

Smith, Weston, for being selected to join the Greenkeepers' Support Team for The Open Championship.

Don't forget G/A Greensomes at Orchardleigh GC Wednesday May 21 at 1pm.

Countrywide have announced the appointment of Martin Townsend, formally of Scotts UK, as their new Turf and Amenity Sales Manager. So along with top quality seed and fertilisers you can also order half a cow and some pig feed.

Right back to more irrigation repairs.

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Guy Woods

### South Coast

As I sit and write these notes I am distracted by my television, and the sight of a statue of Saddam Hussain in central Baghdad being pulled down as American troops liberate the Iraqis. It is a very sobering vision and brings life very much back into perspective! My original opening was about the great difficulties that the weather is blessing us with once more. We are once more under drought conditions and with the temperature reaching 18 degrees our members are wondering why they are not playing on greens with summer characteristics. Well if your course is similar to ours then you will be struggling to get any sort of growth! But as I said, we should put things into perspective.

Life in the Section is quiet at the moment. I have two pieces of news to pass on to you. Firstly we say a very fond farewell to a quite remarkable lady. Our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, is retiring at the end of April to enjoy life with her husband, Mike. I have had the privilege of knowing Paula for a number of years and she has worked relentlessly on behalf of the South West and South Wales Region, which our Section falls within. During that time Paula has not been in the best of health but has never let this affect her work or enthusiasm for it. Probably more importantly she has never let her illness dampen her spirits and I have never heard her complain about it once. We all wish Paula a long and happy retirement with Mike and she has assured me that she would like to attend some of our golf days so she can keep in touch. Thank you Paula!

We also say farewell to Kevan Glass, of Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club, as he ventures across the border and takes on fresh challenges at Loch Lomond Golf Club. It's a big move for Kevan and I know it is a challenge he is relishing and one he will rise to. Good luck Kevan and keep in touch.

As I said before, it's been a quiet month and I have promised Scott that after my version of War and Peace last month I would keep it short and sweet this month. Please contact me if you have any news you wish to include.

Until next month  
Alex McCombie



### Surrey

Although you are reading this in the May edition of our magazine I am sure that every member will remember what an excellent day we all had at Cuddington Golf Club on March 13. Many thanks to Stuart Shoppard and his staff for presenting the course in such a magnificent way and arranging for such superb weather. Cuddington was bathed in glorious sunshine and the temperature was really warm. Michael Sawicki took full advantage of the conditions and scored 37 points taking first prize. Nigel Colly was second losing only on countback with Steve Holmes just pipping Greg Richardson into third position. Longest Drive was delivered by Anthony Freeman and Nearest the Pin was Gary Rowe's finest hour. Best par 3 score was accurately obtained by Mick McLaren at -1. Our next tournament is on May 29 at Old Thorns Golf Club so please send your application in on time with your payment to Ian Sellars.

Congratulation paragraph informs us that Dan Wheeler, Roehampton GC, has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Mottram Hall Golf Club and Gary Kenny takes over at Hampton Court following John Biermont's retirement due to ill health. Our best wishes to John and an early return to full health. David Andrews celebrates 25 years at Purley Downs Golf Club and John Day takes control at Woking Golf Club.

Brian Willmott



What about yer. There's not much to write about this month. So far, a spell of fine weather and all you do is work, you're getting to be a boring lot (Joke).

Friends in England often ask me where to go in Ireland as they are thinking of visiting for a few days, I say that's not long enough, but I also tell them pin a map up on the wall, throw a dart and go there.

I have been blessed with having seen every square inch of the whole of our country, quite often in beautiful weather, I suggest they start at

the Europa Hotel in Belfast. Go south, keep going and end up back in the same hotel. I tell them, though, to keep out of Northern Ireland. It's mine! However I have just got back from Donegal, windy, cold, sunny, beautiful.

Loving Northern Ireland as I do, there is something special about Donegal. They say it's the last place God made. He practised on the rest of the world and when he got it right he built Donegal. Now I know when you receive my calling cards most of you leave the country. Well the best yet, Jim McKenna, at Doonbeg, had gone to get measured for his wedding suit! I mean would anyone go that far?

I've just had my hair cut, I told the barber to cut a bit more off one side than the other leave the back and top a bit scraggy and cut the fringe on the slope. He said he couldn't send me out looking like that, I said you managed it last time.

There have been two educational events both were very well attended and proved very beneficial.

Many thanks to Bernard Findlay, and Portstewart Golf Club. Bernard gave a tour of his newly built golf course and talked of Links management. Thanks also to Ruth Mann, from STRI, who generously gave her time and a very good talk on Pests and Diseases. It was unanimously regarded as an excellent day.

Greenmount held an event on reel sharpening and Soil Science, many thanks to Neil McLaughlin and the college and to Ken Richardson and Sami Collins from BIGGA. Again another excellent day.

The next golf outing will be at Lungan Golf Club, 1pm on May 27. "I am not looking forward to it" sponsored by Tacit.

Last month I wrote about the shows. There is something special for me about them. Not only do I meet my friends I see how well you all get on. There is something about your profession that brings you together, similar to other people who care for the land. Knowing everyone I can sometimes introduce greenkeepers, I remember once in Dublin introducing John Rouine, from Lahinch, to Andy Robertson, from Ballylifen.

They became good friends in seconds so much that John visited Andy while on honeymoon in Donegal. I hope Mrs Rouine ironed Andy's shirts he certainly needed them doing.

I've just had a cup of tea with Jimmy Jones at Kilkeel (a real gent). I am now going to write a best seller, titled "Irish World Tour of Greenkeepers' Canteens". I may give prizes. The best will take some finding, the worst even harder.

Cheers Everybody  
Graham Prosser

A red banner with a white speech bubble on the left containing the text 'TIME TO TALK' and 'www.bigga.org.uk'. To the right of the speech bubble is the text 'www.bigga.org.uk' in large white letters, followed by 'check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry' in smaller white letters. At the bottom of the banner is the text 'FOR GREENKEEPERS • BY GREENKEEPERS • CHAT GREENKEEPERS' in white.



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This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members. The solution to the April 'Turftime Teaser' was Shirley Aldred & Co Ltd. The 5 lucky winners are: Stephen Whitwell of Gog Magog Golf Club, Mr S Pickering of Rotherham Golf Club, Jeremy Smith of Rushden Golf Club and Malcolm Jervis of Chelmsford, Chris Tozer of Bridport & West Dorset Golf Club

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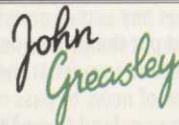
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## YOUR LETTERS ARE NEEDED!

Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

### A Positive Advertisement

The article "Looking After Your Sand" by Alistair Beggs which featured in the April edition of Greenkeeper International highlighted some common sense guidelines to bunker maintenance. However, the statement "if you do have problems with the construction and/or form of your hazards or they do not drain sufficiently then the first step must be to contact a golf course architect..." needs addressing. This statement clearly implies that greenkeepers are unable to undertake any kind of bunker reshaping or drainage improvements without the help of an architect: this is obviously not a reflection of reality.

While I accept that there is a place for golf course architects in the appropriate circumstance, the work we have undertaken at Highgate in recent years is, I feel, a positive advertisement for in-house renovations. I am happy to extend an open invitation to Mr Beggs, or indeed any greenkeeper, architect, consultant, etc, to come and cast a critical eye over the improvements we have made at this course.

I would be interested to know whether Mr Beggs would feel that "the first step" we should have made would have been to contact a golf course architect.

Richard Andrews, Highgate Golf Club

### No Apology Needed

Joe Findlay has no need to apologise for his long-winded essay in your latest issue. After 30 years learning how to produce greens as good as those at Portrush, it would be a shame if he felt he could not use our magazine as a vehicle to pass on what he has learned to "youngsters" like me.

As I've mentioned before, it has been a tough learning experience for me to make the transition from parkland to links greenkeeping with only an open mind, some helpful and enthusiastic staff, an understanding boss and Jim Arthur's rantings to help me out, so any snippets of information people like Joe or "Chairman George" can send my way will always be gratefully received.

It is reassuring to note the similarities between the programmes Joe and I currently favour (although his is obviously more intensive as he has more wear to deal with, and a bigger budget to utilise), as we are both dealing with exactly the same weather and working with exactly the same sand (Portrush is only about 30 miles from Islay).

Anyone who feels they have anything to offer that can help their fellow greenkeepers should do what Joe has done and pass their ideas on - we cannot expect Scott to do ALL the work now, can we?

Simon Freeman, Head Greenkeeper, Machrie GC, Islay

Editor's Note: Like Simon, I would be delighted to hear from any greenkeeper who wishes to do an informative article along the lines of Joe's.

### Thanks to Ransomes Jacobsen

I am thrilled to hear that I have been awarded a Ransomes Jacobsen Higher Education Scholarship. I am looking forward to investing it in the realisation of my dream: to be educated at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland, which will result in an MSc grade in golf course architecture.

Thank you so much!

As a matter of course I will keep you informed on any progress and all relevant ins and outs.

Thank you once more for your generosity.

Cees van Nieuwenhuizen, The Netherlands

### Thanks to All

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone I have been fortunate to have been involved with in my four years in the trade. To Drew Harkness and everybody at Sherriffs; everyone at John Deere, and all the UK dealers that I have met. The guys at Wiedenmann UK and all the companies I have dealt with.

Finally, a big thank you to all the customers who I have had the pleasure in dealing with. I will miss you all. Thanks a million.

Wullie Ness

## Recruitment

### FOYLE INTERNATIONAL GOLF CENTRE

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Invites applications for

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

For

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Completed application forms with C.V. to be returned by Wednesday 14th May 2003

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### CARHOLME GOLF CLUB

Applications are required for the position of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

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The successful applicant should possess the following.

- Appropriate qualifications and certificates
- Communication and leadership skills
- A comprehensive Knowledge of course maintenance machinery
- Sound knowledge of Health and Safety regulations
- Man-manager who can motivate and lead from the front
- Able to manage resource through good time management skills

Applications with full CV salary will be negotiable. Closing date 23 May 2003

Applications to: The Secretary, Carholme Golf Club, Carholme Road, Lincoln LN1 1SE



## SOUTH BEDS GOLF CLUB



Luton, Bedfordshire  
Established 1892



### Invites applications for the post of **COURSE MANAGER**

South Beds is a busy Private Members Golf Club seeking to replace the present Course Manager who is leaving after 28 years of service.

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The successful candidate will play a major part in this project.

To be considered for this post you should hold appropriate qualifications, be well versed in all modern practices and be able to demonstrate a commitment to continual professional development. In addition, it is expected that you would be conversant with current Health & Safety aspects of greenkeeping and be capable of planning and budgeting for the maintenance of the course. Most importantly, you should be able to demonstrate management and motivational qualities, together with the ability to lead and develop the existing team.

Salary by negotiation

Closing date: 26th May 2003

To apply, please write, enclosing a full CV to:

Secretary/Manager, South Beds Golf Club,  
Warden Hill Road, Luton, LU2 7AE



## BLACKMOOR GOLF CLUB

Established 1913

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The successful candidate will report to the Secretary/Manager and salary will be negotiable.

Written applications, including full CV, should be sent to:

Mr A N Harris, Secretary/Manager, Blackmoor Golf Club,  
Firgrove Road, Whitehill, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 9EH

### Parks Services Unit

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You will be responsible for the maintenance of the courses, supervision of up to 8 permanent and seasonal green-keeping staff and have responsibility for materials and equipment budgets. You will also be responsible for supervising contractors, planning and implementing improvements to the courses and liaising with the Towneley Park Golf Club.

You must have fine turf and golf course and supervisory experience, together with a recognised qualification to NVQ 2/3 in fine turf or an equivalent qualification. Good interpersonal skills, the ability to manage and develop staff and control financial resources are also essential. We offer a 36.25 hour working week, generous holidays and an excellent pension scheme. Rented accommodation in a park lodge house may also be available if required.

For an application form and further details please contact:  
Christine Crossley, Support and Member Services Unit,  
20 Nicholas Street, Burnley, BB11 2AP Tel: 01282 425011 ext 2644

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For applications outside normal office hours - 01282 428235

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## Feature listing from May 2001

**May 2001;** Foot and Mouth Disease Special Report; Maintenance Facility report; Bunker Sand; ATVs; RainBird Profile; Fineturf Genetics; BTME2002 countdown; Electric-powered machines

**June 2001;** Stoke Park Club profile; Stuart Cagle MG; Tractors; Leaf Spot Disease; Take All Patch; Construction

**July 2001;** Royal Lytham profile; Tees Mowers; Fertilisers; Green Grasses; John Deere profile; Sandy McDivot; College Listings

**August 2001;** Aeration Survey; Machrie GC profile; Rough Mowers; Saltex Preview; Dr Alan Gange - environmental research; Hayter Profile; Ponds; Open Championship review; Toro Student of the Year profile;

**September 2001;** Ryder Cup preview; Chafer Grubs; Drainage; BIGGA National Championship preview; Sandy McDivot; Machinery Maintenance; Soil Analysis; Wild Flowers

**October 2001;** Major Award for Walter Woods; Royal Portrush GC; Portstewart GC; Irrigation; Soil biodiversity; Leaf collection systems; Scotsturf preview' Saltex review

**November 2001;** BIGGA National Championship review; Environment Competition winner; Spraying; Toro Awards Preview; Cutting regimes; Dyke GC

**December 2001;** Toro Award Winners; Southern Gailes GC; BTME preview; Specialty equipment; Thatch removal

**January 2002;** Walton Heath profile; Greenkeeping in Denmark; Moving materials; A first for Andy Campbell; New products

**February 2002;** Harrogate 2002 Review; Drainage; Castlerock GC; Trees; Recycling; TurfTrax profile; Barn Owl special report

**March 2002;** Donnington Valley profile; Utility vehicles; Essay competition winner; Irrigation; Seeds; Sandy McDivot

**April 2002;** Heyrose GC profile; Bernhard's Scholarship; De-stress your greens; COSHH assessments; Rootzones and topdressing; Maintenance facilities; Essay competition

**May 2002;** BIGGA Report; Nematodes; Caldly GC profile; Multi-tasking machinery; Bunker Sand; Essay competition; Fijian GC profile; BIGGA Minimum qualification

**June 2002;** Finding Fungi; Greatham Valley GC profile; Tyres; Calabria GC profile; Lakes and Ponds; Poa Annua - Jim Arthur

**July 2002;** Open preview; Turf; Steve Isacss; Emissions; Grinding; Rotary Mowers; BTME preview; Sandy McDivot

**August 2002;** BIGGA Golf Day; Open review; Talking Heads - Education & training; Trees; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pwllheli GC; Weather; Compact Tractors; Saltex preview

**September 2002;** National Championship Preview; Irrigation; Non Grass Cutters; Hawkstone Park; Careers in Greenkeeping

**October 2002;** Saltex Review; Golden and Silver Key Supporters; Environment Awards; Health & Safety; Sustainable Use of Pesticides

**November 2002;** Toro Student of the Year; National Championship; Drainage; St Andrew's Bay; Autumn Problems

**December 2002;** BTME & ClubHouse Preview; R&A Golf Course committee; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pennard GC

**January 2003;** Beedles Lake Profile; Talking Heads - Chemical Application; Rebuilding Golf Greens; Constructive Advice

**February 2003;** BTME/ClubHouse Review; Royal Liverpool Profile; Irrigation; Nematodes

**March 2003;** The Berkshire Profile; Meloidogyne; Overseeding Golf Greens; Talking Heads - Health & Safety

**April 2003;** Oakmere Park GC; Spraying; Golf Course Security; Bernhards Delegation; Ransomes Jacobsen Profile



# Patience is the Game



**What goes around comes around. Having endured some of the wettest weather any of us can remember over the past couple of years, we are in the middle of the driest and warmest March/April people up here in Scotland can remember. Temperatures are what we would hope for in the height of the summer, while at the moment rain seems like a distant memory.**

People will accuse us of never being happy and always having something to gripe about but we all know that while excessively wet weather is not what we look for, neither is what we have at the moment.

In the daytime short shirt sleeves are the order of the day which is very pleasant but night time frosts are still keeping soil temperatures down. In fact, we are so dry here at Turnberry that we have had grass fires on our course and there have been several fires on roadside areas. Now you might expect grass fires in the height of a good summer but certainly not at this time of year.

It is ironic that this year it was Augusta National which had to put up with torrential rain, which made the course unplayable for the start of The Masters, while we were having to water our curled up winter turfing just to keep it alive. Who would have believed that?

The extended mild spell has meant that we have had so much play throughout the winter months, which has been followed by almost 4,000 rounds of golf on the Ailsa course during the month of March alone. This has led to some walkways becoming so dry and worn that they are breaking up already and we are having to turn our attention to them much earlier than we would normally have to.

Our second course, the new Kintyre, has also been very busy, with almost 3,000 rounds of golf in the month of March alone.

Talking of Augusta National. Yes, here we are in that time of year when committees expect our courses to be in better shape than they are! Unfortunately many of them do not realise that despite the recent

sunshine, as I write, it is still only the middle of April and with the ever increasing amount of winter play on semi dormant golf courses and the crazy demand for fast greens, courses have to pay the penalty with UNDESIRABLE grasses or, in some cases, little grass at all on their greens.

But the saddest thing of all is that the resultant problems are invariably blamed on the poor greenkeeper. What is more alarming is that many good, hard working greenkeepers are facing dismissal for carrying out these ill advised practices that are imposed upon them. BIGGA offers as much support as is possible in these situations with the panel of experienced greenkeepers available to offer advice and mediation on greenkeeping and agronomic issues. The opinion of a respected greenkeeper from outwith a golf club might just carry enough weight to change ill informed views from within. If it does everyone will benefit, including the beleaguered greenkeeper and the club itself.

The month of May will soon be upon us and most of our courses will be in better shape. Nothing every changes.

Patience is the game.

George Brown  
Chairman

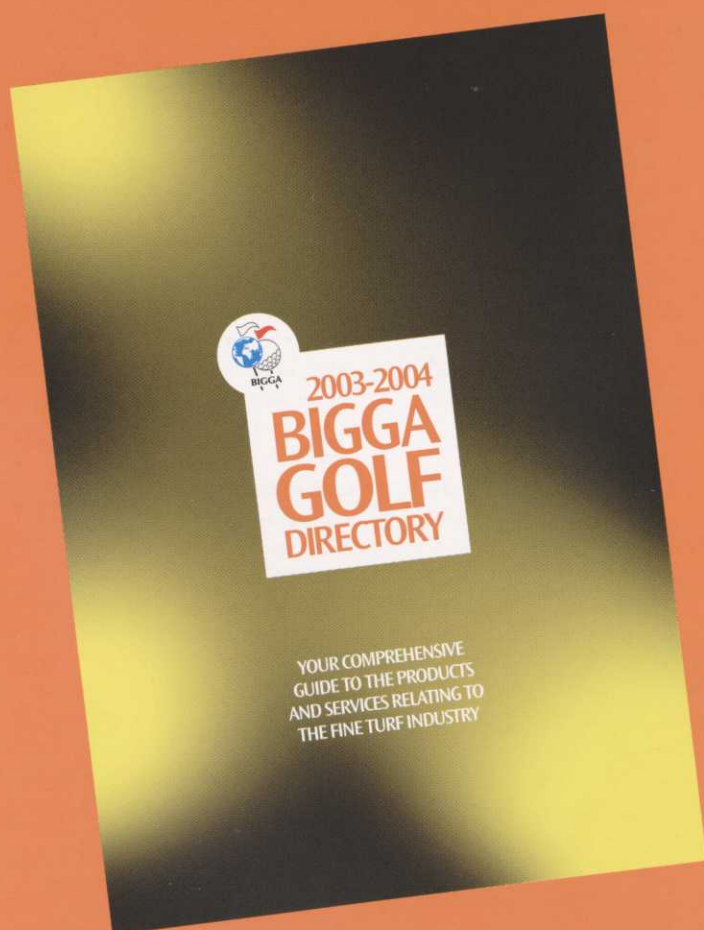


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- All Secretaries/Chairmen of Green
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