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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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WIN WIN WIN!

THIS EXCLUSIVE SQUALL JACKET

Don't miss your chance to win this fantastic jacket worth £60 in our exciting new Buyers' Guide competition in association with Allen Power -

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Stefan Antolik, Course Manager of Cooden Beach Golf Club won the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper and Deputies Category in the BIGGA Essay Writing Competition with this fine entry

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

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TIME TO TALK
www.bigga.org.uk

Why, oh why, oh why?

There are occasions in the middle of the night when questions pop into my head and refuse to budge until I've given them due consideration. Granted, not all of them have a definitive answer, and some of them don't deserve an answer at all, but they are there nonetheless, nagging away at me and preventing me from returning to the land of nod.

I've decided that the best thing to do is to open them up to you, the readership, so you can share my torment.

Unfortunately there is no prize, but if you do come up with an answer to any of them I'm sure you'll be viewed upon with increased respect by your friends and colleagues while you could set yourself up as an amateur physiologist.

Why does your putting always go when you're nailing your irons?

Why do all BIGGA members work at clubs where the club down the road has the better greens?

Why are there more Championship golf courses than there have been Championships?

Why do so many people assume that other people's job are much easier than they actual are?

Why does someone always call up to enquire if you'd every considered a new conservatory just as the What Happens Next? round in Question of Sport is about to start?

Why do supermarkets have these stupid revolving doors which never work?

Why do people who scream up the outside lane of dual carriageways before turning left at the roundabout, always get away with it?

Why is it only those people involved in football who ever say "To be fair..." and then proceed to slag someone off as in "To be fair, he's always been a bit of a donkey", or the variation, "He's always been a bit of a donkey, to be fair."?

Why did someone put Sod's Law on the statute book?

Why do so many people assume they can go first while the rest of us waste time complying by the conventional art of queuing?

Why are politicians the only people who ever use the phrase, "To be perfectly clear on the matter ..." and then proceed to throw a dark veil over whatever they're supposed to be talking about?

Why does time always go faster when you're running late?

As I said I don't expect a stream on answers landing on my desk just the knowledge that you might well be wrestling with the same thoughts as I am now make me feel a little bit better.

Why, in the Winter Olympics, do they give fancy names to things like Luge, Skeleton and Bob when we all know that they are just sledging?

If any of you have questions which cause you similar angst perhaps we should get together and start a Self Help Group.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

Textron renew agreement with Gleneagles

Textron and their distributor, Scottish Grass Machinery, have signed a new four year agreement with The Gleneagles Hotel to provide a range of turf maintenance equipment to keep the internationally renowned courses in immaculate condition.

As a result of this new agreement Textron/SGM will provide a full range of turf maintenance equipment, light utility vehicles and E-Z-GO golf cars for use on the three championship courses – the King's, the Queen's and, the Jack Nicklaus-designed, PGA Centenary course.

Additional support for major tournaments also forms part of the package together with technical and operator training at Textron's Ipswich head office, SGM's Inverkeithing premises or on-site at Gleneagles. Reciprocal arrangements will see the green-keeping team at Gleneagles trialing and evaluating new products, including the Jacobsen E-Plex II, the all-electric ride-on greens mower.

"I am delighted with this new agreement between Textron, their distributor, Scottish Grass Machinery and ourselves. It provides our Golf Course Superintendent, Scott Fenwick and his team with a raft of top quality equipment to ensure that the golf courses will continue to remain in superb condition all year long," said Jimmy Kidd, Golf Courses and Estate Director at The Gleneagles Hotel.

"I am equally delighted that Textron and SGM will be actively supporting our greenkeeper training initiative, sponsoring a greenkeeper exchange with a golf club in the USA. Also they will



(l-r) David McInroy, Scottish Grass Machinery, Scott Fenwick, Jimmy Kidd, Graeme Marchbanks, Director of Golf, Gleneagles and Glynn Patrick, Sales Director, Textron at the handover of a fleet of E-Z-GO golf cars following the signing of the new agreement.

be initiating a 'Greenkeeper of the Year' award open to all greenkeepers that are employed at Textron's exclusive partnership golf clubs in Scotland and continuing their support for GEGAS, the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme, the international training scheme for young greenkeepers from around the globe."

Glynn Patrick, Textron's Sales Director added, "This prestigious contract involves a whole host of equipment from our Cushman, Jacobsen, Ransomes,

and Ryan brands including greens mowers, fairway mowers, rotary mowers for semi-rough, aerators, top dresser and turf utility vehicles and the very latest Cushman Diabline, all electric, mid-range utility vehicle.

"It also reconfirms our long-held commitment to training and the subsequent raising of standards in this industry, not just here in the UK, but across the world. It's an ethos that Jimmy Kidd continues to espouse and one that we fully endorse," he added.



Annual Patrons' Lunch a huge success

The Scottish Region held its annual Patrons' Award Dinner in Stirling just before Christmas. A great day was had by all Patron Members and Award winners as well as Section representatives and guests.

The Scottish Region would like to thank all Patrons for everything they do for the Region because if it wasn't for them we wouldn't have our Scottish Conference, have superb prize tables at Section events or the

numerous other ways they assist the Region and the Sections in Scotland.

The Patrons' Scheme awards two winners from each Section with a trip to BTME for three days, including accommodation and travel, and a greenkeeping book.

The Patrons' Award winners from 2002 who have already benefited from their prize were Alan Campbell and Ian Aitchison, East; Martin Carey and Colin

Black, West; Wallace Mercer and Paul Tulloch, Ayrshire; Kenneth Kinnaird and Robert Hardie, North, and Gordon Mitchell and Stuart Cruickshank, Central.

The dinner was a huge success and the after dinner speaker, Ex-Scottish referee, Brian McGinlay, went down a storm. The speakers who Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, tracks down just seem to get better and better each year.

Chris Yeaman

St Andrews Links sign up with Toro

St Andrews Links has chosen Toro greens and tees mowers to maintain its six historic courses at the world's most famous golf complex.

Toro irrigation products have been in use at St Andrews since 1998, with each course now using the fully automated Toro SitePro Central Control System.

Now St Andrews Links Trust has strengthened its relationship with Toro by entering into a five-year preferred supplier agreement for a range of greens and tees mowers.

Links Superintendent Gordon Moir heads a team of 51 staff who maintain Europe's largest golfing site and the home of golf.

"We put the Toro mowers through an exhaustive evaluation programme alongside other manufacturers during the spring and summer of 2001. The feedback from a large majority of the greens staff was that Toro tees and greens mowers were the best overall, for equality of cut and ease of operation."

During the early part of this year, St Andrews has taken delivery of 20



Greensmaster 1000 and 14 Greensmaster 1500 pedestrian mowers, 15 Greensmaster 3250-D ride-on machines and three Reelmaster 3100-D Sidewinders.

As part of the deal, St Andrews Links Trust will receive comprehensive back-up, service and parts

supplied by Toro local dealer George Henderson, plus full training for its operators and maintenance staff.

"The greens staff are really looking forward to the arrival of the new mowers and I am confident that working closely with Toro will bring success for both parties," added Gordon.

Breeding & Evaluation of Turf grasses Technical Conference, May 1-2, Craiglunds Hotel, Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

A two day conference providing an opportunity to review current research on amenity grasses and discuss related topics affecting the performance of grasses in the UK and Europe.

Organised by the STRI the conference programme includes a Conference Dinner on the first day with a visit on the second day to STRI in Bingley for a tour of the cultivar trials which are part of the Grass Testing Programme at STRI.

The conference will interest all Turfgrass Breeders and Evaluators, Turf Scientists and other Turf Professionals. A panel of eight speakers will present 10 conference sessions including contributions from Dr Daniel Thorogood and Sheena Hughes, Duller Turfgrass Breeders from IGER; Arthur Wolleswinkel, Principal Turfgrass Researcher from ISA Papendal in the Netherlands and Mogens Toft Jensen, Head of Marketing & Product Management for the DLF Trifolium Group.

The Full Package including accommodation is £205 per delegate. Further details can be obtained from Anne Wilson Tel: 01274 565131



The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association has appointed Ken Cousineau, CAE, to succeed the Vince Gillis CAE, who retired in January. Ken brings to the CGSA strong association management experience, both in managing internal administrative functions and external relationships with government and stakeholders.



Russell Mellor joins the Swan team

Russell Mellor (centre) has moved to Swan, after 25 years with Kubota. "After 25 years seeing the Kubota business grow and prosper I am now looking forward to a new challenge at Swan," said Russell. "Ted Mitchell has given me the opportunity to join the Swan team and I am delighted that I will be working with a company that has shown continued growth and service to the market they serve."

Training aids supplied

BIGGA and the STRI have joined forces to further the cause of greenkeeper training.

Nigel Weller, winner of the Vitax prize draw conducted at BTME, dearly wanted to spend his BIGGA voucher on the NVQ level 2 theory notes, which are available on CD at £90. As Head Greenkeeper of North Downs Golf Club in Surrey, and a D.32-33 assessor, he has already taken one member of his staff, Paul Varley through the course, and has two more assistant greenkeepers ready to start.

"A new lad joined us last week, which gives us a staff of six, who are all relatively young," he says. "Our policy is to wait a year, see how they do, and then start training them. I've got one lad, Ian Cardy who was due to begin last September but has been in hospital. He will start the course this year. My other lad, Stuart White will start in 2003."

Unfortunately, BIGGA do not produce the disc, but Ken Richardson, the Association's Education and Training Manager has agreed to buy it from the STRI and give it to Nigel as part of his winnings.

"Anything to encourage Greenkeeper Education and Training", he says. "We've got to make it as easy for people as we can."

As Nigel and his deputy, Phillip Waterman hold NVQ 3, success for Ian and Stuart will be a further step in the club's progress towards a fully qualified staff.

The Scottish National Tournament will be held at West Linton Golf Club on June 27. If you wish to find out more about the club, check out the club's website at www.wlgc.co.uk where you will find various photographs and a number of other articles for you to browse through.

Awards success for Irrigation Control Ltd

If awards give an indication of a company's success then Irrigation Control Limited of Winsford must be the most successful irrigation contracting company in the world just now. Not only did they receive the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Associations Certificate of Merit award (formally The Contractor of the Year Award) at this year's BTME at Harrogate, but they went on to be awarded the Rain Bird International Contractor of the year award at the GCSAA Orlando USA earlier this month.

"Obviously this is a great start to the year for us but it hasn't been an instant success. We've won several awards over the last few years including a specialist sub contractor award from BALI for work we undertook for J Mallinson (Ormskirk) Limited, a Government backed award for an innovative customer care program that we developed and previous BTLIA Certificate of Merit success," said Phil Breakey, Managing Director of Irrigation Control.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year www.tonyhusband.co.uk



Communications Director for Wardle

Wardle Consultant Engineers Ltd has expanded its management team with the appointment of Stephen Baker as a director of the company.

Steve, 42, joins the team as Communications Director and brings with him over 20 years of marketing experience.

"As we continue to expand I knew there would come a point when we would need to really address some of the fundamentals in this industry and that requires a fresh marketing approach," said Giles Wardle, Managing Director.

"Our client list has tended to reflect the premium end of the market in the UK and abroad, with clients such as The Gleneagles Hotel, Carnoustie Links, The Turnberry Hotel, Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club and Cherokee Plantation Links, South Carolina.

"This has always given the industry two major misconceptions about Wardle; firstly, that only the top clubs can 'afford' to work with consultants and secondly that irrigation consultancy represents an additional cost. We aim to inform the industry at large that most clients of ours actually save money by using us because we ensure true competition between bidding contractors who are all tendering for the same design and specification, drafted by us to meet the unique needs of the site and the client consulting Engineers Ltd," said Giles.

Phone a friend?

www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

Ocmis joins the Mansell team

Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club, the 27 hole golfing complex owned by former Formula 1 World Champion, Nigel Mansell, is to undergo a complete irrigation refit during the first half of 2002.

Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd have designed and will install the new greens and twin row fairway irrigation system for the 18 hole championship course and 9 hole access course.

Using Rain Bird Eagle Series electric valve in head sprinklers on the green and fairway areas and the Rain Bird Nimbus II map based PC control system with both Freedom radio remote control and Freedom-pad remote control (based on a handheld Compag ipaq).

The heart of the system comprises a variable speed pumping station, which will deliver over 22000 gallons of water per hour through 25 kilometres of medium density polyethylene pipeline, which ranges from 315mm to 50mm in size. A majority of the pipe installation will be undertaken by one of a number of large vibratory moleplough machines owned and operated by Ocmis, minimising disruption and scarring.

Expansion set to continue for ETC

ETC has recently moved its location to Tilstone Fearnall in Cheshire to facilitate a further expansion programme. The new location includes a modern workshop and extensive storage facilities for the wide variety of reconditioned and new grass maintenance machines supplied by ETC.

"The improved facilities will mean better levels of stocking of a wide range of second hand equipment," said Managing Director, Andy Smith.

He added that ETC is now in its seventh year and has grown steadily year on year.



Wonderful things, handbrakes ... if you use them. Paul Copsey, Head Greenkeeper, Burnham-on-Crouch GC in Essex sent in this reminder of what can happen if you neglect the simple 'rules of the road'.

Matt swaps pucks and whistles for balls and pins

Matt Folka, a golf enthusiast with an added passion for ice hockey, has become Mere Golf & Country Club's newest greenkeeper.

Canadian, Matt was a professional International Ice Hockey referee and has continued his passion for the sport in this country where he is a professional referee for the Ice Hockey Superleague.

Matt will use his 12 years experience in greenkeeping to help maintain Mere Golf & Country Club and will report to Mere's Course Manager, Paul Hyde, and Course Superintendent, Stuart Boyce.

Previously, Matt spent seven years as a fire fighter with Maple Ridge fire department before taking up a greenkeeping position at the prestigious Swan-e-set Bay Golf Club in Vancouver.

He then moved to England 1996 and worked at Huyton and Prescott Golf Course in Merseyside until he was appointed by Mere Golf & Country Club in Cheshire. Continuing his career development, Matt is currently studying for a NVQ Level II qualification in amenities sports turf.





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Mycorrhizal structures associated with turf roots



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Up to

6

months Pause Payment

Finance is available on the Big Boss sprayer with a pause payment until July 26th at 0% based on January 2002 price list. The offer is subject to 65% of the RRP and acceptance by Humberclyde Farm Finance.

R&A look for equipment restrictions

The R&A has written to golf equipment manufacturers seeking their comments on proposed changes to golf ball testing procedures, and possible rules on clubhead size and club length for clubs other than putters.

The R&A is proposing to update the current golf ball test for overall distance by combining the use of an indoor test range and computer technology.

"The underlying principle of the proposal is to test balls efficiently, with modern equipment and in a way which accurately reflects how Tour professionals are hitting the ball today," said David Rickman, Rules Secretary of the R&A.

"As for clubhead size, we are concerned that recent submissions of driver heads for conformance rulings show a significant increase in clubhead size. While these large headed clubs may be 'substantially different from the traditional and customary form and make', there is also the possibility that such clubs may offer undesirable performance benefits," said David.

The R&A is also concerned that increases in club lengths might lead to increases in driving distances. It therefore feels it may be appropriate to introduce a maximum length for clubs other than putters.

At present the R&A is not proposing numerical limits on clubhead size or club length. Instead, it is conducting independent research in these areas and seeking the views of manufacturers on the introduction of finite limits.

Elland Road visit for D&C members



A group of Devon and Cornwall Section members took the opportunity of visiting Elland Road, home of Leeds United on the eve of BTME. They took in the Leeds-Arsenal match on the Sunday and followed it up with a tour round the stadium.

The young ones ...

Last month we said that Richard Barker was the youngest ever National Chairman at 37.

Unfortunately we were mistaken. That honour is still held by Roy Kates, the 1992 National Chairman, who was elected to the office at the tender age of 34.

Textron host Dealer Awards at Harrogate

Svenningsens Turfcare-Scandinavia, of Kastrup, Denmark and Lindkoping, Sweden, has won the Textron Distributor of the Year Award for 2001.

Managing Director Niels Svenningsen and Golf Sales Manager, Niels Brems, accepted the silver trophy and commemorative plaque from Glynn Patrick, Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products' Sales Director, and former Olympic silver medalist, Roger Black, at an evening awards ceremony held at The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate at BTME.

Textron dealers from the UK, Eire and Europe attended the ceremony, which recognised business excellence in all areas. Scottish Grass Machinery of Inverkeithing, scooped three awards for UK Service Dealer, UK Parts Dealer and UK Sweeper Dealer, while Araz Ltd, of Israel, won two categories, those of Specialty Products Sales and International Industrial Vehicle Distributor.

"This prestigious award recognises outstanding performance in all sectors of the business, including service, parts, sales and marketing. In a year when we have seen major business development across all our UK and



Svenningsens Turfcare pick up the top award

continental European distributors, Svenningsens have demonstrated exceptional performance across all areas of their business and tremendous commitment to the Textron franchise. They thoroughly deserve the title of Textron Distributor of the Year," said Peter Bell, Marketing Director.

Niels Svenningsen returned to the

podium to receive a special award for Outstanding Service to the Grounds Maintenance Industry recognising his company's 140 years of service in the industry sector, followed soon after by Keith Sutton, from Burrows (GM) Ltd of Preston, Lancs, who collected a similar award as his company celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2001.

Fishwick Hall Golf Club lives up to its name

Fishwick Hall Golf Club, on the River Ribble lived up to its name recently when the greens were more likely to see fish than birdies. Course Manager of the Preston club Paul Eddlestone, had no complaints when he put up the Course Closed signs as the course disappeared under feet of water bringing back nasty memories for many who had suffered in a similar fashion last year.



A student's perspective of Harrogate

Phil Sharples, of Cannington College, took 12 students to Harrogate and reports back on what they found.

A visit to Harrogate proves to be a very important part of any students' education while at Cannington College whether they be studying at NVQ level or Higher National Diploma. For many this trip proves to be a valuable and worthwhile insight into our industry that, of course, cannot be simulated in the college environment.

With the depth and breadth of equipment, manufacturers, seminars and ancillary products available for viewing and discussion the experience cannot be beaten, and it's all under one roof!

After a six hour journey a group of 12 students from Cannington College in Somerset arrived at the Imperial Hotel, Harrogate. Travelling up in a coach sponsored by Amenity Technology along with members of BIGGA's South West Region.

With the depth and breadth of equipment, manufacturers, seminars and ancillary products available for viewing and discussion the experience cannot be beaten, and it's all under one roof!

For many students this is the first real chance they have to meet and chat with industry professionals, whether they be greenkeepers, Course Managers, agronomists or sales representatives. It also proves to be an ideal and neutral ground for meeting Course Managers wishing to interview or chat to students about their particular golf course, the possibility of work placements with them and allows all to gain a deeper insight before taking the, what seems at the time, big step.

Students are also encouraged to pick up literature, brochures and flyers that can be used to reinforce future assignments and projects.

This year the hospitality of the

South West Region, the size and scope of the exhibition, in fact the whole experience, generated some excellent comments from students such as:

"Thoroughly enjoyable and a great atmosphere," Martin Slater, First Year

HND student, while Alan Pyne, a HNC student, said "I am amazed at how large the industry actually is."

From further afield Jose Manuel Barbancho Ruiz, a HNC student from Madrid, said, "I found Harrogate 2002 was a very good opportunity for me to understand the trends of the turf industry and I had the chance to meet very experienced professionals," while James Hallett, a HNC student from South Africa said, "Overall, a great experience and very educational. It was a good trip."

Of course, comments about the night life around Harrogate remain a memory that is best left unprinted, although amazingly, all managed to make breakfast every morning!

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

A need for continuity calls for a plan

I have recently read the comments of Duncan McGilvary, and agree entirely with his comments. Many greenkeepers I know have become disillusioned with the industry including myself, having moved abroad in 1995 after starting in fine turf in 1983. I have tackled things in the same way as Duncan, with education of the members. The root of the problem starts with most Greens Convenors (Chairman of Green) or change of this post. You have to basically start again, this can happen in some clubs every year.

As a Course Manager, it's your duty to try and formulate a Course Handling Plan and submit this to the committee. This should encompass all aspects of the course; Greens, Tees,

Fairways, Bunkers, Woodland etc. Everybody has one don't they?

I have found that this is the only way in which you can hold continuity on the course in all areas. This way you combat the next power crazy Green Chairman who incidentally hates you because you ran over his new pro VI Titleist when you were cutting semi rough four years earlier. Seriously, it begins to bring much more ease to decision making on changes on the course, machinery investment and more manpower etc, in fact everything which makes our job more difficult. It also eliminates greatly personal clashes which inevitably leads to the greenkeeper being dismissed and rarely the Green Chairman.

There are those who say a little

knowledge is dangerous, however, we have been so successful with this method that in association with the Danish Golf Union we operate courses in all aspects of greenkeeping, so our employers better understand how complex our job can be. We also try to teach them that it's fine to expect a certain standard but this must be realistically related to our budget. You can't expect to pay for Sludgecombe Pay and Play and expect Augusta.

Have you done your plan yet? And not just for in the morning, or even the next two years but for the long term future of the course if not it's fair to ask Should we lead or Should we be led? Inspiration starts here!

Chris Haspell, DGU Denmark

Bernhard and BIGGA Thanks 1

I write primarily to thank you for enabling our organisation to produce an educational vista through which, several greenkeepers were given the chance of a lifetime to visit another country to compare and exchange views within our chosen field.

It proved to be a sensational experience, one that will be with me for many years to come. Our group met so many interesting fellow greenkeepers it kept the mind occupied at all times.

Already my own golf course team have enjoyed hearing and reading the literature on a world quite different from ours. I am sure in the coming months there will be many interesting discussions held up & down the country, inspired by the group, on the elements involved in greenkeeping American style.

I was pleased to see the BIGGA stand busy whenever I viewed it, so Tracey must have been asleep on her feet by

the end of the day. We certainly do have a very special relationship with the GCSAA that I feel will continue to grow in the oncoming years. The President of GCSAA, his board members and the President of the local Florida Chapter, Geoff Coggan, deserve a special mention for all their help in making us so welcome in their country.

I now understand why you forged close ties with Bernhard & Co to allow some of our members out to America. Sam and Stephen are certainly dynamic, charismatic fellows with strong beliefs on what greenkeepers should be doing to enhance themselves and this industry. They are great trade ambassadors for our Association and I will be thanking them for all their time and effort to ensure our stay was educational, with never a spare moment to rest!

David Winterton, MG, DM
 Course Manager, Maidenhead GC

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'THE TURFTIME TEASER'



DETAILS ON PAGE 42

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Simply send an email to: updates@bigga.co.uk quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest!

Bernhard and BIGGA Thanks 2

I would like to thank Bernhards and BIGGA for the opportunity of attending the GCSAA Show in Orlando. The visit was most beneficial and I was privileged to be part of the visiting delegation representing the Association. I appreciate the time and effort involved in organising such a visit from all concerned.

I will be feeding back to my membership at Mill Hill Golf Club on what I learnt during the trip while I have distributed floppy discs to my contacts in the States and have asked them to complete my survey with regards to the comparison of golf course maintenance techniques between the USA and the UK. Over the coming months I hope to collate my findings in order to make a presentation to the members of the London Section.

During my visit I took over 200 photographs which have been put on to a CD for distribution to the delegation members.

Technical information recorded will also be shared with the delegation group in order to maintain the available data for us all.

Once again I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to be part of the visiting delegation.

Tony Dunstan,
 Course Manager, Mill Hill GC

Managers are not getting the respect they deserve

I had been in greenkeeping for 16 years and did enjoy the work very much. I decided at the end of 2001 to leave greenkeeping due to some overwhelming factors.

As the years went by I gained a fairly good insight of the running of a golf club, as far as the committee and senior club officials are concerned. I had been a First Assistant since 1987 and felt that I had played a fairly key part in the upkeep of the course. I did not consider myself to be just an ordinary First Assistant as a lot of the roles I played over the years where certainly more than that! But I shall not go into details. I did everything that was asked of me and that includes getting as well qualified as I possibly could. This includes: phase 2 & 4 City and Guilds with a double distinction, NVQ level

3, pa 1,2 & 6, first aid and a few other related qualifications.

One would think that this plus years of experience would equate to an equally respectful wage packet. Well this was not the case for me at least. I am sure there are others out there in the same position. All one hears as an excuse is "You should move on to get better money and more responsibilities". Well I say phooey to this.

There are only so many jobs out there for Course and Deputy Managers. Golf clubs very rarely promote from within, quite why I really don't understand. Who else is better qualified than a person who has all the qualifications and knows the club inside out. Surely it is the way forward to promote your own staff. When the time comes they will move on having gained real experience

as a manager, and if all were in the same boat then it stands to reason that when a manager moves on, selection would be far simpler for clubs when appointing a new one. I don't think I have to spell out why this is the case.

But this apart, I honestly believe that managers are not getting the respect they deserve or are financially rewarded enough. Golf clubs, in the most part, do not appreciate the stress and difficulties involved in the day to day running of a course. Committees always seem to know best it seems, well at least they think they do! How on earth can a club keep any sort of continuity when on an annual basis the committee and captaincy changes. Every year the poor old Course Manager gets barraged with the latest "opinions and great new ideas" from a

body people who all have their own ideals of which 99% is purely because they feel they have to "contribute", and now they are in a position of authority, feel they must be right.

The Course Manager has a policy and that is to maintain the course and manage the staff to his or her best ability. To do this they must be left to their own devices as much as is practical.

There are a lot of excellent greenkeepers out there and if clubs want to have great courses then there needs to be a realisation that the course maintenance crew are essential and must be treated so.

On a final note, I believe that the way things seem to be going, more people will be leaving the trade.

Barney Wright

This month Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, highlights the Spring range of BIGGA Training Courses and launches Key Skills Corner

Education and Training update

The spring range of BIGGA Training Courses is underway with several courses already completed. I am writing this article in my hotel room after the first day of a Basic Computer Skills Course being held at John O' Gaunt Golf Club (yes we do work overtime), which will be followed by similar courses at Berkhamstead and in Aberdeen. We are also running courses on Health and Safety, Chain Saw Operating Skills, Abrasive Wheels Safe Use, Budgets and Finance, Essential Management Skills, Further Management Skills and Communication Skills. All courses are offered at a, minimal, cost of £30 for one day of training and £60 for two days thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. If the course that you want is not being presented in your Region or Section then ask your Section Secretary to contact either Sami or myself with your ideas. We can run courses with a maximum of 4 delegates for Chainsaw Operator

and a minimum of 6 delegates for all other courses.

One of the favorite subjects on the Basic Computer Skills courses is how to use the spell and grammar checkers in word processing and the lack of such help on e-mail, Internet and bulletin boards.

If you want to ensure that your e-mail message is spelt correctly and written grammatically, then use your word processor package to help.

For example, in Microsoft Word, Open a blank document and compose your e-mail. When you have completed your e-mail, carry out a spelling and a grammar check. Select the complete text and use Cut to remove text to paste board. Open e-mail and paste document into New mail.

Alternatively, just write 'please see attachment' in e-mail and Attach file containing text.

The Cut and Paste procedure can be used in the BIGGA member's bulletin Board.

Key Skills Corner

A major part of NVQs, especially for under 25-year-olds, are Key Skills in: Information Technology (IT); Numeracy (Counting) and Literacy (Reading and Writing). Therefore, I thought that it would be useful to highlight some of the rules to be used in written English.

Capital Letters

Use capital letters at the beginning of a sentence, eg. The cat sat on the mat. In abbreviations, eg. BIGGA. As the first letter in 'Proper Nouns' eg. York, Richardson, Ken, the word I, countries eg. England and days and months eg. March, Monday.

Here is a test for you to try. Answer next month.

welcome to Bigga house. today is tuesday, the 3rd of march. the next public Holiday, in england, will be easter.

Hint. Using Microsoft Word with AutoCorrect selected through the Tools menu can help with capital letters.



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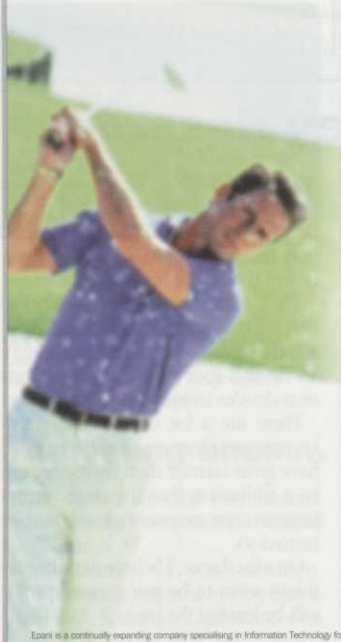
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