

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Board Members

Jeff Mills, Gavin Robson, Archie Dunn, Ian Willett,
Tony Smith, Elliott Small, Mark Dobell

Chief Executive – John Pemberton

Email – john@bigga.co.uk

Communications Manager /

Editor – Scott MacCallum

Email – scott@bigga.co.uk

Sales Manager – Rosie Hancher

Email – rosie@bigga.co.uk

Head of Learning & Development – Sami Collins

Email – sami@bigga.co.uk

Membership Department – Tracey Maddison

Email – traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us

Post – BIGGA House, Aldwark, A1ne, York, YO61 1UF

Email – reception@bigga.co.uk

Website – www.bigga.org.uk

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801



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Editorial

Communications Manager /

Editor – Scott MacCallum

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

Email – scott@bigga.co.uk

Assistant Editor – Melissa Jones

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

Email – melissa@bigga.co.uk

Design

Design and Production Editor – Tom Campbell

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

Email – tom@bigga.co.uk

Advertising

Sales Executive – Kirstin Smith

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833802

Email – kirstin@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor Lane,
Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH

Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

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Cover photo: East Sussex National Golf Club



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Welcome



Better to Get on with the Job

The Open Championship at Royal Birkdale was a triumph, not only for Pdraig Harrington, who, remarkably, became the first European successfully to defend an Open since James Braid, but for Course Manager, Chris Whittle, and his team who were universally praised for the condition of the course.

Sure it was green, but such were the weather conditions in the run up to the Championship, it couldn't have been any other colour, while the battering it took, particularly on the first two days, tested its drainage qualities to the max. The torrential rain and gale force winds were not ideal for anyone – players, caddies, spectators and greenkeepers – but everyone put in that little bit extra and got the job done.

The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team was involved in bunker preparation in the mornings and divoting in the evenings, as well as raking bunkers through the day, and such were the conditions they faced, particularly in the mornings, it was wet suits and waders they needed rather than waterproofs. However, the team did a remarkable job and ensured that the bunkers were in perfect shape for the players unfortunate enough to find them.

I know that the R&A appreciate the work that the BIGGA Support Team does at The Open and I also know that our team welcome the opportunity to be involved in the greatest golf Championship of them all.

To all, but a few security guards and cleaners, the early and late work carried out by the Team is unseen and as a result is perhaps unrecognised by some. They are happy with the results and it doesn't quite occur to them how they are achieved. This is very much the lot of the greenkeeper, whether he be at a Major golf event or day to day at his own club.

It will ever be thus. It's the Formula 1 driver who gets all the accolades while his pit crew spend hour upon hour in the garage eeking another fraction of the second out of the engine; the actors get the Oscars, the Baftas and the multi million pay cheques while the men and women who write the words they speak can walk down any street in the world without being recognised - and they are on a fraction of the salary. Let's face it, a film's Director is less well known than its leading man or lady.

But those people in the know do recognised the talents of "back room boys" and know that it isn't some magical waft of a wand that makes everything come together.

In golf, the authorities know that Championships need the expertise provided by experienced turf managers, while it is the golf clubs, who leave their greenkeeping teams to get on with the job which generally benefit from better conditioned courses.

It's probably better to be allowed to get on with the job quietly and efficiently than to get plenty of pats on the back but suffer interference and hassle.

I know what I'd rather have.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



STATESIDE SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS

Ohio State University, in the USA, has become home to Daniel Weston an ex-Writtle College student. After completing his NVQ level 2 in Sports Turf ahead of the majority in his group, Daniel progressed onto his NVQ Level 3 at the College. Daniel has dyslexia and found Level 3 a challenge, refusing to give up and with support from the College he fought against it remarkably and successfully completed the course in 2005. Proving himself still further Daniel went on to secure himself the post as Head Greenkeeper at Epping Golf Club. Daniel, from Epping in Essex, quickly found the desire for his next challenge choosing this time to enrol onto the Ohio state university programme – he has now been there for a year working as an intern at The Pinehurst resort in North Carolina.

The Ohio State Programme brings 19-28 year old greenkeepers from 32 countries around the world. The trainees gain practical training and an opportunity to attend Ohio State for three months of classes related to the turf grass industry.



(L to R) Tom Smart, another intern, Steve Wilson, golf superintendent at Pinehurst and Daniel Weston.

SPONSORING YOUNG GARDENERS

In the knowledge that children are our future, lawnmower manufacturer Etesia UK Ltd has taken the initiative to help an inspired former Local Authority groundsman in his bid to set up school gardening clubs for children in West Yorkshire.

As part of their sponsorship deal, Etesia delivered two pedestrian mowers to the Haworth Primary School where former Bradford Council Landscapes' employee, Steve Thorpe volunteered to set up his first gardening club for the youngsters in 2002.

This first club rose out of problems with vandalism in Haworth, which gave local-man Steve the idea that if he taught children how to garden at a young age they would grow up to respect their environment.

Now, seven years on, the proof of his success is evident in colourful floral displays dotted around the town, outside the fire and railway stations and doctors' surgery – all planted up twice a year by children from Haworth Primary School's Gardening Club. At the school, healthy lunches are on the menu as the children prepare, cook and eat the vegetables which they have grown. They also take fresh produce to the nearby old peoples' home – an enjoyable visit which benefits both old and young alike.

GROW WITH WRITTLE...



New Higher Education Courses in Horticulture have been introduced at Writtle College. One of the new specialist courses is the BSc (Hons) or FdSc Green Space Management.

This course provides the practical and professional training necessary for those seeking positions of responsibility in the management of parks, designed landscapes and urban greenspaces.

This important established sector of the horticultural industry is expanding, and graduates are required to have sound plant knowledge and a full appreciation of both short and long term management techniques applicable to a diverse range of landscapes and amenities. The course also covers important aspects of plant and soil sciences and management studies with scope for students to choose a specialism. These specialisms include conservation management, wildlife conservation or event management.

SEABROOK SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

The School of Horticulture at Writtle College has just announced Sarah Tull as the inaugural successor of the Seabrook scholarship. Sarah, who has just completed her National Diploma (ND) in Horticulture, will receive £3,000 a year to attend the two-year Foundation degree in horticulture at the College. The scholarship, which was launched back in January this year, has been sponsored by Easy Gardener gardening products. The award has been named after Peter Seabrook who himself attended the College in the 1950's achieving both the College Diploma and Royal Horticultural Society Master of Horticulture degree.

RETHINK ROCKTRON

RockTron made history recently hosting Europe's first zero carbon charity golf tournament in aid of Rethink – two years ahead of the first scheduled zero carbon Ryder Cup.

RockTron, the pioneering mineral reprocessing company hosted Europe's first zero carbon charity golf tournament in aid of Rethink. The event was a resounding success. Over 40 players attended the "by invitation only" event which received recognition from golf enthusiasts and environmentalists alike.

The tournament was designed to raise much-needed funds and awareness for the UK's largest mental health support charity, Rethink, who provide invaluable support for over 50,000 people afflicted with mental illnesses (www.rethink.org). All the money raised at today's unique charity golf day will go directly towards expanding the support provided by Herbert House in Wiltshire to help those individuals who have a mental illness and are expecting a child. The Rethink team help them to fully understand their situation and give them the tools and support they need, enabling them to cope through this demanding period in their lives. Rethink is committed to supporting such families so that they can stay together during a very difficult time and be better prepared for the future.

Careful steps were taken to minimise and offset the negative environmental impact of the day's activities. Players were encouraged to carpool. RockTron also purchased 14 tonnes of carbon credits to offset the total CO2 footprint of the event. They allowed for over 12,000 miles for people travelling to the event – more than enough as many of the players and guests came from the immediate local area.

Winners: 1st Place: Rethought Team: Philip Michael - Captain, Alan Lidgley, Philip Morgan, Terry Lawson. 2nd Place: Mika's Team: Graham Benjamin – Captain, Wyn Turnbull, Michael Douglas, Stuart Fisher. 3rd Place: Laker Ventre Engineering Team: Michael Ventre – Captain, Richard Ventre, Paul Ventre, Stephen Ventre.

HALF-A-CENTURY OF SUCCESS

Etesia has joined its parent company, Outils Wolf in marking 50 years as a leading European manufacturer of outdoor power equipment.

To celebrate the occasion, Outils Wolf staged a highly prestigious two-day event at their Wissembourg headquarters. Day one was attended by dignitaries from notable French governing bodies; representatives from world-wide manufacturers and business partners; plus trade press and TV journalists from across Europe. Company board members and key personnel welcomed guests to a formal reception, at which Elmar Wolf, Chairman of the holding company made a resume of the 50 years history.

Guests were then given a guided tour of the Outils Wolf factory, which since 1958 has produced over three million rotary mowers. In addition they viewed production and stringent quality control in Etesia's separate purpose-built manufacturing plant, which outputs in excess of 10,000 ride-on rotaries a year. Innovative product development and technical advancement that meets stringent EC legislation requirements are fundamental to both the Etesia and Wolf brands. The Research and Development Department site was of key interest to visitors who saw how computer aided design; product development and prototype endurance tests are at the heart of this state-of-the art centre.

On day-two of the celebrations, the Outils Wolf and Etesia factories staged an open day attended by locals plus all members of the companies' 450-strong world-wide workforce and their families, who in the evening were entertained French-fashion with a Moulin-Rouge-style cabaret and dinner.

BIGGA MEMBER ACCREDITED GOLF SUPERINTENDENT

Master Greenkeeper, Lee Strutt (MG), recently joined an elite group of course managers by becoming an 'Accredited Golf Superintendent' (AGS) in Canada.

The CGSA Accreditation Program requires Lee, who is currently working as Assistant Construction Manager at the GWest project near Gleneagles, to recertify every five years to ensure he is retaining the skills needed by an AGS.

"Lee's peers are very cognizant of the fact that he has now proven himself to be deserving of this professional recognition. We trust that BIGGA joins us in saluting his outstanding skills, achievement and dedication to his career," said Robert Burrows, President of the CGSA.

GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY

A Midland Region Golf Management Trophy day, sponsored for the 11th successive year by Scotts UK Professional, was held at St Neots Golf Club on July 3. Teams from 20 golf clubs enjoyed a very challenging course superbly prepared by Course Manager, Paul Crouch and his staff.

Everyone was made to feel very welcome by all the staff and members at St Neots Golf Club. The format of four man teams playing a stableford with the best two points scores on each hole counting proved very popular.

The winning team led by Course Manager, Graham Careford was from Bush Hill Park Golf Club with 88 points.

The team from John O'Gaunt Golf Club came second with 81 points on countback, and third was the team from Brookmans Park Golf Club also with 81 points. Nearest the pin on the 8th was won by Richard Plummer from Ryston Park Golf Club who hit it to 1 foot, and longest drive on the 18th was by Peter Voutt, from Mid Herts Golf Club.

The picture below shows the Bush Hill Park Golf Club team and Mick Fance, from Scotts, presenting the trophy to Course Manager Graham Careford.

The Midland Region of BIGGA thank St Neots Golf Club for hosting the event and Scotts for their continued sponsorship.



WARM WEATHER ATTRACTS ADDERS

More than 30 adders have been spotted by members of Galashiels Golf Club at their course on Ladhope Hill.

Experts believe the hottest May on record has tempted the snakes out into the open.

SUMMER SOLSTICE

Four Yorkshire greenkeeping friends decided they would mark the Summer Solstice this year (June 21) with a climb up the formidable Helvellyn in the Lake District – the third highest peak in England at 3117 feet.

Tito 'Tenzin' Arana (Sherriff Amenity) David 'Edmund' Thackray (Bradford Golf Club) Steve 'Ralph' Heaton (Otley Golf Club) and Jim 'Mallory' Brown (Oulton Hall) planned the climbing expedition over six months ago and conquered the peak just in time to appreciate the views on offer before the rain set in on what was a very wet weekend.

The descent was a particularly wet affair with heavy rain accompanying them down the slopes and all the way to the highly hospitable Keswick where greenkeeping and the world were put firmly to rights.



L to R: Jim Brown, Estate Manager Oulton Hall; Tito Arana, Sales Executive for Sherriff Amenity; David Thackray, Head Greenkeeper at Bradford Golf Club; Steve Heaton, Head Greenkeeper at Otley Golf Club.

NEW RECRUIT

Newly appointed as Customer Manager with professional grounds maintenance equipment company Dennis, Roger Moore, joins the company, at an exciting time.

He brings a wealth of experience from working in both the private and public sector in the midlands and has already been put to good use further developing the website dennisuk.com and refining the contact management system with website integration.

RELIEF GRINDING

Eight out of the nine Open Championship courses now advocate relief grinding and own a Hunter Grinder to keep their courses up to the required standard for hosting the Open.

Royal St Georges Golf Club in Kent will be hosting the 2011 Open Championship and is the most recent club to change from spin to relief grinding, with the purchase of a Hunter fully automatic Jupiter ATI and Amazon bottom blade grinder. Located near Sandwich in Kent, this beautiful links course was established in 1887 and was given Royal status by King Edward VII in May 1902. The Links provides a severe test for even the greatest of golfers and the fact that only three Open winners, Bill Rogers in 1981, Greg Norman in 1993 and Ben Curtis in 2003, have managed to be under par after the 72 holes speaks for itself.

Course Manager, Neil Metcalf, is responsible for preparing the course for the Open and has recently implemented a complete change of grass maintenance policy. "As Course Manager for an Open Championship course, I naturally consider methods of preparation and maintenance operated by other Open venues", said Neil.



PGA AGREES WEATHER DEAL

The PGA has joined forces with Met Office backed www.weatherforgolf.co.uk to provide state-of-the-art forecasting for its entire tournament schedule. More than 400 tournament venues across country - at regional and national level - will benefit from the initial 12 month deal.

Until now the PGA has relied on calls to the Met Office for information on which to base their decisions. But the new system which will go straight to a laptop in the tournament office will provide 30 minute updates all day - the most frequent timescale anywhere.

NEW HOLLAND CRICKET MATCH

The trade press had a notable victory to report at the end of June. As you know the press is not one to blow its own trumpet but as a summer triumph it ranks up there with Rafa Nadal's exploits at Wimbledon and Spain's win in Euro 2008.

It was a cricket match against some of the finest cricketers New Holland could muster at a fine little cricket club near Coventry. A dramatic last ball dash, coupled by a wide, saw the press through, beating the New Holland target of 153 by a single run. The press team was captained by Dick Spencer, New Holland Marketing Manager and an honorary press man for the day, with the New Holland team lead by James Doyle, who has responsibility for the groundcare sector.

The match was the culmination of a full day of machinery testing at Stratford Racecourse where New Holland launched its new T5000 range and showcased a number of its other equipment.

For more than two hours the racecourse witnessed compact tractors, with and without attachments, zero turn mowers, diggers all in the familiar blue livery as well as the new Husky utility vehicle which had just arrived in the country and which is being launched at Saltex.

During the day Dick Spencer explained how the company had changed strategy to work much closer with the customer by working as a team with the dealer network. With its expanded product range New Holland, who has also sponsored a balloon which will be seen across the skies of the UK, hope to secure a larger share of the amenity market.



NEW GENERAL MANAGER TO STRENGTHEN BRAND

Bushey Hall Golf Club, now celebrating its 100th Anniversary, has this week strengthened its management team with the appointment of Glen Halsey who joins as its' new General Manager. Halsey joins from Surrey's Addington Court Golf Centre where he was General Manager for two years.



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SUNNINGDALE TRIUMPH IN PENALTY SHOOT

Twenty enthusiastic football teams made up of greenkeepers from around Surrey, Kent and Sussex braved the rain to contest the JSM Challenge Cup at East Grinstead Sports Club recently. The weather couldn't dampen their commitment and enthusiasm through the pool stages and onto the exciting climax, where one semi-final and eventually the final itself were settled by penalty shoot outs. Sunningdale Golf Club emerged as winners on the day and gained a reputation as the penalty kings – winning both their semi-final and the final following penalties.

A total of 43 games of very competitive five-a-side football, involving over 150 players and travelling fans were followed by a BBQ and presentation. Both semi-finals proved to be very close matches contested by Sunningdale, Hindhead, North Foreland and Addington Palace, with Addington and Sunningdale playing out a tense final itself.



ST MELLION GC HOTEL DEMOLISHED

Crown Golf's £100m make-over of its prestigious St Mellion Golf Club has reached a landmark - when an employee whose family has been involved with the resort since its opening 31 years ago, struck the first blow to demolish its hotel.

The venue's Conference Co-ordinator, Penny Baxter, kick-started the demolition process, which will see the hotel replaced by a new flagship building with 80 bedrooms, more than trebling its capacity.

The redevelopment, approved earlier this year by Caradon District Council, also includes plans for 265 golf homes and incorporates a significant remodeling of the venue's Nicklaus Course, which will host the prestigious English Open from 2009 until at least 2013.



SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

On Monday, June 23 the Scottish National Tournament returned to Ayrshire after an absence of five years and was hosted by Irvine Golf Club.

Irvine Golf Club was established 1887 and during this time it has hosted many tournaments. On the occasion the Open is held in Ayrshire, Irvine Golf Club is used as one of clubs for the final qualifying rounds of the Open.

Irvine Golf Club has a fine record in producing outstanding players that has included in their ranks three Scottish Amateur Champions and we are delighted that the club has afforded us the facilities of their course and clubhouse.

Head Greenkeeper, Derek Wilson and his staff are to be congratulated on providing a course fit for any championship. With a typical sea breeze, the course proved a stern test for all the competitors and the players were unanimous in their praise for an outstanding golf course.

The Association would like to place on record their thanks to the Captain Ellis Love, Secretary Bill McMahon and the Committee for the courtesy and facilities of Irvine Golf Club.

Prize Winners: Scottish Champion, SGGA Challenge Cup, George Morrison, Largs GC Scratch 74. Handicap Champion, Friendship Trophy, Derek Wilson, Irvine GC Net 69. 1st Class, Ransomes Trophy: 1. Kerr Rowan, Carrick GC, 71pts; 2. Alan Syme, Williamwood GC, 74(BIH); 3. Dennis Tweddell, Turnberry Hotel, 74pts. 2nd Class, Pattison Trophy. 1. Duncan Gray, Pines GC, 75pts; 2. Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride GC, 79(BIH); 3. Paul Tulloch, Irvine GC, 79pts. 3rd Class, STRI Trophy. 1. John Wilson, Irvine GC, 71pts; 2. Brian Ramsay, Glasgow GC, 81pts; 3. John Barr, Cardross GC, 84pts. Best Head Greenkeeper: Dick Aitken Trophy. Mark Pagan, Eyemouth GC, 75pts; Best Assistant M&M Trophy: Douglas Greenshields, Eyemouth GC, 72pts; Best Apprentice, Souter Trophy: Mitch Green, Ballochmyle GC, 78pts. Best Veteran, SIGGA Trophy: James MacCormack, Kirriemuir GC, 80pts. Team Trophy, St.Mungo Trophy Section: Ayrshire. G.Morrison, Largs GC, 68pts; D.Wilson, Irvine GC, 69pts; J. Wilson, Irvine GC, 71pts; K.Rowan, Carrick GC, 71pts = Total 279. Patrons Trophy - Robert T.Bruce, 68pts. Qualifiers National Tournament - G.Morrison, Largs GC and D.Wilson, Irvine GC.

Peter J.Boyd
Regional Administrator



QUALITY EDUCATION



The GTC's annual workshop for its Approved Training Providers was held at Aldwark in late June and the event once again (as you would expect) focused on the quality of greenkeeper education, training and qualifications.

David Golding, the GTC's Education Director gives us a report on the event and explains how this annual event is so much more than a talk shop.

The GTC invited guest speakers from ENTO Direct, Lantra SSC, NPTC/City & Guilds and the R&A to compliment a workshop theme, which always generates debate but concludes with recommendations aimed at ensuring an improvement in the delivery of current courses and qualifications.

The mood for the workshop was set when Steve Hyatt from ENTO Direct gave delegates a timely reminder on the facts within the NVQ Code of Practice (COP).

Steve stated how so many Centres seem to interpret the COP incorrectly and he gave examples which certainly started delegates whispering and before long the questions started and given the importance of the COP, an excellent presentation led us into the next speaker Rod Jones, the Verification and Services Manager for the Awarding Body NPTC, part of the City & Guilds Group.

Rod and three of his External Verifier team are very much at the heart of the standards for the delivery and quality assurances within Centres offering Vocational qualifications including Sports Turf.

Breakout sessions followed when delegates

looked at learner portfolios and discussed all matters relating to the delivery of VQ courses.

So what did this session mean for the future learner on VQ courses?

Rod and the NPTC Verification team agreed that they would certainly be continuing the supportive role to their Centres and portfolios should only contain relevant documents which should be authenticated by assessors with far more use of signposting to where the ACTUAL evidence is and that is on the golf course!

In summary, it is not the quantity of paper in the learner's portfolio it is the quality of the work and a clear audit trail, which does not need to include reams and reams of paper!

Good news or what?

I am sure all the Centre representatives present will be now viewing visits from their External Verifiers with a greater knowledge of how learners knowledge and skill can be shown without a wheelbarrow full of photographs, candidates written statements, assessor and witness testimonies, questions and answer sheets...

A good Internal Verification system is key to any successful system and trust in the assessor paramount - this is often the Course Manager watch this space.

Any golf club with a qualified assessor on site has a great asset and they are key to greenkeeping staff development.

So how could we follow such an interesting session? Easy. Feed and water the delegates let them discuss matters into the early hours (does this sound familiar greenkeepers?) when so much is gained from the informal discussions!

Bright and early next morning we discuss the future of qualifications and Liz Pridgeon from the Lantra Sector Skills Council gave delegates a comprehensive update on how in each country was reviewing qualifications to ensure they met employers requirements and how National Occupational Standards had been reviewed and the GTC had been very pro-active at all meetings held by Lantra to ensure the golf course sector

had a range of qualifications both vocational and academic.

Liz also explained how bite-size learning would also suit some employers and learners who did not require a full qualification albeit it would still be for industry bodies like the GTC to cluster Units into full qualifications to match job profiles e.g. Greenkeeper, GC Supervisor and GC Manager.

Liz continued to encourage the Provider representatives to continue to work with organisations like the GTC to ensure the delivery methods meet industries needs.

In conclusion delegates accepted how qualifications would fit into a credit framework and that a European Qualification Framework would allow for transferability of skills.

Just as Liz was spelling out the future the final speaker Nick Park representing the R&A also explained a new tool to which Course Managers could use to their advantage. A Benchmarking System very much in its infancy is available through the R&A's website www.bestcourseforgolf.org and Nick encouraged delegates to view the site and incorporate the use of the service into all levels and courses of greenkeeper training at their Centres.

Note: Further information on both Liz's and Nicks subjects can be viewed in the latest On Course newsletter, June 2008.

Please visit the GTC website www.the-gtc.co.uk or for a free hard copy contact the office on 01347 838640.

Within the workshop Nick Bisset, Chair of the GTC Technical Committee, and I gave delegates an update on the priorities for the GTC and how everybody with a passion for greenkeeper education and training has the opportunity to influence the future by keeping in touch with the GTC.

For a list of Approved colleges, private providers including BIGGA and STRI visit the GTC website www.the-gtc.co.uk

GTC is supported by:





Industry Update

MATTHEW JOINS BARENBRUG



Specialist grass seed breeder Barenbrug has announced the appointment of Matthew Williams as its new Regional Sales Manager for north Wales, the northwest of England and the Midlands.

Matthew, 42, is an experienced greenkeeper and has worked at a variety of clubs across the country. Prior to joining Barenbrug he was Deputy Head Greenkeeper of the 18-hole Wrexham Golf Club in his hometown of Wrexham. He also has a HND in Horticulture specialising in Golf Course Management from Reaseheath College in Cheshire.

NEW TECHNICAL ADVISOR



British Seed Houses has appointed Tom Fleetwood as Technical Sales Advisor for the South East of England.

Tom has extensive knowledge of both the seed and fertiliser businesses which he gained working in his native New Zealand.

He comes from a rural background and has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree from Lincoln University. For the last four years he has worked as a sales consultant for Ravensdown Fertiliser, based in Christchurch.

NEW APPOINTMENT



Paul Keen has been appointed Club Manager at the newly opened 18-hole golf course at Luton Hoo. He joins Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf & Spa on the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire border after five years at Hanbury Manor Golf & Country Club in Ware. The golf course at Luton Hoo is one of the longest in the UK at 7,107 yards, with the average being 6,400 yards.

Paul, 31, who comes from Dunstable, first picked up golf club as a child and when he realised his game was not going to reach pro standard he set his sights on a career in golf management.

FIRST AREA MANAGER



Kyoeisha UK, the newest name in UK fine turf machinery on UK golf courses, has appointed its first Area Manager

to promote its full line of Baroness brand turf maintenance machinery in the South West. Huw Thomas (48) has spent his working life in the grounds care business having worked previously for a retail dealership and also as a greenkeeper.

NEW TURF PRODUCTION MANAGER



James Mason has joined Rolawn as Turf Production Manager.

Prior to joining Rolawn, James was part of the agricultural management team at Birds Eye Ltd, working with grower organisations through all aspects of production, logistics, research and development.

NEW DEALER

Mawsley Machinery, one of the most established plant sales operations in the UK are the latest to add to the growing Takeuchi team of distributors across the UK and Eire.

The move to add Takeuchi indicates the growing potential in the central region for the leading brand, Takeuchi already maintains a top three position worldwide for its mini excavators.

Mawsley Machinery already has a number of market leaders including Bomag, Compair, Manitou, Thwaites who have been proven successes for Mawsley since the beginning some 28 years ago at Brixworth, Northamptonshire.

RECORD PROFITS

JCB recently announced record pre-tax profits of £187 million for 2007 following the most successful year in its 62-year history. The result was achieved in a year when machine sales rose to more than 72,000 and turnover reached a new peak of £2.25 billion.

JCB Chairman Sir Anthony Bamford said: "2007 saw JCB make great progress and it was our best-ever year. The outlook for the remainder of 2008 does look challenging but I believe we are well-placed to adapt to these difficult conditions."

DEALER NETWORK STRENGTHENED

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd has strengthened its dealer network with the appointment of Bredy Agricentre Ltd as its main dealer for the county of Dorset.

Bredy Agricentre, established for over 20 years and based in Dorchester, has been marketing the Ransomes Jacobsen Lawn and Garden products and the Iseki tractor range, on a non-exclusive basis since March 2007.

PJ Flegg, part of the Medland Sanders and Twose group, who were previously responsible for the Dorset area, will now concentrate on a territory that includes Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.

PRICE DECREASE FOR UK MARKETS

It makes a refreshing change that positive financial success in the USA results in price reductions for the UK. However, JSM Distribution has announced just that for their Sand Storm screening system. Still a relatively new introduction into the UK, the increasing sales in its home market of the USA has led to efficiency gains in manufacturing; put this together with a weak dollar and prices can come down.

Principally aimed at the renovation of golf course bunkers, the sand storm can also handle other materials that may benefit from a screening process. Vibrating screens on the Sand Storm work to remove debris such as leaves, twigs, needles, weeds, stone and clay particles.

JACOBSEN WINS OVER WORTHING GOLF CLUB

New turf maintenance equipment, supplied by local Ransomes Jacobsen dealer Harper & Eede of Albourne, has been delivered to Worthing Golf Club.

The Club, which features two 18 hole golf courses, is probably the finest downland course in England and occupies a commanding position on the slopes of the South Downs, immediately below the site of the Roman fort at Cissbury Ring.

Course Manager, George Barr, has been refreshing his turf maintenance fleet over the past couple of years and has returned to Harper & Eede to purchase two Jacobsen TR3 tees mowers, an HR3300T out-front rotary, an AR250 semi-rough mower and a Jacobsen LF fairway mower.



TWO TOP CLUBS SIGN DEAL

In testament to Toro's top-quality turf machinery and customer care, two leading golf clubs have cemented their long-term relationships with the company by signing exclusivity deals.

Scotland's Kingsbarns Golf Links, in Fife, and Peterborough Milton Golf Club in Cambridgeshire are long-standing Toro machinery customers – with Kingsbarns also an irrigation customer since it opened in 2000 – but both have now chosen to commit to Toro on a five-year exclusive basis.



From left: Kingsbarns Course Manager, Innes Knight, Scott McNeil from machinery supplier Hendersons, and Lely's Key Accounts Manager, Trevor Chard, seal the Toro exclusivity deal.



From left: Lee Cochrane from machinery supplier Lambes Lawnmowers, Lely's Julian Copping, and Peterborough Milton Golf Club's Course Manager, Allan Walker, together with the club's greenkeeping team.

EQUIPMENT LENDS FINISHING TOUCH TO US OPEN COURSE

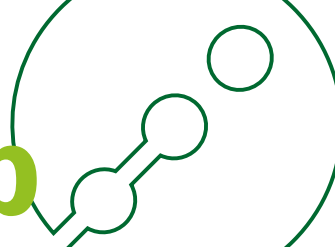
With the right support, you can do anything. Just ask Mark J Woodward, CGCS, the golf operations manager responsible for elevating a tournament quality municipal golf course to one worthy of hosting the 2008 US Open.

Only the second public and first city owned course to host the Open, Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego looked as good as its predecessors thanks to Woodward's management, his support team and grooming from a fleet that includes John Deere equipment.

When Woodward first came to San Diego three years ago, the city was dedicated to improving the South Course at Torrey Pines, having completed a full renovation by Rees Jones in 2001. But even for a man with more than three decades of experience, nurturing the course to championship condition was a challenge. He credits the course's successful transformation to the support of his team: Jon Maddern, the city's assistant golf operations manager, who also served as GCSAA president in 2003; Candice Combs, superintendent of the South Course; and the rest of the staff at Torrey Pines.

Support for the turf has also come from Woodward's John Deere fairway mowers. "We spent years working on the course from an agronomic perspective, so ensuring that the turf was shaped perfectly for the US Open was vital," said Woodward. "Both my team and the players were very pleased with the cut quality our John Deere fairway mowers have delivered."

Membership



MEMBERSHIP

By the time you read this article we hope the rain has stopped for us all and that you will be enjoying the sun and planning your visit to the BIGGA stand (C20) at Saltex. We are very much looking forward to getting the opportunity to meet members in person. We will be there to join new members, renew existing members and to listen and advise you on any issues concerning your membership and your professional development. If you wish to renew your membership at Saltex or anytime in September you will automatically be entered in our free prize draw to win a Nokia 6233 mobile! New Members will also have the opportunity to win a new ipod. Please read the terms and conditions on the BIGGA website www.bigga.org.uk in the members area.



Affinity Car Leasing

We are also pleased to be able to offer an addition to our car leasing. The scheme is exclusive to people working in sports environment and offers substantial reductions on Saab, Vauxhall and Chevrolet car leasing. For further details please see the leaflet included in this month's Greenkeeper International or telephone: 0870 737 0471 email: info@affinityprogramme.co.uk quoting your BIGGA membership and membership number.

Membership Contact Details

If you have any issues regarding membership please contact one of the membership team, Justine, Brad or Tracey, contact details below:

By Telephone –
01347 833800 option 1 for membership

By Email –
Justine (justine@bigga.co.uk)
Brad (brad@bigga.co.uk)
Tracey (traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk)

Useful Telephone Numbers (for Greenkeepers)

Regional Administrators Telephone Contact Details:

Scotland and Northern Ireland
Peter Boyd - 07776 242120

Northern and Midland
Peter Larter - 07866 366966

South East
Clive Osgood - 07841 948410
South West and Wales
Jane Jones - 07841 948110

Personal Accident Line 020 7560 3013
Legal Helpline 0800 177 7891

This month BIGGA welcomes the following new members...

Scottish Region

Derek Bond, North
Philip Kirkwood, West
Paul Macarthur, Ayrshire
Allan MacDonald, North
Donald McCandless, West
Paul Ross, North
John Steel, Central
Stephen Still, North
Congshan Zhang, East

Northern Region

Matthew Bulmer, Northern
Peter Cooper, North West
Jonathan Crofton, North Wales
Luke Ellis, North West
Peter Hipkiss, Cleveland
Matthew Hodgkinson, Northern
Jack Hoppins, North Wales
Anthony Morse, Northern
Jonathan Thompson, Northern
Paul Walton, North East

Midland Region

Peter Billings, East Midland
Sean Borrett, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Martin Brown, Mid Anglia
Stephen Calvert, East of England
Steven Cullen, Midland
Andrew Dawson, East Midland
Magnus Ehrnrooth, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
James Flecknell, Mid Anglia
John Francis, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Matthew Ginley, Midland
Samuel Harlow, East Midland
Robert Lang, Midland
Matthew Lewis, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Patrick Michel, Midland
Timothy Mutimer, East Midland
James Simpson, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Kenneth Threadgill, Berks/Bucks & Oxon

South East Region

Samuel Anderson, Essex
Ron Curtis, London
Jason Dobbe, Surrey
Chris Eggleston, Surrey
Thomas Farr, Sussex
Matthew Frost, Surrey
Kenneth Macphail, Surrey
Martyn McEnroy, Surrey
Matt Middleton, Surrey
Stephen Millsom, Kent
Kyle Milton, Surrey
Steven Morgans, London
Lee Relf, Kent
Adrian Simm, London
Stephen Willcox, Sussex
Michael Worsfold, Surrey

S West/S Wales Region

Hayley Beard, South West
David Bengier, South Wales
Desmond Bickle, Devon & Cornwall
Will Budd, South West
Tom Connell, South West
Joseph Crawley, South Wales
Christopher Gadsby, Devon & Cornwall
Thomas Glover, Devon & Cornwall
Jamie Greenslade, South West
Lee Hendy, South West
Ashley Hockin, Devon & Cornwall
Paul Jones, Devon & Cornwall
Kevin Piper, Devon & Cornwall
Kevin Tasker, Devon & Cornwall
Adrian West, Devon & Cornwall

International

Yannick Asaf, Switzerland
Dennis Dooley, Canada
Thomas Groß, Germany

Student

Ronan Shorten, Rep of Ireland

Corporate

Anthony Bonnett, Spain
Ruben Canizares, Spain
Nils-Johan Gronholm, Finland
Arsenio Martinez, Spain
Wendy O'Brien, Spain

The new members list can also be found in the members' section at www.bigga.org.uk

Learning & Development

Key Sponsorship:

UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL OF GREENKEEPERS

The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key Sponsors is used to produce training and career aids, DVDs, CD Roms, field guides and provide refunds for training fees and subsidised learning and development courses. The funding also helps support seminars, workshops, courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

Many young greenkeepers owe their career progression to the assistance they've had from the Learning and Development Fund. An equal number of established greenkeepers have also been able to access the fund to continue their professional development thanks to the donations of the Gold and Silver Key Sponsors.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING KEY SPONSORS



GOLDEN KEY



Golden Key Individual Members

JH Greasley; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG, Lee Strutt MG.



SILVER KEY



Silver Key Individual Members

Ade Archer; Steven Tierney; Paul Jenkins; Iain Barr; Richard McGlynn; Steve Dixon; Sam Langrick.

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development provides a departmental update...



Aged 16 & 17
£3.53 per hour
Aged 18 to 21
£4.77 per hour
Aged 22 and over
£5.73 per hour

There may be other deductions that have to be taken into consideration, for further information call the national minimum wage helpline on 0845 6000 678 or go to www.businesslink.gov.uk/employment.

Toro Student of the Year 2008



The whistle-stop tour of the country is complete and eight finalists have been selected to go forward for the National Final at BIGGA HOUSE on Monday, September 15. My thanks go to the other judges, George MacDonald, Trevor Chard and John Pike from Toro and Iain Macleod, Tony Smith and Les Howkins MG who acted on behalf of BIGGA as the greenkeeping representative. The calibre of the candidates was outstanding this year and we had a difficult job selecting the finalists, but we did in the end! This year's finalists are:

James Canham – Myerscough College
Paul Carella – GOSTA Training Ltd
David Jones – Warwickshire College
Barrie Lewis – Oatridge College
George Pendrich – Elmwood College
Graeme Roberts – Merrist Wood College
Greg Wellings – Reaseheath College
Mathew Wormald – Brooksby College

Full details of the finalists will be featured in next month's magazine.

The R&A Benchmarking Service



Take a look at The R&A benchmarking service, a useful on-line tool that has been developed to help those managing golf courses to assess their level of sustainability, costs, playability and maintenance practices.

The service allows you to track your course's progress from year to year and establish trends or changes that occur, it also allows you to reference your course against similar courses. The information held in the system is completely anonymous. The service is free of charge and can be accessed via www.bestcourseforgolf.org.

National Minimum Wage

The national minimum wage rate is due to increase from 1 October 2008. The new rates will be:

Learning & Development Updates

Lee Strutt MG has passed his examinations with the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association to become an 'Accredited Golf Superintendent'. Lee, who became a Master Greenkeeper in 2001, will soon have more letters after his name than are actually in his name! Congratulations Lee!

BIGGA Library

Several new books have been added to the BIGGA library since last month:

Making Room for Native Pollinators – Matthew Shepard
Building the USGA Green. Tips for Success – James F Moore
2007 Turfgrass and Environmental Research Summary – Jeff L Nus Ph.D
Wildlife Links – Improving Golf's Environmental Game – USGA
Water Quality and Quantity Issues for Turfgrass in Urban Landscapers – James Beard and Michael P. Kenna (donated to the BIGGA Library by James Beard)

Useful Website

You may have seen the adverts on television that the government have produced to promote the opportunities open to adult learners. I scribbled down the website following the last advert I saw and checked it out at www.lsc.gov.uk/inourhands. This site gives information for, and access to a wide range of education opportunities and available funding that is of use for employees and employers. It doesn't only look at key skills such as Maths and English, but also at improving skills related to your career to help you move up the career ladder. If you can't get online, there is a telephone hotline number 0800 011 30 30. It's all there for the taking, so go and get it!

D-DAY – SEEDING ‘SEASPRAY’ SEASHORE PASPALUM

By Arne van Amerongen

In the second of two articles, golf project manager Arne van Amerongen describes preparations for the golf-build of a new course at The Korineum G&CC – the first 18-hole course in North Cyprus and the first seeded course in the world where Seashore Paspalum was used from tee to green.

It was time to start reseeding the golf course. The teams were briefed and more than 40 people were well aware that we had only one week to seed the entire site.

All the calibrations had been made for the seeding equipment, machinery and attachments. The staff arrived at the site at 4.30am and seeding began at 5am. Critically, there was just enough seed to seed all areas, which meant no room for mistakes or for rainfall washouts.

The procedure followed by the workforce was as follows:

Group A – seeded the greens and green surrounds

Group B – seeded the tees and surrounds

Group C – applied hydro mulch to the greens

Four workers – top-dressed with sand on the tees and surrounds, green surrounds, fairways and semi-roughs

We used six drop spreaders for the greens, tees and surrounds and one tractor with an attachment for the fairways and semi-roughs.

Seeding the greens

Seeding the greens in three different directions with the drop spreaders is shown in Picture 1. Note the red paint used to indicate the size and form of the green.

After seeding the greens, we had to put hydro mulch onto the green surface to obtain better establishment, as shown in Picture 2.

The Penn Mulch was used to keep the seed



Picture 1



Picture 2: Spraying mulch mixed with water.

and green surface moist. The quantity of mulch applied was 1.5 bags per 150m² and 500ltrs of water per 150m².

Seeding the tees and surrounds

Seeding the tees and surrounds was done in two directions with the drop spreaders. After seeding the tees, we used a spring rake attached to a bunker machine to bring the seed into the tee surface better.

In Picture 3 you can see that seeding the surrounds was carried out in two directions with the drop spreaders. Also note the white line (gypsum) employed for marking the edge of the semi-rough areas.



Picture 3: Seeding greens and tees surrounds.

Seeding the fairways and semi-roughs

The seeding of these areas was done with an Einbock agricultural seeder from Austria. It worked perfectly for the lines behind the seeder, mixing the dead grass and the seeded paspalum together while maintaining contact with the topsoil. In my opinion, this was the best way to seed on an established grass surface. After the seeding, carried out in only one direction, we did one more pass at 90 degrees just to scratch the surface only, without seeding, one more time.



Picture 4: Seeding the fairways and semi-roughs.

Top-dressing the seeded areas

Picture 5 shows top-dressing of the fairways and semi-roughs using a Rink Top Dresser.



Picture 5: Top-dressing fairways' semi-rough.

After working from dawn to dusk for a week, the team completed this incredible task. It was a fantastic effort, with an amazing team spirit displayed without which we could never have got the job done.

CUTTING AND MAINTAINING THE NEW TURF

Before we started cutting the grass we had to keep the seed moist, something that is very important in hot countries such as Cyprus.

We had to use an enormous amount of water. We used between 3200m³ to 3500m³ daily, which is exactly the same for germination of every kind of grass seed in areas like Cyprus – Bermuda, creeping bent, rye and fescues, etc.

After 25 days we could see some results. Then, after 58 days, we began to cut all areas, with starting cutting heights as follows: Greens 9mm, tees/aprons 13mm, fairways 15mm and semi-rough 32mm.

Maintenance for seashore paspalum is very similar to creeping bent. It is very sensitive and



Picture 6



Picture 7: Cutting greens without grass box.

does not recover well from scalping.

It is very important for the greens, tees and aprons that the cutting machines have smooth rollers.

We started collecting the clippings on the greens and tees after four weeks of cutting with no box.

For maintenance of the tees, approaches and greens, intensive grooming is needed when the grass surface is well established. The groomer height was the same as the bottom of the front roller.

During establishment, water requirements were decreasing to 1200m³ a day. It was important to use fresh water in the growing-in stage, as paspalum cannot handle bad water quality during germination.

The final cutting heights were introduced when the golf course was in play. They were: Greens 4mm, tees/approaches 9mm, fairways 13mm and semi-roughs 32mm.

Top-dressing is the main issue with paspalum. Initially, this was carried out 'by hand' in four different directions, as can be seen in Picture 8.

Later, when the green was more mature, two-and-a-half months after seeding, top-dressing was done with a Toro Workman 4300, which is shown here in Picture 9.



Picture 8



Picture 9

We didn't use salt water, but only desalinated water, for the golf course, because, as I can now reveal, paspalum requires less water for its full establishment. This desalinated water cost 1 dollar per m³.

Therefore it soon becomes apparent that, if your daily water consumption is reduced by 1000m³, this results in savings of 1000 dollars a day. This

will determine that paspalum is the right grass for Northern Cyprus in the long-term.

To conclude

Financial advantages of paspalum (prices calculated in Northern Cyprus, using fresh water):

Water savings and electricity, desalination and irrigation pumps (\$320.000)

Less chemicals, fungicides, insecticides (\$25.000) Total (\$345.000)

Financial disadvantages of paspalum (prices calculated in Northern Cyprus, using freshwater):

4 more staff employed because of high maintenance (\$55.400)

Overseeding ryegrass: Grass seed (\$35.000) Labour + Machinery (\$32.000) Loss of green fees 1 month (\$49.000)

Extra use of top-dressing, machinery repairs (\$18.000)

Total \$189.400

Therefore it can be seen that using paspalum results in yearly savings of around 150,000 dollars – and that this will ultimately bring the businessman to conclude that it makes financial sense to use it.

In my opinion, in the game of golf, seashore paspalum is a completely different ball game to cool season grass. Personally I prefer the cool season, but to be fair to seashore paspalum it does take some time to get used to.

Head Greenkeeper, Baris Uyaroglu, is now maintaining the seashore paspalum. After three years, my job has ended.



Picture 10: The fine new course.

About the author

Arne van Amerongen is a golf project manager. He can now be contacted at arne-golf@spin.ch

TORO

Count on it.

HAVE YOU TRIED ALL YOUR AERATION AND DE-COMPACTION OPTIONS?

By James de Havilland

The range of aeration and de-compaction kit available has evolved from simple slitters through the baffling armoury of kit that is now available. Here we take a peek at just a few of the machines currently on offer.

Before taking a look at some of the equipment outlined here, it is important to realise just how many suppliers of kit there are. Although a list of suppliers is always handy, there is a risk that a company has been missed. So please consider this when reviewing the suppliers table with apologies to those who are not on the list.

We have not pictured the Charterhouse Verti-Drain simply because it has to be one of the best known deep aeration machines on the market; for some it was the machine that revolutionised de-compaction and allowed winter play on turf that would otherwise have been waterlogged. The items pictured are a reminder of the diversity of kit on offer. Some are ideal for regular use, others for use by a contractor or hired in. The key point is that there is a system that can help with any aspect of aeration or de-compaction.

De-compaction and aeration suppliers include the following. This is not a full and comprehensive guide.

Campey Turf Care Systems	01260 224568
Charterhouse Turf Machinery	01428 661222
Groundsman Industries	02827 667049
John Deere	01949 860491
JSM	08450 260061
Ransomes Jacobsen	01473 270000
Rytec Industrial Equipment	01944 768232
SISIS Equipment	01625 503030
Toro Products	01480 226800
Wiedenmann	01418 143366



Designed to offer high-speed operation, the pedestrian Toro ProCore 648 greens aerator (left) offers a wide 1220mm working width with the claimed potential to aerate 18 greens in just over seven hours. A key feature of the 648 is that its wheels are located ahead of its tines so that the machine never runs over the cores. Powered by a 23hp petrol engine, it can be fitted with both solid and hollow tines. Coring can be done at variable spacing between 380 to 762mm to a depth up to 1016mm. A TrueCore ground-following system automatically maintains tine depth to match ground undulations. Toro also claim its RotaryLink system ensures the tines enter and exit the ground cleanly and to leave a high quality finish.



Wiedenmann Terra Spike equipment includes the well established XF models pictures. The latest model to join the range is the 1.4m wide Terra Spike GXi (left). Designed for tractors of 25hp plus, this 1.4m wide unit is a smaller brother to the XF, offering a working depth of up to 25cm at an operating speed as high as when working at 12cm, the GSi will take a solid tine of up to 20mm in diameter. Wiedenmann claim to offer a choice of machine to suit not just a wide range of applications but outputs as well. A key feature is smooth operation, this allowing higher work rates when operating big tines at greater depths.



BLEC has long offered the ability to mate its Ground Breaker soil de-compactor to a Sand Master attachment to de-compact and sand slit in one go. The recently introduced Vibra-Tine Sand Master (left) refines this concept to improve operating efficiency. Up front, the Ground Breaker rotary tine de-compactor operates as before. The powered scythe shaped slitting tines are designed to produce minimal surface disturbance but by shuffling the soil laterally relieve compaction down to depths of 26cm (10.5"). The Vibra-Tine Sand Master attachment opens up the slit with a feeder coulter through which sand from its integral hopper fills the void.



Now finished in silver-grey and black, the Imants range of de-compaction and slitting equipment from Campey Turf Care Systems is offered in a broad range of sizes to suit both in-house and contract operations. The pictured Shockwave 2.20m will relieve compaction down to 35cm, its drop forged rotary slicing tines shuffling the soil laterally to relieve compaction across the machines width. Also offered in 1.55 and 2.10m widths.



The latest versions of the John Deere Aercore 800 can be fitted with a verticut attachment to aerate and verticut turf in a single pass. The pedestrian aerator is powered by a 25hp petrol engine and provides deep scarification to encourage growth, remove surface compaction, allow moisture retention and absorption, and remove thatch. The verticut attachment can be used at the same time, on its own or raised out of work. During the combined operation, the cores are pulled first. This is claimed to reduce the surface tension of the turf and allow the verticut attachment to slice cleanly to a maximum depth of 44.5mm, depending on soil conditions. By utilising the Aercore 800's existing electro-hydraulic lift and lower system, the operator may raise the verticut without the engine running. In work, the attachment's dual v-belt drive system engages when the coring head is lowered, and disengages when the coring head is raised.



A probe with integral meter (as above) can be useful in highlighting the need for de-compaction. The pictured Quakemeter is available through Campey Turf Care Systems, a firm, steady push into the ground enabling the user to typically identify the depths at which compaction is present. Although a sharp steel bar an 'T' handle can be easily fabricated to allow you to 'feel' how compacted the ground is, watching the needle on the dial gauge move as the probe is inserted can demonstrate how compaction form in layers. The low needle position pictured is the reading recorded following a pass of an Imants Shockwave.



Based around its established Javelin vertical action aerator, the SISIS Javelin (left) with Aer-Aid system uses compressed air to help relieve compaction in the rootzone. A cam trigger system is used to divert compressed air to individual tines in a fixed sequence. This ensures up to 88 litres of air is evenly 'pumped' into the rootzone every minute. The aim is to enhance the aeration process by forcing air into the soil to improve lateral aeration. SISIS puts its workrate at between 2500 – 3500 sq.m per hour. That equates to the ability to potentially cover 18 greens in a day. In action, this machine is an impressive performer. Suitable for use behind tractors of 25hp plus, the system weighs 503kg.



The Jacobsen Performaire 60 and 80 have respective operating widths of 1.5 and 2.0m and will core or aerate to depths of between 25mm and 450mm, depending on soil conditions. A standard hydraulic top link allows the aeration dept to be adjusted in work. Operation speeds can be as high as 2.25 Km/h at 200mm hole spacing. The allows for rotational adjustment of the tine holders to preserve the correct angle of entry and exit into the turf, which is critical for hole quality. While primarily designed for golf fairways, the Performaire 60 is equally suited for greens applications as it can be operated in close spacing mode. A wide selection of solid and hollow coring tines is available. Coring tines range from 12mm x 140mm to 32mm x 305mm with solid tines in the range from 12mm x 254mm up to 25mm x 355mm. Minimum power requirements are 40hp and 50hp respectively.



The Terrain Aeration Airforce Scamper Terralift (left) is the company's lightweight, four-wheeled ride-on model. Fed compressed air via an umbilical air hose, the unit injects compressed air one metre below the surface to create fractures and fissures and relieve compaction panning and water logging. Dried, milled seaweed is injected on the final air blast. This swells when wet, keeping the new air channels open. Working at two metre spacing on a staggered grid pattern, the entire area is treated with minimal disruption to the service. Play can resume immediately and the treatment, combined with normal surface aeration, should last for 10 to 15 years.

There's nothing pedestrian about our latest greens aerator.

Toro ProCore works faster and never runs over the cores.



The ProCore 648. Now with rear roller for faster resumption of play

Toro's fast-working ProCore 648 pedestrian aerator lets you aerate 18 greens in just seven hours. So play is interrupted as little as possible.

What's more, when operated with its optional rear-roller attachment that flattens the turf after coring, surfaces are ready for play again immediately.

The self-powered ProCore 648 vertical corer boasts a large 48-inch working width – up to twice as wide as some competitors.

Fitted with the unique Toro TrueCore ground-following system, it automatically maintains tine depth to match ground undulations and give consistent coring depth.

Easy to operate, and with wheels out in front of the tines so it never runs over the cores, the ProCore leads the field.

So for perfection, fast, just make a quick call to us today.



ProCore 864 and 1298

The same groundbreaking technology that has allowed the ProCore 648 to revolutionise greens aeration is now available for large-area applications in the new ProCore 864 and 1298.

Aerate fairways using efficient 64-inch and 98-inch widths with the smooth operation and precision performance you demand. You've never used a tractor-mounted aerator quite like it.

For a free demonstration, please call 01480 226845 today.

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Count on it.

UISGE BEATHA - THE WATER OF LIFE

By Adrian D Mortram

For many of us a wee dram is a pleasure, to be taken with a little water, no doubt. But for our grass plants water is an essential ingredient in maintaining the quality of the playing surfaces required for our sport. With the notable changes in our weather patterns, the summers of 2003 and 2006 being two of the hottest on record, and legislation in the form of the Water Bill now on the statute books it seems sensible indeed to look at water accountability and consider such topics as:

- Water conservation measures
- Accurate recording of water usage
- The use of modern technology, and
- Water resourcing

A recent report 1 investigated the science behind climate change on water usage. It concluded that both domestic and industrial water use would rise by 2-3% by the year 2020; whereas agricultural use, which includes sportsturf and golf courses,

was predicted to rise by 2-3% per annum due primarily to a longer growing season. In addition this growth in water usage was to be regional specific with the South East and Thames to be the most affected.

A second report 2 although world wide and not specific to agriculture / horticulture was alarmist predicting that:

- In many countries throughout the world there is at present a severe water shortage yet leaders refuse to acknowledge the problem
- There will be a cut of up to one third of the average persons water supply in the next 50 years
- The water crisis will affect between 2-7 billion people world-wide

The fact that this report is alarmist will provoke Western Governments into action and the action will be extended to the easiest targets, you the end user. In response to previous reports the British

Government has introduced the 'Water Bill', much of which revolves around 'sustainability' and 'taking water responsibly'.

The principal areas within the new Water Bill which concern spray irrigation users for sportsturf and golf courses are summarised below. Although most of these are of relevance to England and Wales only, who are governed by the Environmental Agency (EA), it is important that the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) are monitoring the situation carefully with future legislation in Scotland for water resources now a reality.

- Removal of abstraction licensing exemptions currently given on grounds of use,
- Establishing a threshold of 20m³ per day, above which an abstractor needs a license,
- Time limiting of all new and existing abstraction licenses for a duration in the order of 15 years, whereas in the past licenses were granted in perpetuity,
- Streamlining the license application,



modification and transfer system and allow trading of water rights between parties,

- Placing water companies under an enforceable duty to further water conservation,
- Giving the Environmental Agency powers to revoke an existing abstraction license without compensation if it has not been used for four years,

And most importantly:

- Giving the Environmental Agency powers to require abstractors (i.e. yourselves) to enter into water management arrangements and to use water in an efficient and effective manner

So, how will this affect the end user? Well, there is a pressing need for us all to become more 'accountable' and to demonstrate that we are using available water resources efficiently. This initially involves having a good working knowledge of soil water relations and the inter-relationship between simple soil science and plant botany.

An understanding of the relationship between gravitational water and field capacity. An awareness of the value of infiltration and percolation rates, and an accurate assessment of water availability within the root zone. These features alone can ensure good conservation practices and prevent water wastage by reducing over application, surface run-off, and inadvertent losses through the drainage water. Equally it is essential to know how much water is being applied through supplementary irrigation, not in 'so many minutes per station' but in millimetres per hour, as this can then be compared favourably or otherwise with the surface infiltration rate to maximise water use efficiency.

A working knowledge and understanding of the above will assist in the ability to manage available sources of water better, and more precisely to 'calculate' rather than 'guess' the potential irrigation demands of the turf. A water balance sheet 3 may further help in this provision. This involves not only monitoring the condition of the turf on a daily basis through such cultural skills as the observation of foot printing and the relative dryness of the core

when changing holes, but also balancing the water input (profits) to water loss from the turf. Water input is by natural precipitation, which is free, and by irrigation. Water loss from the turf is by transpiration through the leaves and evaporation from the soil combining to give evapo-transpiration (E/T). Figures, albeit average figures are available for E/T via the Met Office (MORECS data), and rainfall can easily be measured by a weather station rain gauge. All that remains to produce a simple 'profit and loss' account (water balance sheet), indicating not only the need for irrigation but the amounts required is the ability to maintain daily records and be aware of the precipitation rates from the irrigation sprinklers. Also working with the concept of an allowable water depletion, that is to say not returning the soil to field capacity, a buffer can exist to allow for dew or unexpected rainfall. By constantly returning the root zone to field capacity, or above, wastage of water can occur, the soil structure can be impaired, surface rooting will be encouraged and nutrients may be lost via gravitational water through drainage.

Modern technology can also play its part in improving our water use efficiency. Good area specific irrigation design with careful selection of sprinklers and their spacing to maximise distribution uniformity and scheduling coefficients, computerised irrigation control, variable frequency drive pumping systems and on-site weather stations can all help to build up a picture of irrigation water usage and a maintain a credible 'water audit'.

From an irrigation design point of view the objectives of an efficient irrigation system are to apply water:

- To the areas requiring irrigation uniformly
- At the optimum precipitation rate to allow penetration into the rootzone minimising run-off
- In quantities necessary to maintain soil moisture at the required level
- At the optimum time during the day or night

When backed up by digital aerial photography and GPS mapping to highlight the 'precise' areas considered necessary for irrigation, and meteorological data, this enables water to be applied effectively with a constant consideration for conservation.

Computerised irrigation control brings many advantages to irrigation which when combined with accurate evapo-transpiration and rainfall data obtained from a weather station provides the user with the ability once again to 'calculate' rather than 'guess' irrigation requirements, all of which will be essential in the future. Computerised controllers also use sophisticated 'hydraulic management' to minimise hydraulic stress within the system, reducing bursts and saving water. This will be particularly noticeable if your pump station uses variable frequency control whereby the pump flow matches the demands of the system. This saves electrical energy, further reduces hydraulic shock and provides better controllability by delivering only the amount of water required by the system at a particular moment in time.

An on site weather station to record meteorological data such as temperature, humidity, wind speed, solar radiation and of most importance to irrigation, rainfall and evapo-transpiration can help with our water use efficiency. Applying only that water which the soil-plant environment requires can save between 10-15% of water within a cycle, which for those of you who rely on mains potable water can result in a significant saving throughout a season.

It may also be prudent at the current time to look at water resourcing. One thing is for certain; water will become more expensive in the future. Check abstraction licences and monitor current daily and monthly usage, 2003 was a good year to start, as water usage was above average, however, now is never too late. The last time we had a summer even remotely similar to 2003 was eight years previously so statistics would show we are due a prolonged dry summer soon! If your water is mains only then research potential alternatives. If your predominant water is ground



water check your license agreements and ensure you know when it is due for renewal otherwise your license to abstract could be lost. In either case it may be necessary to consider the construction of some form of water storage facility, and both time and planning will be on your side if you start now. There has recently been a number of articles on the use of 'grey water' or 'waste water'⁴. This has to be a potential water source for the future especially where a golf club has a leisure facility attached. 'Waste water' has both advantages and disadvantages and maybe used to supplement other forms of irrigation water.

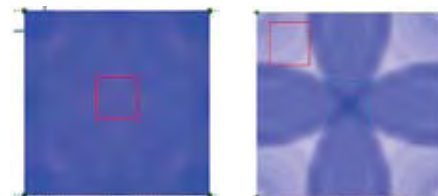
So where does the Water Bill leave us? I believe as the industry uses only 0.1% of all available water in the UK that if we show accountability by demonstrating a working knowledge of soil water relations, have a written water policy, maintain accurate usage records, have well designed, maintained and efficient irrigation system and effectively demonstrate conservation techniques with the aid of modern technology, we should be in a strong position to meet the demands of the future.

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Website – www.irrigationconsultants.co.uk

Note – this article was previously produced in the STRI Bulletin and Golf Club Secretaries magazine



(Above left) Excellent Sprinkler Densogram showing scheduling coefficient of 1.1 and distribution uniformity of 94%.

(Above right) Poor Sprinkler Densogram showing scheduling coefficient of 1.5 and distribution uniformity of 68%.



Author -

Adrian Mortram is managing director of Robin Hume Associates Ltd, an independent sportstuf and golf course irrigation consultancy based in Shrewsbury, Shropshire. His company are the appointed irrigation consultants to the St. Andrews Links Trust and associate consultants to the STRI (Sports Turf Research Institute) with whom they operate STRI Irrigation Consultancy Services. He contributes regularly with articles in the STRI Bulletin and has given both educational papers and presented workshops at the BIGGA Conference. In his spare moments he has a passion for mountaineering with recent visits to the Himalaya and Andes.



Whats your Number?

Name: Andrew Robinson

Company: Rigby Taylor Limited

Position: Managing Director

How long have you been in the industry?

"Since 1983."

How did you get into it?

"I joined May & Baker as their technical sales representative for Scotland and N. Ireland. My role was to support the company's five distributors and call on end users promoting a range fungicides and herbicides to golf courses, sports clubs and local authorities."

What other jobs have you done?

"I left school to become a Semi-Professional footballer with Kilmarnock FC. As this was part time I also had a job as an Estimator in the flooring Industry. At the age of 19 joined a company called Borax Consolidated selling hand cleaners and industrial herbicides."

What do you like about your current job?

"I get to travel to some of the top sporting venues across the UK and sometimes Europe and enjoy the challenges of trying to help groundsmen and greenkeepers improve their playing surfaces. I also have some great colleagues who are a joy to work with."

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

"Much more research is going into product development than in the past and this led to some exciting new product introductions. Sustainable



Golf is now really taking off with the emphasis on root development and plant health rather than just top growth. Greenkeepers are reducing their Nitrogen inputs and replacing these with bio-stimulants and other plant health products, an area where I am pleased to say Rigby Taylor is leading from the front."

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"I like to relax playing tennis and also golf. I am a member of Kilmarnock Barassie Golf Club and working hard to reduce my handicap down from 18. I am also a season ticket holder at Kilmarnock FC and enjoy family meals out with my wife, Linda, our two sons and their partners."

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"Continuing to play an important managerial role in consolidating the position of Rigby Taylor as the number one supplier to that sector of industry we serve."

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

"Having been in the Industry for so long I have made good friendships with key customers and forged great relationships with some colleagues with whom I have worked with for so long."

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

"3. As I was born on the 3rd day of the Month."

Pick a number

"Number 3."

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*North Berwick (main image) uses Toro Irrigation, but currently operates no DT Series sprinklers.



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Craig Gilholm, Course Manager, Royal Liverpool

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- Ideal for laser graded tees

	Timescale	MATERIALS USED	ACCURACY OF FINISH
LEVEL BY HAND	2-4 WEEKS	60 – 100 TONS	+/- 50mm
SGC LASER TEE RENOVATION	½ - 1 DAY	5- 10 TONS	+/-5mm

Contact: Stephen Senior, Tel: 07752989863
Email: stephen@seniorgolfconstruction.com

www.seniorgolfconstruction.com

DIARY OF A GOLF COURSE: IT NEVER RAINS

As seeding of the first nine holes gets underway at Clandon Park Golf Club, attention switches to the Growing In of the new course, and Peter Jones looks at the pros and cons that a wet spring and summer have brought to the project, and helps to co-ordinate the handover of the course to Dale Hand – Head Greenkeeper, who will be responsible for managing the first phase of the course through to opening in 2009.

At the time of writing the article in early July, the weather over much of the UK remained unsettled with frequent showers and intermittent bouts of heavier rain, somewhat reminiscent of July 2007, and not at all the summer weather that we all wish for. But fortunately, this pattern of weather had been almost ideal for growing in newly seeded areas and maintaining healthy grass on un-irrigated surfaces, and the seeded fairway areas on the first four holes were already being mown with a rotary deck mower.

The worst aspect of the frequent rainfall was slowing down the rate at which the topsoil heaps dried out, making it difficult pass through the stone screener, as this material was required for placing around the green surrounds and approaches, and for mixing with sand on the tees.

Moist soil is also more susceptible to compaction, which on one hand is useful when wanting to pack the soil in place on slopes around bunkers and prevent erosion from wind and rain, but not so good when it comes to creating a friable seed beds with rakes.

Timing of operations to make best use of the weather was therefore the key to making good progress, with the fairway areas becoming ready

for seeding well ahead of the greens, tees and bunker complexes. As a result the completion of the course took on the image of a partly completed jigsaw puzzle, with sporadic areas of bright green grass already being mown, and other areas of bare white chalk, glaring in the sun.

Of course, delays caused by weather are a natural occurrence in the greenkeeping industry, and therefore easy to adjust to. Not so, the delays caused by local government officials in their Mafia-style approach to their work, resulting in frustration and more grey hair for mere mortal men, such as I.

The construction of the 8th green (see top picture) was delayed by several weeks, with this whole area having only been released by the Archaeologists at the end of June following a mind-boggling list of restrictions (or should I say 'demands'), not to mention the added expense incurred by the client. I feel it would have been fitting to bury a horse's head under this particular green as a tribute, and it would have at least provided something vaguely interesting for the future archaeologists to dig up.

It is planned that all of the greens, tees and approaches will be sown at the same time in late July following the commissioning of the irrigation system, thus making it easier for the greenkeeping staff to treat all the greens exactly the same.

The part-time greenkeeping staff will be headed up by Dale Hand - Head Greenkeeper at the 18 hole sister course at Aylesbury Park GC who anticipates that autumn 2008 to be a very busy period for him and his team as they cover the maintenance on both courses. Full time staff will be taken on next year.



Peter Jones, Geoffrey Legoux and Dale Hand discussing the proposed maintenance regime for the greens.

To keep initial building costs as low as possible, the maintenance operation will be run from a securely fenced compound with machinery housed in steel containers.

The sympathetic design of the course and the choice of grasses has been created with 'ease of maintenance' in mind, ultimately enabling all areas to be mown with ride-on equipment to improve maintenance efficiency.

Dale's proposed choice of machinery includes:

- John Deere 2500B Greens mower
- John Deere 8700 Fairway mower
- John Deere 2653b Tee's mower
- John Deere 7400 Rotary
- John Deere 220c Hand mowers
- 2 x John Deere 3720 (44 hp) Tractors
- John Deere 1200a Bunker rake
- John Deere Aercore
- Lastec 11' Articulator rotary

It is planned that Phase 2 of the project (the back nine holes) will commence next spring, seeing the 18 holes, clubhouse and maintenance facilities fully constructed for autumn 2009.

ROYAL BIRKDALE 2008 ...WHAT A WEEK!

FEATURE



Our BIGGA Open Greenkeeping Support Team once again provided this year's Open venue greenstaff with some amazing, much needed help.

Travelling from as far a field as Hawaii, Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden and Portugal, the Support Team consisted of 60 greenkeepers, who spent the

week assisting Royal Birkdale Course Manager, Chris Whittle and his team with course preparations before and after play and bunker raking during the Championship.

As any member of the Open Support Team will tell you, it's a long week but a great one. This year our volunteers had heavy downpours and

gusty winds to contend with but that didn't stop them from smiling.

"The Open Championship was a fantastic opportunity for greenkeepers up and down the country to experience the greatest players in the world battle it out for the famous Claret Jug.

"It was hard work sometimes, with long days and



early mornings, but as greenkeepers we should've been used to that by now," said Jonathon Evans, Head Greenkeeper at Carden Park Golf Club.

Asa English, greenkeeper at Charnwood Forest Golf Club, Leicestershire, was the fortunate greenkeeper picked at random to work with the last game of the Championship, alongside this

year's winner, Padraig Harrington, and old favourite, Greg Norman:

"To be included in the Open Support Team was a privilege. To work inside the ropes gives you a great buzz and to get so close to the play allows you to see the true skill of the players. It is a hard, demanding week but the whole experience

is second to none. There was a great team spirit within the camp!"

Despite the wind and rain in Southport, attendance figures for the Championship were up compared to when the prestigious event was last played at Royal Birkdale in 1998 and the practice days in particular seemed to draw in spectators.

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THE GREAT BIGGA BUNKER COMPETITION

The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) has provided support at the Open Championship since 1984.

Since 1995 the team has collected data on

the bunkers raked during the Championship and has now collated bunker related information for the last 14 Opens. During that time the team has raked all 15,470 bunkers that players have found, and established which courses provided the greatest bunker threat on the Open rota.

Each year the media is invited to estimate

how many bunkers will be found each day and the overall winner this year, Paul Trow from Pro Shop Europe, received a golf bag supplied by Ransomes Jacobsen. The Support Team and staff also take part in the competition, winning a bottle of whisky. This year's overall Support Team winner was Ian Gould from Chapel-en-le-Grave Golf Club.

1995 St. A's	1996 Lym	1997 Troon	1998 B'dale	1999 C'stie	2000 St. A's	2001 Lym	2002 M'field	2003 St.G's	2004 Troon	2005 St. A's	2006 H'lake	2007 C'stie	2008 Royal Birkdale
112	185	84	117	115	112	197	148	106	93	112	96	113	123
214	501	344	355	539	148	557	359	388	393	252	352	442	472
201	577	272	406	468	164	547	372	405	371	203	353	482	379
130	269	107	226	202	65	224	175	149	148	100	183	189	219
156	271	136	153	265	71	257	169	181	185	121	204	198	198
701	1618	859	1140	1474	448	1585	1078	1123	1097	676	1092	1311	1268

(Below) Alan Magee, from Remedy Oak GC



(Below) John Maree, from Bolton Old Links GC





(Above, central) John Keenaghan from Chipping Sodbury GC

Golden Nuggets supplied by BIGGA Support Team

Thursday....

Jeff Quinney broke his driver in anger, smashing it on the floor on the 17th tee after tee shot. He then went on to have a birdie on the same hole. Information supplied by Open Support Team Member, James Blacklock from Ellesmere GC.

Despite concerns about fading light and finishing at 945pm, Yoshinobu Tsukada played wearing his sunglasses all the way round. Information supplied by Open Support Team Member, John Berry from Dunheved GC, Australia.

On the 10th Paul Waring's 2nd shot went wide, right off the green landing and was found inside a spectator's umbrella. Information supplied by Open Support Team Member, Asa English from Charnwood Forest GC.

Friday...

On the 8th hole, as Colin Montgomerie arrived on the green, the crowd shouted 'give us a smile Monty', he gladly obliged after sinking a 20' footer for a birdie 3 – a smile bigger than a Cheshire cat. Information supplied by Open Support Team Member, Anthony Davies from Prestbury GC.

On the 12th, Lucas Glover's tee shot landed straight in a spectator's pocket. Information supplied by Open Support Team Member, Andrew Williamson from Delamere Forest GC.

Saturday...

A bunker on the 10th had to be raked due to Kevin Sadler's caddie's cap blowing into it. Information supplied by Open Support Team Member, Frederik Seeger from Kuamby GC, Sweden.

Due to windy conditions, a kind marshall fell over trying to stop Scott Verplank's scorecard from blowing away. Information supplied by Open Support Team Member, Jon Evans from Carden Park GC.

Sunday...

On the 16th Ernie Els asked the ref: 'Have these greens been cut? Can you find out.' Information supplied by Open Support Team Member, Jeremy Hughes from Vale of Llangollen GC.



Greenkeeper at Charnwood Forest Golf Club, Asa English, among the media at the last game of the championship



Past chairman, Billy McMillan with board member, Tony Smith



James Blacklock from Ellesmere GC, with a signed Padraig Harrington ball

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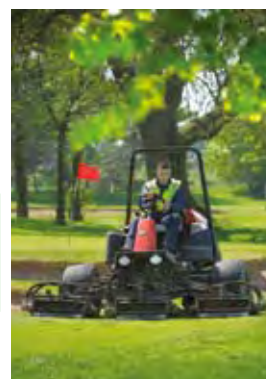
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TEMPERATURES IN THE WORKPLACE

Now that the great British summer has arrived we hopefully can expect to see better and hotter weather than the last few months. While this is enjoyable during our free time it can cause problems in the workplace, due to a combination of having to do work and the additional heat.

There are no hard and fast rules regarding maximum or minimum temperatures in the workplace only that the temperature is required to be reasonable. As with all modern health and safety issues a risk assessment is required to ensure that workers are not exposed to undue risks and that all reasonable controls have been applied to reduce the risks to as low as reasonably practicable e.g. work in a frozen food premises or a bakery produces a range of temperatures that workers are expected to work in, and the controls to ensure worker's comfort and safety will be necessarily be different.

As a 'rule of thumb' reasonable can be interpreted to between 13°C to 28°C depending on the type of work and the working environment. Obviously, where manual work is being carried out the cooler temperatures are more appropriate as opposed to more office type environments where 20°C+ would be more acceptable to employees.

Measures that can be taken to keep the workplace cool and improve employees comfort at work are varied and can be used in combination to achieve an optimum workplace temperature.

Facility - Where possible eliminate unnecessary heat sources in the workplace e.g:

- Low energy light bulbs and fluorescent tubes emit far less heat than normal light fittings
- Halogen lamps emit very high amounts of heat and where possible should remain off
- Solar gain through windows can be reduced by the use of blinds or reflective films
- Electrical equipment when powered, generates heat e.g. computers and old type computer screens will emit heat. When not needed e.g. outwith business hours, they should be switched off.

Increase the ventilation and air movement by:

- Opening windows and doors. Bear in mind that there will be a reduction in security for the premises and appropriate precautions will have to be taken to protect employees and stock.

Where the outside temperature is higher than the workplace, windows and doors are best left closed.

- Portable fans situated around the workplace can provide air movement but not cooling.
- Portable dehumidifiers will provide air movement and drier air which will make the workplace less muggy and feeling fresher.

Business Issues

- During hot weather employees should have access to a supply of cool water or drinks.
- Work routines should be examined to see if tasks can be reorganised to be carried out at the coolest points of the day
- Additional rest breaks may be needed to prevent heat stress
- The dress code of the business should be examined to see if lighter clothing can be worn in an attempt to keep people cool. However, where protective equipment is required this cannot be dispensed with.

Where all other methods are unable to provide a reasonable temperature in the workplace, air conditioning which provides cool dry air may need to be considered.

Portable and rental units are available from a number of suppliers.

Outdoor Workers

Scope to keep outdoor workers cool is much more limited. Measures that can be taken are restricted to:

- Reorganise work to the coolest times of the day
- Access to shaded areas where breaks can be taken
- Access to cool water or drinks
- Reviewing the dress code to allow lighter clothing to be worn where this doesn't prejudice any protective equipment required.
- Where applicable air conditioning in cabs of vehicles

Outdoor workers need to be aware of the dangers of skin cancer from exposure to sunshine. Long sleeve clothing and a hat with a neck flap and wide brim offer the best protection Exposed areas of skin should be covered with sunscreen of at least SP20 or more and applied at regular intervals during the working day.

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A DAY TO REMEMBER

The 2008 BIGGA National Golf Championship, sponsored by Kubota, is being played at a fantastic venue which was once looked after by one of BIGGA's favourite sons.

In the mid-80s East Sussex National was known as one of the first high profile golf clubs, which offered superb facilities for those with pockets deep enough to pay the debenture.

More recently East Sussex National, in greenkeeping circles, was associated with Course Manager, Raymond Day, the larger than life BIGGA

Board of Management member whose life was cut short by cancer in January 2007.

It is, therefore, fitting that this October East Sussex National should be the venue for the BIGGA National Golf Championship, sponsored by Kubota, giving BIGGA members the opportunity to see at first hand the course which Ray managed for the final four years of his life and which has since been taken on by Ray's Deputy, and current Course Manager, Scott Litchfield.

It is a truly majestic golfing venue - two courses, the East and West, were designed by Bob Cupp, a former associate of Jack Nicklaus - which will test the finest golfers BIGGA can muster, but also offer ample opportunities for those who succumb to the challenge to relax and enjoy themselves in sumptuous surroundings.

We will make sure the course is prepared to a standard Ray would be proud of, said Scott, as we sat in the foyer of the superb new hotel which opened in 2006 and which is located on the site of the old maintenance facilities.

BIGGA will play on the East, a stadium course, which hosted the European Open in 1993 and '94. The West, is regarded as more of a members' course and is more tree lined.

Scott maintains the two courses in the same manner, treating them very much as 36 holes together rather than two 18s.

"You've got to be sensible and utilise the staff as well as you can so it is a lot better to treat it as one big golf course. If a guy goes out cutting the rough he doesn't just stick to one course he goes around the course using the most economical route.

"We have a lot of competitions and corporate events for which we hand cut. For example we have one of the top amateur events, the Tillman Trophy, and a televised Europro event coming up and we will be hand cutting for them and we will do the same for the BIGGA Championship."

Scott has recently reintroduced the long fescue rough for which the club was known in its early years and which looked stunning. It had been cut back to help improve the pace of play.

"We decided to surprise the members this



FEATURE



ENTRY FORM

Please select the relevant category:

- ☐ Greenkeeper Member
- ☐ Associate Member

The entry fee of £110 includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Mobile _____

E-mail _____

Membership Number _____

Handicap _____

BIGGA Section _____

Payment method (please tick)

- ☐ I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA' value £110
- ☐ Please debit my Mastercard/ Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of £110

Card number _____

Start Date _____

Expiry Date _____

Last 3 security digits _____

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Or E-mail your details to sandra@bigga.co.uk but ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return E-mail. Deadline for entry is 8th September 2008.

Completed entry forms should be sent to:
BIGGA National Championship, BIGGA House, Aldwark,
Alne, York YO61 1UF

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member. The greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd over 36 holes in both the nett and gross categories, additionally after each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. If you have a poor first day, you may wish to elect to play in an alternative Stableford competition, that will be held on the second day of play.

Rooms are available at the East Sussex National at a rate of £85.00pp B & B for single occupancy, £60pp B & B sharing twin room. To book telephone 01825 880088 and select hotel enquiries then reception options.

year by leaving the rough to grow and we've had nothing but compliments. It is not as close to the fairway as before - we have semi rough and the long stuff is sensibly placed but it does add to the golfing experience."

The team currently comprises of 21, including two gardeners, plus Archie the dog, a team member so well trained he retracts his claws when walking on greens in canine softspikes!

"I have a superb team. Many of them were here when Ray was in charge so they've come through a lot, but they are committed and talented and it is the best team I've been involved with," explained Scott, who just happens to be Archie's owner.

The other major project the team are currently undertaking is the ongoing renovation of the bunkering and there are over 90 on the East and more than 60 on the West.

When the course was built it was constructed to a high spec, part of which was to put a layer of gravel and then a liner between the sand and the base. Over time these have been repaired and patched up and we have taken the decision to remove all the liners and replace all the drainage.

"It is a project we are carrying out in-house, as we do with most projects. But early on we discovered why they had been built that way. As each winter progresses the clay base turns to liquid and mixes with the sand binding with the bottom layer and, in the summer, cracks, bring parts of the base to the surface through raking.

"It doesn't happen with every bunker on the site, but it means those that are affected will have to be redone every few years, maybe

even relined."

Scott is 35, but he was several years younger just a few months ago. That was before fusarium made a major strike on the course late last year.

We got it in November and December and it spread across the whole site and every green. We knew why we were susceptible as we have a very low Cation Exchange Capacity - the ability to retain nutrients in the soil and keep the plant healthy leading up to winter, but it was tough to get on top of it. I called on all my contacts within the industry including a consultant, all agreeing we had tried everything we could and should when you get fusarium.

The real problem was trying to get the members to appreciate the situation, as some of them misunderstood completely what they thought it was. Members were searching the internet thinking they could come up with magic answers.

Having come through the nightmare and with a plan in place to build up CEC levels Scott can look back and reflect.

"It certainly made me a better Course Manager and it was probably the first time I really understood the pressures that can be experienced and anyone who thinks it is easy, it is not, said Scott, who has since improved communications with the membership to ensure they are kept informed of course matters."

Scott found his way into greenkeeping via an unusual route.

"I was a trainee manager for Tesco but I was fed up with going to work in the dark, coming home in the dark and not seeing any daylight.





So I quit, went to America and skied in Colorado for four months.

“When I came back I didn’t know what I wanted to do so my mother went to the local college and asked what courses were available. There was thatching and greenkeeping and as I didn’t fancy standing off roofs all day I went for greenkeeping.”



Even if it did come from an exasperated mother trying to find some direction for her son she couldn’t have found a better match. Scott took to greenkeeping like a duck to water and never looked back.

The key to his progression came when he worked at Shrivenham Park in Swindon.

“I worked for a great guy called Jason Taylor, who was very focussed and passionate about the industry. He told me that you never get anywhere if you just sit around. You had to move about.”

Scott took Jason at his word and applied for a seasonal job at Loch Lomond, giving up the full time post at Shrivenham.

“I took a real chance by going to Loch Lomond but after a season Ken Seims offered me a full time position.”

Scott stayed for five years gaining invaluable experience preparing a top 50 golf course for regular televised tournaments rising to become a First Assistant before moving to East Sussex National



as Head Greenkeeper of the East Course. There is longstanding link between Loch Lomond and East Sussex with Ken Seims and Mike Wattam both having worked at both clubs before Scott made the same switch.

When Mike left Ray Day took over as Course



Manager with Scott becoming Assistant Course Manager.

"He was a really tough cookie and the hardest boss I've ever had. He was very demanding and expected a lot from his guys, but he really did care for his staff and had them very close to his heart, although he didn't always show it," said Scott.

The day Ray told everyone of his cancer was one that Scott will never forget.

He insisted on getting everyone together. He stood there and explained the situation. It was very emotional and I had to finish off the meeting for him. You learn how to look after turf, but not how to do these sorts of things. No-one trains you for it."

Looking to the future Ray sat down with Scott and explained how to do the paperwork side of the job and spent a lot of time preparing Scott for a future that he might not see.

"He achieved a lot in the four years he was at the club and definitely left an improved golf course for me to take on," said Scott.

It is fitting, therefore, that the 2008 BIGGA Golf Championship, sponsored by Kubota, is played on Ray's course and that it will be followed the very next day by the Ray Day Memorial Tournament.

"I want everyone to come here and enjoy themselves," said Scott.

Everyone who knew Ray will know that is exactly what he would have wanted.



Kubota (U.K.) Ltd Company Profile

Formed in 1979 and based at Thame, Oxfordshire, Kubota (U.K.) Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Kubota Corporation of Japan.

The Kubota Corporation was established in 1890 as a manufacturer of cast-iron products in Osaka, Japan before turning its attention towards powered equipment in the early 1920s. Kubota is now represented in every continent, is one of the world's largest manufacturers of industrial diesel engines under 110 HP and is recognised as a world leader in compact tractors, diesel ride-on mowers and mini diggers.

Introducing the first compact tractors into the UK in the mid 1970s, Kubota remains the best selling compact tractor in the UK today. The company puts this success down to the highest of manufacturing standards in its Japanese and American factories, product reliability, durability and low running costs as well as excellent resale values.

Although a Japanese corporation, Kubota is keen to ensure that the national subsidiaries are run by the people who know the local market best. Dedicated support for Kubota equipment starts at Kubota (U.K.) Ltd's Oxfordshire headquarters, which house the company's distribution, service and parts support, training and product development and sales and marketing teams.

Over the years Kubota has pioneered new innovations in engine, tractor and mini digger design, put environmental issues at the forefront of its business and, with its dealers, developed a superb after sales programme.

Both commercial and domestic users of Kubota machines are looked after by a network of specialist appointed dealers, many of which are multi branch operations. First point of contact for sales, parts, service and warranty, Kubota dealers are trained to assist customers in choosing the correct machine or power unit for their application and when a Kubota investment is put to work, factory-trained dealer parts and service staff

ensure it is kept operating at peak efficiency. The Thame Headquarters hold an extensive parts inventory and a technical support centre that provides training and practical help to ensure excellent after sales care, regardless of the age of a Kubota machine.

The golf market has always played an important strategic role for Kubota. With so many courses in the UK and Ireland, and the popularity of the game, golf is a superb shop window for the Kubota machines. Kubota (U.K.) Ltd is also the market leader in the golf market for compact tractors and without this sector Kubota (U.K.) Ltd would not have such a strong sales record in the 30-60 horsepower market.

"The golf industry has been very good to us over the past 30 years and what you can't replace in the golf course sector is credibility," explained Dave Roberts, Kubota (U.K.) Ltd's Sales and Marketing Manager.

"As the major organisation for the golf greenkeeping fraternity, we see many positives in being involved with BIGGA and consider it to be a very important part of our business."

"We have always enjoyed an excellent relationship with BIGGA as a Gold Key member and are delighted to be sponsoring the BIGGA National Championship again this year. The opportunity to sponsor the prestigious event for a second year running was an easy decision to make. We look forward to a competitive tournament and meeting up with friends old and new," concluded Dave.

Kubota (U.K.) Ltd

Call: 0800 023 1111

ROI 1 800 848 000

Email: sales@kubota.co.uk

Log on: www.kubota.co.uk

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Paul Edwards, Newbury, Berkshire
2006 visitor

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- 04 SEPT 08** East Durham & Houghall Community College, Co. Durham. SR8 1NU
- 09 SEPT 08** Knowsley Hall, Merseyside. L34 4AG
- 11 SEPT 08** Welbeck Estate, Worksop, Notts. S80 3LR
- 16 SEPT 08** Huntingdon Racecourse, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE28 4NL
- 18 SEPT 08** Newbury Racecourse, Newbury, Berks. RG14 7NZ
- 23 SEPT 08** Westpoint Centre, Exeter, Devon. EX5 1DJ
- 25 SEPT 08** Chepstow Racecourse, Chepstow, Gwent. NP16 6BE

To find out more and to register:

Web: www.kubota.co.uk/kubotalive **Email:** kubotalive@kubota.co.uk **Call:** 0800 023 1111





SALTEX 2008

Like BIGGA's annual show, Harrogate Week (BTME), held each January, IOG Saltex plays host to exhibitors from across the complete spectrum of turfcare and open space management regimes.

More than 15,000 visitors attend the annual three-day event at Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire, where over 450 exhibitors display the latest developments in fine turf and sports surfaces; turf maintenance equipment; landscaping; contractors; commercial vehicles; outdoor leisure and facilities and estate management, as well as software and security equipment.

Launched in 1938 as a grounds care show, Saltex has grown in size and stature to cover every aspect of open space management. The show covers every open space profession from groundsmen and greenkeepers to play officers, architects, designers and surveyors.

The GTC will again occupy a joint stand (C20) with the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), reinforcing a link that has served the fine turf profession well for many years. The strong relationship between the GTC, BIGGA and the key education and training stakeholders, coupled with the progress in the professional development of greenkeepers and greenkeeping, is the envy of many.

The GTC (www.the-gtc.co.uk) represents golf clubs and greenkeepers with regard to qualifications, training standards and all associated matters including assessor and management

training. Visit the stand (C20) and view the latest materials that are used by the GTC Approved Training Providers.

With over 6,500 members BIGGA (www.bigga.org.uk) is the UK's leading professional organisation for greenkeepers and those involved in the management of turf. In addition to providing a wide range of member benefits the Association also acts as a training provider, supporting in particular the work of the GTC.

To register for free tickets for this event visit: www.iogsaltex.co.uk or call the visitor hotline on: 0870 429 4524.

Show Times:

Tuesday, September 2 – 9am until 5pm
Wednesday, September 3 – 9am until 7pm
Thursday, September 4 – 9am until 4.15pm



HOW TO GET TO SALTEx

VENUE:

Windsor Racecourse is set in 165 acres of beautiful Berkshire countryside, on the banks of the River Thames and overlooked by Windsor Castle. The Racecourse is well located, with easy access of the M4, M25, M3 and M40 motorways, and has a railway station close by with a FREE water taxi running throughout the three days of IOG SALTEx from Windsor town centre to the exhibition. Heathrow Airport is just a few miles away from Windsor Racecourse.

BY ROAD:

From the M25:

Leave the motorway at Junction 15, where you'll join the M4, heading West.

From the M4:

From the West - leave the M4 at junction 8/9, follow the brown signs for Windsor Racecourse or yellow AA signs for IOG SALTEx.

From the M4:

From the East - leave the M4 at junction 6, follow the brown signs for Windsor Racecourse or yellow AA signs for IOG SALTEx.

BY BUS:

Windsor Express bus number 700 connects London with Windsor. They depart from London Victoria Green Line Coach Station and you alight at Maidenhead Road, a short walk from the Racecourse. For more information call: +44 (0)870 608 7261.



BY RAIL:

You can travel by rail to Slough station from Paddington or the South West, or to Windsor Riverside & Eton station from London Waterloo. Then pick up the FREE water taxi service at French Brothers Pier beside the River Thames.

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GreenCast Disease Maps predict the impending risk of all key UK turf diseases for your site. Easy to use and interpret, you can now be ready to tackle disease before it hits

Disease Charts

GreenCast Disease Charts quickly inform what diseases are likely to have affected your turf in the past and help assess risk for the future

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- In depth advice on key UK turf diseases
- Identification guide
- Management options

Management

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How to get the best from the outstanding range of Syngenta products, designed to manage your turf more effectively

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Topical advice on Integrated Turf Management techniques

Spray Window

Five day forecast for conditions suitable for spraying and other turf management operations

Technical Notes and Updates

Up to the minute advice to make better turf management decisions



THANK YOU

Just a quick note to thank all involved in the course preparations for the European Open 2008. A lot of work went into getting the course ready for the event and would not have been possible without the tremendous efforts made by all the volunteers. Your hard work and dedication was a credit to you and we can't thank you enough for giving up your own time and coming to join us. We really enjoyed your company and I hope you got as much out of the experience as we did. We look forward to meeting up with you all again soon.

Peter, Glenn and all at The London Golf Club

THANK YOU

Many thanks to James B Beard PhD, DA President and Chief Scientist of the International Sports Turf Institute, for donating a recently published water issue book to the BIGGA library.

Many thanks
BIGGA HQ

THANK YOU

Dear BIGGA

I would like to thank everyone for their kind words and tributes to Bert. I am still finding it hard to believe he has really gone. Peter and Anthony have been wonderful and have helped me so much. Billy and Chris have also been very supportive.

I am going to the orphanage that Bert and I visited on a regular basis soon. I will be taking just over £1,400 with me from donations. Sr Mariola will be able to do so much with this money, mainly to buy medication from the States for the babies with HIV/AIDS.

I am quite sure Sr Mariola will write to thank everyone for their kindness and generosity. I will send you some photographs of the children.

A big 'Thank You' to everyone at BIGGA.

Sincerely
Marie Cross

MATURE STUDENT FOUNDATION DEGREE

Dear BIGGA

My name is Matthew Tilley, a greenkeeper at Reigate Hill Golf Club, Ransomes Jacobsen very kindly sponsored for the 'Foundation Degree in Sportsturf On Line'.

You indicated, back in March 2005, that you would like to be kept informed of my progress. I am pleased to report that I have passed my final year and have successfully passed the degree with 'distinction'. My course tutor, Dr. Andy Owen, has informed me that I finished top of my year.

The Ill description of the degree is 'Foundation Degree in Science in Sports Turf', and I have been informed, again, by Dr. Andy Owen, that I am entitled to direct entry into the final year of the BSc 'Turfgrass Science' (Hons) degree.

I formally graduated on July 10 and took up a new position at Sunningdale Golf Club on July 21.

This would not have been possible without Ransomes Jacobsen's very kind generosity and I would like to thank you once again.

Yours sincerely
Matthew They

BIGGA HQ TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS

As you should already be aware, BIGGA HQ recently had a new telephone system fitted and went open plan. When you phone the usual number: 01347 833800, it will ask if you know the extension of the person you would like to speak to. For reference, the extensions of BIGGA staff are printed below (you can also find these on our website - www.bigga.org.uk):

Scott MacCallum, <i>Communications Manager/Editor</i>	510
Melissa Jones, <i>Assistant Editor</i>	516
Tom Campbell, <i>Design & Production Editor</i>	513
Rosie Hancher, <i>Sales Manager</i>	518
Kirstin Smith, <i>Advertising Executive</i>	517
Sharon Price, <i>Sales Executive</i>	519
Sue McDonough, <i>Exhibition Sales</i>	504
Tracey Madison, <i>Membership Manager</i>	507
Brad Anderson, <i>Membership Services Assistant</i>	512
Justine De Taure, <i>Membership Services Officer</i>	511
Pauline Thompson, <i>Exhibition Officer</i>	514
Sami Collins, <i>Head of Learning and Development</i>	506
Rachael Duffy, <i>Learning & Development Administrator</i>	522
Sandra Raper, <i>Secretary/Administrative Assistant</i>	509
Stephen Coates, <i>Accountant</i>	508
Tracey Tyerman, <i>Assistant Accountant</i>	503

Please email your letters to Scott MacCallum, scott@bigga.co.uk
or Melissa Jones, melissa@bigga.co.uk
or post to: BIGGA House, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York YO61 1UF

New Products



NEW PRODUCTS



MOWER

Kyeoisha UK, the newest name on UK golf courses, has launched the Baroness LM319, a flexible four-wheel drive mid-weight triplex cylinder mower with ample power, from a Kubota D1105 26hp Diesel 3-cylinder engine, to cut large swathes of longer grass and the finesse to produce an approach quality finish.

07912 390310
www.baronessuk.com



NEW TRENCHER

The latest addition to the wide range of trenchers available from AFT Trenchers is the WizzWheel 75 MK 2. A powerful and rugged wheel trencher for tractors from 90 to 160hp (60-105kW) designed for installation of intensive sports turf drainage systems and also widely used for installation of fibre optic cables all over the world.

01787 311 811
www.trenchers.co.uk



NEW ARTICULATING HEDGETRIMMER

The new Echo HCA-265ES Articulating Hedge trimmer has double sided, double reciprocating trimmer blades that are adjustable to eight different cutting angles. Powered by a 25.4cc two stroke ECHO engine, and equipped with the Easy Start system for effortless starting, the HCA-265ES 450mm double-sided cutting blades provide the operator with smooth and efficient hedge cutting. With an overall length of 2120mm even high hedges can be cut and shaped without the need of a ladder.

01844 278800
www.echo-tools.com

CADDY MOTION

Caddy Motion – the in-car golf caddy battery charger that had the Dragons' Den hard-men baying for a share of the action – has made a key product enhancement.

Due to the fact that the Caddy Motion inventors are tidy-minded and conscientious auto electricians, the original product was intended to be effective at keeping caddy batteries charged up, but also to be design-efficient. The battery dock originally was intended to be screwed to the floor of the car boot and hard-wired into the vehicle's electrics. This is still easily achievable, but the Caddy Motion now has a new trick...

A 12v 'cigar lighter' adaptor is now included in the pack, giving the unit plug & play capacity too.

Users who bought the first models without the 12v adaptor can get their adaptor via www.caddy-motion.ie

www.caddy-motion.com



EXPRESS BLOWER SYSTEM

The latest in landscaping technology was launched recently by Scotbark's – the Express Blower System.

The unique system has the ability to reach inaccessible areas such as steep embankments, roof gardens, court yards and play areas. The blowing system allows areas to be covered with organic materials efficiently and effectively.

www.scotbarkuk.com



NEW PUTTER

Yes! Golf this month sees the UK launch of the new Sandy C-Groove Putter.

Sandy will come under great scrutiny as it follows on the heels of Donna, the hybrid putter that so entranced Tour players after its spring launch with its extraordinary feel.

A compact mallet design with streamlined double delta back for a quick alignment reference and high moment of Inertia (MOI), Sandy's features include: Face-balance, head weight 355g, loft: 2.5 degrees; lie: 72 degrees standard (2 degrees flat or 2 degrees upright also available).

 www.yesgolf.co.uk

NEW SERIES TRACTOR

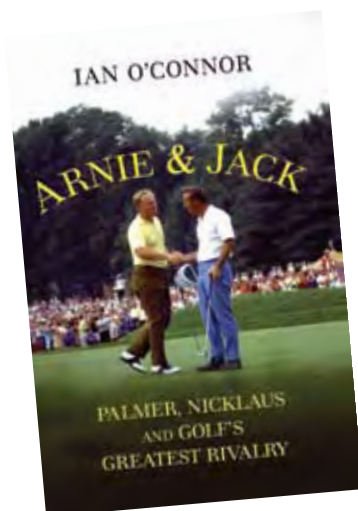
New Holland has launched its T5000 Series tractors which builds on the foundations of its TL-A Series. The T5000 Series comprises four models with the power band expanded to a maximum 106hp.

T5000 models feature a modern design with a sloping bonnet to improve the driver's view of loaders and front-mounted attachments, increasingly important applications for this type of tractor. An updated cab with a new colour scheme adds to the tractor's modern look and feel.

Power is supplied by New Holland's turbocharged 4.5 litre NEF engine with intercooler which is compliant with Tier III emission legislation and is capable of running on 100% biodiesel. The four models also offer more horsepower than their predecessors: the T5030 has 76hp, the T5040 86hp and T5050 97hp, while the range is completed by the 106hp T5060 model.

Fuel economy has become a major issue and lower rated engine speeds of 2,300 rpm on T5000 models give an optimum fuel consumption of just 216 g/kWh.

Maximum torque of 425 Nm is reached at a lower engine speed of 1,300 rpm, reducing noise and fuel consumption, while service intervals of



ARNIE & JACK

In this recently launched book, Ian O'Connor brings to life the story of two men, their rivalry and a whole sport, in a gripping, no-holds-barred account of one of sport's most fascinating pairings.

 www.rbooks.co.uk



YOUR DRAINAGE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE

A new brief but comprehensive outline of the causes of, and cures for, golf course drainage problems, has been launched by Sportsturf Drainage Pioneer, Geoffrey Davison.

Copies are free of charge for BIGGA members, please contact Geoffrey on: 01568 797024 for more information.



600 hours cut downtime and workshop bills, offering further savings.

Hydraulic performance has also been improved by a new dual pump layout for the hydraulic system. Surplus hydraulic power from the 40 litres/min steering pump can be used to increase the main pump flow rate from 60 litres/min to 80 litres/min, considerably enhancing front loader performance.

Front mounted mowers, sweepers and snow clearing equipment offer improved productivity and all new T5000 models can be fitted with an optional front linkage and PTO assembly, increasing versatility.

 www.newholland.com

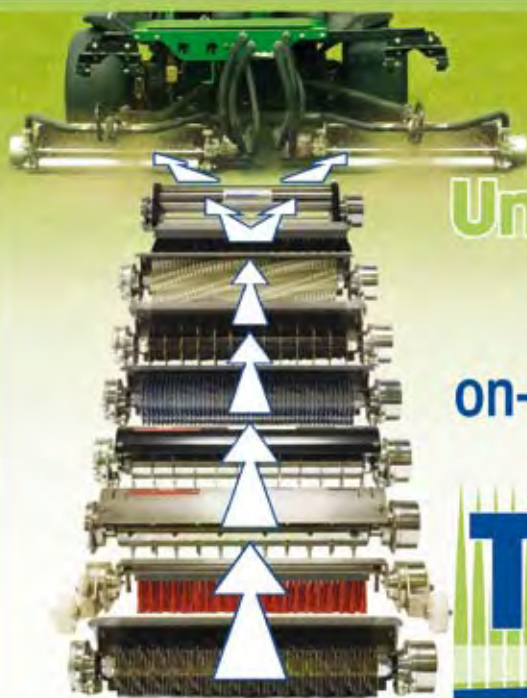


ULTRA LOW-USE RATE HERBICIDE

Precision Laboratories, Inc., a leading provider of specialized chemistries for green industries, announced the release of Transport Ultra™ for the turf industry. This unique, ultra low-use rate ammonium sulfate (AMS) replacement product combines nonionic surfactant, water conditioning agents and ammonium ions in a convenient premix formulation.

Transport Ultra enhances the performance of weak acid herbicides, such as dicamba, phenoxies and glyphosate, by sequestering hard water ions and protonating the herbicide for faster uptake and translocation. It improves early weed control, reduces product handling and won't plug nozzles like AMS.

 www.precisionlab.com/transportultra



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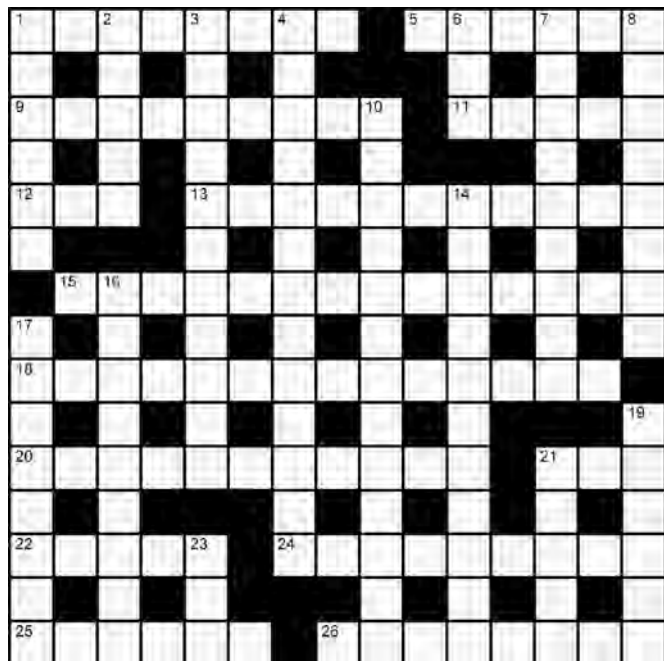
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In the Shed

Greenkeeper International brings you 'In the Shed', a puzzle page to keep you entertained when the weather forces you in or for when times are slow.

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Questionable credit document often used as part of a company buyout (4,4)
- 5 Colloquial name for any cheap tabloid newspaper (6)
- 9 Country situated between Nicaragua and Panama (5,4)
- 11 Distinctive atmosphere or feeling (5)
- 12 In whatever degree (3)
- 13 England's royal house from 1154-1485 (11)
- 15 1989 Herbert Ross film which did much to publicise diabetes (5,9)
- 18 Sanctimonious (6-4-4)
- 20 Plummer, played the role of Captain von Trapp in The Sound of Music (11)
- 21 One of two Greek letters (the other being Chi) used to represent a cross (3)
- 22 Had, possessed (5)
- 24 Successful 1979 song by Chic (4,5)
- 25 Fashionable (6)
- 26 Brief fight, often as a prelude to a full assault (8)

Down

- 1 Nocturnal canine, usually hunting singly or as one of a pair (6)
- 2 Janet Jackson hit which shares its name with a Hertfordshire village (5)
- 3 People who speak disrespectfully of sacred things (11)
- 4 US astronaut, the first to set foot on the moon (4,9)
- 6 Large European deer (called moose in North America) (3)
- 7 Surname of the director of Reservoir Dogs (9)
- 8 Image formed by the mind, often perceived as real (8)
- 10 Arab got hook-up (anagram) (9,4)
- 14 Author who credits their work to someone else (5-6)
- 16 Permissible difference (9)
- 17 Supermarket counter where purchases are made (8)
- 19 Sudden change of regime, by force or illegally (6)
- 21 Paces of pieces? (5)
- 23 Explosive device which fails to detonate (3)

QUICK NINE-HOLE QUIZ

1. Which British golfer won more major championships in the 1990s than any other player?
2. Who played the title role in 'The Manageress'?
3. Why is John Emburey's score of 46 for an England XI v Hobart in 1986 a record in first-class cricket?
4. In sport, which country did swimmer Ian Thorpe represent in the Sydney Olympics 2000?
5. Which jockey has had most career wins?
6. In Golf, who won the US Open in 1994?
7. Which chess pieces change places during castling?
8. Who plays home games at Gigg Lane?
9. Which Formula One team went into liquidation in January 2002?

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x4 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 and the letters A,B and C.

	7		8		B				4	3	
4			2		8	1		5			
		C				3	4	2		6	
1		9		3				C		8	5
				1			2	6			
	4			8						2	
	A						8			1	
			1	C			A				
C	8		B				6		9		2
	B		C	6	2				7		
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SUDOKU

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FINE WEATHER AND FINE SCORES

BIGGA's Annual Neil Thomas Golf Day got back on track in June with a fine dose of weather and some stunning golf



BIGGA's annual Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day went ahead as planned on the final day of June. That shouldn't be too remarkable a statement but given that at the same time last year Aldwark Manor Hotel and Golf Course was under several feet of water and the event, a regular event on the calendar for the last 10 years, was postponed until late September, it is well worth recording.

But not only did the sun shine of the players – at least on some of them at any rate – the day will be remembered for some fine golf and some outstanding scoring.

Ironically, despite the sunnier weather being towards the end of the day the winners emerged

from the early starters with Colourstream, printers who supply much of BIGGA's printed material, scoring a cracking 97 points from the two score counting from four, full handicap Stableford format, which was introduced a couple of years ago.

That score had a few people gasping in admiration but, indeed, it was only just good enough to clinch the silverware as Vocalink, the second team out, matched the score only to lose by virtual of an inferior back nine.

Ironically it was another early starter, Scotts, who played directly behind Vocalink and who must have felt they were going to finish among the also rans, who finished third with 89 points.

Nearest the Pin was won by David Smith, representing Mansfield Sands, who frightened the flag at the picturesque 18th.

As ever Aldwark Manor Hotel proved superb hosts with bacon rolls prior to play to set the teams up before the daunting 1st tee experience while the food to accompany the chat of “heroic near misses” “tragic missed putts” and “might have beens” was excellent. In between times the BIGGA staff manned the halfway house in case anyway was struggling from lack of sustenance and in need of some chocolate.

The day was wonderfully supported by companies and BIGGA Sections who fielded teams and sponsored tees and it meant a sizable cheque being sent to the charity of BIGGA Chairman, Kenny Mackay's, charity of choice – the Leeds-based Child Heart Surgery Fund.







News from the Chief Executive

Another Open Championship comes and goes and what a surprising, but very worthy, winner we have! Congratulations to the R&A on the success of the event but the real champions were Chris Whittle and his team for preparing a magnificent course. The BIGGA Support Team put in a lot of hard work in helping Chris and also surpassed the expectations of the R&A and the players when it came to the condition of the bunkers.

They represented the Association with true professionalism and I was proud to receive plaudits on their behalf on several occasions. It was pleasing to sit down with the members present and in doing so you soon realise the value of networking. New friendships were forged and old friendships renewed.

Try as we may we do not seem to be able to arouse the interest of the media though. We put out daily press releases in the Media Centre, Scott and I had interviews with press and we were in regular contact with the BBC. The odd mention came over but it really is not big enough news for journalists and commentators to get too excited about. Nevertheless we will continue to develop a working relationship with the media and I congratulate BIGGA's communication team, Scott and Melissa, for all their efforts.

The BIGGA Golf Day - the Neil Thomas Memorial Day - in June was a great success and we will be sending a cheque for just over £2,000 to the Children's Heart Specialist Ward at Leeds Hospital which is our chosen charity this year. Thank you once again to all those companies and individuals who made the day possible by giving their financial support.

This week I have had the privilege of attending the official presentation to Bernhard & Co of the Queen's Award for Excellence by the Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire. Stephen Bernhard is quite rightly proud of his team who have all contributed in some way or other to the company's success. In a climate of change within golf it is important that we all take heart from such an achievement.

During August we will be reviewing our own Business Plan and preparing budgets for the coming year as well as putting the membership categories and the Constitution under scrutiny. We must never lose sight of the need for the commercial arm of the Association, after all it is this part of the business that funds the majority of what we do.

Finally, I hope that members will take an interest in the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota, details of which are elsewhere in this issue of Greenkeeper International. It's your tournament and so please support it. New for this year will be an optional Stableford competition on Day 2 for those whose performance on Day 1 did not meet expectations!

John Pemberton
Chief Executive



SCOTTISH REGION - AYRSHIRE

Hi everyone, hope you're all well. It seems we're gonna get robbed of another summer if things don't change sharpish! As Jim Royle would say "Global warming my a**e!"

First, a quick mention of the Scottish National Greenkeeper's Tournament played at Irvine Bogside in June. Derek and his team had the course in truly superb condition and I'm sure all 70 entrants had a great day. Maybe more so for the local competitors as home soil advantage was quite evident at the Prize's table! Go on Ayrshire!

June also saw the British Amateur, contested over the Ailsa and Kintyre courses at Turnberry, where the dry Spring weather leading up to the Championship saw both courses running firm and fast.

Due to blustery conditions during the two strokeplay qualifying rounds the cut was made at 8 over. Although the weather played its part, the recent strengthening of the Ailsa was also a significant factor. Heavy showers overnight helped take some of the fire out of the course for the remainder of the week and it was Dutchman Reinier Saxton who triumphed over 17 year old Englishman, Tommy Fleetwood.

By the time you read this the Senior's British Open will have been played at Royal Troon, I just hope there's some warm sunshine that week as I'm looking forward to going along to watch as much as possible!

Our match against the County Down Greenkeepers' will be played on Friday, September 19 at The Pines in Dumfries. They are hoping to bring over 16 players to defend the Shield so anyone wanting to get in on the glory of being in the first Ayrshire team to get their hands on the magnificent Shield, please let me know. As we'll probably be celebrating well into the night - let me know if accommodation is required as Duncan has kindly offered to help with these arrangements.

The Pines is a popular venue in September with our Autumn Outing being contested there on Thursday, 25th. It will be interesting to see if Iain Barr can hold his nerve and preserve his well earned lead from the Spring Outing to lift the Harry Diamond Jug. Methinks it would be wise if the front-runners played the course on the previous Friday? You know it makes sense!

Sadly, Gordon Haughie, who worked on the course at Southerness for 18 years before his retirement and was a stalwart at Section events, passed away in May. Our thoughts are with Gordon's friends and family at this difficult time.

Denis Tweddell 07939 104 701
denis.t@hotmail.co.uk



Around the Green



CENTRAL

So far it has been a busy old season for most greenkeepers with lots to attend to on the golf course.

First off a reminder about our Autumn outing which is at Dunblane on September 4 where we have the tee from 1pm until 3pm - so spaces are limited. Chris Pearson and his guys have been very supportive of the Section in the short time Chris has been in the area so please let's fill all the tee times on the day for them.

The cost for the day is £25 per person which includes soup and sandwiches on arrival and a two course meal after the golf, plus the prizes for those who play well enough! Remember, the only way to enter is by printing the entry form from the website, www.biggacentralsection.org.uk and returning it to Andy Mellon at Elmwood with the entry fee. Entries without the cheque will not be accepted as the Committee do not want to handle cash on the day.

Before then, David Cole, from Loch Lomond GC, will give a presentation to the Section at Elmwood on August 20 based on preparations for the Scottish Open, again there are more details on our website and sometime in October we are hoping to have Tim Liddy talk to us about the alterations he has made to the Dukes Course. Other educational evenings may be arranged at short notice before then so keep making a regular visit to the site.

July 2 finally saw the opening of the Castle Course by HRH the Duke of York, who at the opening ceremony praised the work of greenkeepers generally, referring to them as the "unsung heroes" which was a great accolade for the profession as there were a lot of very influential people at the ceremony.

The Castle actually opened for public play on June 28, the same day as the 9 hole course at Hill of Tarvit opened. Situated just outside Cupar, this is a course which has been restored from old plans to something akin to what was there in the early part of the 20th century where you go along and hire hickory clubs and dress up in the costumes of the period. Run by the National Trust for Scotland it is well worth a try for something completely different.

Congratulations to George Pendrich who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Scotsraig Golf Club following the departure of the Section's Vice Chairman, Alan Sharp. George has come late in to greenkeeping from a career in the army and has experience from working at Gleneagles and under Alan for a short period at Scotsraig as well as having just completed his HND in golf course management.

Finally, on the move is Greg Kilgour who has left Elmwood to work on the new project underway at G West. We wish him all the best for the future.

Gordon Moir



EAST

I start this month's report with the wonderful news that Graeme Wood has returned home after spending the last 16 and a half months in intensive care. He and his wife Helen have moved to a newly adapted home in the village of West Barns, which is near North Berwick. I am sure everyone in the Section will join me in wishing them both best wishes for the future.

On Wednesday, July 2 all roads led to Goswick with the Club hosting a regional qualifier (British Open) for the first time. The preparations for the big day took years of planning and are a testament to the course alterations carried out by George and the staff a few years ago. The team were ably backed up by former Goswick apprentice Mark Pagan and his crew from Eyemouth. With the greens stimping at 9.5 and the wind blowing it presented a fair test to the 90 competitors of whom 11 qualified.

On the same day Old Hands Musselburgh Golf Club hosted their third regional qualifier with the course in excellent condition, but with the wind blowing, scoring was on the high side. In the end after a playoff there were 12 qualifiers.

The Scottish BIGGA Championship was held this year on Monday, June 23 at Irvine Bogside. We have found over the years that any event, run by our administrator Peter Boyd, runs smoothly and this one was no exception with not a glitch from start to finish.

The greenkeeping team led by Derek Wilson is to be commended for the presentation of the course on the day. The East Section winners all came from Eyemouth with Mark Pagan picking up the Head Greenkeepers prize and Douglas Greenshields the assistants prize. The Berwickshire lads hired a minibus for the day with Mark drawing the short straw by carrying out the driving duties, allowing former mentor George Thompson a few drinks in the bar!

The British Ladies Amateur Championship was this year held at North Berwick West in mid June where Scottish Chairman Stuart Greenwood is Course Manager. At present Stuart is also Captain of Kilspindie Golf Club, proving he sets the standard in multi tasking!

Our congratulations this month go to Gail and Kenny Mail (West Linton) with the safe arrival of their daughter Ellie and to Lynne and Donald Campbell (Cardrona) who are celebrating the arrival of their son Ian.

The current first assistant at Dundas Park, Robbie Murdoch, recently flew to Las Vegas where he married long term partner Lynsay. On his return a reception was held at the Cluny Clays Centre near Kirkcaldy.

On the trade front, prices keep increasing with the warning of more on the way!



Around the Green

HOT OFF THE PRESS: The new Head Greenkeeper at The Glen Golf Club is Derek Kerr who is currently working at Gullane. He commences his new position on August 4.

Mike Dooner



NORTH

Hope all is well with everyone and that summer has finally come to you all and we are well in the swing of the cutting season.

John Geddes, Hugh Maclatchie, Jimmy Mac and Billy Craig attended the Scottish National Tournament down in Irvine on June 23 - thanks for that guys I know it's a long way to go and not win anything eh. What do you mean Jim won something in the senior Section, Jim's not a senior is he? Oh yes he is! Well done Jim. It's about time we had someone else in the veterans section instead of the above, not you Bill. Those shoulders of Billy's will be getting so sore what with all the carrying of Jim you'll be doing.

There has been somewhat of a baby boom up here in the North Scotland Section. Martin Fullerton of Murcar Links is a proud dad for the second time. His fiancée Steph gave birth to a baby boy called Jamie in the middle of June. Also becoming a dad is Simon Hoy of Peterculter. His wife Kathleen gave birth to a baby girl but they are yet to decide on a name.

Two new starts to report at Fortrose & Rosemarkie. Kevin Taylor has moved from Spey Valley to become Kevin Fowler's First Assistant. Kevin also informs me he has now managed to find an apprentice, Ian Belshaw.

The Secretary, Dale Robertson has asked me to remind you of the Kirriemuir outing. I know it's a little while away but he is concerned that people may have lost their forms. If you have lost your forms and you think you can't go because of this, fear not! Dale has said to ring him if you intend on going and then you will be able to pay on the day. He won't send you another form as this is defeating the object of sending them both out together to keep the cost down. Phone him on: 07711274525 and he will put your name down for the outing.

Down at Murcar Links this month, from July 6 we have the European U18 Girls Championships. Brian struggles to get us to work at the best of times but this week he has got no hope due to the distraction of the blonde Scandinavian girls. It is a good experience for us all and I think we're all enjoying it.

That's it for this month so if you do have any news then don't hesitate to give me a shout on: 07813889374.

Have a good month

Ben Brookes Murcar Links



NORTHERN REGION - NORTH WEST

The North West Section played the North Wales Section at the vale of Llangollen Golf Club on June 10 and what a scorcher it was, I got sunburnt and the north wales lads were just too hot for us to handle as we lost 5-1. Well done to the north wales team and unlucky to our team (wait till next year), if you have not played vale of Llangollen Golf Club you are missing out, the course was in splendid condition thanks to Jeremy Hughes and his staff but the setting is just fantastic, well worth a visit. A great day was had by all who played in the summer tournament at Chorlton come hardy Golf Club. The course was in fantastic condition and many thanks go out to Dave Berry and his staff not only for the condition of the course but also for the free beer on the 10th tee. Thanks also go to the committee for allowing us courtesy of the course and to the caterer for the lovely food also to Bathgates for sponsoring the longest drive and nearest the pin.

If you fancy a day out at Penrith Golf Club then the Whitelaw bowl is the answer here are the details - Venue: Penrith Golf Club - www.penrithgolfclub.co.uk. Date: Wednesday, September 10. Tee: From 12noon - 2pm. Three course meal and prize giving. Contact: Phil Dewhurst, Area Sales Manager, Rigby Taylor Limited, 07768 180604.

We have courtesy of the course, but I do not yet know cost of meal. If my memory serves me right, it's usually between £10 and £20. Phil Dewhurst is organising the day so Please contact him on the above number.

Our next fixture in the Section is the autumn tournament which takes place at Davenport GC on Thursday, September 4. Don't forget to put your name down as early as possible, please send a cheque payable to BIGGA north west Section for £20 to Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU. Billy can be contacted on: 07985175825. I am looking for any ideas or suggestions for venues for 2009. I have a few already but if you are happy for us to play your course please contact me on 0151 2894625 or: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



NORTHERN

First there was Ernest Shackleton in the early 1900s, then there was Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing Norgay in 1957, and now we have the "BIGGA 4" IN 2008! That's right, the Northern Section has indeed got its own explorers. Tito Arana, Jim Brown, Steve Heaton and Dave Thackray



have taken to the world of mountaineering. They have recently reached the summit of Helvelin in the Lake District.

Unfortunately after walking up in relatively good conditions as they approached the summit the cloud came down and in the words of Tito, "robbed them of a good view from the top" (slightly stronger language was used in this statement but can't be printed for legal reasons). I am pleased to say they all made it back in one piece so well done guys and we hope the cloud holds off next time.

Cookridge Hall was the venue for this year's Presidents Day held on July 2. John Watts and his team produced a fantastic course so we all thank them and everybody at Cookridge for a superb day. Thank you also to Adrian Holroyde and Bob Wild Grass Machinery for their sponsorship of the day. The results on the day are as follows: Bill Mountain Trophy = Tony Gerrard. 1.1 N Coultish, 1.2 D Collins, 1.3 A Baxter; 2.1 F Stewart, 2.2 A Speight. 2.3 J Watts; 3.1 J Baxter, 3.2 P Colley, 3.3 S Heaton. Trade: 1. E Carter 2. P Larter.

Please don't forget this year's Invitation Day is on Thursday, August 21 at Shipley Beckfoot Golf Club and the Autumn Tournament is on Wednesday, October 1 at The Alwoodley Golf Club. I'm fairly certain that both days will be very popular so please get your names and payment in early to avoid disappointment due to the fact we have got limited availability at both events.

If anybody has any news regarding the Section and its members then please get in touch.

Adam Speight
adam@speight1156.fslife.co.uk
07739 319060



NORTH WALES

I personally have been looking forward to August, I'm away to sample the delights of Bulgaria for a fortnight, sun, sand and no work. Bliss!

The annual North Wales V North West match took place at the Vale of Llangollen Golf Club on June 10, with the north wales team using their home venue advantage to take a comfortable win (well done lads). Thanks to both teams for giving up their time and effort to represent their sections also a big thank you must go to The Vale of Llangollen Golf Club for hosting the match, for the excellent course and scrumptious food.

The Vale of Llangollen also hosted the Welsh Open youths championships in May with 66 of the best players aged under 21 from the U.K and Europe competing over the three day event.

Conwy Golf Club hosted another successful Ryder Cup 2010 Welsh senior Open. This European event is highly regarded and saw a lot of top name players competing over the excellently set up course and with players like Woosnam and Lyle making their Welsh seniors debuts anticipation was high

for a local win and the crowds broke all attendance records. Congratulations go to Dave Lewis and his staff for the testing course produced by them for us all to see on sky sports.

Pete Maybury petemayb66@aol.com
Johnny Evans Johnny.Evans@tesco.net



MIDLAND REGION - MIDLAND

Well what's this I see, the ugly mug of our old friend Steve Wood in July's Greenkeeper International. I thought we had rid of him, but no, Steve has been instrumental in the setting up of the new Greenkeeping Association in Bulgaria BGGGA. By God he can't even speak English let alone Bulgarian! Only joking mate. Good luck with it all mate.

Our Summer Tournament was held at Stourbridge GC on July \$(get it?). The course was in superb condition and the weather for a change was great. Our thanks to C. Beet(s) and his fine team for preparing the course to such a great standard. The results of the day were: Best Gross: D.Pugh. Nett;1. D.Pugh, 2. G.Turner, 3. C.Beet, 4. R.Beacham, 5. D.Fellows, 6. S.Scott. Our thanks to Bathgate Leisure for the main prize table which was kindly presented by our Mr.Starter/President J.Hammond. Longest Drive: G.Turner. Nearest The Pin: S.Harvey. Our thanks to Sherriff Amenity/Nigel Tyler. Best Trade: T.Cheese. Drinks around the course were kindly provided by Turners. Our greatest of thanks to Stourbridge for affording us such a lovely venue, and thanks to The Green Chairman Mr.Bob Grindley for his hospitality and refreshingly informed speech. It was interesting to note Craig's new nickname by his members being 'Son of Lamech'.

Our Autumn Tournament is to be held at Fulford Heath on September 25, start time 2pm. Our AGM is also to be held there with an approximate start time of 6.30pm. All are of course welcome to contribute their thoughts regarding our section. Should any one require a specific answer to any question please give me written notice prior to the AGM regarding such.

It gives me great pleasure to report that within the John Deere National competition the team from Trentam Park consisting of G.Cunningham and his Green Chair and House Chair have made it to the Turnberry stage after winning the Midland stages. My only concern being that at such Turners' R. Page is to play. Rob does not play golf! Let's hope that the format is 3 from 4 to count. Well done and good luck.

And finally, just time to thank our sponsors of this month's calendar page Advanta/M.Gresty. You can contact Matt for all of your seed needs on: matthew.gresty@advanta-seeds.co.uk

Looking forward to seeing you at Fulford Heath and hearing your learned council.

Try to keep dry Noah, Sean McDade



Around the Green



EAST OF ENGLAND

So August begins, where has the year gone so far! Hopefully the weather will have improved by the time you read this, as I write a 10 minute "shower" has just dumped half an inch of rain upon us, however after last year we can cope with anything!

More from the crazy world of Immingham, I turned up to work a couple of weeks ago to find that my office had been broken into and trashed. It is on the side of the pro shop so no-one was in our sheds, but all my paperwork, brochures and clothing ended up on the floor. At least it is a good excuse for a tidy up and a clear out, plus I will finally get a more secure door put on. Our CCTV showed someone in red overalls trying to break in to all our premises, the police have this description so any Toro reps heading my way had better be careful what they wear!

More fun and games at Cleethorpes, where Head Greenkeeper Rob Welford also had an encounter with the police. When turning up for work early one morning he found his car park half full of a variety of armed police, riot squad and dog section. When approached by an officer with a machine gun he was told that they were on exercise in the area and needed a base for the morning. Personally I think it is a bit of an over the top way to deal with the seniors section not repairing their pitch marks!

Our latest golf day was at Cleethorpes Golf Club. A total of 21 players turned up to do battle with the wind howling across the course. The course was in excellent condition and we were well looked after by the clubhouse staff, however we were let down by not having fish and chips for dinner! The results were as follows: Greenkeepers - 1. Steve Hopkins, 34pts; 2. Graham MacDonald, 33pts; 3. Rob Welford, 33pts; 4. Ash Cox, 32pts; 5. Rob Bemment, 30pts; Trade. Carl Chamberlain; Longest Drive. N. Skinner; Nearest the Pin. Unfortunately none of us hit the green on the 150 yard par 3 hole!

Once again many thanks to Cleethorpes GC and to Tony Jenkins, of F.G.Adamson John Deere dealers for sponsoring the day.

Our next golf day is the big one! Forget the "Duel in the Sun" and the "Rumble in the Jungle", it is time once again for Greenkeepers vs Trade "It gets easier and easier!" This is the fourth playing of this fixture and once again the greenkeepers will be looking to maintain their unbeaten record. Any greenkeepers interested in playing should contact Alan Walker and any trade reps brave enough to take us on should contact Gary Cooper, of STG Amenity Supplies. Both team Captains are trying to bring in "ringers" for their teams so we will see what happens on the day. The venue for this event is Immingham Golf Club on Tuesday August 19, tee off at 1:30. Arrive early for bacon buns and coffee and some quality pre match banter.

www.eastofenglandbigga.com
Steve Beverly



BERKS/BUCKS & OXON

The Gem Rose Bowl Summer Tournament this year was held at The Lambourne Club set in 180 acres of breathtaking parkland in the heart of Buckinghamshire. The Par 72 championship course, designed by Donald Steele, provided a strong challenge from the back tees with acres of rolling terrain and six lakes coming into play. With seven par 4 holes over 400 yards, long established oak trees that must be negotiated in the fairways, the course provided a tough challenge with well struck irons giving you a chance to attack the well protected greens. All who played had a great day.

Sean English managed the best score of the day with 39 points. The results were as follows: 1. Sean English, Blue Mountain; 2. David Marshall, Lambourne; 3. Matt Weatherstone, Ellesborough; 4. Carl Small, Ellesborough; 5. Simon Mallock, Sonning; 6. Jim Howard, Lambourne. The longest walk after a gruelling 146 shots plus went to Clinton Jackson, Ellesborough. Trade Prize - Ben Smith. Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive went to Matt Greasty, from Advanta Seeds. Well done Matt it was great to see you and look forward to seeing you at more BB&O events in the future.

A big thanks to The Lambourne Club for allowing us courtesy of the course and to Jim Howard and his team for preparing the course to a fine standard. Thank you to General Manager, David Ham, for arranging the facilities and to the superb catering and bar staff who ensured a fine meal and a great day out.

Thanks to Jon Beck and Ian Richardson for the usual culinary delights cooked up at the halfway hut.

Thanks to our sponsors Gem Professional's, Gary Tait, Clive Parnell and Richard Haines, who turned up in force to support the day and to the lovely Lynne Nelson who travelled a long way from company headquarters in Lancashire to attend the day and present the prizes to the winners. Well done, Lynne.

Dan Lightfoot, from Bearwood Lakes GC, has broken his leg in two places, ouch, while playing five-a-side football with a few colleagues. Dan nearly had to have his foot amputated as the break was of a serious nature, but thumbs up, hopefully Dan will make a full recovery and return to work as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you at The Frilford Heath Turkey Trot in November if you can make it.

Bill Paterson Junior has a new job at Oxhey Park GC, near Watford, as Head Greenkeeper, also new to the ranks and promoted to Deputy Course Manager at Harleyford GC is Dan Blinko. Best of luck in your new roles.

Bill Paterson, from Beaconsfield GC, has got every copy of Greenkeepers International since it was first published, but after a spring clean, and with new offices constructed, has found it hard to store all these magazines. We are looking for someone who is able to store and become the custodian



and make use of these magazines, either to use for education or research material.

On the education front, Alec MacIndoe is well underway in planning a seminar for us all, sometime in late autumn, date to be confirmed, but as soon as more information becomes available this will be on the website.

News around the green this month has been a bit sparse, however if there is any news or views you would like to share with the section please get in touch. Information on section events can be gleaned from www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk

Mark Day
mark@tacitgolf.com



SOUTH EAST REGION - KENT

Hi guys, just a brief report for you this month as not much going on.

Firstly a massive thank you to Peter Todd and Glenn Kirby at The London Club for organising the course walk around their magnificent venue just prior to the start of the European Open. It certainly was an eye-opener for those of us who haven't had the experience of dealing with the demands of pro-golfers and setting up infrastructure for the hospitality areas in preparation for many thousands of spectators.

I've been watching the tournament all this weekend and, apart from some great golf, have been full of admiration for the results that the many staff who have worked tirelessly under Peter and Glenn's very professional stewardship have managed to achieve.

Many congratulations to everyone involved for hosting such a successful tournament and let's hope you are able to keep the gig for a few years there.

Good luck to our website designer and updater, Danny Stunt, who has moved from Redlibbets to Chislehurst Golf Course. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Canterbury Golf Club next week. Full report and results in this column next month.

Happy Holidays!
Rob Holland

BIGGA's Regional Administrators

Peter Boyd
SCOTLAND & N. IRELAND
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440
Mobile: 07776 242120

Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
Tel: 01476 550115
Mobile: 07866 366966

Clive Osgood
SOUTH EAST
Tel: 01737 819343
Mobile: 07841 948410

Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST & WALES
Tel: 01454 270850
Mobile: 07841 948110



EAST ANGLIA

The Happy Wanderers all made their way safely to Woodbridge Golf Club in June. Then the fun began. The course was lovely and well presented by Steve Peters and his team, however, only six greenkeepers scored over 30 points. One was Ian who actually won with 36 points (but we won't mention him – he's good).

There were also six greenkeepers who did not return, one was Steve Peters on his own track, four still have not returned and one was found hanging from a tree by his putter. Seriously though, (do I do serious?) it was a terrific day and everyone enjoyed it - well done Steve.

The prizes were presented by the Chairman of the Board of Management (blimey, that's posh) Colin Ryan, to the following: 0 – 9 Handicap, 1. Peter Howard (same old faces), 36pts; 2. Graham Hurren, 34pts; 3. Rob Boyce, 31pts. 10 – 18 Handicap, 1. Ian Willett (see what I mean), 36 pts and overall winner on countback, 2. David Child, 31pts; 3. Dave Rooft, 29pts. 19 – 28 Handicap – (Real Golfers), 1. Steve Freestone (he's back), 25pts on countback; 2. Andy Baker, 25pts; Adrian Goode, 25pts. G & T's, 1. Chris Pearson, 35pts; 2. Steve Dickinson, 32pts; 3. W Richards, 31pts. Longest – Steve Dickinson, Nearest – Mark Broughton.

I must just mention a couple of old faces returning to the fold. One was Alan Carter – does this mean our handicap system will be resurrected? Hello Mate.

The Second was Steve Freestone, who left us about 14 years ago, been around the world in more ways than one and returned to Eaton last year. Welcome home son (figuratively speaking of course).

The Main sponsors of the day were Earnest Doe & Sons. The other, equally important trade lads and lassies were: Baileys of Norfolk, Aitkens, SISIS, Bartram Mowers, John Deere, Ben Burgess, Textron, Tomplinson Ground Care, Tacit, Rigby Taylor, Collier Turf Care and anyone else who knows me.

I almost forgot the man who had a shower and left his clothes in the car! Step up Steve Millard and collect your loo seat.

Thank you once again Woodbridge for a really great day out.

Mick Lathrope

Section Notes -

Can all notes be emailed to: melissa@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th of the month prior to publication please.
Suggested word guide: 500



Around the Green



ESSEX

It seems no time at all since I wrote the last Section news; time is just flying at the moment. Wednesday, June 25 saw around 50 of us gathering at Warley Park Golf Club for our summer qualifying medal and what turned out to be a fantastic day. Fine weather greeted us, but an easterly wind kept the scoring high, the temperatures were also on the high side and a nice note was the drinks buggy that appeared piloted by Mat Wise from Ernest Doe & Sons was a welcome site. Not knowing the course went against a lot of us with many scoring unusually highly. Records show that this was our first visit to Warley Park and wow what a challenge, I can only remember a one or two holes where you could actually see the green from the tee. Doglegs, hills and water - that's how I would describe Warley Park.

Course Manager, Dominic Rogers, and his team had laid the course out in superb condition, fast greens, with tees sensibly far enough back not to punish too much and pin positions placed in tricky but fair positions, nothing silly for our summer qualifying medal.

The meal was well received after trekking up and down all those hills. Our thanks go to the trade and members that helped with the raffle table. The Club, Captain Mr Roy Westhrop thanked us for being there, before presenting the prizes. He played in a four ball at the rear of the field with Dominic, plus Warley Parks General Manager, Nick Hawkins and Club Secretary, Keith Regan. With two out of the four in the prizes, (that's what happens when you have a bit of local knowledge).

Our thanks go to the Stubbins family for the chance to play the course and to the course and catering staff for the effort they put in on our behalf.

To all the Section sponsors, thank you once more. Pictures from the day are on the website: www.essexbigga.co.uk where details and links to all our sponsors can be found, long with links to other interesting sites.

The results from Warley Park are: 1st Gross: Ollie Homewood, Warley Park GC, 81pts; 2nd Gross: Roland Hughes, Forrester Park Golf & TC, 84pts; 3rd Gross: Ian Denny, South Essex Golf & Country Club, 90pts. 1st Net: Antony Kirwan, 81 Net 75 ocb, Lexdon Wood Golf Club; 2nd Net: Dominic Rogers, 83 Net 75, Warley Park Golf Club; 3rd Net: Ray Clark, 90 Net 76, Channels Golf Club. Guest Prize: Keith Regan, 87 Net 71, Warley Park Golf Club. Trade Prize: Andy Turbin, 82 Net 72, Ernest Doe & Sons. Longest Drive: Ian Denny, South Essex Golf & Country Club

Nearest the Pin: Andy Toomey, Boyce Hill Golf Club. 2008 Spring Tournament Qualifiers: Adam Millward, Richard Linin. TBC. 2008 Summer Trophy Qualifiers: Ollie Homewood. TBC Antony Kirwan,

Arnold Phipps-Jones essexbigga@talktalk.net



SOUTH WEST & WALES REGION - SOUTH WEST

Education, Education, Education. Tony Blairs principles back from when he came into power in 1997 - and very good ones I've always thought.

It was particularly pleasing to see a good turnout for the recent "Agronomy Afternoon" given by the STRI at Chippenham GC. (That Chris Sealey is a braver guy than me - having two experts, and about thirty greenkeepers plus Patronage Partners etc sifting through his course with a fine tooth-comb). Andy Cole treated us to a walk-about on the course, taking samples, looking at heights of cut, examining Chris' hugely different soil types on the greens, and drawing conclusions from them all. One of the most telling statements was - "these greens are clay based, and they're always going to be clay based - why try to grow fescue, and who says you can't have a good putting surface composed of poa and bent on a green like this"? How true - if you have a particular soil type- the most important stance is to try and grow those types of grasses which are suited to that soil. Don't be tempted to try and grow a "foreign" grass, because it just doesn't often work.

The walk was followed by John Lockyer in the classroom at his very best - naming no names, but giving some very good examples of how not to grow good grass on a quality rootzone, and how to avoid the pitfalls of the modern time. Coupled with a very comprehensive machinery demonstration by Keith Kensett, this was a very worthwhile afternoon, and one that we hope to repeat in the future. Well done to all those who attended, and thanks to our Patronage Partners whose sponsorship made it possible.

The Section Team got to grips with the Secretaries at Stinchcombe Hill recently. With the new Management Partnership of Wayne and Paul Garland, one of the strongest Section teams for years swept the Secretaries aside by four matches to two. Thanks very much to everyone who played, and thanks to Stinchcombe Hill for their courtesy. The next matches are both in August, at St. Pierre and Remedy Oak, so if you'd like to play, give Wayne a call.

I'm off on holiday to Italy very soon. Eurostar to Paris, and then the Stendahl Sleeper train to Verona (one of us is an aero-phobic). I notice that Eurostar have publicly announced that they are "putting measures in place to significantly reduce their carbon footprint". It is hard to imagine how - watching 2000 tons of steel and glass thundering through the French Countryside at 300 kph - a wind turbine at each end of the track perhaps? No - don't be silly - Paperless Ticketing - that's how. Clever - I'd never have thought of it.

I took the Minch staff to Sunningdale to watch the International Open Qualifying on June 30. Rob, my youngest is working at Sunningdale on a college placement, so an ideal opportunity. Rob's learned a lot since starting - in particular - the bigger the tournament, the earlier in the morning the work starts (and of course the later the finish!) And how do they get those beautiful pure stands of heather rough for which Sunningdale is famous? Strimmers, that's how. So if you ever feel tired of strimmering - just imagine doing the rough with it - all the rough. Mile after happy mile of strimmering over the top of the heather knocking any grass or weeds down.



The course looked absolutely fantastic – greens cut at 3.5mm, 10.5 stimpmeter, and watered mainly by hand – newly built bunkers with heather banks, most of the green and tee banks flymowed for presentation – just perfect. A credit to Murray Long and the team.

I watched Darren Clarke unfortunately fail to qualify who was playing with Thomas Levet - who also just missed out. The way those guys hit the ball – miles down the fairway – strategically placed second shots, and good bunker play when needed. Spare a thought though for Jose Maria Olazabal who just missed out in the play-off for the final Open Championship place, having shot a 65 round the Old Course in the afternoon.

I'm just starting to put together next year's fixtures – if your club is prepared to hold an event – please do let me know.

Paul Worster 01453 837355 paulw@mgcnew.co.uk



SOUTH COAST

Firstly the Section would like to wish Mike Buckle the very best for his retirement. Mike was very well known and respected in his role as Head Greenkeeper at Highcliffe Castle GC. Mike has been at the club for 30 years - the last 15 in the position of Head Greenkeeper. He started his career in farming but unfortunately had to seek new employment when the family lost their tied property. So Mike started at Highcliffe and the rest is history! Mike loves gardening and will be spending many happy hours of his retirement tending his lawn and flowers. We would like to wish Mike and his wife Mary many happy years ahead. We also congratulate Mike Cartwright in his new role as Head Greenkeeper at Highcliffe.

How the year just flies by! We are steadily working our way through the fixture list. Looking at the fixture card I see that our match with the South West Section is approaching and is on Wednesday, August 27. This year we are on home ground at Remedy Oak Golf Club. It must be our turn to win this year! Those who are playing in this match, from both Sections, we wish you all a great day and look forward to the result. The next Golf Day is the Autumn Tournament which will be held at Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club on Thursday, October 9. The AGM follows the golf and it is very important to attend and support your Section. If you cannot make it for the golf please come to the meal and AGM. If you would like to play or just attend the meal and AGM please contact our Tournament Organiser Kevan Glass at the following address: Apartment 1, Forge Side Court, Lepe Road, Langley, Southampton SO45 1SS or on mobile 07859 053054 or on email: glassy2003@hotmail.com.

The South Coast Golf Management Trophy was held at Petersfield Golf Club on June 27. The venue was excellent and the course was in immaculate condition. Well done to Kevin Clue and his team for the immaculate condition and presentation of the course. Thanks also to Petersfield Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and for their hospitality. A big thank you to our sponsors

Scotts. There was a total of 14 teams. The weather was a bit unsettled with the appearance of a few showers but nothing to bother the players. The winners for the second year running were Southwood GC with 86 points, 2nd, on count back, Barton on Sea GC and in third place Hayling Island GC with 83 points. The nearest the pin competition was won by David Gough from Burley GC and the longest drive by Tony Locke from Burley GC.

That's it for this month. If you are going to Saltex please call in the Vitax stand if you have any news or views or contact me in the usual way. See you soon.

Joe Crawley 0781 684 9942 joe.crawley@vitax.co.uk



DEVON & CORNWALL

Hi all just a quick word about last months report which never happened due to the fact I was away.

Anyway as you all know the Brabazon Trophy, one of the top amateur events was held this year at Trevoze and apart from the weather which was a bit inclement on a couple of the days went very smoothly. A lot of hard work was put in by Neil Taylor and his team leading up to it, especially the last couple of weeks. The course was presented in excellent condition with praise particularly for the greens.

Neil would like to say a big thank you to Ashley his first assistant and the rest of his team for their efforts, also thank you to Scott Gibson from St Enodoc, Keith Kemp and his lads from W. Cornwall and Andrew Dunstan from Newquay for their help, it was much appreciated. I hope I haven't missed anybody out! With the smooth running of this event and the way the course was presented there's a possibility other top events could be held here in the future, which would be great for our Section. The winner of the event was 24 year old Steven Uzzell from Yorkshire with scores of 64 & 67, 19 under par. Considering one week ago the Yorkshireman had to pull out of his debut appearance for England against France with a bad back, this victory I would imagine was very pleasing.

I would just like to give a quick mention to Graeme Gallimore our Head of Education who is currently organising some excellent workshops for the near future and hope everybody is taking advantage of his efforts.

As I write this the weather is misbehaving again, here we are early July and it's raining again and the temperature is more like autumn than July! Never mind saves a bit of wear and tear on the old irrigation system so not all bad! I have seen some golf courses in wonderful condition on my recent travels, so keep up the good work everybody!

Jerry Cole greenwaysjrc@aol.com 07764 224582



In the Shed

ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

J	U	N	K	B	O	N	D		R	E	D	T	O	P
A		A		L		E			L		A		H	
C	O	S	T	A	R	I	C	A		K	A	R	M	A
K		T		S		L		U				A		N
A	N	Y		P	L	A	N	T	A	G	E	N	E	T
L				H		R	O		H		T		A	
	S	T	E	E	L	M	A	G	N	O	L	I	A	S
C	O		M		S		R		S		N		M	
H	O	L	I	E	R	T	H	A	N	T	H	O	U	
E	E		R		R		P		W				P	
C	H	R	I	S	T	O	P	H	E	R		T	A	U
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O	W	N	E	D		G	O	O	D	T	I	M	E	S
U		C		U			O		E		P		C	
T	R	E	N	D	Y		S	K	I	R	M	I	S	H

ANSWERS:

- Faldo
- Cherie Lunghi
- Highest first-class score comprising only of boundaries
- Australia
- Laffit Pincay Jnr (USA)
- Ernie Els
- King and rook
- Bury
- Prost Grand Prix

MONSTER SUDOKO

9	7	5	8	2	B	6	C	1	4	3	A
4	3	6	2	A	8	1	7	5	B	9	C
B	1	C	A	9	5	3	4	2	8	6	7
1	2	9	6	3	4	7	B	C	A	8	5
8	C	B	5	1	A	9	2	6	3	7	4
7	4	A	3	8	6	C	5	9	1	2	B
5	A	4	9	7	3	2	8	B	C	1	6
2	6	7	1	C	9	B	A	8	5	4	3
C	8	3	B	4	1	5	6	7	9	A	2
A	B	8	C	6	2	4	9	3	7	5	1
3	5	2	4	B	7	8	1	A	6	C	9
6	9	1	7	5	C	A	3	4	2	B	8

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

7	4	1	6	9	8	5	3	2
6	8	2	3	7	5	1	9	4
3	5	9	1	2	4	6	7	8
5	9	4	8	1	6	3	2	7
8	7	6	5	3	2	4	1	9
2	1	3	9	4	7	8	5	6
9	6	5	2	8	1	7	4	3
1	2	7	4	6	3	9	8	5
4	3	8	7	5	9	2	6	1

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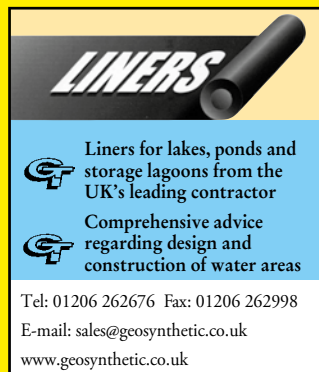
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The BIGGA Training & Development Manual

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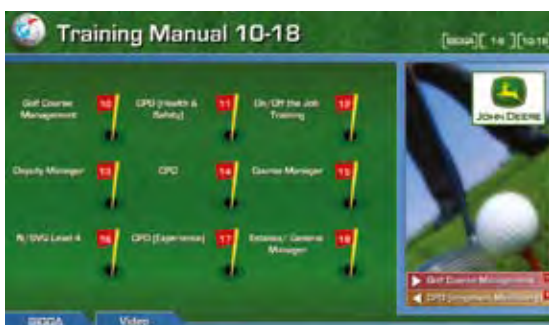
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A Week to Remember

It was an honour to be Chairman at this year's Open Championship, where I saw a great diversity with our guys in the profession of greenkeeping. I thought the Royal Birkdale team did an outstanding job and all the hard work in the run up to the event certainly paid off. The quality of turf produced in such poor conditions was exceptional. Talking of the weather, where has the summer season gone? Only a few days of high temperatures.

As I write this article we are enjoying a few more decent days toward the end of July and I hope we are in for an Indian summer, September to October, I hope that is not too much to ask.

I arrived at The Open on Monday night to meet with the BIGGA HQ team, before heading off to the course. On Tuesday I went to see the marquee and then helped with organising the Support Team's uniform. There were some big crowds on the practice days and some of the best weather of the week.

I attended the Association of Golf Writers' Dinner Tuesday night. Scott MacCallum, John Pemberton and I met with a lot of familiar faces throughout the world of golf. All the talk was about the injury to Padraig Harrington and would he be able to defend his title, how ironic that turned out to be.

Padraig collected the AGW Golfer of the Year award, Peter Alliss collected the Lifetime Achievement Award and, as usual, had some very entertaining stories and good things to say in his acceptance speech. We then had Nick Faldo, Ryder Cup Captain, discussing the upcoming matches with the USA later this year. All in all, a good night networking within the industry.

On Wednesday morning we were off to the R&A with John Pemberton and David Golding to discuss future investment in greenkeeping training. We then spent a few hours on the course, there seemed to be lots of spectators around on the Wednesday. By mid afternoon it was back to the hotel to organise uniform as members of the Support Team were due to arrive for their 5 o'clock meeting.

Scott did all the introductions, set out rules for the week with instructions for how the R&A and the Royal Birkdale team wanted the bunkers raking for the week.

That evening I attended PGA of Europe Awards Dinner, a good networking opportunity within the industry, and it was fitting as there was our own Gary Alliss, Head Professional at the Belfry, accepting his Master Professional Award. Gary gave a great acceptance speech - reflecting a similar humour to his dad really. He's also been named PGA Cup Captain this year.

It was then on to the first round, horrendous conditions between 6am and lunch. Anybody who was exposed to it suffered. The winds were terrible and the high scoring reflecting this and whether you were greenkeeping, scoring, or simply spectating it was hard going. The BIGGA marquee was busy as people were tending to take cover. The day improved as the weather changed during the afternoon, crowds seemed to grow and it was a very big day.

On Friday the weather improved, as did the golf, although with still strong winds and showers there were some great golf scores, 65, Villegas, birdies last 5 holes, 14 - 18. Unbelievable!

It was good to meet up with a lot of the guys from the Support Team, some old faces and some new - it's always great to meet new people in the industry. I caught the last bus back from the course with the divoters and waiting for the cut to be made so the team could figure shifts. 83 players made the cut and a very high 9+ score.

On Saturday there was a wet start to the day, high winds, creating tough conditions for golf it was great to see Greg Norman turning back the



clock and in an incredible display throughout the week, managed to take a two shot lead.

The marquee was busy and guests were popping in. I had an early finish on Saturday and got back to hotel to catch up with some more people.

On Sunday, the final day of a long week and a fitting end to the tournament, Padraig Harrington produced a fantastic back 9 - the best score of the day.

We gathered the Support Team together at the end of the championship for a picture and said a big thank you to the guys who supported the event, especially for giving up their own personal time, holidays etc. There was a great mix of young and old greenkeepers there. It all went very well.

Also to the Birkdale guys, to Chris Whittle and his team, this was a fantastic event in very trying conditions, and I think the greenkeeping profession was held in very high regard by the end of the week.

I hope to see some more new faces at Turnberry in 2009.

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