifting and relaying. Compared to washed turf, root damage is kept to a minimum, leading to healthy, trouble-free establishment.

### Main agent Rigby Taylor

Tillers Rootzone Turf can be ordered now through our main agent, Rigby Taylor. Please call your local representative, or Freephone 0800 424919. Or contact us on 01652 678000.

Further information is available on our website at [tillersturf.co.uk](http://tillersturf.co.uk)

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Tel: 01652 678000 [www.tillersturf.co.uk](http://www.tillersturf.co.uk)



Neil Thomas (right) Executive Director, BIGGA signing the contract for ClubHouse



# ClubHouse



In a major industry development BIGGA has successfully brought together the two principal trade shows in the fields of fine turf and golf club management and will host them in Harrogate as from January 2003.

The Clubhouse Exhibition will move to Harrogate next January after the rights were acquired by BIGGA, who will run the Show alongside BTME.

The Clubhouse Exhibition, which was previously owned and staged by the NEC, Birmingham, will have its own identity within Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre while BTME, which is now entering its 15th year, continues to expand into the other Halls. Routing will allow visitors to take in both exhibitions making it the major event of its type in Europe.

Commenting on this important development BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas said: "I am excited that the Clubhouse Exhibition will be moving to Harrogate where it will merge with our existing Golf Club Show under the Clubhouse banner and complement our extremely successful BTME. It gives visitors a genuine one stop shop for their clubhouse and golf course needs at a time of year which is ideal for visitors.



I am delighted that this exhibition will have the backing of both the Association of Golf Club Secretaries (AGCS) and the Association of Golf Course Owners and I look forward to welcoming many new companies and visitors to Harrogate.

We have monitored the progress of Clubhouse since its early days based at the National Agricultural Centre in Stoneleigh, through its move to the NEC in Birmingham. We have always considered that the ideal location for this exhibition would be the Harrogate International Centre alongside BTME and we have worked hard to achieve this end.

No longer will golf clubs have to justify the expense of sending their personnel to shows at separate locations on different dates. Now the focus of the industry and the game will be on one place at one time with the

additional benefit of less expense for golf clubs. Key personnel with responsibility for the club's budget, whether it be on the course or in the clubhouse, can target one or both shows as well as take in our "Continue to Learn" education programme which will be broadened to ensure that we cater for specific Clubhouse visitors.

We believe that BIGGA's acquisition of this exhibition will prove to be a significant development for golf clubs and the game in general while being widely welcomed within the industry at large where the need for the two shows to come together has long been recognised."

Neil Thomas  
Executive Director, BIGGA



Commenting on the move to Harrogate, Andrew Gibb, Divisional Director of Centre Exhibitions at the NEC, said: "This decision has been made in the best interests of the industry and we fully support the move to Harrogate."



Keith Lloyd, Secretary of the AGCS, said: "We, at the AGCS are very pleased that Clubhouse is moving to such a venue. It is clearly in the best interests of our members enabling them to visit both exhibitions at the one location and to resource all requirements for their golf clubs."

**The Clubhouse Exhibition and the BTME will be held at the Harrogate International Centre, January 21-23, 2003.**

## BTME EXHIBITORS TO DATE:

MJ Abbott Ltd  
Advanta Seeds UK  
AFT Trenchers  
AGCO Ltd (Massey Ferguson)  
Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd  
Allen Power Equipment Ltd  
Allett Mowers  
Amenity Technology  
Angus Horticulture Ltd  
Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd  
Askham Bryan College  
Association of Golf Club Secretaries  
Aventis Environmental Science  
Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd  
Barcham Trees  
Barenbrug UK Ltd  
Barrelfield Golf Ltd  
Bathgate Leisure  
Berkshire College of Agriculture  
Bernhard & Co Ltd  
BIGGA Education & Seminar  
Registration  
Bioseed Probiotics Ltd  
Blec Landscaping Equipment Co. Ltd  
Boughton Loam Ltd

Bowcom Limited  
Boyd Golf  
British Seed Houses Ltd  
Campey Turfcare Systems  
Cebeco Seeds  
Charterhouse Turf Machinery  
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## A Public Disgrace – Why?

After reading Sandy McDivot's article on the US Open, in the July edition of Greenkeeping International, I was embarrassed to show my Association's monthly publication to any of my colleagues here in the USA. Just exactly why was it a public disgrace?

Beth Page is situated just 35 miles outside the centre of Manhattan an area renowned for a host of golfing gems such as Shinecock Hills, Winged Foot, Quaker Ridge, National Golf Links, Garden City and Westchester Country Club to name a few. These all may be great courses but they certainly are not accessible to the public. Beth Page however is a genuine "municipal" course with daily fees set at \$31 and fixed at that by the USGA since 98 and until 2005 during which time it can only rise with inflation.

As for the 35,000 rounds a year, courses in this area are usually only open from April through to November. This isn't an Augusta National type closure so they can maintain bentgrass fairways during the Georgia summer heat. It's one dictated by extreme cold weather conditions and around 100 inches of snow. Another point to remember is that Long Island is situated further south than the UK and daylight hours are somewhat shorter. Take these two points into consideration and the 35,000 rounds a year no longer sounds like a walk in the park for the maintenance crew.

It was actually the USGA investing the money in the course and not the Tax Payers money as you article implies. Now rather than the USGA investing \$3 million in this "Country Club for the people" I'm sure Mr McDivot would have rather seen the USGA paying the normal \$4 million to one of the more affluent courses on the open roster to open their doors to the USGA for 10 days for their little tournament.

As for Mr McDivot's views on tournament preparation that was the real disgrace! Aren't we professionals trying to do the best we can with whatever resources we have, be it \$3 million dollars or £30,000s?

Glenn Kirby,  
Oak Hill Country Club, An Englishman in New York

**Editor's Reply:** Regular readers of Sandy McDivot's columns will know that he takes a tongue in cheek look at the world and I am sure he meant no offence to Beth Page or its Superintendent and staff. He was merely making a rye comparison between the course presented for the 2002 US Open and what is the widely held perception of a British "Muni".

## Many Thanks

May I, through the BIGGA Magazine, thank all concerned regarding the organisation of this year's 131st British Open at Muirfield. The occasion was a huge success and memorable to all those who attended and took part.

On a personal note, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to those Greenkeepers who donated various items of memorabilia from the Open to go towards a Promises Auction, which I am trying to organise this coming autumn. The Auction is to raise much needed funds for a local Hospice and as soon as the boys found out about my intentions they freely donated anything they had collected during the four days. I am truly grateful to all those who have contributed in any way you have shown as always true, unselfish spirit and I thank you for this.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next BIGGA event.

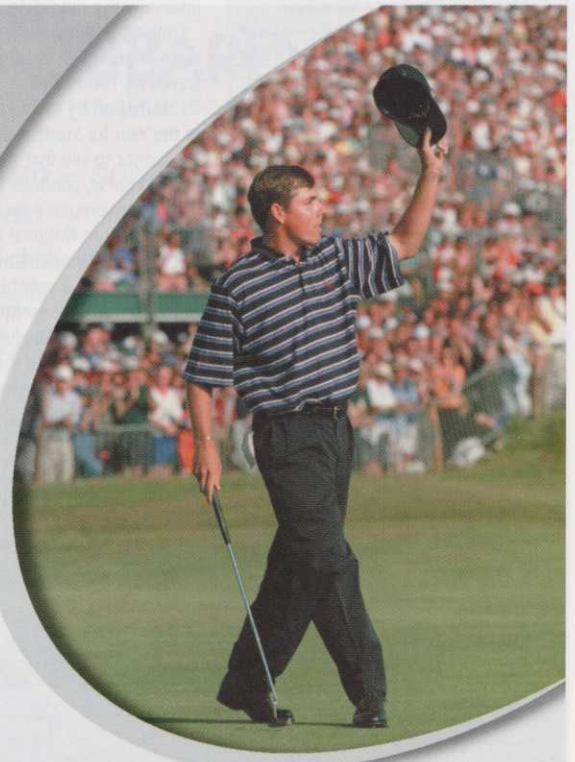
Yours in Greenkeeping  
Anthony Davies MG  
Course Manager, Prestbury GC

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BIGGA Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, explains how the TORO student finalists are selected and profiles of the successful eight.



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# The TORO Student of the Year Competition 2002

The Highlight of the Year for many student greenkeepers, the TORO Student of the Year Competition, moved into its second stage, the Regional Finals, during the last week of June. The Competition starts at BTME each year when Training Providers are asked to nominate their choice of Student Greenkeeper. This year saw 38 entries, from 21 Training Providers, all hoping to become the TORO Student of the Year 2002.

This year's interviews began at Luton Airport, on 20 June, when Peter Mansfield, from TORO, BIGGA Board Member, David Walden, and I interviewed three candidates.



The Regional Interviews continued in Edinburgh where Jeff Anguige, from TORO, BIGGA Board Member, Iain McLeod, and Ken Richardson, spent a full day interviewing the 9 entries from Scotland.

Manchester Airport was the next venue with Trevor Chard, from TORO, BIGGA Master Greenkeeper, Andy Campbell, and I interviewing a Total of nine candidates from the North of England and from Ireland.

Back in the car for the next trip to St Albans where I was joined by BIGGA Board Member, Ian Semple, and again by Trevor Chard to interview the candidates from the South East.

Another car journey to Cheltenham followed the Interviews in St Albans where I was joined by Peter Mansfield and BIGGA Master Greenkeeper, Gordon Irvine, to interview candidates from the South West and Wales.

Yet another car journey took Peter and I to Peterborough where we were joined once again by David Walden to interview the candidates from the Midlands.

Looking at the statistics shows that a total of 38 candidates were interviewed by nine judges at six venues with me travelling 1600 miles.

I started off by saying that the Competition was the Highlight of the Year for Student Greenkeepers. It is also a great boost for the judges to see that the standards of training, both on and off the course, continue to improve. Moreover, candidates are now better prepared for interview, making the judges job of selecting eight National Finalists ever more difficult.

This Year's Competition was difficult to judge as all candidates met a very high standard and they should be very proud to have represented their club and training provider in the Competition. The judges can, however, select only eight National Finalists and they are:

**Representing Scotland**



Graham Winter, who works at Kingsbarns Golf Links and attends Elmwood College. Graham has seen Kingsbarns develop from a field for grazing cows in summer and a ski run in winter to a high class links golf course, as he has all of his life in the town. Graham is just starting his career in greenkeeping and hopes, one day, to manage a prestigious golf club.

**Representing the North of England**



Peter Cross, who works at Woolton Park Golf Club in Liverpool. Peter has been a greenkeeper for 11 years, attending a range of courses to improve his knowledge and skills. His most recent course has been an HNC in Golf Course Management at Reaseheath College.

**Representing Ireland**



Two candidates have been selected to represent Ireland in the National Final. They are Gary Finnerty and Mairaid Coleman.

Gary now works at Fota Island recent venue for the Murphy's Irish Open. A student at Elmwood College, Gary has recently completed his HND in Golf Course Management. Although only 22, Gary has worked on five golf courses two of which are in the US.



Mairaid Coleman is the third female greenkeeper to reach the National Finals. Now the Head Greenkeeper at Killerig Golf Club in Co Carlow, Mairaid has been involved in greenkeeping for three years. She was raised on a farm and trained as a horticulturist before turning to greenkeeping. Mairaid has recently gained her Certificate in Greenkeeping from An Grianan College of Horticulture.

**Representing the South East of England**



Another Region with two National Finalists, the South East will be represented by Murray Long and by John Gubb.

Murray Long entered greenkeeping in 1986, studying for City and Guilds Phases 2 and 3. He then spent some time establishing his career, becoming Head Greenkeeper, at Coombe Hill Golf Club in 1997. Murray returned to education to study NVQ Level 3 at Merrist Wood College, which he has recently completed.



John Gubb has been involved in greenkeeping since he left school 1993. A native of Devon, John is now the Deputy Course Manager at the Bedfordshire Golf Club. He has, recently, gained his NVQ Level 3 at Merrist Wood College to add to a National Diploma in Turf Science and a D32/33 assessor qualification.