

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

- Harrogate Week 2009: The Review
- Course Feature: Ohio State Program
- Golden Key Profile: Toro
- Meet The New Chairman: Peter Todd

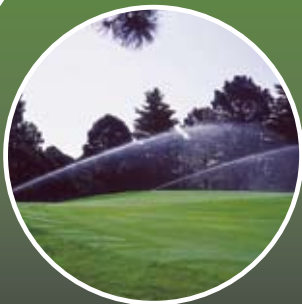
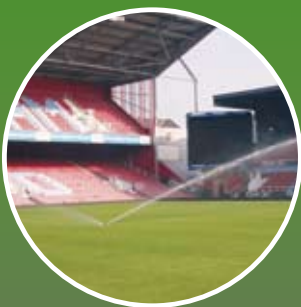
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Greenkeeper

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Welcome



Feed off the Positive Energy

It was really refreshing to be in Harrogate this year. Before we arrived all the talk was of credit crunches and job losses – it's the first recession we've had since the advent of rolling 24 hour news so there is no avoidance – but everyone in Harrogate seemed intent on bucking the trend.

Exhibitors were up-beat, visitors were up-beat, I even met some greenkeepers who had just been made redundant and, remarkably, they were less down-beat than I thought they would be. There is a feel good factor at Harrogate and it seems to rub off on people.

Perhaps it's because it marks the start of a new year. Perhaps it's because people are comfortable with the familiarity of surroundings and people they meet up with every January – a sort of huddling together in times of adversity.

Talking with colleagues during the week there was very much a feeling that in Britain we are guilty of talking ourselves into deeper trouble than we are actually in. Some of my more cosmopolitan friends said they'd been in other countries recently and there wasn't nearly as much doom and despondency on the media as there is here.

I must admit to have been a part of it, being quoted in The Times, along with some others "industry experts" on the problems the downturn were causing golf. Just before Christmas John Pemberton and I were also asked to talk on the problems of golf and greenkeeping on the radio. John spoke with Rob Bonnet on Radio 4's illustrious Today Programme, while I was on the Hawkesbee and Jacobs Show on Talksport. What caught the imagination was BIGGA's recently launched Stress Helpline.

You can't skip over the fact that golf is having problems, the current worldwide problems are compounded by back-to-back lousy summers, but in The Times I did say that the clubs that would be best placed to recover quickly would be those which didn't compromise on the quality of their course.

Of course it's easy for me to say but much less easy to do if money is not coming into the club at the same rate as before. However, it does go without saying that if a course has retained its reputation it will be more attractive than those that have cut a few corners during the hard times and become a little rough around the edges.

So, let's all take a leaf out of those who were at Harrogate and think ourselves into a more positive mood. If we all work hard, go that extra mile; solve problems; fill gaps and generally be great employees, that collective energy might just improve our own positions, that of our employers and see us through these desperate times! I've just re-read that bit and I sound like a new age hippy. But who cares, Man! If this is what it takes to pull us through.

Thanks to all who came to Harrogate. It was great to see you and I hope you got all that you'd hoped out of your day or few days that you spent with us.

Scott MacCallum

Editor

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FEATURE

FEATURE

OHIO STATE PROGRAM... ONE YEAR ON
Greenkeeper, William Law, fondly recalls his placement year in The States...

At 15 years of age and with an interest in golf, an attraction quickly turned to a career in greenkeeping during a brief stint working with local greenkeepers at Thurfield Golf Club, Norfolk.

I was invited to the prospect of studying and working on a three-year Foundation Degree in Sport at the University of Northampton in September 2007.

The course offers an excellent placement year, so I took the decision to head to the States, working at a big college and to then complete a golf course in the highest possible standard. I didn't formally apply for the position but the Ohio State University Staffing Program found me starting in May 2008 for placement year.

I had both grown the chance to work at the South East Ohio State Golf Course, Sandusky, Ohio, and the Ohio State University Golf Course, Columbus, Ohio, for an orientation visit in Ohio State University.

After meeting with O'Shea and meeting his 12 and crew for 10.1, I was also taken to the Jack Nicklaus Museum in Columbus, which had been opened to the public for the first time in 2008. I took to his hand, and my American accent, but I wasn't.

Before arriving at Double Eagle, I knew it was one of the best recreational golf courses in the states and that it was to host a US Open National Qualifying event into the week when I was to start. It struck me just how important it was to get off to a good start in my first year in the summer period, the golf course missed almost every week, and I was through at the end of the year.

In August I started the 2007 US Open at Lakeside Resort in Findlay, Ohio. The Ohio State University placed me here to support my degree course at Northampton and gave me a lot of experience with maintenance grasses.

Patrick's findings, in roughly 1,200 Superintendents and turf professionals in groups of 50-75 from around the globe to evaluate, test and submit the major products that the turf industry had to offer. Patrick's work closely with the three companies partners, Agrium Nutritional Technologies (AGT), The Chemical Company and Toro, to help them develop the products that Patrick's expertise. Each team based here to help through the field in his experience and my secret work in Columbus (joined a group of Superintendents from Wisconsin to discuss advanced fertilizer technologies and to get an insight into what Patrick's offer).

I have shared experiences where they shared some research from another turfgrass scientist by Agrium, discussed what products thought that to be best and what could be the most suitable, long-term and suitable to AGT.

The turf grass and team on "on the ground" to be shown research carried out by the staff based at Patrick's and the recommendations.

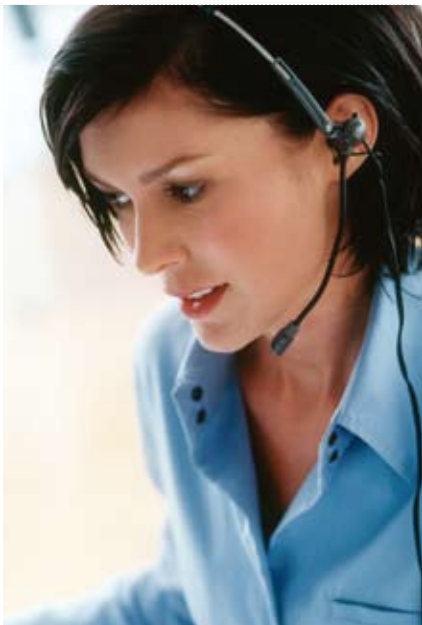
Every other week, I met with the guys, I was ready and excited for working at this world class course and learning as much as I could from my placement.

I was to work with six other interns from four different countries. Each team was from the Ohio State Program to develop very good turfgrass. Every one of us spent different periods of time on the Ohio State Program, before moving on and to get away with great experience and knowledge to be used in the future. Accommodation was free and within easy access to work.

I found it to be the best placement of first to be surrounded by a golf course that was going into the history of the course. Being out here only around 100 miles from Columbus, I had a lot of options to see. Most of the guys were doing a course that appeared to be going well and how would our maintenance techniques affect?

Patrick's course is a variety of 27 different grass species and has 24 holes golf courses with mostly Thruout Greens to keep the course in the best condition. There are 100,000 trees, 100,000 shrubs, 100,000 flowers and 100,000 plants, with the exception of the putting green built on the three sections of the AGT and the 100,000 trees are all Thruout Greens with the exception of several areas of trees. Every year of a golf course, driving range fee and a single fairway are increased with several programs.

Every Tuesday the golf course was closed to work on several maintenance projects. This usually meant we could top-dress greens and then have some fun with the maintenance. Patrick's is the only golf course in the states to have the original "100-year" of turf when a great machine that very costly. This was a job reserved for Tuesdays throughout spring.



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Greenkeeper, William Law, fondly recalls his placement year in The States...

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By Jonathan Tucker

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By James de Havilland



SCOTLAND SITE VISIT

The BIGGA East Section Scotland, recently visited the new 9 hole driving range development at Kingsfield Linlithgow.

The Section's Chairman, Stewart Crawford, presented a plaque to Robert Arkley, Managing Director of Kingsfield, to mark the visit.



Left to right: Barrie Lewis, Tom Murray, Gordon Peebles (Tacit), Stuart Ferguson, Ben Peters, Stewart, Craig McCrorie, Joe Robertson, Peter Boyd (Regional Administrator), Peter Ormiston, Peter Cambell (STS), Jack Dalrmples, Tom King, Jimmy Neilson, Jim Smith (Rigby Taylor), Lee Fraser and his dog Rhanna.

WRITTLE LECTURER JUDGES PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

Greg Allen, a Landscape Studies Lecturer at Writtle College, was one of seven adjudicators asked to judge last year's National British Association of Landscape Industries Awards, the industry's most prestigious event.

The Awards ceremony took place at the end of last year at the Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane, London.

The 32nd BALI National Landscape Awards were hosted by David Domoney who was joined by the special guest speaker Clive Anderson.

The event is an excellent opportunity for landscape professionals to experience the creativity and talent of the BALI members.

New specialist higher education courses in Horticulture and Landscape have been introduced at Writtle College. Starting from September 2009 the new courses include: BSc Social and Therapeutic Horticulture and BSc Green Space Management.

PATRONS' AWARD: BIGGA SCOTTISH REGION

Our annual Patrons Award and lunch was held at the Terraces Hotel, Stirling, on Thursday, December 4.

The Chairman of the Scottish Region, John Geddes, was in charge and under his Chairmanship everything ran smoothly. This year's speaker was John Malcolm, a retired police officer, who entertained us with a fund of stories and jokes, a few at the expense of several of the guests, Regional Administrator and Hugh McLatchie included.

Once again, our thanks go to the Patrons of the Region for their continued sponsorship. Not only do they provide funding for the Patrons Award trip, but also throughout the season, they support golf outings, Sectional seminars and AGMs.

This year's winners of the Patron's Award represented a cross section of the Association, from Course Managers to Assistants, all benefiting from the trip to Harrogate. The following were at Harrogate Week 2009: Martin Lothian, Turnberry Hotel; Marshall Sloss, Beith Golf Club; Charles McDonald, Crieff Golf Club; Kenny Mitchell, St. Andrews Links; Adam Sherwood, Glencorse Golf Club; Joe Robertson, Ratho Park Golf Club; Dale Robertson, Newmachar Golf Club; Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir Golf Club; Alistair Read, Williamwood Golf Club and Callum Morrow, Drumpellier Golf Club.

Next year's lunch will be on Thursday, December 3, 2009.

BIGGA Scottish Region Patrons are: R.Aitken (Seedsmen), Alpha Plus (Scotland) Ltd, Bayer, Daval Industrial Products, The Double A Trading Company, Fairways Group Ltd,

Hamilton Bros (Eng) Ltd, Golf Finance Ltd, Greentech (Sportsturf) Ltd, Henderson Grass Machinery, Indigrow Ltd, McNab Sport Ltd, Meiklem Drainage & Groundworks, William Monks & Partners, Nairn Brown (Glasgow) Ltd, Parsaver Golf, Rigby Taylor Ltd, SGM (UK) Ltd, 3PointPower Ltd, Strachan



L to R: Marshall Sloss, Beith GC; Calum Morrow, Drumpellier GC; Alistair Read, Williamwood GC; Adam Sherwood, Glencorse GC; Dale Robertson, Newmachar GC; John Geddes, Chairman, Scottish Region; Martin Lothian, Turnberry Hotel; Kenneth Mitchell, St. Andrews Links; Charles MacDonald, Crieff GC; Joe Robertson, Ratho Park GC.

Construction & Plant Hire, Scot JCB, The Scotts Company (UK) Ltd, Souters Sports Ltd, Sports Turf Services, Tower Sport Europe Ltd, Turf Irrigation Services, Terra Firma (Scotland) Ltd, Thomas Sheriff & Coy Ltd, Thorntrees Amenity, Vitax.

Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator

JOHN DEERE HOSTS BIGGA MIDLANDS SECTION

A group of 50 greenkeepers and Course Managers from across the Midlands, including outgoing BIGGA Chairman, Kenny Mackay, were hosted by John Deere in December; during the first ever visit by BIGGA's Midlands Section to the company's headquarters at Langar, near Nottingham.

The trip was organised by BIGGA's Regional Competitions' Secretary, Rhys Thomas, who is Course Manager of The South Staffordshire Golf Club, near Wolverhampton, at the invitation of John Deere dealer, Turner Groundscare of Erdington,

Birmingham. Product presentations were followed by a tour of the JDParts operation and John Deere's state of the art training centre before an evening buffet rounded off proceedings.

Among the full range of machinery on display was the new 8800 TerrainCut rotary roughs mower, while many visitors took the opportunity to climb behind the wheel of one of the biggest machines in the company's range – a new T Series combine harvester, equipped with the latest satellite guidance technology.

"The parts set-up was a particular highlight," said Rhys Thomas. "We were shown how parts coming from Germany and the USA are distributed throughout the UK, with a very quick turn around – John Deere's overnight delivery system is very impressive. I'd like to give particular thanks to Turner Groundscare for organising the day, and for their help in supporting our regional golf days and events in the Midlands, they've been really good to us this last year."



SCOTTISH REGION CONFERENCE

The 2009 BIGGA Scottish Region Conference will take place at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Carnegie College, Dunfermline on Tuesday 3 March, 2009.

This year's speakers include Steve Isaac, Director of Golf Course Management, R&A; Mark Hunt, Technical Director, Headland Amenity; David MacIndoe, Course Manager, Killarney G&FC, Ireland.

Other speakers include Laurence Pithie, Group Golf Courses Manager, Crown Golf; Stuart Staples, International Technical Manager; Scotts International CV and finally, David Cole, Superintendent/Estate Manager, Loch Lomond.

Tickets cost £34, which includes tea/coffee on arrival, coffee/pastry at the mid morning break and buffet lunch.

Full details and booking form will be posted to all members in Scotland and further forms can be obtained by contacting Peter J Boyd, Regional Administrator on Tel: 0141 616 3440 or: pj.boyd@btinternet.com.

BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP THE WENTWORTH CLUB, MAY 21-24

BIGGA is once again to provide a Greenkeeping Support Team for the BMW PGA Championship at The Wentworth Club, May 21-24.

As a team member you will be involved in walking with a match and raking any bunkers found by the players, as well as aiding Chris Kennedy and his staff, should adverse weather occur.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course, while there is no overnight accommodation provided.

Being a member of this team will not be detrimental to your chances of making The Open Championship team.

Applications should be sent to:
*Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator,
 34 Howard Close, Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth,
 Surrey, KT20 7QF.*

LONDON SECTION IRRIGATION WORKSHOP

The London Section has arranged for a Irrigation Workshop to be held at Ealing Golf Club on February 25.

Independent irrigation consultants, Irritech Irrigation Ltd, will cover a comprehensive and wide range of situations regarding the installation, maintenance and repairs of irrigation systems including diagnostics of electric and controller problems, and the correct layout and spacing of sprinkler heads. There also will be plenty of time to answer any queries regarding individual problems that occur on your own systems.

The cost for the day will be £10. This will include coffee and a bacon roll on arrival, with soup and sandwiches at lunchtime.

For more information or to reserve a place please contact: Matt Plested, Section Secretary, Clive Osgood, Regional Administrator (01737 819343), or Greg Evans, Course Manager Ealing Golf Club.

The day will commence at 10am with registration from 9am.

BOND, JAMES BOND

For 41 years, Windlesham village has been running its annual pram race.

The idea is to run through the village collecting money from the several thousand people who come to watch. The race starts at the Brickmakers Arms in Windlesham village, which borders Sunningdale Golf Club, and finishes at The Sun pub in the centre of the village, it takes place every Boxing Day and anyone can enter.

A team of eight greenkeepers from Sunningdale Golf Club took part, constructing an Aston Martin D85 (from the film Goldfinger) pram with James Bond being their theme.

95 prams took part this year – the Sunningdale lads were fortunate enough to be issued with 007 as their pram number - and in total 751 people ran, all raising money for local charities in Windlesham, such as local schools, disabled sections of local cricket and football clubs, and the local British Legion.

“The race consisted of the arduous task of pushing our pram and running to all six pubs in Windlesham, stopping at each for a pint or a short, covering a total of about four miles,” explained Murray Long, Courses & Estates Manager at Sunningdale GC. “An awards presentation by the Major was held at the final pub with prizes for categories: Best Pram, Best Engineered Pram and Fastest Pram – needless to say very few people take part in the fastest after three pints! Unfortunately we didn’t come away with any prizes but had a great time.”



Sunningdale Greenkeepers ‘License to Thrill’. L to R: Dan Turner, Chris Sherrington, Murray Long, Dan Martin, Ben Kebby, Jamie (Jaws) Wilson, Steven Richardson, Fabion (Odd Job) Maissonny.

SCARLET AND GREEN

Scarlets RFC has moved into its new home stadium at the Parc Y Scarlets in Pemberton, Llanelli, the first UK rugby ground to feature a Fibrelastic turf pitch.

The new surface, installed by Inscapes, is maintained by Head Groundsman, Dean Gilasbey, and Assistant, Sion Bennett, with the help of a small but hard-working fleet of new John Deere machines, supplied by dealer Powercut of Carmarthen. Powercut have been John Deere dealers in South Wales for over 20 years, and as such their wealth of knowledge and high levels of service are greatly valued by customers.

The fleet includes a new TX Gator utility vehicle and 3520 compact tractor equipped with

ComfortGard cab and Galaxy low ground pressure tyres, and a one year old 2653B utility mower, all bought on John Deere Credit finance.

Dean returned to Llanelli earlier this year to oversee the installation of the Fibrelastic surface, having previously spent 13 years with the Scarlets before a three year spell working at the Ospreys Liberty Stadium in Swansea with Hewitt Sportsturf.

“I definitely believe this is the way to go as far as rugby pitches are concerned,” he said. “The reinforced construction means there is some elasticity in the surface, so there’s a better feel to the grass and overall the players get a much better experience.”

NEW JOB LOSSES AT JCB

JCB has announced a further 684 redundancies in the UK primarily as a result of the lack of credit available from banks to fund machine purchases and continuing low confidence. Production in the UK in the first three months of 2009 will be around 75 per cent lower than at the same time last year and an anticipated upturn in the second quarter now shows no sign of materialising.

JCB’s Staffordshire plants affected by the redundancies are: the World HQ, Rocester; JCB Heavy Products, Uttoxeter; JCB Compact Products, JCB Earthmovers and JCB Cecilly Mills Operations, Cheadle and JCB Cab Systems, Rugeley. JCB Transmissions, Wrexham and JCB Power Systems, Derbyshire are also affected.

In October GMB members voted for a shorter, 34-hour working week, a move which continues to protect a further 332 shop floor jobs. Last week - when there was no production at JCB – the company undertook its biggest-ever training initiative in its history, with more than 2,000 employees completing a programme which will result in achievement of NVQ and City and Guilds qualifications.

The latest job losses affect 593 shopfloor and 91 staff positions and are in addition to 1,000 redundancies announced since July. JCB employs around 7,900 globally, with around 4,800 in the UK. JCB has more than 4,300 employees in Staffordshire.

Why not drop us an email with any news, press releases or new product updates you have...

– Send them to **Melissa**
(melissa@bigga.co.uk)



STROLLERS MAKE MARATHON EFFORT

A group of staff from The Scotts Company and a former employee completed the New York Marathon, and in the process raised more than £10,000 for the children's charity, Whizz-Kidz.

The Scotts Strollers' day started with a 2.30am wake up to catch a 4am coach to the start line on Staten Island. After more than five hours trying to keep warm in the chilly holding area, they joined the 40,000-strong crowd of runners gathered in the mid-morning sun for the start. Carried along by the encouragement of spectators lining the route, Andrew Wilson was first across the finish line, completing the tough, undulating course in four hours 16 minutes.

Shaun Cavanagh finished in four hours 47 with David Truby and Sam Cassidy both recording a time of four hours 51. Frances Lark from Customer Services completed her first marathon supported by Regional Director Steve Squires in a time of six hours 57 minutes.

After such a tremendous effort, the team made good use of their time in the Big Apple with visits to Wall Street, the Empire State Building and Ground Zero and a helicopter ride around the Statue of Liberty.

David and Shaun happened to bump into race winner Paula Radcliffe at the top of the Empire State Building. When they asked her if she'd found the race as tough as they had, she said it depended how tough that was!



NEW AWARDS LAUNCHED

New industry-wide annual awards that recognise the important contribution by grounds care staff to the sustainability of British sport and best-practice grounds care across a multitude of disciplines and technologies have been launched by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG).

The IOG Industry Awards will acknowledge the high standards achieved by a wide range of volunteer and professional grounds care skills and facilities – from grass roots to professional stadia level. The 2009 results will be announced Oscar-style at the Emirates Stadium, London, on 15 October 2009 as part of the IOG's National Conference.

Commenting on the launch, Sports Minister, Gerry Sutcliffe MP, said: "I recognise the valuable contribution which grounds staff around the country, whether volunteers or professionals, make in keeping sports facilities well maintained. Their hard work and technical knowledge helps make sport accessible to everyone and should be publicly acknowledged."

PESTICIDES – THE FACTS

Jon Allbutt, Chairman of the Amenity Forum, puts his slant on the recent EU Pesticide Usage directive.

I am not surprised at the amount of debate on whether greenkeepers will have any pesticides at all to use in the future.

That, after all, was the point of the Amenity Forum's campaign over the last two years or more – to raise awareness and get our sector involved in the debate!

The EU Parliament has now voted on two Directives – The Authorisation Directive that decides what pesticides will be permitted within the EU – and the Sustainable Use Directive that sets the "rules" to protect the environment including the public or in EU speak – bystanders.

The main points are:

- Member States will include in their legislation that users will adopt integrated approaches to pest management – this is already common practice in golf but not other amenity areas!
- Member States will establish National Action Plans – the UK already has one in operation.
- Application equipment will need to be tested except, perhaps, knapsack sprayers – we already have the NSTS scheme that can be adjusted.
- Distributors, users and advisors will have to be trained and hold a recognised qualification – we have a world class certification scheme
- There is still great concern over definitions in the Authorisation Directive that will decide on what active ingredients will be permitted within the EU – we must wait a while for clarification here. It seems clear that we are going to lose some valuable products, but it will be months before we know exactly what.
- Member States must introduce legislation to protect water – we already have the very successful LERAPS Scheme
- Member States must introduce legislation to protect vulnerable people and sensitive environmental areas. The Directive allows for prohibition or restriction. This includes all amenity areas where we are using pesticides where the public have access, there are lakes, ponds and other environmentally sensitive areas. Each Member State must consult the general public and users as part of the legislative process so your voice is vitally important. Contact BIGGA HOUSE and they will put you in touch with your representative and he will bring your views to the Forum.

So it is not all bad news is it?

The next and hopefully final stage in the process is for the Council of Ministers to approve the detail for implementation; this will provide more clarification for each Member State and also set a timetable for implementation. The timetable is usually within two years of the issuing of the final documentation – this is likely to mean that we will have our new UK Regulations around the end of 2011.

I will be monitoring developments carefully and expect to have the detailed documentation in March/April.

In the meantime if it vital for our industry sector to continue to make our views known to our professional bodies who in their turn must make their views known all the way up to Ministers!





Gary Gray of GD Environmental, npower's Ian Fox and Russell Phillips of The Celtic Manor Resort survey the ash being used to build the new practice ground for The Ryder Cup.

GREEN SOLUTION FOR RYDER CUP BUILD

Green issues in golf normally revolve around the quality of the putting surfaces but The Celtic Manor Resort has hit upon an environmentally friendly way of building its new practice ground for The Ryder Cup in 2010.

With the facility sitting in the flood plain just over the River Usk from the first tee of the Twenty Ten course; there was a need to raise the level of the land before grassing over the driving range.

Instead of laying expensive primary aggregate with the associated cost to the environment of excavation and transportation, Celtic Manor has teamed up with energy supplier RWE npower, which has provided over 150,000 tonnes of pulverised fuel ash from its Aberthaw Power Station, near Barry.

The ash is an inert by-product of burning coal to generate electricity and, once compacted, forms an ideal material for construction purposes like this one. Also housing a substantial television compound, the new practice ground area completes a £16m redevelopment at Celtic Manor which also saw the new Twenty Ten course and clubhouse open in 2007.

The Celtic Manor Resort and The European Tour are already committed to making The 2010 Ryder Cup one of golf's most environmentally sustainable events. Indigenous grasses, plants and wildlife have returned to the new Twenty Ten course since its conversion from intensive farmland, and irrigation on all three courses at Celtic Manor is 100% self-sustained from the lakes and a purpose-built reservoir.

TRAINING PROGRAMME EXPANDED FOR 2009

Following a request from the PGA, STRI have created three new one day training programmes for Golf Pros, Managers and Directors of Golf Facilities, to assist with their professional development requirements.

The courses are recommended in the PGA's CPD Professional Programme for 2009 and each completed course will be credited with 25 CPD points.

All three courses are scheduled for March 2009 at STRI in Bingley and cost £156 plus VAT: 3 March 2009, 'The Business of the Environment' Golf Course Ecology; 4 March 2009, 'Why Better Grass Means Better Golf' Golf Course Management; 5 March 2009, 'Golf Course Architecture Past and Present' Golf Course Design.

Following the success of last year's first FACTS (Fertiliser Advisers Certificate and Training Scheme) Turf certified training course, held at STRI, coupled with the pressure on employers in the industry to keep up with growing legislation a record 5 day FACTS Turf course, with exams, is running from 16-20 February 2009 at Bingley. A must for anyone advising on fertilisers and their application.

Having recently been awarded, Approved Provider Status, STRI is currently the only approved BASIS provider delivering a programme specifically tailored to suit the requirements of the Turf Industry.

To meet the needs of employers, who have a statutory obligation to ensure anyone involved in the sale, advice or supply of plant protection products holds a certificate of competence, and following on from the success of the 2008 courses, Dr Ruth Mann, Head of Turfgrass Protection at STRI, has organised another two weeks course plus exam for 2009. BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Amenity Horticulture) Turf Module: Week One, 14-18 September 2009; Week Two, 5-9 September 2009; Exam, 19-20 September 2009.

For further info please visit www.stri.co.uk

NEW QUALITY MANAGER

David Lamb has joined Ransomes Jacobsen, the Ipswich-based turf maintenance equipment manufacturer, as Quality Manager. Reporting to Malcolm Parkinson, Operations Director, he will be responsible for all quality matters relating to the production, manufacturing and design processes within the organisation.

David joins the company from the Seat Division of Johnson Controls.



SPRAY WITHIN THE LAW

With the safe use of pesticides being very much in the spotlight, it is now vital that advisers, farmers and growers have access to the most up-to-date information on pesticide use in agriculture, horticulture, pest control, forestry and amenity.

The 22nd edition of The UK Pesticide Guide, is now available and is also accessible online at www.plantprotection.co.uk. It features over 1,300

products including 250 product replacements and introductions since the last edition, plus five new actives, as well as several novel mixtures of existing actives.

The online version, www.plantprotection.co.uk, which was launched at the beginning of 2008 has been positively received by customers.

For further information and to subscribe to the online version log onto: www.plantprotection.co.uk

ON THE UP



David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, looks at the increase in student numbers for the academic qualifications which are available to the sector and explains how students really can access learning while earning...

I have been accused of favouring the vocational qualifications route to becoming qualified at the expense of promoting the more academic qualifications.

I am sorry if I have given this impression but to meet employers expectations we have, through the skills agenda, addressed the difficulties and barriers to learning.

We should all be pleased with how our sector has embraced the apprenticeship and vocational qualifications, as have our Approved Centres through their increasing flexibility with a variety of delivery options of courses - which are now available.

As some form of apology it must also be recognised that the Government is still allocating the majority of training funding support to their flagship apprenticeship scheme, to ensure they hit their skills agenda targets.

Readers will have noticed a huge marketing drive both nationally and locally, to encourage employers and learners to "buy into" training through various branded schemes such as 'Train to Gain' and the 'Apprenticeship Scheme', so don't let it be a "strain to gain" - to access these programmes contact your local GTC Approved Training Provider (see GTC website) as they have the contacts and courses to assist staff and business development.

Employers are more likely to invest in staff development if it is offered at a reasonable cost, free if possible, however the quality of the courses and relevance to staff and employment requirements are essential and this is where the GTC has a key role with Lantra Sector Skills Council, the Awarding Bodies and the Approved Centres.

Back to the more academic awards such as the Higher National Certificate, Diploma, the Foundation Degree and the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science Degrees - the GTC has been involved in the development, accreditation and the ongoing reviewing of these important qualifications.

What has changed in recent years is the fact that many people have thought you have to attend a College or University full time to gain the qualification, when, in fact, the successful Centres have listened to the industry and invested in staff development and technology, to allow those students seeking to continue to work and study to do so. The Centre with the most students registered on the Foundation Degree has the option to study on-line as well as the traditional part and full time study route. Full time Higher Education courses are still available with excellent placements available.

Progression to a Bachelor of Science, BSc is also very much part of the development and career path in which the GTC works, with a limited number of Approved Centres to ensure we can provide the sector with highly qualified Course Managers, Agronomists and Advisors.

As University fees increase it is likely that the online, distance learning options to study will increase.

There is a tremendous amount of commitment and discipline required to study from home and the support from the Centre is paramount. Students who have achieved the prodigious qualifications confirmed the flexibility they requested from tutors from time to time, especially as work commitments took priority, were accommodated for therefore allowing them to complete the course.

Higher education for many greenkeepers was never an option, especially having opted to gain employment on leaving school, but having discussed the modern delivery options now available please do not be put off. With scholarships and



bursaries available through Colleges, Universities and BIGGA, The R&A can often help with fees once your means have been accessed.

Several students have progressed and achieved a Master of Science Degree, MSc, through the Cranfield University and concern has been expressed on how this course has now been withdrawn as a taught programme and is only available through research.

In recent years the sports turf sector has benefited from those committed students who have successfully achieved the MSc. The GTC is currently involved in discussions to hopefully encourage a Centre in partnership with a University to ensure the sector has a progression route through academic study, similar to the one previously offered by the Cranfield MSc.

Please be in no doubt that the GTC is firmly committed to ensuring the sector has all avenues covered, in terms of education and training, to ensure golf club employers and today and tomorrow's greenkeepers are well catered for.

Starting with the schools there will be land-based Diplomas, which will lead interested students and learners to a greenkeeping apprenticeship scheme, with both vocational and academic courses Government approved qualifications, delivered by GTC Quality Assured Centres through a range of delivery methods.

More on the GTC Quality Assured Scheme next month!

Check out the GTC current network of Approved Training Providers via our website: www.the-gtc.co.uk

GTC is supported by:





Industry Update

INDUSTRY UPDATE



TRAINING PROGRAMME HERALDED A SUCCESS

Thousands of JCB employees have embarked on the biggest training initiative in the company's history as it faces the global economic challenge head on.

It is part of a huge programme involving more than 2,000 employees from JCB's Midlands' and Wales factories aimed at equipping the workforce with the skills needed to weather the economic downturn – and take advantage of the opportunities a recovery will bring. Plants in Rotherham, Cheadle, Uttoxeter, Wrexham, Rugeley and Derbyshire are all taking part.

Among those participating are 750 employees from the Backhoe Loader, Loadall and Hydraulic Business Units – all based at the World HQ. They are involved in a four-day programme being held at Uttoxeter Racecourse which includes sessions on performance manufacturing operations, problem solving and health and safety.

Corporate College, the business arm of Derby College, is delivering the programmes for staff attending the sessions at the Racecourse, with colleges in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Burton, Walsall, Lichfield and Tamworth delivering similar training to staff from other factories.

The scheme has already won praise from Skills Secretary John Denham, who held up the company as an example of good practice during a debate in the House of Commons. And employees taking part in the training programme have also heralded it as a big step in the right direction as JCB looks to combat the effects of the global economic challenge.

ONLINE FORUM EXPANDED

Spaldings has announced the launch of a free classified section (www.spaldings-forum.co.uk), introduced as part of their online forum. The forum thread went live' recently and came in response to positive feedback received from online visitors.

The online classified section will allow legitimate agricultural professionals to buy and sell farm machinery and associated products. The service is entirely free and offers users the chance to fully optimise Spaldings online customer base.

KICKBOXING WINNER

Campey Turfcare's Sales Demonstrator, Lee Morgado, is on top of the world after winning the World Kickboxing Association's amateur championship in New York.

Lee, 25, won the welter weight title at the Roseland Ballroom, just off New York's Times Square recently, beating Eddie Martinez by a fourth round TKO (technical knock out).

Lee was supported in New York by his girlfriend and his coach Vinny Shoreman.

"I was elated to win," he said, "Although I was confident that I would! My next fight is likely to be in Portugal in February this month for the World Full Contact Association (WFCA) European title. I would love to win this one, and be European champion. I am pretty confident that I will...I don't take part to lose!"



CONTRACT RENEWED

Club Car has renewed its contract with Remedy Oak Golf Club located near Horton in Dorset.

Remedy Oak, designed by John Jacobs, is nestled within 256 acres of existing ancient woodland, and set challenges to golfers of all levels with water hazards and tall trees purposefully placed.

Currently the club has 20 Precedent Club Cars and it will be updating to 20 New Precedent IQ Electric Golf Cars, two Villager four Precedent IQ Electric and one Precedent Refurbished IQ Electric.

This new fleet is due to arrive this month and it is hoped that it will provide the club with the same, if not more, benefits than the current fleet has this year.

Tractor Hire will be managing the agreement. They company is distributor for Club Car across Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset as well as the original territory of South Wales.



L to R: Michael Fance, Ed Carter and John Noyce, Scotts Professional UK.

NEW ROLES FOR STAFF

Four members of staff from Scotts Professional's turf & amenity business have been promoted into new roles.

John Noyce has worked as an Area Sales Manager for Scotts for nine years in total. In his new, wider role, he'll provide technical and sales support to golf and sports clubs across the South East of England.

Michael Fance's role as Area Sales Manager for the South East of England also takes a new focus. Reporting to National Sales & Business Development Manager Richard Walton, he'll provide technical and sales support to local authorities, contractors, lawn care companies and landscapers.

Also reporting to Richard Walton in his new role is Ed Carter, who has been promoted to a National Key Account Manager. After four years as Area Sales Manager for the North of England and North Wales, he'll be responsible for driving new opportunities for the company within the turf and amenity sector.

And in the South West, Simon Keeble adds turf and amenity support to his existing role in the Horticulture division.

PGA OFFICIAL SUPPLIER STATUS GAINED

A leading supplier of synthetic turf and practice greens has proved it's the real thing by earning PGA official supplier status.

Huxley Golf has put pen to paper on a deal, paving the way to get involved with the PGA's growing portfolio of national and international branded facilities.

As part of the agreement, the PGA's property department will promote the Hampshire-based firm's products to its range of branded golf courses and academies in the UK, Ireland, Spain, Turkey, Cape Verde, Cyprus, China and Russia.

It cements a long-standing relationship between the two parties, which dates back more than a decade and includes the installation of a state-of-the-art indoor putting green within the PGA National Training Academy at The Belfry.

RELIABILITY KEY FOR RUDDING PARK

Rudding Park Golf Club, near Harrogate, has invested in a new fleet of Toro mowers to tend to its 18-hole Hawtree Championship course and recently opened six-hole Repton short course.

The North Yorkshire club is new to Toro, having used a mix of machinery – most of which was supplied by another major manufacturer. Seeking improved reliability in his latest purchases, however, Course Manager Richard Hollingworth turned to his local dealer at Cheshire Turf Machinery.

"We buy on quality, not colour," Richard comments. "And quality counts more than price. We were primarily looking for reliability in our new purchases – Tony Dodson (the Yorkshire Sales Manager for CTM) is very, very helpful and recommended Toro, which we hadn't used in the past."

One Toro Reelmaster 5610-D fairway mower along with a Groundsmaster 3500-D and two Reelmaster 3100-Ds with Sidewinder trim mowers are now hard at work across Rudding Park's extensive grounds, including the recently developed £750,000 Repton short course.



L to R: Lely's Nigel Lovatt, Rudding Park's Course Manager Richard Hollingworth, CTM's Tony Dodson and Lely's Jeff Anguige

EUROPEAN OPEN

The European Open will be held at The London Golf Club - where BIGGA's very own Chairman, Peter Todd, is Course Manager - for the second consecutive year from 28-31 May 2009, following its successful return to England last season for the first time since 1994.

A world class field, including defending champion Ross Fisher, of England, will contest the £2.4 million tournament, which can secure precious earnings towards the inaugural Race to Dubai. Fisher profited most from the return of The European Tour to his native country in 2008 by claiming his second European Tour victory by an emphatic seven strokes over Sergio Garcia of Spain last July.

The European Open will once again be played over the 7,257 yard, par 72 Jack Nicklaus-designed Heritage Course, which is one of two courses - along with The International - at The London Golf Club, near Brands Hatch, in north Kent.

Membership



This month
BIGGA welcomes
the following new
members...

TRACEY MADDISON, HEAD OF MEMBERSHIP SERVICES, GIVES A DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

BIGGA launches a new Membership Benefit

Stress, health and wellbeing are becoming more and more serious issues. For example, did you know that one in five people are stressed at work (CBI Absence Survey 2008)?

BIGGA recognise that stress is becoming a real concern, especially work-related stress. In order to help you address any issue that may be causing you to feel stressed, BIGGA are pleased to launch a new membership benefit, the Greenkeepers Support Service, a confidential, professional telephone counselling service which can help you proactively manage stress by providing immediate emotional support, advice and practical information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Greenkeepers Support Service can work with a wide range of concerns from emotional issues such as anxiety, stress, depression and low self-esteem to family and relationship issues, marital and relationship problems, critical illness and bereavement - this list is not exhaustive. One telephone call to the Greenkeepers Support Service could be all that someone needs to begin to manage their own work-related or personal problems and improve their situation.

Greenkeeper Members of BIGGA can now call the Greenkeepers Support Service on a freephone telephone number 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and speak to a professionally qualified counsellor. For full details visit the Members Area of the BIGGA Website www.bigga.org.uk or contact the Membership Department.

Save money at Harrogate Week 2010 by becoming a member today

This year we managed to save a Head Greenkeeper money. By joining BIGGA the Head Greenkeeper was able to take advantage of the BIGGA Members rate at Harrogate Week - see example, above right.

Basic Budgeting and Finance (1 day)	
Member Rate	£105+VAT
Non Member Rate	£210+VAT
Next Steps in Budgeting and Finance	
Member Rate	£105+VAT
Non Member Rate	£210+VAT
Environmental Legislation.....	
Member Rate	£50+VAT
Non Member Rate	£110+VAT
TOTAL	
Member Rate	£260+VAT
Non Member Rate	£530+VAT

After joining BIGGA we managed to save the Head Greenkeeper £149.

Make it Happen in 2009

Over the last few weeks I've chatted with many people about what 2009 may bring and I think the general gist of all my conversations is that we agreed 2009 would be a challenging year both personally and professionally.

Whatever the future holds for us, one thing is sure, if we sit back and wait for things to happen then the wait could be a long one. You have to make things happen. Whatever goals you set yourself bear in mind that as time passes those goals and desires can change so every so often review them and update if necessary, but remember flexibility is the key.

Last month I referred to 'Your Pages', you may have noticed that this has now been renamed 'Region and Section Pages', it can still be accessed via the Members Area of the BIGGA Website. Here you will find contact details of the Regional Administrators and the Section Secretaries. Also keep checking for information relating to Section events throughout the year.

Thought for the month ...

Einstein said 'the definition of insanity is to keep doing what you have always done and expect different results'.

SCOTTISH

Stuart Bayfield, West
Iain Benton, East
Terry Steele, North
Keith Wilson, East

NORTHERN

Roland Ainscough, North West
Andrew Hutchinson, North East
Daniel Ibison, North West
Ryan Tuppen, North West

MIDLAND

Stephen Ashby, East Midland
Gavin Charlton, Midland
Kevin Glazier, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Jason Harriman, East Midland

SOUTH EAST

Luke Biggin, Surrey
Jayne Cassidy, Surrey
Danny Dalton, Kent
Ross Garcia, Surrey
Andrew McEvoy, Surrey
Michael Roberts, Kent
Christopher White, Kent

STH WEST & WALES

Richard Chenoweth, South West
Tom Collings, Devon & Cornwall
Rhydian Harris, South Wales
Ben Hooper, Devon & Cornwall
Kevin Pitts, Devon & Cornwall

INTERNATIONAL

Oksana Gluza, Ukraine
Mykhayla Zasukha, Ukraine

CONTACT US

By telephone
- 01347 833800 (option 1 for Membership.)

Other useful telephone numbers (for
greenkeeper members only)

Personal Accident Helpline
02075 603013

Greenkeepers Legal Assistance
0800 177 7891

Greenkeepers Support Services
0800 174 319



Tracey Maddison
Email: traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk



Justine De Taure
Email: justine@bigga.co.uk



Brad Anderson
Email: brad@bigga.co.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...

Harrogate Week is over for another year, and no sooner have Rachael and I soaked our aching toes and rested our stressed out brains are we planning the Continue to Learn Education Programme 2010 - watch this space!

Now that 2009 is underway I am pleased to announce that we have further funding available for education and training purposes through the Refund of Fees Scheme and the BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships supported by Ransomes Jacobsen.



Refund of Fees Scheme

Supported by the Gold and Silver Key Members, the Refund of Fees Scheme offers BIGGA Members the opportunity to reclaim a percentage of their course costs for training that is specific to their job as a greenkeeper e.g. computer skills or pesticide licence. Unfortunately the scheme would not support courses such as cordon bleu cookery or embroidery for beginners unless it could be proved that it was job specific!

An 80% refund of course fees can be claimed up to a maximum amount of £350. Every Member who meets the criteria for the scheme can make one claim annually.

To be eligible to apply for the Refund of Fees Scheme you must meet the following criteria:

- Be a full member of BIGGA
- Have been a member of BIGGA for at least two consecutive years
- Have paid the course fee themselves
- Be able to provide prove of payment

A refund will be paid out on completion of the course.



Higher Education Scholarships

Thanks to the continued support of Ransomes Jacobsen, BIGGA are, once again, able to offer a scholarship to those members who are undertaking a Higher Education course. The courses that can be supported through this scheme include:

- NVQ Level 4
- NVQ Level 5
- HNC
- HND (Scotland)
- Foundation Degree
- BSc

The maximum scholarship that can be awarded is of 50% of course fees up to a maximum amount of £1500. Only one scholarship will be awarded per member.

To be eligible to apply for a Scholarship you must meet the following criteria:

- Be a greenkeeper member of BIGGA
- Have been a BIGGA member for a minimum of two years

Your application will also be assessed on the following:

- The type of education course
- Previous training and development
- Contribution to BIGGA
- It is desired that the selected course contains an environmental module

To apply for either the Refund of Fees Scheme or a Higher Education Scholarship complete and return the form with the required paperwork. Application forms for both schemes can be downloaded from the BIGGA website (go to the Education page and click on downloads), by emailing or telephoning the Learning and Development Department (01347 833800 option 3).

Region & Section Pages

You may have noticed that the 'Your Pages' section of the BIGGA website has been renamed and is now called 'Region & Section Pages'. These pages are still accessed through the Members area of the website.

The Region & Section Pages give you the contact details for the Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries and may list details of events that are taking place.

OHIO STATE PROGRAM... ONE YEAR ON

Greenkeeper, William Law, fondly recalls his placement year in The States...

At 15 years of age and with an interest in golf, my attention quickly turned to a career in greenkeeping during a brief stint working with four greenkeepers at Thetford Golf Club, Norfolk.

I was excited at the prospect of studying turf and I enrolled on a three-year Foundation Degree in Sporturf Science course at Myerscough College in September 2007.

The course allows a one year work placement year, so I took the decision to head to the States, wanting a big challenge and to help maintain a golf course to the highest possible standard. I didn't hesitate when the opportunity to join the Ohio State University Turfgrass Program came up starting in May 2007 for my placement year.

I had been given the chance to work at the Double Eagle Club, Ohio, with Golf Course Superintendent, Todd Voss. I flew out to Columbus, Ohio, for an orientation visit to Ohio State University

and after meeting Mike O'Keeffe and dotting the i's and cross the t's, I was also taken to the Jack Nicklaus Museum in Columbus, when half way round, Todd Voss from Double Eagle Club greeted me. I shook his hand, and my American adventure had started.

Before arriving at Double Eagle, I knew it was one of the best conditioned golf courses in the states and that it was to host a US Open Sectional Qualifying event only one week after I was to start. It struck me just how important attention to detail was, even in my first week. As the summer passed, the golf course missed almost every storm, as we went through one of the most driest summer's in the club's history.

In August I attended the 2007 Turfgrass & Landscape Research Field Day at The Ohio State University, gaining an insight into different experiments into the science of turf under different conditions. Another real benefit to being at Double

Eagle was that you were able to play golf after 4pm every day.

In late October, myself and every other intern on the program made our way down to South Carolina to attend short course seminars. I met many other interns from other golf courses, which proved to be great networking, a chance to relax and a great way to learn more about the industry. We also got a tour around Harbour Town Golf Course by Superintendent, Gary Snyder.

Days later, I began training at my second golf course in the States, FarmLinks Golf Course in Alabama. FarmLinks is unique, being the world's only research and demonstration golf course site. Mike O'Keeffe placed me here to support my degree course at Myerscough and gain a lot of experience with warm-season grasses.

FarmLinks brings in roughly 1200 Superintendants and turf professionals in groups of 10-15 from around the globe to evaluate,



test and exhibit the latest products that the turf industry has to offer. FarmLinks works closely with its three cornerstone partners, Agrium Advanced Technologies, BASF The Chemical Company and Toro. It's with these three companies that FarmLinks educate the tour groups on what is known as the "FarmLinks experience". Each intern based here is lucky enough to be invited to the experience and in my second week in Alabama I joined a group of Superintendents from Minnesota to discuss advanced fertiliser technologies and to get an insight as to what FarmLinks offer.

I was shown around laboratories where they collect some research from, attended fertiliser seminars by Agrium, discussed latest products brought out by Toro and learnt about the different pesticides, fungicides and fertilisers used by BASF. The tour group are taken on an "on the course tour" to be shown research carried out by the staff based at FarmLinks and are accommodated in

the lodge overlooking the 17th green.

Shortly after spending two days with the guys I was ready and excited for working at this world-class venue and learning as much as I could here in my internship.

I was here with six other interns from four different continents! Each intern was from the Ohio State Program and spoke very good English. Every one of us spent different periods of time on their internship, before moving on, and we all went away with great experience and knowledge to succeed in the industry. Accommodation was free and within easy access to work.

I must say it was very unusual at first to be surrounded by a golf course that was going into the transition of dormancy. Having only been only around cool-season grasses before, I had a lot of questions to ask. Would golfers enjoy playing on a course that appeared to be going yellow and how would our maintenance techniques differ?

FarmLinks boasts a variety of 27 different grass species on their 18-hole golf course, with mainly Tifsport Bermuda being the desired choice on fairways. There are 14 Bermuda grass fairways, three Zoysiagrass fairways and a seashore Paspalum fairway. All greens are A1/A4 creeping bentgrass, with the exception of the putting green (split up into three sections; L-93, A1/A4 and Pencross) and tees are all Tifsport Bermuda with the exception of several zoysia grass tees. Every winter all par-3 tees, driving range tee and a single fairway are overseeded with perennial ryegrass.

Every Tuesday the golf course was closed to work on essential maintenance projects. This usually meant we could top-dress greens and have them ready for play by Wednesday. FarmLinks is the only golf course in the states to have the original "DryJect" in their shed, a great machine but very costly! This also was a job reserved for Tuesdays throughout spring.

(continues on page 20)

Toro finance helps you stay the course.

Times are hard, but that doesn't mean you have to risk your hard-earned reputation by compromising on the quality of machinery to care for your principle asset – your course.

Choose from any of these superb options designed for today's market conditions and to suit your own specific requirements. You'll have peace of mind from knowing your facilities will benefit from the best turfcare equipment there is. Moreover, so will your budgets and cashflow.

And remember, quality Toro machinery not only gives you outstanding results; it's also more efficient, productive and reliable. That means a long life, reduced downtime and low maintenance bills. So Toro quality actually costs you less in the long run.

However, you must act NOW – before 31 March – to take advantage of these 'best-ever' deals. There probably won't ever be another chance to buy the very best on such great terms.

Contact your Toro dealer or Lely UK on 01480 226800.

1. Zero Option

**0% interest.
One plus two
annual payments.**

**Initial payment followed by two
identical payments 12 months' apart.**

Offer must end 31 March 2009



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2. Zero-Plus Option

0% interest and nothing to pay until September 2009.

Then 60 monthly payments at a competitive rate.

Offer must end 31 March 2009

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3-year package with annual payment holidays.

Monthly payments with a 'holiday' between November and April.

Offer must end 31 March 2009

Finance is for business purposes only and is subject to acceptance. UK only. Terms current at date of preparation. For a limited period only. 01/09.



partners in turfcare



(continued from page 17)

Aerification week at FarmLinks was tiring but very enjoyable. The course was closed for two and a half days for all greens to be hollow-cored (5/8 inch tines, 2 inch spacing) and top-dressed. The greens measure 139,500 ft² and in three days the staff of 18 greenkeepers racked up 40 hours each. By the Thursday morning the greens were up to a putting standard after the top-dressing sand was “brushed-in” several times and watered. We did this in the second week of March.

All putting greens at FarmLinks are maintained to a perfect standard. They have little or no shade issues and most greens have giant fans close by so cool-air flows across the putting surface, relieving stress from the hot and humid summer’s in Alabama.

Also during the summer months FarmLinks uses the “Soil-Reliever”. This is a tractor mounted machine that is used solely on heavy traffic areas. The solid tines are 3/4 inch in diameter and the machine is used whenever possible to relieve compaction.

Interns at FarmLinks are trained on a range of tasks. All jobs are displayed on the lunch room board in the mornings and FarmLinks understand the importance of giving much of the training to interns. I was trained on mowing greens, tees, approaches and fairways. Also I sprayed

greens and fairways regularly, verticut fairways, aerified greens, changed holes and much more. Attention to detail is considered a major factor when preparing the golf course for play, like at Double Eagle.

Fairways and approaches are mown three times a week in late spring, greens are mown everyday and rough twice a week. Tees are also cut three times a week and bunkers are flymown once a week, usually on Tuesdays when there is no play.

At the end of May, my 12-month internship came to an end as I chose not to extend my J1 visa. When I left FarmLinks to return to the UK, the golf course had completely come out of dormancy and temperatures were approaching the 90’s. During my time in the states, the US Department of State changed the rules for interns in allowing them to return for internships as many times as they like, as long as he or she maintains their student status or be no more than one year after graduation.

Since my arrival back to the UK, I immediately started on a seasonal basis at Walton Heath, Surrey only four days after my last day at FarmLinks! I begin my last year on the Foundation Degree in September. I would encourage others thinking of a career path in turf to join the OSU program as it is well recognised and opens up many opportunities. My thanks go to Mike O’Keeffe, Todd Voss and

also Mark Langner, Director of Agronomy and Applied Research and David Deweese, Golf Course Superintendent at FarmLinks, for their efforts in the 12 months I was in The States.



Hilton Head Island Golf Course Superintendent, Todd Ross, with William Law



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...on all Turf Care Machinery*



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* 1. Finance figures quoted are indicative only and subject to fluctuations in UK money costs, however once funds are drawn down then payments are fixed throughout the term of the agreement. 2. The finance figures do not constitute an offer to provide finance which is subject to our normal credit underwriting criteria. 3. The finance packages are available to UK business users only. 4. VAT is payable on inception of the agreement on all purchase and loan agreements, including payment holiday promotions. 5. VAT is payable on rentals throughout the term of the agreement for hire or lease agreements. 6. Finance terms are available up to a maximum of 60 months, promoted terms and any alternative profiles, which are available on request from your Ransomes Jacobsen dealer, are applicable to a maximum of 75% of the RRP, or the balance financed - whichever is the lower - of the equipment subject to the promotion. 7. Written quotations are available on request. 8. Ransomes Jacobsen Finance is a trading style of ING Lease (UK) Ltd, 60 High Street, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1NY. 9. Offer ends 31.3.2009. 10. Excludes E-Z-GO and ex-demonstration models.



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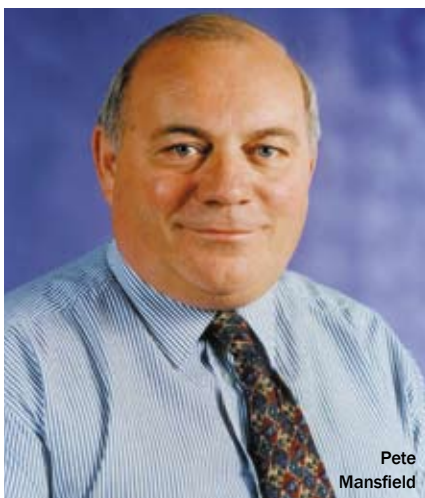
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FEATURE



Pete Mansfield

STANDING THE TEST OF TIME

Scott MacCallum travelled to St Neot's in Cambridgeshire to meet Pete Mansfield, of Lely UK.

There can be few relationships that have been as harmonious and long lasting as that of Toro and its UK distributor, Lely.

Richard and Judy; Marks & Spencer; Ant and Dec – they've all been pretty good over the years but none have enjoyed the unbroken run of success more than the two and a half decades of America's The Toro Company and the St Neots-based, Dutch-owned Lely UK.

"We've been a distributor for Toro since 1983, so it is a longstanding relationship," explained Lely's General Manager for turf products, Peter Mansfield, who has been there every step of the way.

"In fact last year we celebrated 25 years together. It was quite uncanny as we had three

anniversaries in the same year. There was also 60 years of Lely itself, and 40 years of Lely UK. We had a big party in November for all the staff and our owner, Alexander van der Lely, brought his board of directors over from Holland to mark the celebration."

Lely UK was launched initially to cater for the agricultural market and its agricultural arm is still just as strong as its amenity division which took off when they joined up with Toro.

"We keep very close connections with Minneapolis. (Toro's worldwide headquarters). As a company we probably visit around four times a year and we support every meeting and training event that Toro holds, making sure that we send

over a reasonable group. Emails and phone calls take place on a daily basis and we treat each other much more like colleagues than business associates," said Peter, who is probably the Lely man who spends most time at Toro HQ.

Peter's main contact in the States is fellow Briton, Barry Beckett, Toro's Worldwide Marketing Manager, but such is the relationship between the two companies that all of the Lely staff know exactly which member of Toro staff to contact if they have a problem.

"There are a lot of people from both companies who have given many years of service and over the years most of us have met and know each other well."

Toro trusts Lely to run the UK arm and Lely ensures that no stone is left unturned in giving blanket coverage.

A UK and Ireland map behind Peter's desk is riddled with pins each signifying a dealership or service centre and each is supported by a Sales Manager. In total there are 23 main dealers and 13 service centres, while Lely itself also acts as a dealership covering the local Cambridgeshire patch.

"The map has evolved over the years. We tickle it a bit occasionally, moving territory lines slightly, for example, if demographics change or a new road improves accessibility within a particular area. All the territories need to be viable and for that we feel it needs to have at least 50 golf clubs in it," said Pete, who several years ago instigated The Commitment Programme for the dealerships.

"The aim of the programme was to look at dealerships, their business and support them into becoming more viable companies so they would grow over the years. We are conscious that we didn't want one dealership competing with another for business so the Regional Sales Manager is there to ensure that everything works fairly. Prices are set by us so there is parity across the network," explained Peter.

Dealing with a mighty organisation like Toro leads to some extremely sophisticated planning to ensure that sufficient product is available to customers in the UK without a huge surfeit clogging up the warehouses.

"For whole goods (complete machines) we are looking at a year out for ordering which we review every month. Our forecasting is extremely accurate as it is based on many years' experience and regular on-going discussions with our major clients. In our planning we identify the firm orders from the tentative orders and as the year progresses we continue to update our forecasting and keep talking to our customers to make sure we have the product ready for them when they want it."

Those orders are then shipped to the UK from Minneapolis, which is a huge logistical undertaking as the Minnesota city is hardly close to the sea. It's around 1500 miles from the east coast, while St Neots couldn't describe itself as a harbour town either, being just about as far away from the coast as any town in the south of England could be. Shipping normally takes 15 to 20 days and depending upon the carrier used it can arrive at one of a number of UK ports.

"At both ends lorries transport the goods to or from the ports," said Peter.

One of the interesting points that the Lely staff sometimes see is the different types of packaging that each country requires and which Toro has to supply.

"We have seen boxes destined for Australia that have been coated with green cuprinol and crates that have been waxed to meet specific conditions in certain countries. The disposal of packaging these days is a very sensitive issue and it is important that we adhere to the legislation," said Peter, as he took me around the 6.2-acre site.

Lely holds a huge supply of parts with three quarters of a million worth at any one time

and liaises closely with both Toro's main Parts Department, in Plymouth, Illinois, near Chicago, and the central European Parts Department, based in Germany.

"Our dealers order from us and if we have the parts in stock we guarantee to supply to them within 24 hours or overnight. If we don't have the part in stock we order it through the US and they link to Germany. Usually they can get it out to us the same day. If not, and it has to come from the US, we promise to have it to the customer within 72 hours. So it's 24 hours if we have it in stock and 72, maximum, if we don't," explained Peter, who added that Lely has a 96% first pick rate – part in stock – while Toro as a whole has an extremely impressive 99.2% first pick success rate.

"We ship directly to the end user as well which often saves us a day."

One element of Lely's day-to-day business which is becoming increasingly important is training and the company has a brand new on-site training facility that proves the point.

"We actually currently have two training rooms – our old 'dirty' one where we have grinding equipment and do mechanical courses and the new 'clean' one where we have a pool of computers and we do more management training, although we do have an option to bring machines into the building as well," said Peter, adding that a decision whether to remain running with two facilities or move exclusively to the new one was still to be made.

Last year Lely had around 800 people through the doors covering in-house staff, dealers and end-users. Ian Sumpter has been Training Manager since 2003 and it says much for the development of training methods and the commitment to the cause that a machinery distributor employs a full-time educator.

"Originally training used to be the remit of the position of Service Manager, who looked after warranties and dealt with teething problems and breakdowns of machines. Then he became Service and Training Manager and then eventually we had a dedicated Training Manager because the job became so involved.

"It has to be someone with the skills because we can train the product into the person but you can't train the ability to manage the training. It's a big job as invites have to be sent out, hotels booked and we have to organise buses to take people out to dinner etc. It all needs to be done."

Lely has a large training budget but some recovery of costs can be made through Government Schemes and some training can also be charged to the recipient.

"Some years ago this wouldn't have happened but thanks in part to BIGGA, which has done a lot in this area with the CPD Scheme, people are quite prepared to pay for training as they see that it is necessary."

Toro and Lely have always had education and training at the forefront of their thinking and nothing could highlight that more than the Toro Student of the Year Competition which has run since 1989.

"I think I missed the first three but I have been heavily involved in every one since then. Our Managing Director Graham Dale used to be a judge at the Final and I'd do the Regional Finals then I took on the Final as well. More recently I've dropped out of the Regional Finals and our Regional Managers have taken that on and I've concentrated on the Final," said Peter, who is normally joined as a final Judge by a Toro colleague, John Pemberton, BIGGA's Chief Executive, and the Chairman of the BIGGA Learning and Development Sub-Committee.

"We have uncovered some extremely fine greenkeepers over the last 20 years and I have watched young boys, and some girls, become grown adults. It's very rewarding. It would be over my dead body if we ever said that we couldn't afford to do the competition."

Toro is very proud of its Total Solutions programme offering a full programme of machinery, spare parts, irrigation systems and general expertise and it is not just a marketing boast that if a customer chooses to go down the Toro path they are welcomed into the Toro family and treated as such.

If the relationship between Toro and those people who buy the product is as fruitful as that between Toro and Lely has been over the last 25 years they will be extremely happy customers indeed.



Golden Key Sponsor



Mark Hastry (seated on the John Deere 3245C semi-rough mower) and the rest of The Heworth Golf Club's greenkeeping team.



QUALITY CONTROL AT HEWORTH GOLF CLUB

What needs to happen to ensure a new irrigation system does exactly what you want it to. Steve Mitchell reports on a club which has gone through the process and what was involved.

It's probably the last thing that a golf club finance committee would consider, especially in our climate, but a fully functioning irrigation system is the most important piece of equipment on the golf course – because without water, nothing grows.

So when Head Greenkeeper Mark Hastry was having problems with the irrigation system at Heworth Golf Club in Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, he was keen to get them sorted out as quickly as possible. The solution came in the shape of a new John Deere Aurora irrigation controller, the first commercial unit installed on a golf course in the UK.

The installation was carried out by Full Circle Irrigation Services, with equipment supplied by local John Deere dealer, Greenlay, of Cramlington, Northumberland.

Full Circle is in its second year of business, with directors, Robert George and John Grafton,

and three full-time employees operating out of premises in Knaresborough, North Yorkshire. Initially the business developed a customer base in the north-east of England, mainly through word of mouth and recommendations from greenkeepers like Mark, and the company has since been sub-contracted to work in Europe, including France, Ireland and Denmark.

Robert set up the business after working for another irrigation company in the north-west of England for nine years.

"Basically I wanted to work for myself, and I saw a gap in the market. I think there's always room in any industry for a specialist, personal and independent service at a reasonable price. I wanted to be service based, working face to face with customers and building relationships based on good workmanship and trust," said Robert.

The relationship with John Deere began when Full Circle did some initial work at Heworth, when Mark needed advice on the best way to get his

irrigation system working properly. This coincided with John Deere announcing its entry into the irrigation market, and director Geoff Lowes, of Greenlay, was looking for specialist help to get John Deere's new product range known and accepted in the area.

"Full Circle did a few jobs for me and got my original control box ticking over, but it really needed replacing," said Mark.

"The controller wasn't working as efficiently as it could, we had a number of electrical problems, and the system basically wouldn't allow us to do what we wanted it to. For example, some stations weren't switching on at night, so one of us would have to come down and turn the sprinklers on manually."

After Mark recommended their work, Geoff arranged for Full Circle to have a demonstration of the new Aurora controller.

"When John Deere asked the dealers to start promoting irrigation equipment, I felt straight away

we needed to find someone who could do the installations, as we just didn't have the expertise within the dealership," he said.

"Full Circle are a good fit for us and for the product range – we sell the parts and systems, and they have the specialist installation knowledge and experience. With irrigation systems, as with any other key piece of equipment, you have to know what you're doing, so we had to find the right people to provide the right service."

The original irrigation system at Heworth was installed in 1994, in two loops of nine, and currently covers all the tees and greens and about half the fairways on this flat, wooded course. The basic wall-mounted Aurora irrigation controller replaced the existing box, and new decoders and connectors had to be wired into each valve box to receive the Aurora's command signals. The whole installation took two and a half days to complete, including full insulation and resistance testing.

"Before we had the first demonstration, we hadn't seen the controller in action before," said Robert George.

"Obviously we wouldn't install a product we didn't know, or have confidence in but because the Aurora controller operates three-wire decoder systems, we were able to connect it to the existing system at Heworth and operate it. Our conclusion was, and Mark agreed, that it was a lot easier to programme and operate than the previous controller. Once Mark was happy with the system and the price, we went ahead and installed it.

"Now we carry an Aurora unit with us in our service vehicles, so we can wire it in anywhere and give an on-site demonstration of its main features and benefits.. Mark has the basic set-up, with all the programming done at the box, but he'll be able to grow the system in future as required – you can connect it to the internet and control the irrigation system from anywhere using a laptop, PDA, mobile phone... all the options are there."

The new system now controls 98 stations across the golf course, and offers Mark more programmes, multiple station starts and more control of his overnight watering schedule.

"I can now control our water management much better and more efficiently," said Mark.

"We're on a clay soil here, and with clay there are no in-betweens – in winter it saturates, and in summer it bakes. If you leave it too long between watering, the ground will crack, so you need to get the balance right. This is why it's vital to have an efficient irrigation system.

"The programme we use depends on the weather, naturally, but generally we like to set it off twice a night, starting at around 11.30pm. Because of the clay, we'll generally water for four minutes, stop for a while to let the water soak down, and then go again for another three and a half minutes or so. The greens are set up first, then we switch to the tees, then back to the greens, before watering the fairways. The fairway sprinklers are usually still going when we come to work in the morning.

"Now we've got the controller sorted out, the next job will be to overhaul the whole system. We now have a full service contract with Full Circle,



(Left to right): Director Robert George of Full Circle Irrigation Services, The Heworth Golf Club's Head Greenkeeper Mark Hastry, Director Geoff Lowes of Greenlay and Director John Grafton of Full Circle.



One of the new decoders that was wired into each valve box on the course at The Heworth Golf Club.

and this gives us a regular report on what needs doing next, for example where we have leaks and corroded gate valves, or where the heads are not turning properly. In an ideal world we would have all the work done at the same time, but we couldn't manage the cost of this on our annual budget, so this will be an ongoing project, probably over the next three years."

Robert recommends that golf clubs should look at regular updates to their irrigation system rather than try to replace everything at once, which is a very expensive option.

"With new products coming on the market, clubs shouldn't have to rely on costly old components and systems," he said.

"New irrigation technology and products can easily be introduced to existing installations, particularly on some of the older systems out there, and we always aim to use the best equipment for individual situations as no two golf courses are the same. We would always recommend too that people use specialist installers – you can't just throw odd parts at a system and expect them to work properly without professional help and advice.

"We offer a service contract so that clubs can have their system regularly checked and serviced. This means we look over the whole system, test the pump, every valve and sprinkler, and the general condition of all components. We then produce a detailed report with recommendations and full costings, and if anything needs replacing or repairing we work with the club to achieve this.



The Aurora controller is future-proof – the base unit can be fitted at any time with input sensors from ground moisture meters to evapotranspiration meters to a full weather system, for even more precise water management without the need for a PC.

Our standard contracts include decommissioning for the winter and a guaranteed response time from the customer's call."

As a greenkeeper working at the sharp end, Mark agrees wholeheartedly with this approach.

"Most greenkeepers have a budget to work to, and these reports definitely help me to manage my budget better. The golf club committee has to decide on any large investment, so the more information I can give them, the better informed their decisions will be.

"Basically, the Aurora system was fitted because I left it to Full Circle. They're the specialists, and if they'd said the John Deere controller wasn't right for me, I wouldn't have had it fitted. Their professionalism and workmanship have been second to none, so you can see why they're doing so well in this area. Even John Deere's own irrigation specialists were impressed when they inspected the installation."

CONTACT DETAILS

- Autoflow Systems Ltd – Tel:01603 759701
- Topturf – Tel:0870 8720081
- Par 4 Irrigation Ltd- Tel:01765 602175
- Oakdale T&G Irrigation – Tel:01427 874200
- Toro Irrigation – Tel:01480 226858
- North Staffs Irrigation – Tel:01785 812706
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For further information see page 69

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WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL TURF WEED?

By Dr Terry Mabbett

Common daisy with its fleshy rosette leaves divides quickly to produce new plants and a matt of weed growth.

Turf is a man-made ecosystem, exploiting differences in height between growing points of broad-leaved weeds and turf grasses which escape the mower's blades.

Optimum-height, correct frequency cutting should eliminate all broad-leaf weeds but some species have a naturally prostrate habit and escape to survive and thrive in the turf environment. Over the long-term, mowing selects out weed biotypes best suited to turf, even though the species may not be naturally prostrate. Weed management requires an optimum height cut, because a cut too low can be just as damaging as a cut too high. Weeds like common daisy (*Bellis perennis*) and greater plantain (*Plantago major*) thrive in turf that is 'shaved' and compacted.

Many common and successful turf weeds display a completely different growth habit when not growing in turf. Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) hugs the ground, its runners slipping unobtrusively through the turf to root at regular intervals. Contrast this to 'natural' growth situations where creeping buttercup grows up to 45-60 cm high. Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) is one of the most prostrate of turf weeds but grows up to 30 cm high in long meadow grass. Bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) behaves in the same way, often using long grass stems for support.

The spectrum and frequency of broad-leaved weeds in turf clearly depends on status (e.g. professional or amenity) and corresponding management profile. That said turf weeds invariably display one or more characteristics of growth habit, reproduction and response to chemical control which allow them to successfully invade and compete in turf.

Growth habit

Common turf weeds including dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), common daisy, plantains and self-heal display leaves in rosettes at or just above soil level. Rosette growth avoids the cut while the leaves shade out and kill adjacent grass plants. For instance, the large toothed leaves of dandelion are super-efficient light blockers, shading out and smothering short fine leaves of turf grasses.

Weed niches created by rosette forming weeds are exploited and expanded through daughter plants produced directly at the fleshy

rootstock and stem (e.g. daisy and plantain) or more efficiently by running stems (runners) or stolons e.g. self-heal and white clover (*Trifolium repens*). These are major features of the matt forming weeds that create patches in turf over a short period of time.

Asexual reproduction

Runners that root provide weeds with an efficient and effective means of asexual reproduction and spread. Runners may be severed during mowing or raking but the new plant, now independent via its own root system, survives to form a new focus of



Dandelion. The long toothed leaves of dandelion are super-efficient light blockers.



The lance-shaped leaves of the ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) in rosette formation.

weed infestation. Weeds with running stems that root include white clover, self-heal and creeping buttercup. Slender speedwell (*Veronica filiformis*), regarded as the United Kingdom's worst turf weed, owes its wide spread to tiny pieces of runner rooting and establishing where they fall during mowing, or elsewhere if mowers are shared between sites.

Survival organs

Some turf weeds are equipped with food storage organs to survive drought and low temperature. Examples are the tap roots of dandelion and close relatives like cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and bulbs of the bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*). Perennating (survival) organs also play a part in asexual reproduction. For instance,

the underground part of the dandelion appears to be a swollen root but any attempt to dig out individual plants reveals another function. Pieces of tap root left in the soil form fibrous roots and develop into new plants, causing a cluster of small dandelion plants to grow from the failed attempt to dig out a single plant.

Another successful weed in this respect is the lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*). The weed is not widespread in turf but one of the most difficult to shift. Lesser celandine causes protracted problems in wet, shaded turf adjacent to grassy banks and woodland which is its natural habitat. Underground at the base of each plant is a cluster of tiny bulbils each with the capacity to produce a new plant, especially if detached and spread by digging.

Sexual reproduction

With proper management turf grasses and broad-leaved weeds rarely get the chance to flower and set seed. That said many broad-leaved weeds in turf have been selected out (by mowing) to flower just above ground level. This together with long flowering periods, including ephemeral (year-round) flowering, short seed-maturation times, minimum germination requirements and ability to exploit tiny germination sites in turf means sexual reproduction does play a part in weed establishment and spread.

Most broad-leaved turf weeds readily exploit other habitats to generate large seed banks from which plants like the wind-borne 'pappus' of the dandelion migrate into turf. Successful turf weeds can exploit small germination sites including tiny patches of bare soil caused by wear and tear, or holes left by physical removal of individual weeds. Worm casts provide ideal and ready-made germination sites, especially when the seed has been ingested by the worm during burrowing under the turf, and deposited intact inside the cast.

Drought resistant weeds

Predicted effects of climate change on UK turf due to hotter and drier summers and the need for drought resistant turf grass species and varieties is widely discussed. Relatively little attention is paid to how turf weeds will behave and fare, and especially those which are naturally drought resistant. At the end of dry summers white clover, bird's foot trefoil, lesser trefoil/yellow suckling clover (*Trifolium dubium*) dandelion, cat's ear and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) will be thriving in drought stricken turf. They persist throughout the drought and then fast off the mark in autumn when rain starts to fall, forming large



Successful turf weeds can exploit tiny germination sites like worm casts. Dock (*Rumex*) shown here.



A major weed of turf that spreads by creeping stems which root at intervals.

weed patches in the still struggling turf. Bird's foot trefoil, dandelion and cat's ear have deep tap roots, while the finely divided waxy leaves of yarrow have low transpiration potential.

Resistance to chemical control

Selective herbicides have revolutionised turf weed control by allowing managers to overspray the turf and kill broad leaved weeds without harming turf grasses. Some weeds are more susceptible than others even with the same herbicide product. Recommended application rate (litres of product per hectare) and stage of weed growth up to which the herbicide can be applied differs between weed species. Product labels may additionally cite specific weed species for which only moderate control can be achieved with recommended rates.

There are no hard and fast rules but yarrow and slender speedwell are among the most difficult weeds to control with the current range of approved herbicides. A particular weed species may be hard to control because the foliage is difficult to wet, for example yarrow with finely divided and waxy leaves, or because the weed's metabolism is inherently resistant to herbicide action. This appears to be the case for slender speedwell which has only ever been adequately controlled by one or two specific herbicides.

Grass weeds

In theory other grasses should be the most successful and most difficult to control weeds in professional turf. Selective herbicides will solve most broad-leaved weed problems but can do nothing about coarse grasses like timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), all regarded as weeds of professional



White clover is one of the most drought resistant weeds of turf.

turf. Perhaps the most interesting in this respect are various *Poa* species. *Poa* can be a legitimate and valued component of turf in some situations but a weed in others, depending on turf status and nature of the soil base on which it grows.

The only real option is to exploit any differences in soil, water and nutritional requirement between turf grasses and weed grasses. *Poa* can be marginalised using a so-called 'starving-out' strategy. Some managers squeeze out *Poa* by 'turning a blind eye' to anthracnose disease (*Colletotrichum graminicola*). *Poa* is measurably more susceptible than bents and fescues to anthracnose thus allowing natural biological control to reduce the incidence of *Poa* in professional turf.

Field woodrush (*Luzula campestris*) looks like a grass but belongs to the family *Juncaceae*.

However, like true grasses (*Graminae*) field woodrush is a monocotyledon and is mostly resistant to the action of the selective herbicides designed for use in turf.

About the Author

Dr Terry Mabbett has experience in grassland agronomy, and tree protection in forestry, horticulture and amenity. He has worked as consultant and technical writer in these fields for 20 years with a strong focus on pest, disease and weed management.



Creeping buttercup spreads unobtrusively through turf on runners which creep over the ground and root.

ON HIS TODD

BIGGA's new National Chairman, Peter Todd, found his way into the industry through a circuitous route but has made up for lost time since. He chats with Scott MacCallum...

There is an array of different routes into greenkeeping. Some people arrive through a love of playing the game of golf; others have followed their fathers into the profession, while some have had a complete change of career direction.

Peter Todd, BIGGA's new National Chairman and Courses Manager at The London Club, found his way into greenkeeping when he was forced to give up a weekend gardening job. He missed it so much it proved to him just how much he loved the outdoor life and encouraged him to change his life path.

On leaving school and joining multi-national company, Reed International, Peter started off in their logistics division, later moving into sales and negotiating contracts with clients. Alongside his career with Reed, Peter also worked at weekends on a four acre private garden in Loose, Kent, a job he had done for eight years until his move north with the company prevented this continuing.

The valuable commercial experience gained with Reed is something that, coupled with his passion for greenkeeping, Peter believes will be a useful benefit during his year as Chairman.

"Working at a proprietary club where commercial considerations as well as greenkeeping matters are constantly in focus fits entirely with my thinking."

A very solid grounding on several areas of business life at Reeds, coupled with an excellent education at Maidstone Grammar School has since helped Peter in his greenkeeping career.

"I'd spent seven years, working for three different divisions of Reed – within the Logistics and Industrial Packaging fields– and thoroughly enjoyed it. The training was excellent and I progressed to the stage where I was the youngest person on the sales team and left negotiating directly with large companies.

"However, when I was given a area covering from Liverpool to Hull and everything north of there, I came to the realisation that I didn't want spend my life in a car. Giving up my outdoor job had been a real wrench when I moved north and made me realise it was time to change direction before it was too late to re-train."

Having taken the decision to leave Reed, Peter signed up to study for an HND in Landscape Management Course, at Merrist Wood College, in Guildford.

"Initially I didn't want to narrow my focus as I didn't know in which area I wanted to specialise



but George Shiels was the Vice Principal of the College at the time and I talked with him about golf course construction and in my studies saw the early stages of plans for the Merrist Wood golf course.

"I soon recognised that a lot of people involved in horticulture were extremely passionate about working outdoors with nature but were actually struggling to make a decent living. The leisure

industry was growing fast and seemed to offer more opportunities. Having decided that a move into golf, which was booming at the time, would be good sandwich year work option, I set about finding a job.

"George (Shiels) put me in touch with three of the largest golf construction companies in the UK and I met with them all, before being offered the chance to work on the construction of what is now

called the PGA Centenary course at Gleneagles with Transcontinental.

"I spent 11 months working at Gleneagles working an average 65 hours a week and the experience was superb. I got involved in all aspects of the construction apart from shaping, which is very much a specialist job. I admired the way Transcontinental worked hard in the day and just as hard at enjoying themselves after work, there was a great team atmosphere"

Before he left to return to College for his final year Peter met Joe Paulin, who had been appointed the Grow-In Superintendent at Gleneagles, and they struck up a friendship during the hand over from construction to grow-in.

"I returned to Merrist Wood and later discovered that the Transcontinental had moved on to the construction of the London Club."

Peter asked if he could help out when he had any spare time from studying and spent a week there during the earth moving stage. It was during a night out with the lads that set him down his current path.

"Joe (Paulin) was with them and said that he'd left Gleneagles and was the new Superintendent of The London Club. He asked me what I was going to do after I'd finished college and I said I'd be looking for a job and was interested in doing a grow-in. There he was, in my home county, doing a high end construction job. It was right up my street. So we discussed me joining his new crew when I finished college."

For Peter to have the opportunity to work on the grow-in, having had construction experience at Gleneagles was another piece of his greenkeeping jigsaw.

Finishing college in June '92 he worked with Transcontinental again for three months before taking up a full time position in September with the club. There were plenty of opportunities to learn, particularly from Joe and antipodean colleagues, Steve Marsden and Andy Wood, who were also well versed in warm season grasses.

By this time Peter saw himself very much as a greenkeeper, but one who had yet to come across any golfers.

The club opened with a match between Jack Nicklaus, Seve Ballesteros and Tony Jacklin and members started to sign up. Peter didn't know it at the time but by the end of the century a mere seven years later, he would be the man in charge.

"There was a lot of ambitious people at The London Club, and a lot of movement within the team, so there were opportunities to move up the ladder but I could never have dreamt of being in charge of such a large operation when I started out."

Ironically among his fellow assistants and friends during his early days was one Kenny Mackay.

"Kenny subsequently moved on to Hanbury Manor and in recent years The Belfry, but we have always kept in touch and remained good friends. Our common ground of both working at proprietary clubs and staging tour events has resulted in reciprocal swaps of staff for tournaments and



Outgoing chairman Kenny MacKay hands over to Peter Todd

also exchanges of ideas. Kenny and I run very similar operations and both of us understand the commercial demands of running these types of business, so there is often much we can find to discuss. Greenkeeper involvement in more general management decisions is one of those subjects we both see a future in.

Peter believes that there is a great deal of knowledge, expertise and experience within the BIGGA membership that clubs would be well advised to take advantage of the skills that are there right under their nose.

"There is lots of experience and ideas within the greenkeeping profession but often greenkeepers are not involved in the running of clubs and business decisions."

"It is highly motivating to contribute ideas that are outside of your immediate area of responsibility and then see them instigated.

"I have suggested making clubhouse alterations to give a better view of the course from the bar and on another occasion I suggested charging higher green fees on a Friday, which was our busiest day, to encourage more play Monday to Thursday.

"Both ideas were taken up. The more you can help to develop the business the more valuable you become to the organisation."

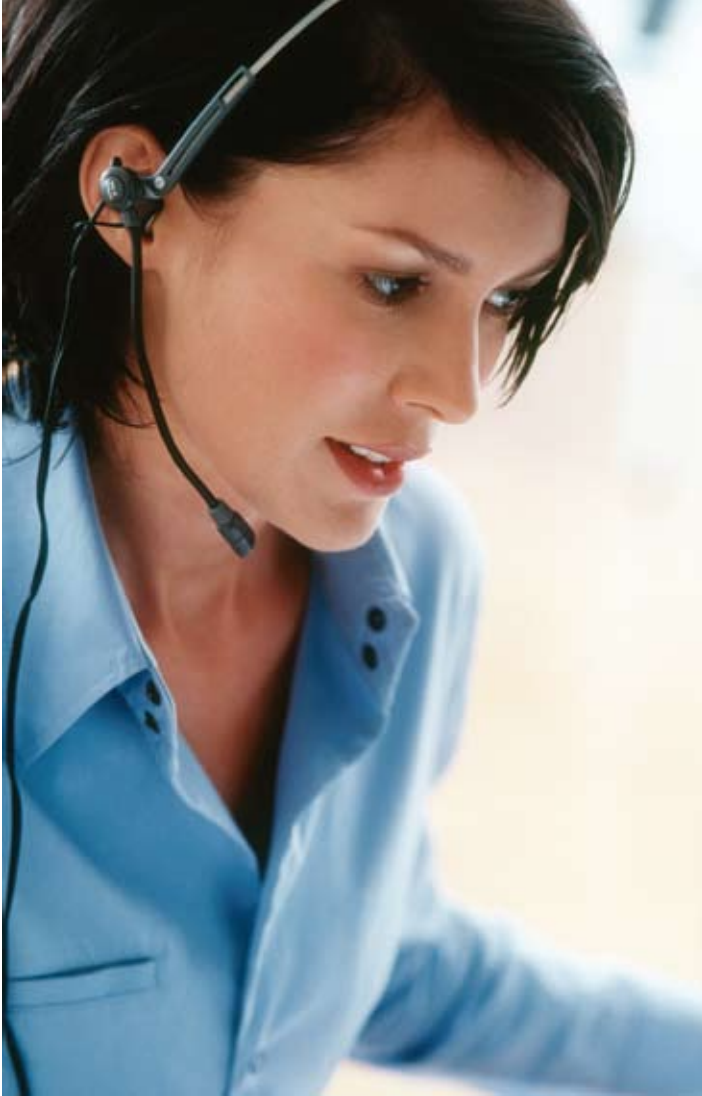
Peter believes BIGGA should support those who wish to move towards general club management as he feels that some greenkeepers are well placed to take on greater responsibility at golf clubs.

"I firmly believe that the industry is moving closer to the point where Course Managers, so integral to the running of the golf club, make the natural progression to become General Managers. Part of my aims are for BIGGA to offer education and training opportunities to those who wish the option of taking that route.

"I am delighted that BIGGA has teamed up with The Club Managers Association of Europe allow BIGGA members to take the internationally recognised Certified Club Manager (CCM) qualification.

"There are a lot of talented individuals with a commercial bias who may also wish to move into other areas and we should help them. More generally, we must get the message across to young people that our industry can offer exciting and satisfying careers in a healthy work environment"

With his drive, enthusiasm and commercial background BIGGA could not have a better man as Chairman in what are undoubtedly difficult times.



YOUR GREEN GREEN GRASS OF HOPE

EXPERT ADVICE JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

By Melissa Jones

One of the most helpful and cost saving **BIGGA membership benefits** is our **Greenkeepers Legal Assistance (GLA) helpline**.

As a member of our Association specialist legal advice is available to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, arranged by Arc Legal Assistance. The protection is not just limited to supporting you, as Arc is on hand to make sure you and your family get the best and most relevant protection you all need.

Not only can GLA offer advice on employment issues, consumer problems and personal injury cases but they can also give guidance on any personal legal matter, including will writing, moving home, matrimonial issues or discuss any motor offence cases.

Access to unlimited telephone legal advice is included as part of the service and the BIGGA scheme also offers a reassuring benefit of covering the costs of arranging representation at Employment Tribunals and internal disciplinary hearings with your employer. In addition, cover can extend to include legal costs incurred to deal with a consumer dispute and to pursue a personal injury claim.

So how does it work?

The legal advisors are based in Sheffield; they are all qualified lawyers who undertake continuous in-house training in order to answer your calls as effectively as possible.

Arc have been working in partnership with Heath Lambert, the UK's leading independent insurance broker and employee benefits consultants, to provide the specialist legal costs and advice BIGGA members and their families need, since early 2007.

EXAMPLE CLAIMS

Not sure if your situation is a legal matter worth pursuing? The Greenkeepers Legal Assistance (GLA) helpline provides practical information on the legal issues affecting you today. BIGGA knows that the most difficult thing about the law is finding out how it applies to your specific circumstances. Here are some examples of claims that have been made...

Employment...

An individual had been subjected to sustained criticism from his direct manager over a period of 18 months. When it became too much, he decided to resign. Arc's solicitors started proceedings for constructive dismissal against the individual's previous employer and, as a result an agreement was reached with a cash award, company car and future reference for the member.

Consumer Dispute...

As a result of a commissioned full structural survey, the insured purchased a 250 year-old listed property. Following storm damage to the roof which resulted in an insurance claim, the insurance assessor reported that there were pre-existing problems which necessitated the entire replacement of the roof structure. The insured contacted the helpline wishing to make a claim for breach of contract against the original surveyor.

Arc instructed their solicitors to arrange for a subsequent survey to establish how much the original purchase price would have been affected had the faults with the roof been identified in the original survey.

Having quantified the claim, Arc's solicitors issued proceedings against the original surveyor. An out of court settlement was agreed and the insured received significant compensation. All legal



costs and disbursements including the surveyors 'expert report' fee were covered under the legal expenses insurance.

Personal Injury...

When an individual's son was assaulted and badly injured by door staff in a nightclub, he contacted the helpline for advice. As a result of negotiations, Arc instructed specialist solicitors, who were able to secure a substantial amount of compensation for the individual's son.

Government statistics show that the number of accident claims increased by over 8% in 2006-07, and according to experts this is expected to continue to rise over the next five years.

The BIGGA scheme not only provides prompt specialist advice for members, but also assistance for their family too.

Legal Helpline Statistics

- In November 2008 a total of 64 calls were handled by GLA of which 75% were employment related with 9% family and personal related calls. The total call duration was 599 minutes, an average of 9.4 minutes per call.
- In October 2008 a total of 77 calls were handled by GLA of which 58% were employment related and 12% were consumer related.
- In September 2008 a total of 64 calls were handled by GLA of which 58% were employment related.
- In August 2008 a total of 47 calls were handled by GLA of which 83% were employment related.
- In July 2008 a total of 74 calls were handled by GLA of which 69% were employment related.
- During the year September 2007 to August 2008 GLA helped over 500 callers to legal advice.

Useful Employment Law Websites

ACAS

- www.acas.org.uk

Good for downloadable documents policies and procedures.

Health and Safety Executive

- www.hse.gov.uk

Good for download information on health and safety for particular industries.

Equal Opportunities Commission

- www.equalityhumanrights.com

Good for practical examples of the application of equal opportunities.

Disability Rights Commission

- www.direct.gov.uk

Good for explanation of rights for disabled employees. Telephone helpline available to employees only.

UK Visas

- www.ukvisas.gov.uk

Joint initiative of the Commonwealth and Home Office giving clear information in relation to visa requirements.

GREENKEEPERS LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- Freephone number - 0800 177 7891 (remember to have your BIGGA membership number to hand)
- Access 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- Assistance for you and your family (living at the same address)
- Legal advice on employment, personal injury and consumer matters
- Cover for medical costs and expenses - for personal injury sustained in an accident (where recoverable from the person responsible)
- Legal expenses up to £50,000 per annum



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Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd. Riverside Works, Dockside Road, Middlesbrough, TS3 8AT. Tel: 01642 244663 / Fax: 01642 244664
Email: sales@cleveland-sitesafe.ltd.uk Website: www.cleveland-sitesafe.ltd.uk



YOU CAME, YOU SAW, YOU BOUGHT!

Any trepidation about Harrogate Week 2009 suffering in the worldwide recession disappeared within minutes of the doors of Harrogate International Centre opening.

The Halls quickly filled and many of the exhibitors reported that business was being done. The Continue to Learn Programme was also well subscribed and enjoyed a successful year.

Remarkably the attendance figure, while slightly lower than last year, was significantly higher than 2007, the last occasion it was a four Hall event.



WHAT A GREAT WEEK!

Scott MacCallum takes you through a week at Harrogate

With every newspaper, television and radio station filled with doom and gloom about the world economy it was with a degree of trepidation that I collected my colleague, Melissa, and drove to Harrogate for Harrogate Week 2009.

What would the week be like? Would signs of the downturn be obvious? Would anyone have the money to come? Would it have that old Harrogate magic?

Well, we needn't have worried. All the hard work and preparation paid off. Harrogate Week

2009 was a success. Exhibitors were happy; visitors were there in solid numbers; good business was done in the Halls and the educational workshops and seminars were extremely well attended.

As ever, the week began for some of the BIGGA staff on Saturday, including Chief Executive, John Pemberton – indeed Pauline Thompson was on site from Friday evening so she could be in the Halls first thing on Saturday morning for the hand over from the previous week's show to ours.

What BIGGA hires from Harrogate International Centre for the week are four basic stripped down

halls and the Queens Suite. Everything that goes to dress up the halls and make them as attractive as possible has to be added... and paid for!

It's a little like Disney World, if you get an opportunity to look behind the scenes you'll know that the magic is reserved solely for the areas people are supposed to see.


The workshops began on Sunday with Sami Collins and Rachael Duffy from BIGGA's Learning and Development Department welcoming speakers and delegates from all over the world. Speaking at Harrogate Week is something that many in





Education, education, education...



			
2009 Attendance Figures			
	2007	2008	2009
Day 1	2274	2800	2645
Day 2	3041	3959	3346
Day 3	1338	1882	1647
Total	6653	8641	7638

the fine turf industry aspire to do at some stage in their speaking careers and being invited to be a speaker on the Continue to Learn programme looks very good on a CV.

While the delegates' heads were being filled in the Queens Suite, Halls A,B, C and M were being filled downstairs with the larger companies manoeuvring their machinery into place and ensuring the stand looked as attractive and inviting as possible.

Sunday evening is an opportunity for delegates to head off into town for some well earned sustenance and a chat about the days events while the speakers come together with BIGGA staff and officials for an informal dinner. It's often the only opportunity those speakers get to meet and chat together and the dinner, in the Cairn Hotel, usually fizzes with chatter.

Monday has often been a weather man's dream and an exhibitor's nightmare. In recent years there's been snow, there's been gale force winds, there's been torrential rain. It's then that

you rejoice in the fact that it's an indoor show but everyone has to get themselves into place and the doors to the enormous halls are invariably open to the elements.

The good news is that the weather this year was better than last year. The bad news is that that's not saying much. Heavy rain and strong winds made Monday's chores less than pleasant but as usual everyone pulled together and the race to get ready for the grand opening on Tuesday morning was won.

The traditional BIGGA staff meal on Monday night in an Italian restaurant in town was again graced by the presence of BIGGA's President Sir Michael Bonallack OBE who rarely misses a Harrogate Week. Sir Michael was in fine form chatting to the staff and BIGGA's Chairman, Kenny Mackay, and soon-to-be Chairman, Peter Todd.

An early night was called for and, in the majority of cases, heeded, with a big day, indeed three days, ahead of us.





The official opening of the show: Kenny MacKay cuts the ribbon



Caldy receive the Golf Environment Competition trophy



George Brown receives the Lifetime Achievement award



Daniel Lightfoot becomes the 49th Master Greenkeeper



Tuesday morning and that most important of jobs is down to me – making sure the sheers and the ribbon are in place for the official opening, which is now held at the Hall M entrance. Kenny is instructed to do a few dummy cuts for the sake of the photographer and is then surrounded by some well known BIGGA faces as he makes the final snip. Job done he is given the piece of ribbon as a memento.

Officially underway, the Halls quickly fill and that Harrogate Week buzz begins to permeate the building. It's soon obvious that Harrogate Week 2009 will live up to its predecessors.

Down in the Media Centre, under Hall A, the industry press begin to gather, having travelled to North Yorkshire from all corners of the country. Companies book the Media Centre to give press briefings and make announcements as they know, with all the publications represented in one place, it is an ideal opportunity to push a message to as many as possible.

Tuesday morning is the chance for BIGGA to

pay tribute to its high achievers with the annual Award ceremony. The winners of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, Scotts, Syngenta and Golf Monthly, including overall winner, Caldly Golf Club, and the BIGGA Photographic Competition winners received their Awards as well as those people who have earned Continuous Professional Development Certificates. Daniel Lightfoot, Course Manager of Bearwood Lakes Golf Club also received his badge and certificate for becoming the 49th Master Greenkeeper. Other achievements are all applauded during the event including Matthew Wormald's Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, who is currently studying in the States, and Chris Whittle's presentation of Royal Birkdale for the Open Championship. The highlight for many however was the presentation of the BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award to George Brown, of Turnberry by Sir Michael, a former recipient of the Award. George, as ever, had the audience in stitches as he regaled tales of his career.



The casino tables proved a hit with the crowds on Tuesday night

Around lunchtime the magazine team and some invited BIGGA members got together for a Magazine Forum to discuss Greenkeeper International and share ideas. It was a well attended, extremely constructive, meeting with over 30 greenkeepers taking time out of their busy schedule and some super ideas emerged. Hopefully you will see these in future issues of the magazine.

Tuesday evening saw a Harrogate Week innovation. Having taken heed of feedback, and knowing that for people to remain in Harrogate for the traditional Thursday night banquet often meant another night's accommodation, the BIGGA Social Night was born and having witnessed such a successful evening I'd bet money – not just the free chips that were available for the roulette, blackjack and poker – that it will be back next year.

Around 350 people stayed for the entire evening lapping up the gaming tables and revisiting their youth on pinball machines and old fashioned video games. There was also a Nintendo Wii with

a massive screen so the tennis, tenpin bowling and golf could be even more realistic.

One of the stars of the show though was the raging bull bucking bronco machine. Not to be put off by having to sign a disclaimer many intrepid cowboys, including my good self risked life and ridicule to ride the bull. Tougher than it looked boasting an extremely slippery hide it bucked and spun and usually chucked the jockey off as soon as the lady operator became a little board. I managed 27 seconds but was easily beaten by respected PR guru, Charmian Robinson, who stayed on for a full 41 seconds before dismounting in an extremely lady-like manner.

The ace gambler of the night was Kevin Stott, of Carnoustie, who won £100 for having the most chips at the end of the night. Second was Elaine Golding, who won £50.

With excellent food and subsidised beer helping to fuel the evening everyone had a whale of a time and many headed off to continue their night in town.



Showgirls greeted guests at BIGGA's Social Night



Ronnie Bunting gets a leg up



Keeping in touch

Wednesday is always the busiest day of the three and this year was no exception. With four halls in operation rather than the five in the alternate years the visitors are more compacted and it certainly helps to generate a superb atmosphere.

The day started with a contract signing involving John Pemberton, on behalf of BIGGA and Jerry Kilby, Chief Executive Officer of the Club Managers Association of Europe. The CMAE has agreed to open its door to BIGGA members to enable them taking the internationally recognised Certified Club Manager (CCM) qualification.

The day continued with more press briefings including a renewed challenge to the press from New Holland at cricket. Last summer the press, in controversial circumstances it must be said, clinched a last ball victory over the men from New Holland and it looks very much as though they won't rest until the result is reversed!

Jon Albutt, Chairman of the Amenity Forum, and Bob Joice, Secretary, gave a very valuable update on the latest vote from the European Parliament



Billy Mitchell, Head Greenkeeper at Perranporth GC, was this year's Unsung Hero

on pesticide usage and announced that they were both to be retiring from their prospective positions. Professor John Moverley OBE, former Principal at Myerscough College, takes over as Chairman with BALI handling the secretariat.



The press take time out in the Media Centre



The Park & Ride proved to be a huge success again this year

The annual Terrain Aeration Unsung Hero Awards are always a joy and no more so than this year with Billy Mitchell, Head Greenkeeper at Perranporth Golf Club, in Cornwall, and Adrian Kay, Head Groundsman at York Racecourse, being recognised.

Billy was nominated by BIGGA Past Chairman, Richard Whyman. Billy has been in greenkeeping for over 45 years and led Perranporth to be recognised as a true links course and a benchmark for clubs in the area. Passionate about greenkeeper education, he was involved at the start, helping Dutchy College to assess trainees, giving his time and travelling expenses free of charge and often providing reference books paid for out of his own pocket.

Billy was supported at the presentation by a huge contingent from Devon and Cornwall. The winners received holiday vouchers and framed certificates from Terrain Aeration and cheques for £200 each presented by sponsors Pitchcare and The English Golf Union. BIGGA supplied the champagne which help to make the occasion special.

BIGGA's AGM was held in the late afternoon and it was the occasion when Kenny MacKay handed over the Chairmanship of the Association to Peter Todd. The meeting ran smoothly with the constitutional amendments going through unanimously.

Past Chairman, Billy McMillan, stepped down and Paul Worster came onto the Board as Vice Chairman, while Gary Cunningham replaced Gavin Robson as Board of Management member for the Midland Region.

Following the AGM it was a quick turn around before the Past Chairman's Dinner, in the Majestic Hotel. It was great to see so many familiar faces from within the Association and many from the wider industry. I sat with Gordon McKillop, of the STRI, Simon Elsworth, of Syngenta, and John Richards and Dave Saltman, of Pitchcare, for the very convivial evening.

Harrogate Thursdays are really enjoyable days. Much more relaxed, it is generally my only opportunity to walk the Halls and catch up with some of the exhibitors I hadn't already seen during the course of the week. This year was no exception and after a BIGGA press briefing where John Pemberton, Kenny Mackay and Peter Todd offered an overview of the week and Peter gave

a background of his life and hopes for his year as Chairman, I made it to Hall M for the first time.

At 4pm Melissa and I packed up the Media Centre, loaded up the car and headed home. The newspapers, television and radio stations were still filled with doom and gloom, but we could not have been more pleased with the way Harrogate Week 2009 had gone.

During Harrogate Week, BIGGA signed an agreement with The Club Managers Association of Europe that could enable course managers to develop their careers and become club managers.

"This is a significant new opportunity for management development and another building block for greenkeepers aspiring to senior management and club manager positions," said John

"In today's job market, just being a good course manager isn't enough. CCM is an opportunity for greenkeepers to demonstrate their skills and professionalism in management and we welcome the signing of this agreement with the CMAE."

CMAE Chief Executive Officer, Jerry Kilby, said: "This is good news for qualified greenkeepers and Master Greenkeepers who have reached a point in their careers where they say, 'What next?'"

"The opportunity to take CCM, which is a globally recognised qualification, means that the step up to general manager level is now a realistic possibility and career ambition for greenkeepers and course managers."

A small number of senior greenkeepers have blazed a trail and risen to prominent club manager positions, including David Roy, at Crail Golfing Society in Scotland, while others have already expressed their desire to move into club management, viewing CCM as an opportunity to prove their professionalism and qualify for top jobs.

To sit the CCM exam, greenkeepers must first attain a minimum number of CCM credits, for which membership of BIGGA plus previous professional education courses automatically counts.

The Certified Club Manager qualification is open to suitably experienced managers and involves a two-day review and examination focusing on key club management disciplines. There are approximately 10,000 clubs with professional managers in Europe, half of which are golf clubs, the remainder being sports, leisure, health and fitness clubs, plus city and dining clubs.

For more information about CCM, entry requirements and to download the registration form, visit: <http://www.cmaeurope.org>





Safety Management System



RJ International Golf Course

The BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, has been developed to:

- Make golf clubs safer
- Introduce best practice
- Standardise Health & Safety throughout golf
- Reduce costs for golf clubs

Why do you need a Safety Management System?

Because:

- It incorporates all your legal requirements to comply with Health & Safety Legislation
- Clubs have responsibilities
- There are penalties for not complying – up to £20,000 fine and/or course closure
- Golf clubs are hazardous places to work

The Safety Management System contains help and guidance to enable golf clubs to:

- Set a Health & Safety Policy
- List hazards and assess risks
- Plan for the future
- Introduce audit and review procedures

The Safety Management System is accessed through the Members area of the BIGGA website (www.bigga.org.uk) and the GCMA website (www.gcma.org.uk)

sponsored by



OFF TO A TEE: FOOLPROOF TEE CONSTRUCTION

By Jonathan Tucker

Plenty has been written on green construction and the various methods commonly employed (most recently STRI Guidelines for Golf Green Construction in the United Kingdom), but for tee construction a standard method is more elusive. This is perhaps understandable given the tees' lesser status, and while high quality tees are a major asset on any golf course, the standard of the greens is, more often than not, the main focus of attention.

However, all would agree that nothing beats a firm, level, well grassed and maintained tee which provides a hard-wearing surface for year-round playability.

Size matters

Design of the teeing ground has a major influence on performance and a simple checklist would include the following requirements:

- Adequate size – around 400 m² for par 4 and 5 holes and 500-600 m² to cope with the ravages of play at par 3 holes. This will be partitioned between the various categories of tee depending on the weight of play expected. There is a trend towards a greater number of dedicated tees to cope with the broad spectrum of golfers and under these circumstances it would be sensible to increase the total tee surface area.

- Ease of access is very important and therefore surrounding banks need to be eased out to maximum 1:3 slope and preferably 1:4 to 1:6 where space and topography permit.

This may not always be possible but installation of steps should be avoided if at all practical as these focus wear and tear on localised sections of tee.

Importance of surface drainage

Tees should not be completely level but formed with a gradient to assist surface drainage. On reasonably level ground a front to back fall is preferred but the direction of slope should generally mirror the natural gradient of the land. Therefore, if tees are cut into a bank, the design slope will ensure that water is channelled away from the tee and not back into the toe of the bank!

The magnitude of the slope must be sufficient to get water moving across the surface but without being obvious to the golfer.

Generally, 1:70 to 1:80 provides a reasonable compromise with an absolute minimum of 1:100.

The need for good surface drainage can be partially linked to the permeability of the rootzone and construction method adopted; as with reduced permeability of the rootzone, the requirement for improved surface drainage and hence adequate slope increases.

Get the foundation right

The base of the tee must be adequately consolidated, shaped and trimmed to reflect the final surface slope. There are situations where tees need to be well elevated above surrounding ground, for example, where it is desirable to improve visibility of landing areas and in extreme terrain, greater fill may be needed to achieve a suitable tee platform. However, as a rule of thumb, high vertigo-inducing tees are more difficult to maintain and are literally a waste of space.

Where significant fill is required, imported subsoil material must be tracked and consolidated thoroughly in layers of no more than 225 mm. Do not incorporate organic materials such as old tree stumps which will rot and leave voids leading to settlement, and if there is significant large stone this must be covered by a minimum 300 mm depth of clean subsoil.

Choice of construction profile

While there are other derivatives, there are essentially three types of tee construction currently employed:

1. Topsoil over existing subsoil
2. Imported rootzone over a pipe drained base
3. Rootzone over a pipe drained base with gravel carpet

Option 1

This is the most economic but it is limited to sites where subsoil and topsoil drain naturally well (i.e. sandy loams), as well as there being sufficient reserves of topsoil to provide 200 mm firmed depth on completion. Links courses are obvious candidates for this approach, although even here natural topsoils are often augmented.

Option 2

The majority of golf courses unfortunately are not endowed with topsoil of sufficient quality or quantity to incorporate in tee construction. In these circumstances, rootzone is imported to ensure adequate drainage and provide a suitable foundation for cultivating a hard-wearing grass cover. It is rarely worthwhile making up a mix on site, obtaining a consistent product from a commercial supplier is invariably a wiser choice.

The formulation selected must provide a satisfactory balance between sufficient resistance to compaction and a reasonable degree of moisture retention. Where effective automatic irrigation is available a high sand rootzone can be employed. The physical characteristics of this material can be similar to a USGA green construction rootzone, but near to the lower end of the recommended limits. Therefore, a minimum of 60% particles would be expected in a medium to coarse sand fraction (0.25-1.00 mm) and maximum of 10% "fines" (very fine sand, silt and clay).

Where water is limited, it makes sense to increase the proportion of amendment (e.g. a stone-free sandy loam soil/fen soil or finely graded PAS100 compost) in relation to sand to make the rootzone more forgiving, but without compromising drainage or making it difficult to push a tee peg into the surface.

Regardless of material selected it still makes sense to test rootzones and implement quality control to ensure that the material selected conforms to the approved blend.

Install rootzone to sufficient depth to provide a layer of 200 mm following firming. For surrounds and banks, topsoil should be respread to 200 mm depth on completion of grading. On surround areas subject to intensive golf traffic, particularly on the main entry and exit points, there would be benefit from incorporating additional sandy loam or rootzone to enhance the durability of these vulnerable sections, particularly where existing topsoil is inadequate in quality and/or quantity.

If the base of the tee drains adequately and is not influenced by a fluctuating water table, pipe drainage may be surplus to requirements but usually internal pipe drainage is a pre-requisite.

A simple system can be installed at sub-formation stage, consisting of 80 mm diameter lateral perforated plastic pipe drains placed in trenches (minimum 350 mm depth) at 3.5-4.0 m centres with a gradient no less than 0.5% (1:200). Increase to 100 mm diameter for the main outfall drain along the low side of the tee.

Ensure that intercept drains are installed strategically to protect tees from run off from



As with greens, surrounding environment has a major influence on tee performance. Narrow tees hemmed in by trees are unlikely to perform well regardless of construction method



In difficult terrain tee areas may need to be split up

higher ground – bringing permeable backfill close to the surface to maximise effectiveness.

If it is difficult to achieve smooth, uniform drainage trenches, bed the pipes on a layer of gravel spread to 50 mm depth.

For simplicity, a 2-6 mm sized gravel provides a suitable material for backfilling of drainage trenches provided its physical characteristics are comparable to those outlined in Table 1 and is compatible, i.e. "bridges", with the rootzone to be used.

If it is impractical to secure a material at reasonable cost, the alternative is to backfill with a coarser gravel (5-10 mm gauge) blinded with 50 mm depth of a coarse sand or fine grit to formation surface level.

Single Drainage Layer

When the intermediate blinding layer is not incorporated, the gravel must meet the following criteria:

Performance Factor	Recommendation
Bridging Factor	* D15 (gravel) \leq 8 x D85 (rootzone)
Permeability Factor	* D15 (gravel) \geq 5 x D15 (rootzone)
Uniformity Factors	* D90 (gravel)/D15 (gravel) \leq 3.0

Also:

- * No particles greater than 12 mm
- * Not more than 10% less than 2 mm
- * Not more than 5% less than 1 mm

Rolls Royce versus Volvo Option 3

This is similar in some respects to option 2 but drainage is effectively extended to encompass the entire base with introduction of an emptying drainage layer above the pipe drain network.

As a consequence, pipe distances can be relaxed to 5 m and depth of installation of the lateral drains reduced to 250 mm to invert (minimum).

This type of construction is most appropriate where a high quality surface is demanded for maximum year-round playability, or for dedicated winter tees where provision of a firm, dry, natural grass surface is a prerequisite.

While this method provides rapid removal of water through gravitational flow in "saturated" conditions it also serves to retain moisture ("capillary") in unsaturated conditions, i.e. a "perched" or "suspended" water table.

Therefore, depth of rootzone may have to be increased from 200 mm to 225-300 mm depending on the moisture release characteristics of the rootzone selected. This applies to high sand rootzones, but for topsoil-based mixes, which rely more on the structural properties of the topsoil for good drainage, allied to mechanical aeration to bypass the topsoil, this phenomenon is less pronounced.

A 2-6 mm stone carpet of 100 mm depth is again simpler to install and usually cheaper than a 2-layer system of coarser gravel with intermediate blinding layer. Compatibility with the rootzone above must, however, be proven.

Finishing it off

Appropriate establishment of the tee can make or break the finished product.

Seeding is the preferred method if time permits, but if this is not practical, turfing is the only option. Grass species composition is related to intensity of play and degree of damage expected, size of tee and management issues.

A blend of fescue and bent grasses provides a top-class playing surface but incorporation of fine-leaved, dense cultivars or perennial ryegrass and smooth-stalked meadow-grass confers greater wear tolerance.

Apart from the obvious requirement for a clean vigorous and dense grass cover, the composition of the turf base, i.e. what it has been grown in, must also be checked.

Turf cultivated in exceedingly fine, silt/clay or organic rich soils should be rejected. The objective should be to try and match the rootzone under the tee with the turf foundation.

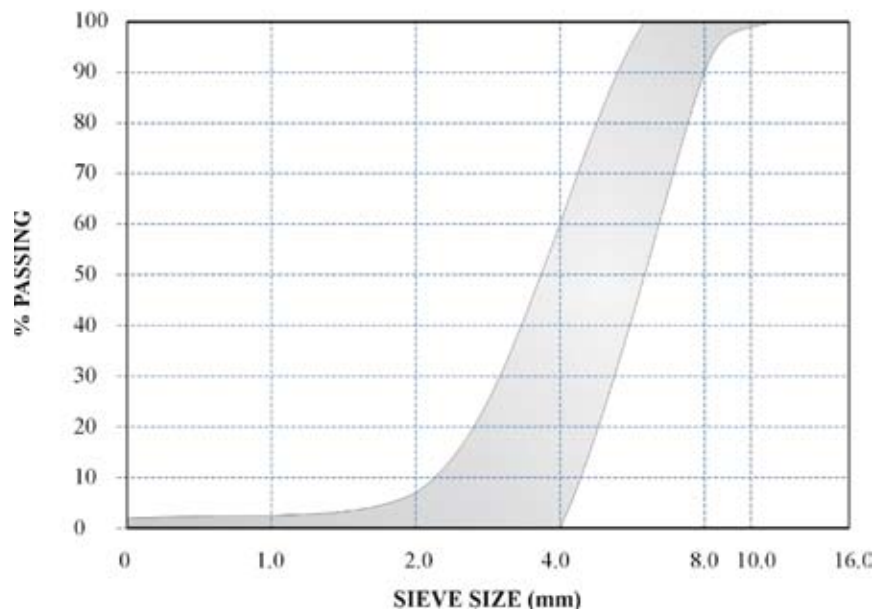
The ideal in this regard is a custom grown or "rootzone" turf which is grown on the same rootzone or rootzone sand to that used in the construction.

From a practical and financial viewpoint, a turf grown in a good sandy topsoil usually does the job with appropriate aftercare notably where less free draining rootzones are employed with higher fines content.



Turf grown on compatible rootzone eases future maintenance

Grading curve for the drain trenches and drainage layer
If an intermediate layer is not used



The choice of roll size is less important than ensuring that the turf is cut uniformly and thatch depth does not exceed 6 mm. Raking and heeling still provides the best method of preparing a uniformly firm and level seed or turf bed. Finally, a pre-turfing fertiliser will provide an early kick-start to establishment.

A light rolling treatment can help to settle the turf after laying and, thereafter, further light top dressing will be required to perfect the final surface.

About the Author

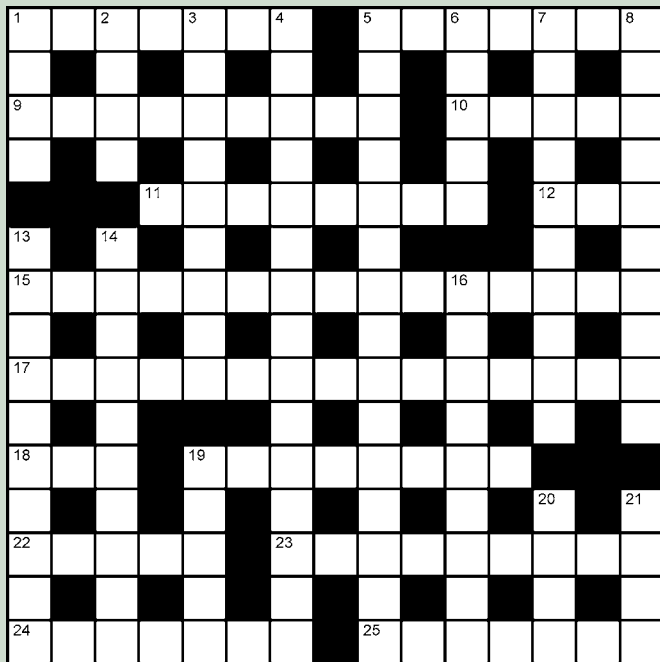
Jonathan Tucker is Golf Course Architect & Head of Golf Development Services at the STRI





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.



Across

- 1 Welsh city, birthplace of Roald Dahl (7)
- 5 Vocal apparatus of the larynx (7)
- 9 Plot (9)
- 10 In Middle Eastern culture, any spirit lesser than an Angel (5)
- 11 Discipline of pure mathematics (8)
- 12 Equipment (3)
- 15 1973 Jean Poiret play turned into a Broadway musical in 1983 (2,4,3,6)
- 17 Fairytale character who destroys himself when his name is correctly guessed (15)
- 18 Tavern (3)
- 19 Jumped off tracks (8)
- 22 Gaudy, tastelessly showy (5)
- 23 In a forbidding or sinister manner (9)
- 24 British military rank immediately below brigadier (7)
- 25 Apotheosis, paragon (7)
- 19 Senior group member (5)
- 20 Eldest son of Isaac (OT) (4)
- 21 Traditional story such as Ragnarok or Gotterdammerung (4)

Down

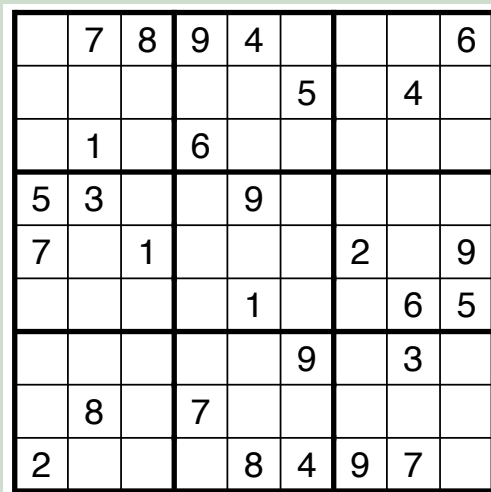
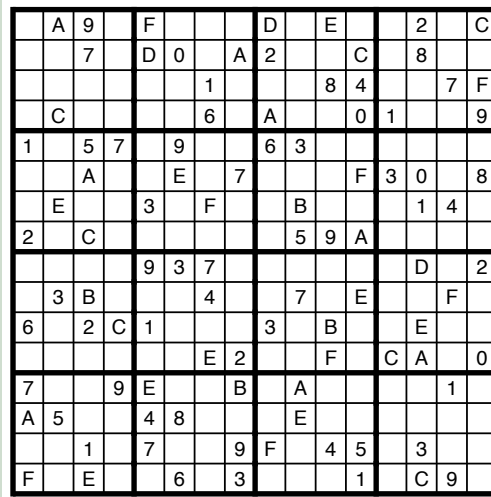
- 1 In architecture, the point formed by two intersecting arcs (4)
- 2 Chesspiece which can only move parallel to the sides of the board (4)
- 3 8-member conference of US sporting bodies (3,6)
- 4 Any method regardless of morality (4,5,2,4)
- 5 Hyde Park event of October 1851 (5,10)
- 6 In a peculiar way (5)
- 7 What great minds reputedly do (5,5)
- 8 Making more acceptable by removing potentially offensive elements (10)
- 13 Selfless (10)
- 14 Aimed at promoting religious unity (10)
- 16 Musical featuring the song New York, New York (2,3,4)
- 19 Senior group member (5)
- 20 Eldest son of Isaac (OT) (4)
- 21 Traditional story such as Ragnarok or Gotterdammerung (4)

QUICK NINE-HOLE QUIZ

1. Which was the earliest of the English classic horse races?
2. In darts, what is the maximum check-out score?
3. Who has won most international soccer caps for England?
4. Which TV sports quiz show was hosted by Nick Hancock?
5. What nationality is tennis player Michael Chang?
6. For what sport is Ellery Hanley famous?
7. Who was the first man to do the 100-metre breaststroke in under a minute?
8. Which twisting circuit on the Grand Prix calendar is only 1.95 miles long?
9. Which boxer used to enter the ring to Tina Turner's 'Simply The Best'?

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 and the letters A,B and C.



IN THE SHED ANSWERS
can be found on page 58

WET OR DRY, DRAINAGE REMAINS VITAL TO GOOD TURF HEALTH

By James de Havilland

Such are the vagaries of the weather these days it seems we either tend to have too much water or, think back a couple of summers, too little.

One point that has not altered, however, is the beneficial effect good drainage has on the overall 'health' of sports turf. Mentioning drought when looking at drainage may seem a bit odd, but it is worth repeating.

Well aerated and drained soils are typically better at supporting plant growth. So it follows that all types of sports turf will not just play better when grown on a well drained soil, it will be better able to cope with climate extremes too.

When looking at drainage in general, a key point that is often overlooked is that an existing

primary drainage system may not be functioning as well as it could. Blocked, collapsed and silted up main drains cannot be expected to cope. If these drains feed into open ditches, it also follows that water needs to be able to get away. Overgrown ditches with silt running at the same level as a drainage outlet compromise water flow.

So, job one when looking at any drainage issue is to make sure the primary drainage system is in good shape. Many systems will date back to 1980s or even earlier and by now most of these will be in need of some attention.

This is something that seems to be broadly overlooked. In agriculture, many farms will have field drains water 'jet' cleaned every five years or so. This is particularly relevant where silt and

ochre build up within the drainage pipe - it is a recurring problem.

Mastenbroek developed specialist drainage kit for sports turf back in the 1980s, this coinciding with a decline in agricultural drainage due to subsidy removal back in 1984. Although now best known among specialists for its self-propelled trenchers and straight leg pipe laying kit, the company continues to make specialist drain jetting equipment.

In very broad outline, these tractor mounted tools comprise a pto driven pump, with the water thrust from the jetter nozzle pulling the hose up the drainage pipe.

This is fine for agricultural field drains. This type of equipment is not widely used for sports



Ochre is a particularly common sediment found in primary drainage systems in certain parts of the country; note the rusty brown deposits flushed from the pipe pictured. Mastenbroek jettors are typically used for agricultural field drains, but there is no reason why they cannot be employed in sports turf drainage.

primary drain cleaning, but there is absolutely no reason why it could not form a valuable aid to getting a choked system running again.

Assuming the primary drainage system is in good order, secondary drainage is the component that speeds the passage surface water from the playing surface and into the piped drains.

The key familiar systems will include sand and 'gravel' band drainage, modern systems now including everything from a purpose cut trench through to a sand filled slit of assorted depths and spacing.

It is secondary drainage that most turf professionals will consider doing for themselves. Although it is dangerous to generalise, there are two key approaches; slits and trenches. Slit based systems are the broadest group.

At the 'shallower' working end of the spectrum there is equipment that includes the Imants Sandcat, from Campey Turfcare, and the BLEC Sandmaster machines to include the Vibra Sand Injector.

These units create a slit into which sand or other drainage medium is placed. The Sandcat works to depths of 150mm, the Vibra Sand Injector to between 50 and 250mm depending upon model.

Although a Sandcat and a BLEC Sandmaster/Sand Injector appear do a similar job, they work differently. What they have in common is that they are 'user friendly' and designed to be owner - as well as contractor - operated.

Next up are powered disc slitters. These range from small units that can be mounted on the rear linkage of a small compact tractor, such as the Auger Torque 250 models. These can produce a trench width of between 50-90mm and work down to a depth of 250mm or 300mm.

Integral hopper and discharge conveyor slitters are the more sophisticated next step up, with Shelton Sports Drainage Solutions offering a comprehensive range of kit that can be used to install both primary and secondary drainage systems.

AF Trenchers also offer slitting wheel units, to include its high output Wizz Wheel 75 for tractors in the 90-160hp power bracket through to its dual application AFT 45 model. This can be used with a chain trencher, the same driveline also accommodating a slitting wheel.

Trenchers can be used to create broad sand or more typically gravel filled 'French' drains, with a range of pedestrian trencher models to include units from Lewis, Predator Manufacturing, Tracmaster, Vermeer, Kanga Loaders being available. These smaller trenchers are often available for hire, so are worth looking into when you just want to create a small drainage trench.

Although you would not want to use one on fine turf, a mole drain can be useful in helping to divert run-off water from a playing surface. Small tractor mounted units, such as the MO1 and MO2 from Kubota will form a 28mm channel at a depth of up to 300mm.

As a broad rule, slit drainage techniques are best carried out in moist soils, trenchers working best in dry soils. It is important to appreciate too that draining sports turf is not as simple as the wide variety of equipment on offer may at first make it seem.

The laying of primary drainage systems, for example, needs to be carefully planned to ensure drained water can subsequently get away. No point installing a system that subsequently runs below the local table.

Secondary drainage is well within the scope of grounds staff but again the system needs to be carefully planned and executed. In some instances it can be more cost effective to call in a drainage contractor, particularly on a larger project.

There is also the option of 'partnership' working as offered by companies who include Shelton Sports Drainage Solutions. This allows you to hire in specialist equipment and expertise, with you providing additional labour and equipment. Working in this way can be a considerable saving over direct contracting.

One final point. When running a trailer or dumper alongside any drainage tool to remove spoil, think tyres. The amount of damage a heavily laden trailer or hired in dump truck can do should never be underestimated. Soft, broad shouldered tractor and trailer tyres, running at a low inflation pressure, can make a huge difference to both the effectiveness and longevity of a secondary drainage system.



AFT Trenchers offer a broad range of both trenchers and slit wheel units. Of equal importance, take a look at the purpose designed sand discharge trailer. The 'hopper' body swivels to allow the unit to discharge to the side or rear and runs on a four-wheel trailer. Transport of materials to and from a drainage site is often overlooked.



FEATURE

(above) Auger Torque Europe produces three point linkage trenchers and disc trenchers. A slitter unit's price will depend upon the type of blade fitted, but its base form prices will be under £2,500. Although primary uses will be restricted by the units 50-90mm cutting width and 250mm or, as an option 300mm cutting depth, a 'slitter'; like this is simple to use, making it easy to lay underground pipes, cables or buried fence runs.

(right) Shelton Sports Drainage Solutions offer not just a range of specialist kit but also a service that enables you to hire in specialist expertise too. Note the use of a four-wheel axle on the dump trailer.

(below left) BLEC Sand Injector and Sandmaster can de-compact and sand slit in a single pass. Ground Breaker tines form the slit for the following coulters. The rear tyre press consolidates the ground. The BLEC Sand Injector also has an integral rear roll, a useful addition that can help in difficult conditions.

(below right) The Imants Sandcat from Campey Turf Care Systems is designed to work with kiln dried sand. The 8mm thick rotary tines that look like those fitted to a Shockwave decompactors but those of the Sandcat are modified to produce a slit. Metered sand falls from the integral hopper into slits spaced at 150mm and 150mm deep.



North Staffs Irrigation – Tel: 01785 812706 Turfdry – Tel: 01283 551417 Duncan Ross – Tel: 01257 255321
 Meiklem Drainage – Tel: 01383 830217 Philip Dixon Contractors Ltd Est – Tel: 01772 877289
 (For further information, see page 70)



AFT Trenchers Ltd

AFT45

For compact tractors from 20hp

With chain or slitting wheel, augers or conveyor to quickly install drainage systems, pipes or cables as and when needed.



Tel: +44 (0)1787 311811

Email: info@trenchers.co.uk www.trenchers.co.uk

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New Products



DISCOVER THE HARROGATE EDGE...

GroundsCare Products exhibited their full range of Turf Teq equipment at Harrogate Week including the new Hard Edging Blade and 7" trenching blades. The new blade increases the versatility of the Edger/Trencher, giving it the ability to cut grass and soil that has grown over the edge of kerbs and paths.

i www.groundscare-products.co.uk 0870 3218900



ORGANIC HERBICIDE'S HARROGATE DEBUT

Headland launched Seacomplex 4-3-4 a new, organic soil amendment designed to work as both a fertiliser and biostimulant at Harrogate Week 2009. Formulated from cold extract seaweed meal, humic acid, aerobically composted cow manure and micronutrients Seacomplex encourages soil microflora as well as providing essential plant nutrients. The free-flowing mini-granule is easy to apply and breaks down rapidly on contact with moisture.

i 01223 597834
www.headlandamenity.com

Jewel

UK'S FIRST DUAL ACTION MOSS AND WEED CONTROL PRODUCT

Scotts Professional has launched the first product in the UK to control both moss and weeds in managed turf and amenity grassland.

Jewel contains two powerful active ingredients in a unique combination which gives both pre-emergence and systemic activity.

The contact activity comes from Carfentrazone-ethyl, a selective, broadleaf active from the triazolone family of herbicides which also kills moss.

The systemic hormone type herbicide Mecoprop-P is absorbed by the plant's leaves and translocated to the roots, giving a complete kill.

i www.scottspprofessional.co.uk
0871 220 5353



GO COMMANDO

Two of golf's biggest names have teamed up and launched a new collection of golf range balls at Harrogate Week.

Nassau Golf and Penfold Golf Ltd introduced 'The Commando Collection' to UK golf ranges.

The new Commando Collection will introduce six new range balls: The Dura Range Ball, The Dura Rft, The Standard Range Ball, The Rft Range, The Floater and The Commando PC90.

i www.penfold.com
0121 250 5745

PACKS OF TECHNICAL INFO

'Green Innovation on the Golf Course' is just one of nine comprehensive technical information sheets, launched by Lindum as a complete pack at Harrogate Week.

Covering between them, the whole spectrum of Lindum's turf products from 'Hard Wearing Grass on the Sports Field' to 'Lindum Wildflower for Green Roofs,' each colourfully illustrated A4 document features a choice of turf for each situation, alongside specification details including a breakdown of seed mixture for the relevant grade, roll size and weight.

i 01904 448675
www.turf.co.uk

NEW CONVEYOR SYSTEM

A new conveyor system has become available for Groundpro's Pro-Cast range of top dressers. The new elevator now makes this machine a versatile material handling system, as well as a top quality bulk top dresser. The front mounted conveyor system is multifunctional and easy to use. It can deliver material into smaller top dressers or trailers, back fill drains and top up bunkers.

i www.wiedenmann.co.uk



NEW LAUNCH

Echo has introduced the first Hybrid 4 brushcutter into their range, the SRMF-340U.

The SRMF-340U is powered by a latest generation 34cc air cooled Hybrid 4 engine, providing an incredible 10,500 maximum rpm. As a result, operators benefit from the high torque and quick throttle response normally reserved for 2-stroke engines, but with the added benefit of low engine noise, up to 33% better fuel economy, and extremely low levels of exhaust emission.

i 01844 278800
www.echo-tools.com



COMPACT UNIT MULTI-TASKS

DJ Turfcare recently launched the 'Turfsaver', a new machine from the US that de-thatches and overseeds (or fertilises) in one compact unit ideal for contractors, greenkeepers and groundsmen. It comes fitted with blades to verti-cut and covers a 22-inch wide swathe in a single pass.

i 01483 200976
www.djturfcare.co.uk

TERRAIN FIGHTS PHYTOPHTHORA

Following an increase in reports of phytophthora disease in Yew trees, Terrain Aeration has launched a new service to attack the problem.

Affected trees are treated with a mixture of parasitic bacteria and beneficial fungi after the root area has been de-compacted using one metre deep compressed air aeration.

The 'Fight Phytophthora' service is aimed at disease stricken Yews on golf courses, parks and gardens etc.

i 01449 673783
www.terrainaeration.com

OFFERING EXPANDED IN THE UK

Following on from the UK launch of AgriMetal 'low decibel' blowers last autumn, JSM Distribution has expanded the choice of AgriMetal products available to UK groundscape markets.

The expanded range now encompasses the full line of turf vacuums and sweeper collectors, together with the full range of trailed and self propelled blowers, and the floating head fairway slitter.

i 0845 0260064



CLASS A INNOVATIONS FOR GOLF

British Seed Houses introduced a new seed mixture at BTME 2009, which promises significant turf quality and environmental benefits for golf course managers.

A27 is a specially formulated all-fescue mix, offering low nutrient requirement and needing minimal maintenance. Suitable for multi-purpose use across the golf course, A27 provides dense ground cover.

i www.britishseedhouses.com
01522 868714

New Products



SPRAYING SPEED AND SAFETY IMPROVED

Syngenta Crop Protection launched a new range of liquid product packaging at this year's Harrogate Week, to help turf and amenity managers achieve safe, simple and secure spraying operations. The new S-pac incorporates a host of innovative features for easier opening, handling, rinsing and disposal.

The unique manufacturing process for the Syngenta S-pac has, for the first time, eliminated the need for foil heat seals on the full range of the company's liquid packaging, making the containers faster and safer to open.

i www.syngenta-crop.co.uk

NEW TURF SUPPLEMENT

Rigby Taylor has launched Phos-Form, a phosphorus turf supplement containing potassium phosphite and L-form amino acids, for the treatment of phosphorus deficiency in amenity turfgrass areas.

Rigby Taylor claim that by using Phos-Form, the turf develops more root growth and a more vigorous leaf growth, while also providing benefits of stress resistance.

i 0800 424919

NEWEST ADDITION

Ruston's Engineering (Reco) had their latest addition to their range of Kioti tractors on display at Harrogate Week.

The EX series, with a factory-fitted luxury cab, sits between the existing CK and DK range, offering machines in 35, 40, 45, and 50hp, either in Rops or with a luxury fitted cab. Matching front loaders and backhoes are also available.

i www.reco.co.uk



TAKE IT EASY

New Holland presented its exclusive EasyDrive™ Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) in its production format for the first time at BTME 2009.

Available on the new Boomer 3000 series compact tractors from 40-50hp, EasyDrive™ offers an advanced automatic transmission system with a number of benefits over hydrostatic transmissions.

As EasyDrive™ operates more efficiently than a hydro, it offers improved fuel economy and transmits more power to the wheels and PTO, boosting workrates.

The right speed for the job is automatically selected, which along with the electronically engaged independent PTO gets the best from attachments.

i www.newholland.com

NEW WHEELED SANDBANDER

The Wheeled Sandbander complete with support wheels and low impact tyres allows access to greens and fine turf areas with a fully loaded machine. Designed for use with the smallest 20hp tractors, the new Wheeled Sandbander gives you all the benefits of the standard Sandbander plus the added flexibility of needing a less powerful tractor, thereby further reducing the impact on the surface areas.

i 01787 311 811
www.trenchers.co.uk





REDUCED PULLING POWER

Echo launched two new emission compliant chainsaws at Harrogate Week, the CS-310ES, and the CS-600.

The new CS-310ES operates on an air-cooled 30.5cc 2-stroke engine, equipped with Echo's easy-start system, which means that the operator requires greatly reduced pulling power on the starter cord compared to other 2 stroke engines, and there is no kick-back effect in cranking.

The CS-600, operating on a torque efficient 59.8cc 2-stroke Echo engine, is supplied with a 45mm bar as standard, and weighs 5.9kg. This powerful saw is ideal for professional use, with a declared vibration level of just 6.1m/s² on the rear handle.

i www.countax.com

COMPREHENSIVE, TOUGH & BUDGET CONSCIOUS

Vitax's new range of Supaturf Spreaders caters for applications across the board.

Launched at Harrogate Week, the range consists of six models from the professional 60RD Broadcast spreader with a capacity of 46 litres to the DS10 Economy Drop model holding just 23 litres.

i 01530 510 060
www.vitax.co.uk



FIRST UK SHOWING

Shown by Massey Ferguson for the first time in the UK at Harrogate Week was an all-new cab for the 32hp MF 1532 and 28hp MF 1529 compact tractors.

Available as an option on both tractors in place of the standard rollbar, the high quality two-door cab is manufactured to Massey Ferguson's specifications by cab specialist,

Walter Mauser. Features include full "anti-noise" sound-deadening insulation, tinted glass all-round, a wide-sweep front wiper with electric screen washer and a roof-mounted heater with two-speed blower.

i www.masseyferguson.com

A QUICK GUIDE TO...

The Rules of Golf

10 Rules You Should Know, by Shona McRae, Manager – Rules of Golf for the R&A

1. The Teeing Ground

Tee-markers should be about six to seven yards apart with the front line of the teeing ground set up at right angles to the centre of the drive zone. As the Rules state that the teeing ground is an area of two club-lengths in depth, the tee markers should always be at least two club-lengths from the back edge of the tee. A player should be allowed to tee the ball as far back in the two club-length area and still make an unobstructed swing. Remember to take account of left-handed players.

2. Hole Positions

There is no Rule stating the distance the hole should be from the edge of the green, but generally, it is recommended that the hole be at least four paces from any edge of the green. Ideally, an area of two to three feet around the hole should be as level as possible, ensuring that the hole is not within three paces of a very severe slope or of a recently used hole.

3. The Hole

To conform to the Definition of a "hole", the hole must be 4¼ inches (108 mm) in diameter and at least 4 inches (101.6 mm) deep. Often collars/inserts are used on practice putting greens to help protect the hole from overuse and as a result, are not sunk one inch below the surface. This is permitted on practice greens, however, on the actual course, a plastic collar or insert is considered to be part of the hole liner and as a result, both the liner and plastic insert/collar must be at least 1 inch (25.4 mm) below the surface.

4. Relocating the Hole during a Competition

In a stroke-play competition the Committee is prohibited from relocating one or all of the holes and from moving the tee-markers (Rule 33-2). If the locations of the hole or tee-markers are moved, generally the round should be declared null and void. If the area around a hole contains casual water, in stroke play, the course should be considered unplayable and the Committee should suspend play until such time the conditions improve. In match play, the Committee is permitted to relocate the hole.



5. Bunker Rakes

It may be argued that there is more likelihood of a ball being deflected into or kept out of a bunker if the rake is placed outside the bunker. However, in practice, players who leave rakes in bunkers frequently leave them at the side which tends to stop a ball rolling into the flat part of the bunker, resulting in a more difficult shot. This is most prevalent where the bunkers are small. Alternatively, if a rake is in the middle of a large bunker, it is either not used or the player is obliged to rake a large area of the bunker, resulting in unnecessary delay. Therefore, on balance, it is felt there is less likelihood of an advantage or disadvantage to the player if rakes are placed outside of bunkers in areas where they are least likely to affect the movement of the ball.

6. Water Hazards

There are two different forms of water hazard – normal and lateral. A common example of a lateral water hazard would be a body of water running parallel to a hole with the ground on the far side of the hazard being wooded or overgrown. As provided in the Definitions of the Rules of Golf, stakes and/or lines used to define the margins of a water hazard must be yellow and, in the case of lateral water hazards, they must be red. Stakes or lines defining the margins of a water hazard should be placed as near as possible along the natural limits of the hazard, ie. where the ground breaks down to form the depression containing the water.

7. Grass Cuttings

Grass cuttings are GUR only if they have been piled for removal. If cuttings piled for removal interfere with a player's stance or swing, the player is entitled to relief under Rule 25-1b. Grass cuttings are loose impediments, whether or not they are piled for removal, and may be removed by the player – Rule 23-1. Try to keep grass cuttings away from playing areas.

8. Bunker Totally Under Repair

If a bunker is being renovated, it does not lose its status as a hazard. However, it is recommended that the Committee should define the bunker as GUR and classify it as "through the green". This means that the player is entitled to take relief under Rule 25-1b, which allows the player to drop the ball out of the bunker without penalty.

9. Defining Course Boundaries

It is essential that course boundaries are clearly defined so that there can be no doubt as to whether a ball is in or out of bounds. Different methods can be used to mark the boundary such as fences, stakes, lines or walls but it is not recommended to use a hedge or line of trees due to their irregular growth. When stakes are used, they should be positioned sufficiently close to each other so that it is possible to draw an imaginary line between the two stakes to determine if the ball is out of bounds. If possible, bushes or trees should not obscure stakes. Stakes and/or lines must be painted white.

10. Flagstick

It is permitted to have thin discs or sleeves attached to the flagstick to indicate the distance from the front of the green, provided that the attachments are circular in cross-section. Similarly, the use of different coloured flags is permitted to indicate when the hole position is at the front, middle or back of the green.



What's your Number?

Name: Richard Earl
Company: TGMS Ltd (known as TurfTrax)
Position: Managing Director



How long have you been in the industry?
"Six years."

How did you get into it?
"I set up Europe's first Masters Degree Programme in Sports Surface Technology with colleague Alex Vickers, when working as a Lecturer in Soil & Water Engineering at Cranfield University. Shortly afterwards, I was approached to join TurfTrax as Technical Director."

What other jobs have you done?
"I have been a Soil and Water Engineer (India), a Soil Surveyor (Soil Survey of England and Wales) and a Lecturer at Cranfield University."

What do you like about your current job?
"I like working with a great team. I also like the application of science to provide solutions to practical situations relating to golf courses

and sports pitches. And the satisfaction of seeing projects through from feasibility study to practical completion."

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?
"A greater appreciation and acceptance of the role science can play in improving the way we construct and maintain sports surfaces."

What do you like to do in your spare time?
"I enjoy playing in a band (the drums and electric violin), County League squash, eating & drinking!"

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?
"Hopefully working with the same team, in the same role."

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?
"Many loyal clients and competent contractors that I have had the pleasure of working with."

What do you consider to be your lucky number?
"21"

Pick a number
"441 (212)."

Richard has picked Austin Jarrett from Turfmech to take part in next month's feature.



WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?

Raise your game.

British Seed Houses is the premier source for grass seed and fertilisers for your course.

Let's start with the tees and fairways.

Why settle for a mixture that's 'good for all' when BSH technical experts have selected specific Grade A cultivar mixtures for individual applications.

And then move onto the greens.

For that super smooth finish we have a range of Bent grasses for all soil conditions, whether you're establishing a new green or overseeding existing.

But you can't finish there.

To keep all the playing surfaces fed with all the correct nutrients, our range of Floranid® slow release fertilisers are the ultimate complement.



And not forgetting our technical advisers.

They are always on hand to help you achieve the best standard possible. Buying direct gives you access to first class advice and great value specialist turfgrass products.

We should also mention our wild flower mixtures to make your roughs nice and colourful.



Visit www.bshamenity.com or call 01522 868714 to contact your regional advisor.

Letters



In the Shed ANSWERS

A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear Sirs

Can I ask through your columns that golf club's reply to emails, letters or phone calls from applicants to their advertisements. I recently took time off to attend an interview at a golf club and to date have heard nothing. Of course I realise that in this age I should not expect good old fashioned courtesy - it appears that there is not a BIGGA course on manners yet! - however, there is a happy ending I have secured a job on a local course and I intend to help make it one of the best courses in the area.

A Happy New Year to all my fellow greenkeepers and happy golfing.

Regards, John Button

SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness that I must report the passing away of Robert Moreton, 71, on New Years Day. Bob passed away peacefully at home with his family at his side. All of us who knew Bob as a friend or as a colleague can take solace in the fact that he is now with his greatest love, his wife Valerie. His life was never the same without her by his side.



Bobs career started at Flempton Golf Club in Suffolk where his father was the Professional/Steward. He then moved on to Bishops Stortford, Ashburnham, Patshull Park, which he helped to build, and then, from which most of you will know him, spent 20 years as Head Greenkeeper at The Berkshire, where he was highly thought of and will be fondly remembered by all.

Bob retired over five years ago but still loved to talk about greenkeeping with the enthusiasm of someone just starting their career. I personally am indebted to Bob for my career and feel very privileged to have been able to work with someone so knowledgeable for four years before he retired.

All who knew him will have their own wonderful memories of Bob and the way he lived his life to the full. We will all miss a truly wonderful gentleman.

Chris Lomas

THANK YOU

Dear BIGGA

Many thanks for everyone's generous hospitality during my return visit to Harrogate Week 2009. There was no better way for me to celebrate my 25th anniversary as a member of BIGGA than being a speaker and to be a part of the great educational sessions, exhibitions and overall festivities. I also really enjoyed the Casino Night and thanks for the invitation to have lots of fun. It was also seeing lots of old friends and to make some new friends also. The quality of the people from the UK and from the other countries that attend Harrogate Week makes it so much fun to attend.

I look forward to my next return visit to Harrogate Week.

Take care, best wishes and continued success to all of you.

Kindest regards, Terry Buchen, MG, CGCS

Please email your letters to Scott MacCallum, scott@bigga.co.uk or Melissa Jones, melissa@bigga.co.uk

CROSSWORD

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. St Leger
2. 170
3. Peter Shilton
4. They Think It's All Over
5. American
6. Rugby League
7. Adrian Moorhouse
8. Monaco
9. Chris Eubank

MONSTER SUDOKO

A	9	F			D	E		2	C
	7	D	0	A	2	C	8		
			1			8	4		7
C			6	A		0	1		9
1	5	7	9		6	3			
	A		E	7			F	3	0
E		3	F		B			1	4
2	C				5	9	A		
		9	3	7				D	2
3	B		4		7	E			F
6	2	C	1		3	B		E	
				E	2		F	C	A
7		9	E		B	A			1
A	5		4	8		E			
	1	7			9	F	4	5	3
F	E		6	3			1	C	9

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

8	A	9	1	F	4	3	5	D	6	E	7	B	2	0	C
B	8	7	F	D	0	9	A	2	1	5	C	4	8	E	3
3	0	D	5	2	C	1	E	B	9	8	4	A	6	7	F
E	C	4	2	B	7	6	8	A	F	3	0	1	5	D	9
1	4	5	7	A	9	B	D	6	3	0	8	2	F	C	E
9	B	A	6	C	E	2	7	4	D	1	F	3	0	5	8
D	E	0	8	3	5	F	6	C	B	7	2	9	1	4	A
2	F	C	3	0	1	8	4	E	5	9	A	D	B	6	7
4	1	F	E	9	3	7	0	8	C	A	6	5	D	B	2
0	3	B	A	8	D	4	C	5	7	2	E	6	9	F	1
6	9	2	C	1	A	5	F	3	0	B	D	7	E	8	4
5	7	8	D	6	B	E	2	1	4	F	9	C	A	3	0
7	2	6	9	E	F	D	B	0	A	C	3	8	4	1	5
A	5	3	0	4	8	C	1	9	E	6	B	F	7	2	D
C	D	1	B	7	2	0	9	F	8	4	5	E	3	A	6
F	8	E	4	5	6	A	3	7	2	D	1	0	C	9	B

VOLUNTEER GREENKEEPERS REQUIRED

The London Golf Club is hosting The European Open for the second year running and the club is currently looking for enthusiastic Greenkeepers to assist with golf course preparation for this televised European Tour event.

Successful applicants who work the full week can expect the following package:

- Accommodation for all non-local volunteers
- Food and Beverage while at work
- European Open shirts x 2
- Pro-quip rain suit x 1
- A round of golf for the volunteer and 3 guests

We welcome applications from people who are unable to work the whole week and offer the following package:

- Accommodation
- Food and Beverage while at work
- European Open shirts x 2

Contact...

greenkeepers@londongolf.co.uk
or call 01474 879200 for more info.

The 2009 European Open Monday 25th to Sunday 31st May



FEATURE

YOUNG PEOPLE AT WORK

BIGGA's Health & Safety series produced by Xact
www.xact.uk.com



Young people can be employed within golf clubs in a number of locations e.g. Apprentice Greenkeepers, Assistants in the Proshop, help within the Clubhouse and in some cases as work placements from local schools.

In Health and Safety law Young People in the workplace are defined as: 'A Child' those aged between 13yrs and below the minimum school leaving age (MSLA), currently 16yrs old OR 'A Young Person' Those aged between 16 to 18yrs old.

It is important to remember that Young People do not have the life and work experience of other workers and coupled with eagerness to please and bravado, are potentially more likely to be involved in accidents. Legislation recognises the increased risk and requires employers to either carry out a separate risk assessment for young people or include this category of person within their normal risk assessments.

There are restrictions on the employment of a 'child' i.e. those below MSLA, generally enacted by bylaws of the Local Education Authority. The restrictions will include what type of work is allowed, the number of working hours and that the key findings of any risk assessments are carried out. Parents or guardians should be notified, before the child starts work, of potential risks at the place of work along with any control measures identified to reduce these.

Children under 13yrs of age are generally prohibited from any form of employment.

Employers, before allowing Young People to start work, must therefore:

- Ensure that where applicable all Local Authority bylaw requirements regarding the employment of those below MSLA (13-16yrs) are met.
- Assess the risks in the workplace and work activity to young people before they start work, taking account of their immaturity, inexperience and lack of awareness.
- Formulate Risk Assessments that address the factors relevant to young people. Where Risk Assessments have already been formulated under other relevant regulations e.g. COSHH, manual handling etc, then these should be reviewed to ensure that they are adequate for the protection of any young people at work.

The Risk Assessment should ensure that Young People are not given tasks which expose them to: work which is beyond their physical and psychological capabilities; involves exposure to toxic or carcinogenic substances; work involving harmful radiation; a task where an accident is likely due to the Young Person not being able to recognise the potential for harm through inexperience or lack of training; a risk to health from the exposure to extreme cold, heat, noise or vibration; identify work which current legislation bans them from carrying out.

There is provision in the legislation for allowing Young People to be exposed to these, and other hazards, at work provided it is for the purpose of training, that they work under close supervision of a competent person and that the risks are reduced to the lowest practical level. This exception applies only to those over the MSLA. Under no circumstances can children of compulsory school age do work involving these types of risk.



News from the Chief Executive

Another week at Harrogate comes and goes and all the pre-event apprehensions were, I am pleased to say, unfounded. Coming back into the office after Christmas the usual questions ran through all our minds: What will the weather be like? Will the visitors come in sufficient numbers? Will the Credit Crunch affect the spending power of those that do come? Will we sell the last couple of exhibition spaces? Will the Social Night be a success? And just as importantly - What will be the reaction of the visitors and exhibitors?

At a time when the industry in general needed a lift we got it. Yes there was talk of a recession and dark times ahead but the majority of people looked forward to the challenge of a new season and, hopefully, a better Spring and Summer than in the past couple of years. The exhibitors were buoyed by the good attendance levels and the high quality of visitors, with many reporting brisk business even on Thursday!

Let's not lose sight of the fact that there is still a healthy demand for golf we just have to accept that the nature of the demand is changing and clubs must learn to change with the times and become more attractive and be able to compete with a changing lifestyle and a changing economy.

An awful lot of use of the word 'change', something that many of us find alien but something that is necessary. BIGGA is no exception to the rule. We have already changed our office layout to improve working practices and internal communication, the Members at the AGM approved voting by proxy for future AGM's/EGM's and also approved the conversion of the Association into a company limited by guarantee.

A copy of my report to Members at the AGM has been posted on the BIGGA website and the minutes of the AGM will be also be made available for download.

What we do and how we do it will be coming under scrutiny and we will be attempting to forge closer relationships with other industry bodies to avoid duplication of efforts and better utilisation of resources, all aimed at improving the overall standard of service to Members. One such example is the signing of an Agreement with the Club Managers Association of Europe that will facilitate better provision of cost effective management courses for those wishing to develop their career along these lines.

The American Golf Industry Show will this year be held in New Orleans and I am looking forward to representing the Association at the Annual International Summit where associations from around the world meet and compare trends, working practices, current affairs and factors affecting the future of our industry. It is also an opportunity to share thinking on how, by working together, we can resolve some of the problems facing the game and the welfare of associations such as ours.

Finally I would like to thank Billy McMillan and Gavin Robson for their service on the Board of Management. Both have made significant contributions to the development of the Association and I look forward to working with Peter Todd and Paul Worster, Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively, and Garry Cunningham who succeeds Gavin as the representative for the Midlands Region.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive



SCOTTISH REGION - CENTRAL

There is very little to report from the Central Section this month. We are holding a one day seminar which is likely to be on February 24. This will be a follow up on the Disturbance Theory Seminar which we held in early 2007. Richard Windows, Henry Bechelet and Andy Cole will be the presenters and the purpose is to expand on the 2007 seminar with those attending providing feedback on their experiences, what has worked, what they would do a little differently, etc.

I believe a similar event took place at Cannington College at the end of 2008 and proved very successful and the West Section are holding one on February 25 at Loch Lomond. Details for our one have still to be finalised - timings, meals, etc as well as the venue - although it will either be at Gleneagles or The Castle Course. By the time you read this, these details will be available on the website, www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Also, while you are freezing your bits off reading this, spare a thought for those Section members who are in sunnier climes, Willie Jardine and Scott Finlay, of St Andrews, will be in Australia where they have gone to work for a year starting with a placement at The Metropolitan Club.

Gordon Moir
gordonmoir@standrews.org.uk



EAST

This will be my first report for the East Section news as I will be taking over from Mike Dooner, namely "Thorn trees Amenity", who, with Kathleen McIntyre, has done a splendid job for our Section news.

Our Chairman and Committee would like to thank them both for all the hard work they have put into our Section newsletter over the years.

Sorry - we missed the January issue for our report so some of the text might be a bit dated now.



I would like to start by saying a belated Happy New Year and all the best for our course for the 2009 season. Let's have at least a summer with sunshine so we can show off our courses again.

On Tuesday, December 9, 18 Section members paid a visit to Kingsfield Golf Centre near Linlithgow. We were met by Head Greenkeeper, Lee Fraser, and his Deputy, Barrie Lewis, who showed us around the course and the facilities. All in attendance enjoyed the day and we thank them both, along with the owner, Robert Arkley, and wish them every success for the future.

The Section winners of the Patrons Awards were Adam Sherwood, Deputy Head at Glencorse, and Joe Robertson, Assistant at Ratho Park. I hope they both enjoyed their prize of a trip to Harrogate Week. Hopefully they will provide me with some information from their visit for next month's Section news.

All members should have received, during the month of December, the information on our next site visit to Heartland's new 36 hole project on February 17, sponsored by Henderson's Grass Machinery.

If you are not receiving any mail please contact us, if we don't have your email or address we can't send you the information.

Members can check what's scheduled for the 2009 diary on the 'Region & Section pages' on the BIGGA website.

And finally if you have any news that you think might be of interest that we can put in our Section news please contact me.

Tom Murray
07709960163
tom.murray@rathoparkgolfclub.co.uk



NORTH

By the time you read this, the infamous 'Harrogate Week' will have taken place. I hope you all enjoyed the show - for those of you that made the trip down. It's a good opportunity to catch all the latest machinery and golf course products. It is also a good time to catch up with all your old muckers and put the greenkeeping world to rights - for those of you that have never been, if you get the chance then go, I recommend it. And for those of you that met in with Messrs Geddes, McClatchie and Robertson...Unlucky!

A couple of months ago I asked if any of you had some stories regarding your Christmas night out. Well one such story has come to my attention. During the Summer, the lads at Meldrum House Golf Club brought up the subject of 'The Christmas Night Oot'. There was a throw away comment made, of it being a fancy dress night. One such lad, Jamie Robertson, took

this a little too far. Not knowing it was all one big joke, he set his sights on the perfect fancy dress. With his bosses, Kenny Harper and Richard Mullen winding him right up for the rest of the year, the lad was more determined than ever. Kenny said he wasn't to be beaten as he had won it last year. When the night finally came round, they were to meet in the clubhouse. All the lads were there and in walked Jamie, dressed as Old Tom Morris. He had been especially to the Edinburgh Woolen Mill to get all the required attire. To his horror he had been set up. In full rig out of plus fours, tweed shirt and hat, he looked out of place. Hopefully we'll get his picture posted on the Section website for all to see. Well done Jamie for being a good sport and thanks to anon for the information.

Staying with Meldrum House, congratulations go to Andy Smith and his girlfriend, Michelle, on the safe arrival of baby number three, a baby boy. Well done.

The annual BIGGA Scottish Region Conference takes place at Carnegie College, Dunfermline on Tuesday, March 3. It is very well attended and the North Section usually have quite a few members go down. For more information please contact Peter Boyd on: 07776242120.

Just a short Section news this month, hopefully with you guys returning from Harrogate you can share a few stories and your experiences of your trip.

Ben Brookes
benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk
07813889374



NORTHERN REGION - NORTH WEST

I mentioned in last month's Section notes that we had a few new faces on the Committee and had a good AGM. One of the ideas that came from the meeting was to have course walks - many of our members who don't play golf can then come along. A suggestion was made that we combine the two and some members play golf while the rest go on a course walk, and then all sit down to a meal afterwards. Another idea was to have our own website. As I said there were some good ideas raised and the committee is working on these now. If you have any other ideas how we can move the Section forward please contact myself or any of the Committee.

The Bert Cross Memorial Trophy has been re-arranged for Thursday, February 26, at Wilmslow Golf Club. Many thanks to Steve Oultram and the Captain and Committee at Wilmslow for their continued support. The golf will be followed by a meal and presentation, while the trophy has been kindly sponsored by Richard Campey Ltd and will be played for every year.

We are limited on numbers so please book early. Billy Merritt is the man



Around the Green

to book with and he can be found at: The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU. Billy can be contacted on mobile number: 07985175825.

Please send a cheque payable to BIGGA North West Section to the value of £20, if you want to enter. I can be contacted on: 01512894625 or my email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



CLEVELAND

Hello everyone, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hopefully you all had a good Christmas, and Santa brought you everything you wished for. Apologies if this seems a little late but I missed the deadline for January's magazine.

Firstly, on behalf of the Cleveland Section I would like to thank Terry Charlton for all his hard work with the newsletter over the past few years. Terry is still heavily involved and continues to support the Cleveland Section, but he has handed me the job of writing the newsletter so he can free up some time, which I am sure you will all agree he deserves.

Firstly, back in November, the EGU and STRI, sponsored by John Deere, had a seminar day at Cleveland Golf Club. The day ran very well and there were a number of interesting topics covered. Henry Bechelet, from the STRI, talked about the "disturbance theory" and there was also a talk on wildlife. The weather was fairly kind to us and in the afternoon we went out onto the course and John Deere demonstrated some of their new equipment including the new electric greens mower. Henry also led us onto the greens at Cleveland to highlight the different grass species and to go over the work being carried out by Ian Pemberton, the Course Manager, and his staff. I must say that the greens were in fantastic condition, and as Nick Park, from the EGU, later said, "They were some of the best greens he had seen in the UK and Ireland all year". The wildlife talk was also very informative, looking at wetland areas on the course and some of the native grass found on the dunes.

The Cleveland Section AGM was also held in November at Teesside Golf Club. Thanks to those who turned up to support the Section. We were supposed to be having a talk by David Snowdon on the use of wetting agents. Unfortunately, due to health reasons, David was unable to attend but he will be giving this talk at a later date so I will keep you informed.

The night was not wasted though because kindly with only a few hours notice, Tony Mears delivered an excellent presentation and talk on the in-house construction work he and his staff have been carrying out rebuilding greens to USGA specification over the past 10 years at Dinsdale. The presentation was excellent and I am sure everyone found it very informative.

After the success of last year's Christmas Bring a Bottle and a round of golf at Cleveland, Ian Pemberton invited us all, on December 6, to do it all again. It was a great day for golf, and we were blessed with sun and clear skies. The course was presented immaculately and I am sure you will all agree that the greens were in superb condition yet again. It was hard to believe that it was December with the greens as fast and true as they were. Thanks to Ian and his staff, and to Cleveland Golf Club for the use of the course and the lovely meal. The day was well attended with everyone bringing a wrapped up bottle of some kind so no one went home empty handed.

The results are as follows: 1. D. Cuthbertson, D. Simpson, P. Hipkiss, 85pts; 2. P. Graham, I. Pemberton, A. Whitby, Ollie, 78pts; 3. R.Hood, I.Stuart, John, 76pts; 4. Barry walker and his team, 74pts; 5. R. Hancock and his team, 70pts; 6. I. Holoran and his team, 68pts; 7. M.Woods and his team, 65pts. Sorry for not naming individuals, there were no second names on the scorecards.

Thanks to Pete Marshall, from Tacit, for providing the bottles of wine for the prizes. Terry Charlton was holding his annual quiz on the same night - unfortunately I did not attend but I am sure, as always it was a great night. Future quizzes:

Tuesday, February 24, at Teesside Golf Club - Baz Walker is hosting his annual quiz, commencing at 7.30pm. This is a great night and the food is tip-top. Please come along and test your knowledge against your peers.

Tuesday, March 10, again commencing at 7.30pm, David Snowdon is returning to inform us about wetting agents and penetrants. Come along and find out about these materials and the differences between them.

The Spring Tournament will be held at Blackwell Grange Golf Club, at Darlington. Date and tee times are still to be sorted out. Terry Harrison, the Head Greenkeeper, has guaranteed it will not rain this time! We are looking for a venue to host next year's Autumn Tournament, so if there is anyone who can accommodate, could you please contact Ian Pemberton on: 07791695768.

Any news, please contact me on: 07921817857
or email: kevscarce@aol.com

Bye for now
Kevin Scarce



NORTH WALES

I'm afraid it's only going to be a short column this month (thank God for that I hear you cry!) I haven't really got much news but if you have any news or views you would like to pass on, get in touch with me or any committee



member and we'll do the rest.

I hope you enjoyed Harrogate if you went and if you didn't go that's a shame, there's usually a laugh to be had and you always seem to bump into people there you rarely see the rest of the year.

Your 2009 fixture list and competition form will be falling through your letter boxes soon remember to keep your entry forms safe as they cover all your competitions for the year - the first being May 20, at Rhyl Golf Club. This one interests me, as I've never been there before but more on that closer to the competition day.

That's about all for now told you it was going to be a short one! All the best until next month.

Pete Maybury
petemayb66@aol.com
07756001187

Johnny Evans
Johnny.Evans@tesco.net



MIDLAND REGION - EAST OF ENGLAND

Hello again. As this will be being read in a post Harrogate Week haze, I will keep things brief.

Back to work again after Christmas is always one of those depressing times, now the build up to, and all the excesses of the past few weeks have been and gone. The new calendars go up and you have to look at the left hand side and survey the year to come. To keep ourselves busy during this week we decided to borrow a chainsaw and operator and proceeded to remove the bottom five foot from every conifer on the course. It is amazing how three days work can completely transform the look of the place.

2009 won't be an easy year for anybody, just time to batten down the hatches and get through the year with as few problems as possible. Mind you I am getting fed up of continually hearing about all the doom and gloom around at the moment.

On a positive note the beginning of the year is the chance to also look forward to the coming season ahead and put into motion all those plans to make the course the best yet - and Harrogate is just around the corner.

Hopefully this year's show all went to plan, the lack of the big machinery manufacturers in the halls will undoubtedly have had an effect. However, hopefully everyone turned up as per usual to learn something, see something,

buy something, meet up with old friends, make new ones and generally stick two fingers up to the credit crunch!

One date to note is our Spring Seminar which will be held on Wednesday, February 18, at Newark Golf Club. Final details are still being drawn up as I write, however the format and speakers are roughly as follows 9am start - Neil Pettican and Jane Leyland, of Barenbrug, will talk about the journey of grass seed from grass plant, through harvesting, breeding and into the bag. Henry Bechelet and Andrew Cole, from the STRI, will then conduct a course walk around Newark Golf Club and talk on a variety of topics.

The day should be very interesting and everyone will receive final details by letter soon - Graham, don't worry they are not going to pick holes in your wonderful golf course. Ha ha!

On a final note, belated congratulations to Brian Robinson on his achievements at last year's National Championship, sponsored by Kubota.

Many thanks
Steve Beverly
Immingham Golf Club
steveimmingham@aol.com
www.eastofenglandbigga.com



SOUTH EAST REGION - SURREY

Tuesday, January 6. A Happy 'belated' New Year my readers. Did you have a Merry Christmas? I did, and as none of you have given any news to me to write about I'm afraid it's time, once again, to keep you abreast of my Christmas break.

The Isle of Wight, if not a tropical paradise, was at least three degrees warmer than the mainland and the annual Ventnor Boxing Day swim was the event I was really looking forward to.

Although the water was very cold the sun was shining and the sea looked quite inviting. As noon approached all of us on the beach, and those viewing from the promenade joined in the countdown before those participating rushed into the dashing waves.

Did I feel cold? I was a little chilly, but with many layers of warm clothes and my woolly hat I watched from a safe distance as those mad fools entered the English Channel. Maybe next year!

The Turkey Trot took place at Betchworth Park Golf Club, on December 11, and it was too late to put the details in January's edition. For those who have not visited Surrey's website (www.surrey-bigga.co.uk) the result was a



Around the Green

win for team Guildford - Matt Lawrence, Kevin Boxall and James Lowe. Second place was team Tacit with yours truly, Mark Harvey and Paul Weston.

The AGM followed and the current Committee was elected. Views were exchanged with regard to BIGGA membership being open to other employees in the fine turf industry. This subject will be debated during 2009 as yet no decision has been made either way. For details of a BIGGA survey regarding this see the Surrey website.

My email for your exciting information for these monthly Section notes is: brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk but please no holiday stories as I have quite enough of my own.

Brian Willmott



KENT

Hi all. I hope by the time you are reading this report that the weather has warmed up a bit! At the moment I am looking across the frozen tundra that used to be my golf course, half expecting Eskimos to start drilling holes in the lakes and try their luck at fishing!

Our golfers have proved themselves to be a hardy bunch, however, still going out and braving the harshest winter for years in pursuit of the perfect game. Rather than me is all I can say!

Well by the time March 19 comes around for our first outing of the year, at Walmer and Kingsdown on the east coast of our county, we may need to blow the cobwebs off the clubs which most of us would have put into hibernation but at least it's something to look forward to!

Please remember to confirm your place either by calling me or Kev, or by sending in an entry form from the website. I hope as many of you as possible are able to join us at our events this year, we do try to make them fun.

Lastly, many thanks to our sponsors who are supporting us this year. Their input ensures that we can offer some top venues at reasonable rates to you.

See you on the links next month!
Best of British
Rob Holland
kentgreenkeepers.co.uk

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



EAST ANGLIA

Hope you are all well and came through the festivities and sales unscathed and not too skint!

Are you all looking forward to the new committee? - Spending the next three months at least convincing them that you do know what you're doing after all, happy days. I digress, but ours must be the only profession where amateurs often have the last say.

Way back in December our ever increasing band of brothers (no Clare this year) paid homage to Thorpeness and our spiritual leader, Ian Willett, for the umpteenth turkey trot sponsored by CMW and the ageless Mike Moss. A total of 26 teams plotted their way round an excellent course, expertly prepared by Ian and his team.

We all made it round in four and a half hours. The starting flares did not launch the Southwold lifeboat, but three pheasants fell from the sky with suspected heart attacks.

After the golf (I use the term loosely) we all proceeded to the Country Club for the AGM, the meal and the prize giving.

The AGM went like a mercurial clock. The Chairman's report was discussed at short length. We have a healthy budget, largely due to Ian's tireless efforts. Clive Osgood brought us up to speed with BIGGA goings on. The fixtures for next year are all sorted thanks to Colin Rushbrook. The committee was all re-elected. The whole thing lasted 20 minutes and that included the National Anthem. I'd better list the committee for those of you who don't know, weren't there, or both. They are as follows: President: Colin Rushbrook, Vice President: Bob Chesham, Chairman: Steve Millard, Secretary: Ian Willett, Treasurer: Martin Mison, Scribe: Mick Lathrope, Committee: Mark Broughton, Roger Plummer, David Childs and Mark Henderson.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, or Country Club, prizes needed to be distributed among the worthy. Step up Mr Tim Rowan Robinson, Managing Director of Thorpeness, to present the silverware and Christmas puddings.

The first team was Mike Virley and his crew with 56.3pts; 2. Royals (Roger and all) 56.5pts; 3. Norfolk & Good, Eddie Jack, Robert Ransome and Co; 4. Purdis A team, Norman Fenwick & Co; Longest drive at the first was Robert Ransome; Longest drive at the 4th was "Zippy". There were several Nearest the Pins: 16th Michael Buck, 10th Michael Buck, 2nd Keith Titchell, 7th John Howard, 6th in two Robin Brooks. Nearest the white line - D. Harkness. The President's prize went to Ben Norris for Services to Greenkeeping.

As Ian's voice was beginning to fade, a microphone appeared as if by magic. It had been there all the time, but nobody had told Ian.



As always we must not forget our trade members without whose support we would not be as strong as we are and they should all be on our list of contacts whenever we need something. They are: CMW – main sponsor for the day, Aitkens, Ben Burgess, Tomlinson, John Deere, Textron, Jacobsen, Toro, Bartram Mowers, Hayter, SISIS, Rigby Taylor, Collier, Tacit and Vitax.

2009 fixtures are penciled in as Rookery Park, Newmarket, Felixstowe and Thetford.

Our thanks once again to Thorpeness Golf Club for putting up with us and making us welcome. The food and hospitality was first class - thank you.

We are probably the largest and best run Section of BIGGA - be proud.

Mick Lathrope



ESSEX

By the time this is printed another Harrogate Week will have passed and the winter we hope will fast be drawing to a close. Plans for the coming season should be well under way and your members will be looking forward to the warmer weather and better playing conditions.

Our first event of the year is due later this month; we are running a Seminar for the Essex Section at Stock Brook, The Country Club, on Wednesday, February 25, at 8.30am until 12.30pm. Speakers for this early morning meeting will be: Ian Sommerville - The Importance of Seaweed in the Soil Medium.

Richard Parmee – Colne Valley River Project: Conservation, A Little goes a Long Way. Ben Taylor – Bernhard & Company: The Importance of Grinding.

A light snack will be provided during the morning, this event is free to Essex Section Members.

Non-section members are welcome, so if you would like to come, please call Paul O’Kane on: 07738717870 or email: greenkeeperpaul@yahoo.co.uk to book your place, a small charge will be made to non-members. Also if you have any queries or need any more information please call or email Paul.

By now our new look website should be up and running, I have made some changes and will also be including a blog page and contact and suggestion pages. Your comments will be appreciated.

Any information for this inclusion on this page or on our website should be sent to me at: essexbigga@talktalk.net or on: 07764862337.

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer



SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGION - SOUTH WEST

Congratulations to everyone who turned out to make the Christmas event at Weston such a success. It was marvellous to see over 40 competitors and over 50 for the meal afterwards. A huge thank you to Weston Super Mare Golf Club for a very warm welcome and the hospitality afforded to us all day. Particular thanks to John Whitewood, Club Captain, for his participation and presenting the prizes. Luckily, his system of penalties for charity (a 50p fine for failure to fill divots, repair pitchmarks, or rake bunkers) wasn’t applied to us, although me accidentally parking in his car slot must have come pretty close! Many congratulations to Simon, KC, and the rest of the team for preparing such a great golf course – I hadn’t played Weston for a number of years, but it was in great condition – particularly for the time of year.

The Competition fittingly was won by Simon Cresser with 42 points, closely followed in by Darren Moxham with 39, and John Keenaghan with 38.

A great meal and then – The Raffle – how does he do it? There were two trestle tables groaning under the weight of prizes, and then there was Nobby (who was clearly a Town Crier in a former life) – he has one of those specially trained voices, (only in his case it must have escaped and gone back to the wild!) Thanks Nobby, from us all in the Section, for all you put into this day, and for all you do generally.

Simon Broome, from Lyme Regis Golf Club, won the sponsored place on the Regional trip to Harrogate Week. Simon is 21 and wrote that he wants to use the experience to meet more people within the industry, and to help his studies in NVQ 3. Well done Simon, and we look forward to meeting you. Thanks to our Patronage Partners – Avoncrop, Rigby Taylor, Vitax, Ken White Signs, BS Mowers, Headland, Ecosol, Countrywide, Symbio and Irritech, for sponsoring this place for Simon. This is just what the Patronage money is ring-fenced for.

It is hoped that many of these companies will rejoin for 2009, despite the economic downturn.

By the time this hits the shelves Harrogate will be over and we’ll be starting to look forward to spring maintenance and the new season. This winter has been a series of extremes – the Cotswolds has had more snow and frost than the last five winters put together, with even the Minch Seniors Section calling it a day on more than one occasion. We even had five days on temporary greens which is the first time in over 10 years.

Hopefully things will have settled down by early Spring - speaking of which, I would just take this opportunity to remind you that there is a Section Seminar on March 5, on Waste Management with the STRI, and Energy Savings & Grants from the SWEA (Severn-Wye Energy Agency) – date,



Around the Green

venue and details will have been circulated – please support what should be an interesting and worthwhile afternoon.

Celtic Manor is already looking forward to the Ryder Cup 2010. This is in early October, and Jim McKenzie is inviting applications for a Greenkeeping Support Team, and has expressed a wish that local greenkeepers are given precedence. What an opportunity to get close to the action. Do get in touch with Jane Jones or myself for further details.

Finally, back at Minch we recently purchased a pond book for some hints about how best to install a little wildlife pond in a secluded area of the course. There was a good sized section on various methods of installation – digging, shaping, sculpting, and finally “Creating your pond with explosives”. I quote – “Explosives are sometimes said to be an option for creating ponds, but although apparently attractive, are rarely a sensible option”. (No kidding Sherlock) “Explosives cannot be used to create anything except quite small ponds, and you have little control of the detailed shaping”. The final minor drawback being - “Be aware there is a complete lack of control over where most of the dislodged material lands”. Imagine the panic on Ladies’ Medal day when the greenstaff suddenly appear, safety helmets on, running down the fairway and throw themselves into the nearest pot bunker hands over ears, “I say young man, what’s going on?” followed promptly by KABBOOOOMMMM! (Scant seconds before half the course disappears from sight in a blinding flash). Nah – let’s be sensible – it’ll never catch on - but if it does you didn’t read about it here.

Participation this year guys – talk to your mates, visit clubs where their staff aren’t as active, let’s move forwards together.

Finally thanks to so many of you who have taken the trouble to write following my appointment as National Vice Chairman 2009. I’m really looking forward to working within your Association, and helping us all to move forward.

Paul Worster.
paulw@mgcnew.co.uk



SOUTH COAST

First I have to apologise to you all for missing the last two months purely by missing the dates for sending in the report on time...my fault, no one else’s.

Ok, that over, may I wish you all a belated Happy New Year - at the time of writing this report we are all in the grip of a deep freeze. Frost greens in use all day, so of course we are indoors, decorating the reception area of my club! What do you all do in times like these.

Venues for this year: Spring - Parkstone, Summer - Hampworth Manor. The rest are still to be arranged. This year’s seminar is again at Canford Magna on March 25. Results from the Christmas Meeting at Barton on Sea: Mark Davis & Simon Justice were winners. The rest of the results will follow next month.

Our South Coast Section will be holding a seminar on Wednesday, February 25, at Canford Magna Golf Club. Speakers for the day will include: Robert Hogarth, Course Manager at Remedy Oak Golf Club; Tony Gadd, Course Manager at Barton-on-Sea Golf Club; Joe Crawley, of Vitax, and Gerry Byrne, Course Manager from the K Club. Gerry will be talking about the preparations for the Ryder Cup in 2006.

The cost of the day is £20 for members and £25 for non-members – this is also open to Club Secretary’s and Committee members. Please make cheques payable to: BIGGA South Coast and send them to: Chris Bitten, 166 Oak Tree Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton, Hampshire, SO18 1PA. If you have any other queries please contact him on: 07796887633 or email: chrisbitten@btinternet.com

If you have any news you would like to feature in ‘Around the Green’ then please tell me by email: chrismaggisturgess@tiscali.co.uk

Chris Sturgess



DEVON AND CORNWALL

Our Christmas meeting was held at Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club, on Tuesday, December 9, where the weather was kind enough, if a little breezy. Thank you to our sponsors for the day PJ Flegg and Irritech.

The format for our Christmas meetings is Greensomes and was won with some ‘local knowledge’ by Jason Chidley and Sam Wood, both from Bude, with an excellent 37pts, 2nd was Terry Clarke DHG, Downes Crediton and A. James HG Killiow, Park (slightly different to how he is usually named) so people won’t realise who he is! Also with 37pts losing on countback and 3rd Rich Parker HG, Ilfracombe GC, and Mark Tucker, Saunton GC, with 35pts. Nearest the Pin was won by Rich Parker and Adam Bridgewater again took the prize for Longest Drive - Well done to all! - Not forgetting Paul Watson MST for the ‘Cornish pasties’ at the ‘halfway house’.

A big thank you to Mark Campbell, Course Manager, and his team for their hospitality and use of their excellent course for the day! And to all the catering staff for the very enjoyable meal and the Christmas party games – especially the balloons! Many thanks also to the bar staff. Our after dinner entertainment was provided by

‘Tank Sherman’ who was as comical as ever! Thanks to him as always.



As is the custom at our Christmas do's, everybody bought a prize for the draw, so thanks to all for their efforts, especially John Palfrey, on behalf of Avoncrop, for the Christmas hamper and a special mention to Colin Webber, not only for his sterling efforts over these last 12 months, but also for the wonderful prize of a stereo!

As always if anybody has any stories or would like me to mention a particular event I can be reached at the number or email below.

Jerry Cole
07764224582
greenwaysjrc@aol.com



SOUTH WALES

Hello everyone/Sut mae! Hope you are all well. The winter series of evening lectures began at the end of January with Mike Garner, of Maxicrop, giving an excellent presentation on the role of natural plant extracts in turf nutrition. A big thank you to Mike for coming down to talk to us and also to Martin Townsend, of Countrywide, for once again sponsoring and organising the talks. Well done. Thanks to everyone who attended a most enjoyable evening. The dates for the remaining lectures are as follows:

Tuesday, February 10 - Tour of the new Parc Y Scarlets stadium, Llanelli (Home of the mighty Scarlets!) with Head Groundsman, Dean Gilasbey, followed by a presentation by Derek Smith of DLF Trifolium on grass seed germination - This is a 5.30 start.

March 10, Pencoed College - A presentation by Mark Hunt, of Headland Amenity, 7pm start.

Tuesday, April 14 - A presentation by Nick Gray, of Bathgate, on top dressings and root zones for sports pitches and golf courses. This will be held at Sophia Gardens. Further details of these talks will be posted on the BIGGA website.

Still on the education front, the Annual Avoncrop Education Seminar will again be held at Whitchurch Golf Club (recently voted 'Best Welsh Inland Golf Course' so well done Mike Stokes and the lads!) on Wednesday, February 25. The theme for this year is drainage and will include speakers representing a number of companies involved in the drainage of golf courses and sportsgrounds. This seminar is free and includes bacon rolls and coffee on arrival, and a buffet lunch. Please phone either myself or Avoncrop to reserve a place. Further details will again be posted on the BIGGA website.

Another big thank you goes out to Jonathan Harmer and Gerald Orme, from Farmura, for agreeing to sponsor the fixtures cards again this year, and I think I can speak ferrosol (sorry!) that your help is greatly appreciated by the Section.

I forgot to thank Steve Chappell for all his hard work during 2008 (his first year as Section Secretary) in my last 'Around the Green' so well done Steve!

Steve has requested that Section members email him at some point so that a database can be created with the purpose of being able to contact members electronically, thus saving on postage. His email address is: steve.chappell@talktalk.net

Finally, good luck to Wales in the Six Nations (and to Scotland - Ed), though I am worried that we are starting as favourites, which usually means we'll end up messing things up! First Scotland on the 8th, then England on St Valentines day (let's hope it's a massacre- them not us!) I may be a bit busy though as the current Mrs Richards is due to give birth to our third child on that day so let's hope they have a television in the delivery suite!

If you have any info for me to include in next months 'Around The Green' then please contact me on the number below.

Ceri Richards
07831168645
celticceri@aol.com

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

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WIDNES GOLF CLUB

Founded in 1924



Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Widnes Golf Club is an 18 Hole mature parkland golf course, with a strong Membership and many repeat visitors year on year.

Applicants should possess the following attributes:

- Recognised greenkeeping/agronomy qualifications (min NVQ Level 3 or equivalent). PA1, PA2 & PA6 Spraying Certificates.
- Deliver high standards of course presentation.
- Take responsibility for 18 holes.
- Motivate and manage greenkeeping team.
- Be conversant with modern equipment and technology.
- Knowledge of Health & Safety Regulations and other relevant legislation, including Risk Assessments.
- A proven ability to prepare work programmes and meet deadlines.

This is a great opportunity for a committed, hands on, enthusiastic, motivated and hardworking Greenkeeper to lead and manage a dedicated team to further develop and maintain the golf course.

Salary negotiable

**Applications in writing with full C.V. by
Friday 27th February 2009 to**

Miss N J Farrington
The Secretary
Widnes Golf Club

Highfield Road, Widnes, WA8 7DT



West Kent Golf Club

HEAD GREENKEEPER

West Kent Golf Club is situated on the North Downs, close to Downe village an is an 18 hole woodland par 71 course. The Club has some 650 Members and has been established since 1916.

Our current Head Greenkeeper will be retiring in September 2009 after 37 years of loyal service to the Club.

Reporting to The Club Secretary the successful candidate will need to have the following:-

- Proven experience of providing a quality Golf Course.
- Possess all relevant qualifications and knowledge of Turf Management, Drainage and Irrigation.
- Experience of implementing and working to a budget and management plan.
- Working knowledge of Health & Safety and Environmental Legislation.
- The ability to lead and motivate five staff.
- A sound understanding of the needs and interests of Club Members and visitors

Accommodation is available as part of an attractive remuneration package.

Please apply in writing by the 16th March 2009 including a full C.V. and stating present salary:-

The Secretary, West Kent Golf Club, Downe, Kent, BR6 7LD.

RECRUITMENT

UPMINSTER GOLF CLUB

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

A vacancy exists for a Greenkeeper.

The candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience, be hard working and reliable.

Qualified to NVQ level 2 an advantage as would be a PA1 PA2 or PA6 qualification.

A working knowledge of Health & Safety at a Golf Club would also be of advantage.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to:

Doug Fernie, Course Manager, Upminster Golf Club,
114 Hall Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 1AU



COSBY GOLF CLUB

Leicestershire

Invites applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER



Cosby is a Private Members Club founded in 1895.

The 18-hole course is on mature parkland and the Club hopes to develop the current practice area into a driving range and short game area during the year.

The Club is also hosting the Leicestershire & Rutland County Championship in 2009.

The successful candidate will require:

The necessary technical qualifications (minimum HND or equivalent)

- The ability to work alongside, motivate, and lead an established and enthusiastic greenkeeping team
- A comprehensive knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems
- Excellent communication skills, both orally and written
- Sound knowledge of Health & Safety and Environmental legislation
- Experience of implementing and working to a budget and management plan
- A strong desire and ability to continue the development of the course, which in recent years has become one of the most prestigious courses in the East Midlands
- Demonstrate a very high standard of course presentation and a sound understanding of the needs and interests of Members.

Letters of application, accompanied by a full CV and salary expectation to:-

**Mr. C. Jones,
Chairman, Cosby Golf Club, Chapel Lane, Cosby
Leicester. LE9 1RG
Email: secretary@cosbygolfclub.co.uk**



Ferndown Golf Club

Assistant Greenkeeper required must be qualified to NVQ Level 2 Minimum of 3 years experience necessary

Please send a full CV to Head Greenkeeper at :

Ferndown Golf Club, 119 Golf Links Road
Ferndown, Dorset
BH22 8BU

Email :golf@ferndowngolfclub.co.uk,
www.ferndowngolfclub.co.uk

The Bigga Training & Development Manual, sponsored by John Deere, is an invaluable tool for everyone working within the greenkeeping industry.



The BIGGA Training & Development Manual

FREE USE FOR MEMBERS

This online manual provides users with the information they need on recruitment, induction, training and career progression using video clips, written information, downloadable documents and useful web links.

A valuable membership benefit the manual can be accessed via the BIGGA website on the Education, Jobs' and Members' areas. Simply log in using your surname and BIGGA membership number on the Home page.

Designed around a theme of 18 holes users can gain access to training records, job specifications, job descriptions, sample contracts of employment, appraisal forms and details of continuing development.

How to access the BIGGA Training & Development Manual

1. Go to the BIGGA website www.bigga.org.uk
2. Click on the Members area, the Jobs page or the Education page and click on the BIGGA Training Manual link.
3. Enter your login details and select the BIGGA Training & Development Manual from the left hand menu.
4. The Training Manual will load and the user can click on Enter the Site to view a welcome video or can select 1-9 or 10-18 on the top menu bar.
5. You can progress through the manual hole by hole or go straight to the hole you wish to view. You can also skip to holes 10-18.
6. When you select a hole you will be presented with a window that explains what that hole is about. You can then select from the bottom tabs, video or sub-text (downloadable documents and links).
7. When clicking on a downloadable document it will automatically open in your default word processor. This can then be amended, updated and saved to your computer's hard disk or printed and filed in your personnel files.



Chairman's Column

AN INTRODUCTION...

Twelve month's ago Kenny Mackay introduced me as Vice Chairman and following completion of his year in office as Chairman he handed over the baton at last month's Harrogate Week.

With the support of my club and team I am both honoured and delighted to accept the role as your new Chairman. My position as Golf Courses Manager at The London Golf Club demands the delivery of high standards in a very competitive business environment, including preparing for this year's European Open. I look forward to working with your Board of Management and the BIGGA staff in an equally challenging year ahead, concentrating on finding ways of further developing our Association to the benefit of members.

Kenny's commitment and efforts to promote BIGGA this past year have often taken him away from his family and his every day role at The Belfry. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking him for giving up many hours of his time to meet the needs of this demanding schedule. As Past Chairman, Kenny will continue to sit on the board and I welcome his continuing input during the year ahead to help us in making progress.

I would like to introduce and welcome the new Vice Chairman, Paul Worster, Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club. Paul is well known to many of you and brings with him strong environmental credentials.

We live in a dynamic environment with change happening all around us, constantly demanding our attention. Assessing where we are now and where we are heading in the current climate is something we are all facing. Maximising opportunities requires vision, careful thought and often involves the right timing. As Course Managers we are often asked for the cost of making changes and required to budget for them. How often are you asked what is the cost of doing nothing? Making no improvements and leaving things just as they were or have always been, often also comes at a price.

Embracing change means being flexible, adapting to the demands put upon us and welcoming the chance to shape the future. Remaining optimistic makes it much easier to see the way ahead and reach the goals we aim for. Whether it is business issues at your club or those facing the Association, the coming weeks and months ahead will be an important time for considering the best way forward.

The move to proxy voting at the recent AGM was a very positive change to the constitution and will allow all members the opportunity to vote on future proposals without requiring them to travel to meetings, including any proposals to include groundsman as members.

The ongoing healthy discussions to consider allowing groundsman, managing turf from other sports, the opportunity to join BIGGA is welcome and a subject that was raised at the AGM. Before the advent of NVQ's I studied City and Guilds in Sports Turf Management for which I was required to learn about turf for all sports. No doubt it was realised at the time that there was a considerable overlap between these turf professions and it made both educational and economic sense to combine classes. Along with others from our industry I recently attended an educational seminar at The All England Club Wimbledon and, not for the first time, enjoyed the benefit of listening to Head Groundsman Eddie Seaward give a talk. With fellow greenkeepers I have twice been to Wembley to the old stadium to meet Head Groundsman Steve Tingley and at the new, to learn from Steve Welsh and his experiences. More recently I have developed relations with



Peter chats with exhibitors during the Show

those closely involved with both local and county cricket in Kent to look at and discuss a broad range of subjects including water recycling, turf maintenance, machinery and logistics for large events.

Along with many other greenkeepers I have valued and enjoyed the close ties we have developed with these turf professionals over many years with plenty of experiences to share and learn from. Indeed some of my own colleagues had previously worked on cricket, football and tennis turf surfaces before bringing that broader experience to our team. I firmly believe that by welcoming fellow turf professionals to BIGGA they would strengthen our education programmes, learning opportunities, our association and their inclusion would bring benefits to all our members.

Before signing off I have to return to the subject of Harrogate Week where the highlight of the week for me was listening to George Brown, speaking after receiving his Lifetime Achievement Award. His recollection of push biking to work and push mowing early in his career perfectly illustrated the sweeping changes in technology and expectations over more than 50 years. His modest manner, dry sense of humour and words of wisdom have won him much respect and many friends in the industry. Many congratulations George.

Our industry enjoys something unique that is often described as a family atmosphere and this is always very much in evidence during Harrogate week, with many opportunities to catch up with colleagues and friends. Make an effort to get along and meet new faces this year at seminars and golf events in your part of the country - take advantage of the network of people who are interested to hear about your club and what you are doing on your course.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the year and hope we can all enjoy some much needed summer sunshine this season.

Your next issue of GI will be with you by March 8
Visit our website for a full archive of BIGGA magazine issues at www.bigga.co.uk

Primo MAXX cuts the time and cost of turf management

In Brief

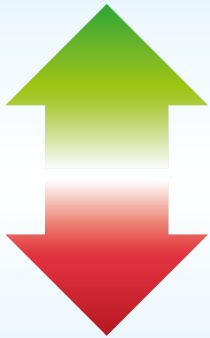
- Primo MAXX application will reduce the time and money spent on mowing turf on fairways and sports grounds – potentially saving over £4250 a year
- Primo MAXX significantly reduces the volume of clippings removed, typically by up to 50%
- Improved turf quality gives a better playing surface = less damage and faster play
- Improved root structure means better drought tolerance and greater stress resistance



Primo MAXX increases the density of quality sports turf, creating a better playing surface. Reducing the hours spent mowing releases time and money for more productive management.

Save time and money with Primo MAXX

LABOUR AVAILABILITY
Up to 20 hours per week



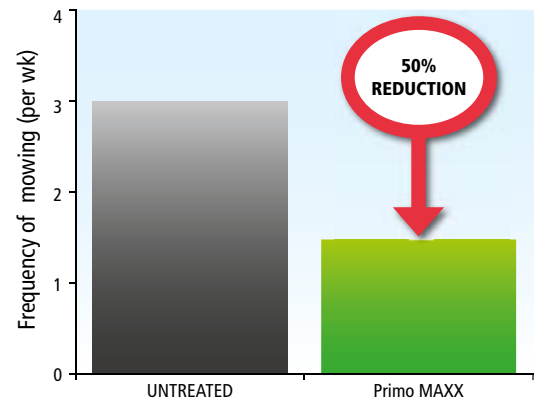
MOWER COSTS
Down £4250 a year

With the cost of running a mower calculated at over £10 an hour, Primo MAXX could save over £4250 a year in lower fuel, maintenance and repair bills – along with the opportunity to cut your carbon footprint with reduced fuel use.

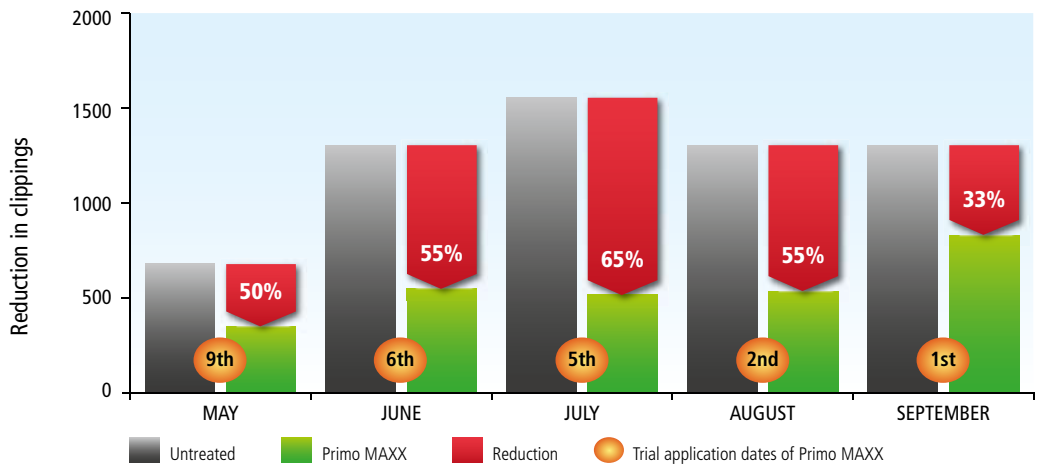
Cutting time spent mowing

Independent user trials with Primo MAXX applications on fairways, conducted by STRI, identified turf managers could typically reduce the frequency of mowing by 50%, whilst still enhancing playing conditions.

Results were consistent under a range of fairway management regimes, often requiring just one cut per week to maintain high quality – with reduced evidence of clippings left on the surface. Boxed off clippings were reduced by up to 65% (below).



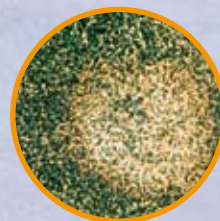
Source: Observational reports of turf managers undertaking Primo MAXX fairway trials



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