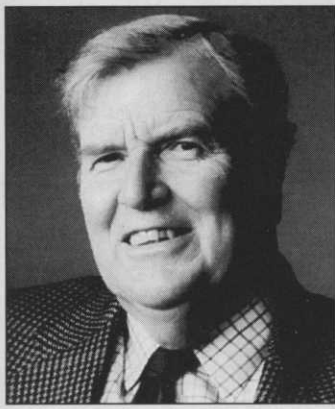


# NEWS



## Seed trade bids fond farewell to Jonathan

Jonathan Franks has retired after 20 years with British Seed Houses and a total of 32 years in the seed trade.

He joined SISIS Equipment Ltd in 1962 when the company was known as William Hargreaves Ltd and moved to Twyford Seeds, where he worked alongside Jim Arthur in 1967. He joined British Seed Houses in 1977.

Since then he has been responsible for advising on grass seed mixtures not only in the UK but also in mainland Europe and the Middle East. He is also credited with introducing Creeping Bents into the UK when the species was sown on the greens at Badgemore Park at Henley.

During his two decades with the British Seed Houses Jonathan has seen the company supply grass seed for 230 new golf courses, including major projects such as The Belfry, St Mellion, Collingtree Park, East Sussex National, The Wisley, The Buckinghamshire, The Oxfordshire and Bearwood Lakes.

In his retirement Jonathan has become secretary to the British Association of Golf Course Constructors and a judge for the Britain in Bloom competition. He also hopes to spend more time fly fishing.



**■** Martin Bond, of Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife, and a finalist last year in the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year, has been awarded the Barenbrug Certificate of Excellence for his outstanding performance in his college work.

At the prize giving he was presented with the certificate and a book token by Barenbrug Area Manager Adrian Ellis while he was also congratulated on his performance by David Miller, Chairman of SCOTVEC, and Carol Borthwick of Elmwood College.

"It is reassuring to see colleges such as Elmwood and students such as Martin ensuring quality well into the next century. So it is always a pleasure for us at Barenbrug to reward particularly outstanding achievements whenever we can," said Adrian.

## Golf course owners form Association

The Association of Golf Course Owners has been formed to provide members with information on subjects ranging from VAT, clubhouse repairs, insurance etc.

The Association has been formed by golf coach and course owner Vivien Saunders and among its aims are to produce a bi-monthly newsletter; put together an advisory panel

covering aspects of managing a golf course; hold seminars in greenkeeping, golf course management, clubhouse management, food and drink, marketing and advertising; encourage machinery share or exchange between members and negotiate special discounted rates and special promotions in various aspects of the business.

It is a non-profit making organisation set up for golf club proprietors and operators, including pay-as-you-play courses.

It aims to provide them with a single voice and to promote member clubs to a wider golfing public, to help increase income and public awareness and encourage new golfers to the game.

**■** BTME 1997 is off to a roaring start with yellow forms flooding through the letter box at BIGGA HQ. Over 100 companies have already rebooked stand space. Remaining space is limited so please contact Louise Lunn Tel: 01347 838581. Don't miss out on Europe's largest indoor turf show. Book your space now.



## FLYING DIVOTS

**■** Following several attempts to misuse both the STRI name and logo, the STRI has taken legal action to protect the use made of both.

"It is not STRI's practice to state that it approves any product, and it is further practice only to allow any client receiving their results from STRI to use those results for promotional purposes only with STRI's permission and subject to a suitable undertaking being entered into by that client," explained Mike Canaway, Chief Executive.

STRI is sure that its clients recognise the importance of this, not only to the Institute, but for the industry generally. It therefore wishes to assure everyone that its protection policy will be rigorously applied and invites anyone to notify it if any breaches of this policy come to light in the future.

**■** Avoncrop Amenity Products has opened a depot at Eastern Way, Bracknell, Berks to service London and the Home Counties. The new depot holds a wide range of fertilisers, chemicals, grass seed, marking materials and sundries. For further details please contact the depot manager Johanna Feltham Tel: 01344 426600.

**■** Rolawn has opened a new depot on the Hillier Garden Centre at Sunningdale in Berkshire.

"Rolawn's delivery service will get even better because the M3, M4 and M25 will be easier to reach and therefore Rolawn Turf will get to our customers much faster," said Terry Ryan, Sales and Marketing Director.



**■** Richard Whyman, Head Greenkeeper of Bude and North Cornwall GC receives a BIGGA gift voucher for £150 from Allan Stow, Technical Sales Adviser for Vitax. Richard's name was pulled out of the hat by BIGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver at BTME 96 earlier this year.

## Another 'Oscar' for BIGGA magazine

BIGGA's prestigious monthly magazine *Greenkeeper International* has again been praised in a trade journals competition, winning a Certificate of Merit award in the Magazine of the Year category against stiff competition.

It is the third year in a row that the magazine has collected an

accolade, this year at a regional awards ceremony in Manchester.

Judges were looking for editorial excellence and high standards of design, and with *Greenkeeper International* they were impressed with the direct way the magazine addressed its target audience. "Clearly it is giv-

ing readers what they want," said one judge. "Its pagination and paper quality give it a 'feel good' factor and a bright, lively cover adds to a favourable first impression. One readership survey is likely to confirm that the magazine provides its specialist subscribers with a jolly good read."



# Space age arrives in Loch Lomond

Loch Lomond Golf Club has found a novel way to create a dry environment to drill greens when the Scottish weather is not being too cooperative.

A huge bubble, large enough to cover an entire green and inflated by a giant fan, arrived at the club at the beginning of February and has allowed Course Superintendent Ken Siems and his staff to work on greens in dry conditions.

At up to 10 feet high the bubble is large enough for a tractor to drive inside the bubble. Known as the Liquid Sod Growing Dome it is 500 metres square in size and was produced by Jesse Johnson, of Liquid Sod.

"It really has made a huge dif-

ference to what we have been able to do on the course," explained Ken, who is preparing for the Loch Lomond World Invitational on the PGA European Tour in September.

"We can take it down and erect it in three and a half hours so we are able to move it around quite easily."

The Loch Lomond bubble is the first to have been put into active, commercial, service although prototypes were tested at the London Golf Club, Stamford Bridge – home of Chelsea FC and one of the courts at the All England Tennis Club at Wimbledon.

"They were really tests to see if the air pressure could hold the

dome up and test the lightweight plastic."

The bubble is weighed down at the sides by water ballast and the whole structure is held together by powerful velcro, allowing it to be reduced or extended in size. It is also strong enough for a man to walk over.

As well as the ability to heat, the Dome can also be used in areas where the main aim is to keep an area cool by having a water mist going through the fan.

"The Dome will withstand up to 35 mile an hour winds and we can make them up to 30,000 square metres in size – about seven and a half acres," explained Jesse.

## HAYTER CHALLENGE

# Players continue to be named

Last month we announced that Derek McJannet, Alexander Reid, Ian Buckley and Brian Mulholland would be representing the four home countries in the inaugural Hayter International Cup at West Lincs Golf Club on September 16.

This month we can announce the names of the first international competitors to confirm their attendance.

The GCSAA element of the The Americas team will comprise: Paul McGinnis, GCSAA Vice President; George Renault III, GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer; Gary Grigg, GCSAA Immediate Past President; Randy Nichols, Cherokee Town and Country Club, Atlanta Georgia; Jim Dusch, Atlanta National GC, Alpharetta, Georgia and Sam Williamson, Ojai Valley Inn and Country Club, Ojai, California. The non-playing captain will be Bruce Williams, the GCSAA President, while Steve Mona, GCSAA Chief Executive Officer will also attend.

The Canadian element of the team will comprise Thom Charters, Robert Heron, Doug Meyer and Dean Morrison.

Other competitors will be announced as the event draws nearer.

With many bringing wives or partners to support their team a "Ryder Cup" atmosphere is guaranteed!

The first of the Section qualifiers for the Hayter Challenge are currently being played. Any newsworthy events should be sent to Scott MacCallum at Headquarters for inclusion in the Hayter column.

The final will be played at Fairhaven on September 18.

## Pat is new Vice Chairman



Pat Murphy, of Shipley Golf Club in Bingley, West Yorkshire, is the new National Vice Chairman of BIGGA. Pat, who

joined the Board of Management in 1995, is currently Chairman of the Education Sub Committee.

"It came as a complete surprise when Dean Cleaver phoned me

up and asked if I would be Vice Chairman. I nearly fell off my chair and was numb for quite a while after," said Pat.

"My golf club is absolutely delighted. The President of Shipley Golf Club got up at the Northern Section Dinner and said how please they were that I'd been invited to be Vice Chairman and that the club was right behind me."



# Prestigious deal goes to Ransomes

St Andrews Links Trust has appointed Ransomes as the exclusive supplier of turf maintenance equipment and light utility vehicles for its courses.

Under the rolling three year agreement the Trust will purchase only Ransomes, Cushman and Ryan equipment to maintain the six courses which form Europe's largest golf complex.

"We are delighted to have signed this exclusive agreement with Ransomes," said Links Manager Ian Forbes.

"A major factor in selecting Ransomes was the company's commitment to golf through the design, manufacture and supply of first class maintenance machinery."

The agreement was secured by Ransomes with invaluable assistance from local distributor, Scottish Grass Machinery which will be responsible for the installation,

servicing and maintenance of the equipment.

"This is a great achievement for Ransomes and for Scottish Grass Machinery," said Managing Director David McNroy. "With Gleneagles already committed to Ransomes, we have now secured exclusive agreements this year with two of the world's finest golfing locations."

The new agreement follows on from another signed with Pebble Beach.

St Andrews Links already has a number of Ransomes machines the most recent of which – a pair of Fairway 300 mowers – were used during last year's Open Championship. Among the first of the new machines to be delivered will be an E-Plex all-electric greens mower, which being virtually silent will enable an earlier start on greens close to the local hotels and houses.



## Mommersteeg turfgrass workshop was a sellout

Twenty two greenkeepers recently attended a one day Turfgrass Workshop, organised by Mommersteeg International. The training course, which was the first of its kind to be arranged by the company, was held at the Welsh College of Horticulture.

Course tutor Phil Davies, pictured above, who is Mommersteeg's amenity seeds specialist, was encouraged by the response from the attending greenkeepers. "The North Wales section of BIGGA asked us if we would be prepared to hold the course and it was an overwhelming success."

"We were over subscribed, and the interest and participation from the greenkeepers was very encouraging. It acted as a

useful refresher for many of the attendees who hadn't studied grass identification since their college days."

The workshop included details on the breeding of grasses, identification, and selection of mixtures for different golf course areas.

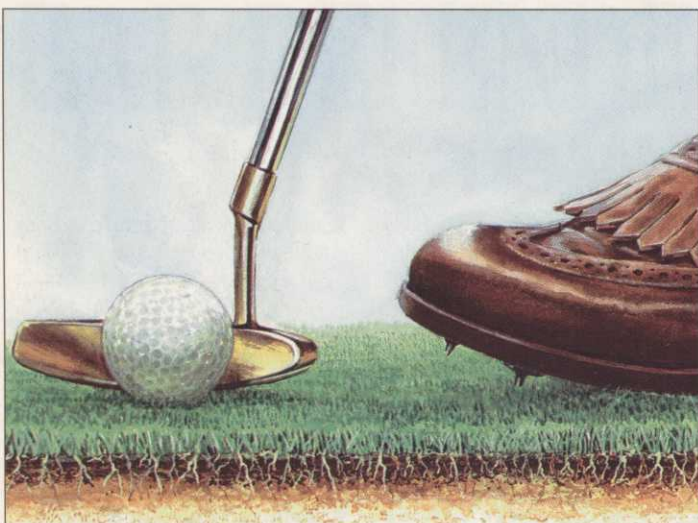
In addition to the overall success of the day, two attendees were assessed by an independent assessor and verifier in accordance with the Greenkeeper Training Manual regulations and were awarded passes.

Mommersteeg provided a manual on the course contents and presented everyone with a certificate of attendance. The company is investigating holding similar events for greenkeepers in other areas of the country.

## Cash boost

Regional Administrator Bob Lupton, left, presents BIGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver with a cheque for £1,000 – raised by the Northern Region for the Association's Building Fund.

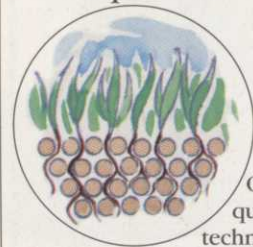




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## Dinner was a big success

The annual Gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath was a resounding success although the hardy souls who competed, particularly at the back of the field, were given ample opportunity to test the waterproof qualities of their clothing.

Despite the damp – and it could have been worse because during the dinner itself snow fell and was two inches deep by the time it

came to depart – some excellent golf was played over the New Course, magnificently prepared by Clive Osgood, with 40 pts being required to secure the honours.

The victor was Huw Morgan, of Wildernes GC in Sevenoaks, off a handicap of 8 and, as our picture shows, he was congratulated on his achievement by Walton Heath Captain John Jessop.

## First winner sees the sights at GCSAA show

Stuart Green, of Reaseheath College, the first winner of the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award used part of his £1,650 bursary prize to visit the GCSAA Conference and Exhibition in Orlando in February.

The Award scheme, which is now in its second year, enables students to study for a year at Gleneagles as part of their three year HND college course and Stuart was one of six students selected by Gleneagles to take part in the inaugural year of its Excellence in Golf Awards.

The students spent a year studying and carrying out all aspects of course design, management and maintenance under the direction of Jimmy Kidd and the Head Greenkeepers of Gleneagles' three championship courses. At the end of the year, the students faced practical, theoretical and project assessments and all six were judged to have reached the required standard and received Certificates of Excellence and



cash bursaries.

Stuart is pictured (second from left) with his certificate of excellence on the stand of award sponsor, Ransomes. Also pictured are, from left, Peter Wilson, Chief Executive Ransomes plc; Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turf Grass Management, Gleneagles Golf Developments and David McInroy, Managing Director of award co-sponsors Scottish Grass Machinery.

