A gamble pays off

Donaghadee Golf Club which has turned around its fortunes thanks to some brave decisions.
There’s One Tool You Won’t Need When You Service Hunter Sprinklers!

The last thing a golfer wants to see is unsightly excavation scars from typical sprinkler maintenance. All Hunter Premium Golf Sprinklers feature TTS - Total Top Service, with all serviceable parts accessible from the top which helps keep your course looking great like nothing else can.
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A gifted and talented bunch

It is so refreshing to have just returned from St Andrews and been in the company of so many committed and talented BIGGA members. It goes some way to offsetting the consequences of a succession of late nights and early mornings that I only ever face during Open week.

The entire team, and it was drawn from members from all over the world, and a wide age range, but they grilled tremendously well. My abiding memory of the week will be of gallons and gallons of laughter, especially on some of the late evening mini bus rides back to Elmwood College where we were billeted for the week.

But what struck me was how, in the space of five days, people who had previously just been a face on a database became interesting human beings in their own right.

Having the chance to sit down and chat with so many of them led to discoveries about how gifted so many of them were, not just on the golf course but in other areas of their lives as well.

I uncovered someone who had recently moved to Henley, someone who had been three time British Line Dance Champion, a top flight football referee, not to mention a host of high profile sportsmen and women. The only way you find that out is by meeting and chatting and that is where the BIGGA networking opportunities come into their own.

Whether it be Section, Region or national events there are some wonderful opportunities to meet new people and, if The Open is anything to go by, make friends who will last a lifetime.

Not everyone is a genuine social animal and it does come easier to some people than others but I do know that BIGGA is a very inclusive organisation and the act of making people feel comfortable in what otherwise might be uncomfortable circumstances is almost an unwritten paragraph in the constitution.

A member of the Open Support Team, or a rookie to Harringtons, or qaulifier to the National Championships, supported by Kubota and Charterhouse will never feel an outsider for long and the next time they will be among those making other people feel comfortable and welcomed.

I can also take a few moments to pay tribute to Cecil George, who has won the BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award. I had the great pleasure of travelling to Lenzie, just outside Glasgow, to meet up with my old friend, Cecil, and his wife, Margaret, to interview him for the article which appears in this issue.

Cecil is another example of one of those people who is more than the sum of his parts. From his early life as a para, dropping behind enemy lines, to being responsible for developing the BIGGA networking opportunities comes into their own.

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The official monthly magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.
Over 2,000 native coastal plants such as Thrift, Sheep-Fescue, Kidney Vetch, Yellow Horned Poppies and Scabious have helped the Conceptual Garden ‘A Fable for Tomorrow’ take a gold, RHS medal at Hampton Court Flower Show.

Designed by Sue Radmore, Electra Sanders and Scarlet Wheaton for University College Falmouth the Garden depicts an old, Cornish seed bank. Some seeds have spilled out to germinate around pools while others have colonised the hill itself as they might in the wild. Linda Laxton, MD of British Wild flower Plants, the specialist Norfolk Nursery that has custom grown the plants says that many seeds will lie underground for years until they are disturbed and the conditions are right for them to germinate.

*Poppies for example shed their seeds in August and because of the dry conditions fall through cracks in the soil where they remain about one foot down at a constant temperature until the field is ploughed.

“When this happens they enjoy light and rain, germinate and consequently flower.” British Wild Flower Plants have also supplied ‘Fields of Gold’ part of the ‘Home Grown’ RHS central exhibit at Hampton Court.

For further information, contact British Wild Flower Plants on Tel 01603 716615 or visit www.wildflowers.co.uk

WILDFLOWERS STRIKE GOLD AT HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW

Success for Marriott Group

All 10 of Marriott’s UK golf resorts have been awarded “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” status in recognition of the hard work they have undertaken implementing a variety of projects in environmental areas around the golf course.

The Award is an international recognition of environmental excellence bestowed on organisations that are taking a leadership role in conservation. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses helps to enhance wildlife habitats and protect natural resources for the benefit of people, wildlife and the game of golf. The programme is designed to give Course Managers the information and guidance they need to implement stewardship projects and receive recognition for their efforts.

The Golf Programme is part of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. It is administered by Audubon International, a non-profit environmental organisation that spearheads education and conservation assistance programs that promote environmental stewardship and sustainability. The Program addresses five key environmental quality areas: Wildlife and Habitat Management, Chemical Use, Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, Water Quality Management and Outreach and Education.

Golf Management Trophy Day comes to Erewash Valley

A Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Day sponsored for the 12th successive year by Scotts UK Professional was held at Erewash Valley Golf Club.

Teams from 15 golf clubs enjoyed a great day on a superbly presented course prepared by Course Manager Graham Arnold and his staff. We were blessed with an unusually warm day, and all players were relieved to make it to the clubhouse for a well earned refreshment, where everyone was made to feel very welcome by all the staff and members; our thanks are extended to all at the Club.

The competition is based on the established format of four man teams playing stableford with the best two points scores on each hole to count. The team from Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, with Course Manager Antony Bindley won the event for the second time with a great score of 93 points, Birstall Golf Club 2nd with 89 points, and 3rd on 88 points Wollaton Park Golf Club.

The Midland Region of BIGGA thanks Erewash Valley Golf Club for hosting the event and Scotts for their sponsorship.

NEW MODEL

Despite lengthy talks with various modelling agencies Sheffield Section resisted temptation and used a model from among their own number! Thanks to Ian Whitley for attempting to model the new Sheffield Section polo shirts. The shirts are available in many sizes and are at the very reasonable price of £10. The Section has already had a lot of enquiries so far so if you would like to order one please contact James Stevens on 07738716614

ABOVE: The winning team from Kirby Muxloe Golf Club receiving the trophy, with Antony Bindley centre; LEFT: Mark Haver presenting the main prize, an Accupro Spreader, to Antony Bindley;
WILD FLOWERS STRIKE GOLD AT HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW

Over 2,000 native coastal plants such as Thrift, Sheep-Fescue, Kidney Vetch, Yellow Horned Poppies and Scabious have helped the Conceptual Garden ‘A Fable for Tomorrow’ take a gold RHS medal at Hampton Court Flower Show.

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The new Diplomas have replaced the NVQs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and given industries the opportunity to have a stronger influence in the content of the Diplomas as well as a Quality Assurance in the delivery of the qualifications.

In another development the GTC, in association with the IOG, has created a Groundsmen Diploma specifically designed to give greenkeepers and groundsmen and women the skills and knowledge to maintain surfaces to the highest standards required within the Diplomas and is also available through learning centres.

David Golding, GTC’s Education Director, believes the agreement between the GTC, IOG and City & Guilds NPTC will benefit the sports turf sector by providing the skills and knowledge to maintain surfaces to the highest standards required within the Diplomas and is also available through learning centres.

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Sports Ground Contractor Ups The Power

Tractors designed and built originally for use in agriculture are proving an increasingly important asset for non-farming applications as evidenced by the 115hp MF 6265 which has added a new dimension to the machinery fleet of Hampshire-based sports ground construction and turf drainage specialists, Kestrel Contracting.

Supplied by local Massey Ferguson dealer, Lister Widers, the new tractor replaced a seven-year old 115hp MF 6265 in spearheading the company’s contract drainage operations on sports pitches and playing fields throughout the UK.

“Integrating an AFT Wizz Wheel 75 wheel-type trencher, the additional muscle and advanced Dyna-VT transmission of the MF 7465 is proving invaluable in sustaining high workrates while promoting consistently good results in a wide range of surface conditions and soil types,” points out Kestrel founder and managing director, Richard Veitch.

“Shorter horsepower comes in very useful when laying mains drainage pipes measuring up to 150mm in diameter at depths anywhere between 500mm and 700mm below ground level,” said Richard.

The Perfect Putting Surface

The STRI’s groundbreaking Trueness Meter was in use at St Andrews during The Open.

The revolutionary new technology played a pivotal role in ensuring all 18 greens were consistent and of an optimal trueness.

Developed in conjunction with Sheffield Hallam University following funding from the R&A, The Trueness Meter is used as an integral part of the STRI Programme. The technology is being hailed as one of the biggest steps forward in the agronomy industry in 30 years and the only accurate, effective and efficient method of measuring smoothness and trueness of a green.

The perfect putting surface tests the player but also gives reward for skilful play. STRI’s Trueness Meter™ allows greenkeepers for the first time to forensically analyse the greens during an event and refine operations to help them implement 18 greens of the highest order.

Major Steps for Dennis

Dennis Mosers marked a significant moment in the company’s history with the opening of its superb new assembly and administrative facility at its HQ near Derby.

Dennis’s most significant moment in the company’s history with the opening of its superb new assembly and administrative facility at its HQ near Derby.

“After many years of planning and construction, the long-awaited opening of our new home is a significant milestone in the company’s history. The new building is not only a symbol of our commitment to innovation and quality, but also a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team,” said Richard Moser, CEO of Dennis Mowers.

The building has been designed to meet the highest standards of sustainability, with features such as a solar panel array, rainwater harvesting system, and energy-efficient lighting. The spacious layout provides modern, ergonomic workstations for our team, as well as an on-site training facility for customers and dealers.

The new facility is a reflection of Dennis’s ongoing commitment to leadership in the turf and landscape industry, and we are proud to open it to the public and share our passion for quality and innovation.”

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The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has bought 86 new Bushranger Edgers from DJ Turfcare, based in Surrey. DJ Turfcare is the sole distributor for Bushranger Edgers, and has been working with the CWGC for many years.

Bushranger Edgers have proved ideal for war graves maintenance, with their unique design allowing for precise cutting of edges in difficult locations, such as those found in ancient cemeteries and military cemeteries.

“We are very proud of our long association with the War Graves Commission,” said Derek Parker, CWGC Director of Horticulture. “We have been looking for a machine like this for a long time, since another manufacturer stopped producing theirs.”

“The Bushranger has all the features we need because it is well-designed for operator use. We have war graves under our care throughout the world and staff need the most efficient machinery for maintaining the very high standards we insist on.”

DJ Turfcare Managing Director David Jenkins said, “We are very proud of our long association with the War Graves Commission. “Bushranger Edgers have proved ideal for war graves maintenance, with their unique design allowing for precise cutting of edges in difficult locations, such as those found in ancient cemeteries and military cemeteries.”

DJ Turfcare, who are also sole UK suppliers of Viano organic fertilisers, provide the CWGC with HTML award-winning fertiliser MO Bacter, which eliminates moss without leaving debris and does not mark stonework or paths.
This year’s Scottish National Tournament was held in the North East of Scotland at Murcar Links Golf Club, Aberdeen on Thursday, 17 June, 2010.

During its 100 years Murcar has hosted many tournaments and frequently features in the top 100 courses in the U.K. - In 2007, voted the Golf Tourism Scotland “Course of the Year - 2007”.

Overhead conditions were perfect, with a breeze just to make things interesting typical links conditions. Entry was slightly down on last year but the players in attendance were looking forward to playing this fine links course. After the most severe winter in almost 30 years Brian Anderson and his staff are to be congratulated on producing a course in excellent condition for the tournament.


A celebration was held in June when Directors Richard and Jean Campey presented with a weekend away for him and his wife and a bottle of malt Whisky to mark the occasion.

Tory, a well known figure within the trade and with Campey customers, originally joined as a sales representative covering North Wales, Cheshire and the North Staffordshire area and went on to become General Manager. "In an age when strength of character, loyalty and willingness to always put the needs of a client first are not always given the recognition they deserve, we are delighted to acknowledge the sheer hard work and dedication of Tory who has displayed over the past 20 years," acknowledged Richard. "He has never had a day off sick in all that time and has proved himself a loyal and dedicated member of our team."

Chairman’s Word

Halfway through his term, BIGGA Chairman, Paul Worster, looks back at performance and forward to success

So far, so good?

Six months of my term as Chairman have now elapsed and the messages people kindly send to talktompaul@hotmail.co.uk have prompted me to consider where we now and where we need to be going.

By way of brief explanation BIGGA has an elected (volunteer) Board who are responsible for policy making and implementation. The Board determines the duties of the Chief Executive (CE) who then administers the Association’s affairs under the general instruction of the Board, i.e. the CE produces a Business Plan and supervises the professional HQ team to achieve the Business Plan.

It is an honour for me to serve this Association and to work with the Board and the HQ team. At the AGM in January the members attending indicated that they wanted me to take an active role in the business and gave me the mandate to work with the HQ team and our hard working volunteers to make BIGGA the best membership organisation anywhere in the world.

I freely admit – this is rather an all-encompassing vision and one that will need continuous effort and attention. However, six months ago I expressed the belief that we already have the leadership, the professional HQ team and the infrastructure (developed over the past 10 years) to achieve this goal and I still feel the same.

My confidence that we can achieve this aim was reinforced recently by Tracey Maddison at HQ who kindly gave me an excellent brief on how we can all contribute to recruiting more members. Her great ideas, and more, will feature in a later column and I hope will become a major drive for the Association. For now let’s look at some success measures and consider what might still need to be done by your Chairman and Board.

At a FEGGA Seminar in February, I gained insights into how successful membership organisations are measured. These measures assess the way an association operates as a business, and make no mistake – BIGGA is a business – and like any other it needs to be managed well.

1: A Customer Service Culture

I am grateful to the Chief Executive for his efforts, particularly the personal example he sets with his customer focus. Our trade partners are also our customers as are our volunteers at all levels.

Let me be clear now – your Board and staff members are deeply committed to ensuring that we continue to improve the ways we offer our services and interact with our members. Please also see my April column.

2: The Alignment of Products and Services with the organisation’s mission

One of my stated aims is to see BIGGA voted the Golf Tourism Scotland “Course of the Year - 2007”. I am grateful to Board members and HQ staff to ensure that we respond to this key challenge by supporting local volunteers with events and see the support given by the staff and secretary at the club.

3: data driven Strategies

This is the way an association operates as a successful membership organisation.

4: Dialogue and Engagement

I am grateful to the Board for all that they do to represent the aspirations of their members at all levels. I will encourage Board members and HQ staff to ensure that we respond to this key challenge by supporting local volunteers with events and see the support given by the staff and secretary at the club.

5: CEO is a broker of good ideas for the Board

I am grateful to the Chief Executive for his hard work over many years to build meaningful partnerships with key trade and sporting bodies.

6: Organisational Adaptability

Although our small-walled like BIGGA, the HQ may be vulnerable to sudden skills shortages requiring an up-to-date Succession Plan and cover for key roles - its size means it can more swiftly - adapt to unforeseen market conditions - optimise the way it delivers its services.

7: Alliance Building

I am grateful to Board members and HQ staff to ensure that we continue to form advantageous alliances with other organisations in the golf sector.

So far, so good?

In closing let me mention that your Board recently honoured Cecil Groves with the BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award. The vision of Cecil and people like him who helped develop formal training for Greenkeepers continues to help BIGGA to be where it should be i.e. in the forefront of the advancement of the greenkeeping profession.
This year’s Scottish National Tournament was held in the North East of Scotland at Murcar Links Golf Club, Aberdeen, on Thursday, 17 June. During its 100 years Murcar has hosted many tournaments and frequently features in the top 100 courses in the U.K.. In 2007, the Golf Tourism Scotland “Course of the Year - 2007”. Overhead conditions were perfect, with a breeze just to make things interesting typical links conditions. Entry was slightly down on last year but the players in attendance were looking forward to playing this fine links course. After the most severe winter in almost 30 years Brian Anderson and his staff are to be congratulated on producing a course excellent condition for the tournament.

Despite the windy conditions several fine scores were returned with the BIGGA National Champion of 2007 and 2008 David Simpson, Crieff GC, returning a fine scratch 72 to win the SGGA Challenge Cup. The Handicap Champion of 2007 and 2008 David Simpson, Handicap Ben Brookes, Murcar GC, 79-9-70, Barsness Trophy (First Class) 1. Derek Green, Royal Aberdeen, 76-5-71; 2. Charlie MacDonald, Crieff GC, 75-3-72; 3. George Mitchell, Newmachar GC, 75-7-72; Patterson Trophy (Second Class) 1. Richard Pirie, Newmachar GC, 83-10-74; 2. Billy Craig, Kintore GC, 85-10-75; 3. Gary Semples, St Andrews Links, 87-11-76. STRI Trophy (Third Class) 1. Lewis Birch, St Andrews Links, 91-20-71; 2. Hugh McLachlan, Peterhead GC, 110-21-89; 3. Brian Hunter, Dundonald Links, 112-21-91. Dick Allan’s Trophy (Best Head Greenkeeper) Archie Dunlop, Auchterarder GC, 77-5-72; M&M Trophy (Best Assistant) Mike Carson, Caird Park GC, 81-7-74; Snitter Trophy (Best Apprentice) Greig Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, 86-12-74; SOUT Trophy (Vice President) Elliot Small, Life Member, 85-11-74; Smurgo Trophy (Tours Event). Best 4 net scores. Central Section. Lewis Birch, 71; Archie Dunlop, 72; David Simpson, 72; Charlie McDonald, 72. Total=287; Patrons/ Partners Trophy (Best Veteran). Peter J. Boyd, Regional Administrator.

So far, so good?

Six months of my term as Chairman have now elapsed and the messages people kindly send to talltapoula@hotmail.co.uk have prompted me to consider where we now are and where we need to be going. By way of brief explanation BIGGA has an elected (volunteer) Board who are responsible for policy making and implementation. The Board determines the duties of the Chief Executive (CE) who then administers the Association’s affairs under the general instruction of the Board, i.e. the CE produces a Business Plan and supervises the professional HQ team to achieve the Business Plans.

It is an honour for me to serve this Association and to work with the Board and the HQ team. At the AGM in January the members attending indicated that they wanted me to take an active role in the business and gave me my mandate to work with the HQ team and our hard working volunteers to make BIGGA the best membership organisation anywhere (See my March column). I freely admit - this is a rather ‘all-encompassing’ vision and one that will need continuous effort and attention. However, six months ago I expressed the belief that we already have the leadership, the hard working volunteers to achieve this goal and I still feel the same. My confidence that we can achieve this aim was reinforced recently by Tracey Maddison at HQ who kindly gave me an excellent brief on how the C&L Cap scheme is measured. These measures assess the way an association operates as a business, and make no mistake - BIGGA is a business – and like any other it needs to be managed well.

1: A Customer Service Culture I am grateful to the Chief Executive for his efforts, particularly the personal example he sets with his customer focus. Our trade partners are also our customers as are our volunteers at all levels. Let me be clear now – your Board and staff members are deeply committed to ensuring that we continue to improve the ways we offer our services and interact with our members. Please also see my April column.

2: The Alignment of Products and Services with the organisation’s mission Our mission statement reads - BIGGA is dedicated to the continuing professional development of its members and in serving their needs will strive through education and training for standards of excellence in golf course management through-out the greenkeeping profession’s.

You and I are leaders - to achieve this goal the CE and the HQ team need to be supported in this mission by the volunteers who work with the HQ team to achieve the Strategic Plan.

3: Data Driven Strategies I am grateful to Board members for their often heroic efforts to formulate clear strategies and make wise decisions. I will continue to encourage Board members and HQ staff to gather the key data that our three-tiered structure makes accessible to us.

It is so important that the Board makes informed decisions based on up-to-date information from a wide range of sources.

4: Dialogue and Engagement I am grateful to the Board for all that they do to represent the aspirations of their members at all levels. I will encourage Board members and HQ staff to ensure that we respond to this key challenge by supporting local volunteers with evidence that their work makes sense. I will encourage Board members, and HQ staff to support local volunteers with evidence that their work makes sense.

5: CEO is a broker of good ideas for the Board I am grateful to the Chief Executive who has not only brokered good ideas but seen their wider potential e.g. expanding the ‘Carriers Clinic’ at Harrogate Week into a ‘Carriers Fair’ complete with Job Wall.

6: Organisational Adaptability Although a small outfit like BIGGA the HQ may be vulnerable to sudden skills shortages requiring an up-to-date Succession Plan and cover for key roles - its size means it can make more swiftly - adapt to unforeseen market conditions - optimise the way it delivers its services.

I will actively encourage your Board to ensure that the Association’s organisation and resources, as well as its products and services, are aligned to its mission.

7: Alliance Building I am grateful to the Chief Executive for his hard work over many years to build meaningful partnerships with key trade and sporting bodies. I will actively encourage your Board to ensure that we continue to form advantageous alliances with organisations in the golf sector.

Chairman’s Word

Halfway through his term, BIGGA Chairman, Paul Worster, looks back at performance and forward to success.
Early indications are that Apprenticeships will remain although the new Government has yet to confirm where funding support, if any, will be focused to benefit employers and learners.

The GTC has ensured the Apprenticeships at both Levels 2 and 3 include the skills and knowledge required by employers and whilst these frameworks are available for all ages, when it comes to funding support, it is the young 16-19 age group, where priority funding is guaranteed.

I am sure we all agree that funding should be made available to ensure youngsters either receive support through their employers registering them as an apprentice with a Centre, or on a full-time college based course/qualification such as a National Certificate when they are unable to gain employment.

However, what about the over 19’s and the mature career changes who would love to follow the apprenticeship pathway? If funding support is not available to employers they might unfairly be discriminated against!

The GTC will continue to raise this matter and Centre staff have been awarded to: Andrew Reason – Askham Bryan College, representing Horsforth Golf Club, and eight finalists have been selected, with the 10th place at BIGGA House on 12 and 13 September, as it will be the kite mark by which education and training will be measured in the future.

There are far too many apprentice success stories to list in this article, but it is still as important today as it was when I first became an apprentice in the mid-sixties. Not that I am claiming to be one of the success stories!

Let us hope that within all the promised funding cuts, training doesn’t receive any and our employers continue to invest in their staff of all ages.

Not only has the GTC continually lobbied for support funding for all formal qualifications but has also encouraged the take up of Continual Professional Development (CPD) by greenkeepers and employers for short courses which must be the next target.

These short courses could easily be funded if the government instructed its funding bodies to include Centres, including colleges to offer courses using Units grouped together, which can give the learner a certificate of achievement.

In my opinion there has been far too much emphasis on full qualifications and this has been to the detriment of many greenkeepers looking to progress their skills and knowledge in association with their employers.

The GTC, in partnership with the new Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers must be prepared to deliver short courses, as these underpin all of the formal qualifications and National Occupational Standards.

If we could just get the Government to recognise the demand and popularity for short courses and at least put some funding towards this area of training, I am sure we will see the Centres more fairly quickly.

Whether we call it CPD or progression, learners will soon get used to this and the GTC will put its weight behind this matter at every opportunity.

At a very tight meeting I heard that “progression” would become a government buzzword for all workers. If I do have to assume this is just what the GTC has been lobbying for since its SVQ’s were introduced in the early nineties. Employers for their part, through their Course Managers should keep up to speed with the various courses and qualifications, as there is no substitute for having a well trained workforce.

Finally, from the 31st August there will be a new look to the GTC Approved Training Provider section on the website.

As part of its ongoing commitment to quality the GTC has written to all of its current approved providers with a revised criteria and an invitation to join the GTC’s Quality Assured Scheme.

Colleges and Private Companies meeting the criteria and offering the formal qualifications will, in future, be promoted by employers and learners as GTC APPROVED CENTRES.

A new criteria and category for individuals and organisations will be GTC APPROVED PROVIDERS.

Watch out for the GTC’s Quality Assured Scheme logo from September, as it will be the kite mark by which education and training will be measured in the future.

The regional interviews for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year will be held at Hadlow College, with eight finalists having been announced. Six of these will compete in the regional interviews, with the remaining two to be able to compete at the national finals. The most recent scholarship has been awarded to: Andrew Reason – Hadlow College. The GTC has ensured the Apprenticeships at both Levels 2 and 3 include the skills and knowledge required by employers and whilst these frameworks are available for all ages, when it comes to funding support, it is the young 16-19 age group, where priority funding is guaranteed.
Early indications are that Apprenticeships will remain relevant although the new Government has yet to confirm where funding support, if any, will be focused to benefit employers and learners.

The GTC has ensured the Apprenticeships at both Levels 2 and 3 include the skills and knowledge required by employers and whilst these frameworks are available for all ages, when it comes to funding support, it is the young 16-19 age group, where priority funding is guaranteed.

I am sure we all agree that funding should be made available to ensure youngsters either receive support through their employers registering them as an apprentice with a Centre, or on a full-time college based course/qualification such as a National Certificate when they are unable to gain employment.

However, what about the over 19’s and the mature career changes who would love to follow the apprenticeship pathway? If funding support is not available to employers they might unfairly be discriminated against!

The GTC will continue to raise this matter and Centre staff have to be prepared to react as and when new initiatives are announced.

Ideally we would see funding made available to support apprentices of all ages and funding for short courses using the Units from within the various qualifications.

Regular readers of this page will know the GTC, through consultation, maintains the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for the greenkeeping sector from which vocational, apprenticeships and centre based qualifications are developed.

We certainly hope that the Government continues to support employers led organisations like the GTC who, despite the bureaucracy and numerous hours of meetings, work within the “system” therefore the employers we represent should be supported accordingly.

There are far too many apprentice success stories to list in this article but it is still as important today as it was when I first became an apprentice in the mid sixties. Not that I am claiming to be one of the success stories!

Let us hope that within all the promised funding cuts, training doesn’t receive any and our employers continue to invest in their staff of all ages.

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These short courses could easily be funded if the government instructed its funding bodies to provide “little and often”, including colleges to offer courses using Units grouped together, which can give the learner a certificate of achievement.

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At a very hot meeting I heard that “progression” would become a government buzzword for learners. If I have to assume this is just what the GTC has been lobbying for since N/SVQ’s were introduced in the early nineties.

Employers fight their part, through their Course Managers should keep up with the various courses and qualifications, as there is no substitute for having a well trained workforce.

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This last month the L&D Department has been heavily involved with The Open, the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year regional interviews, the introduction of the new membership benefit, the “How To...” guides, and whilst this is just what the GTC has been lobbying for since N/SVQ’s were introduced in the early nineties.

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“How To...” Guides

Do you ever ask yourself these questions?

• How do I conduct a one-to-one meeting?
• How do I conduct a team briefing?
• How do I prepare for an appraisal?
• How do I recruit the right staff?
• How do I write a job description?

There are now 19 “How To...” guides available to help you answer these questions and more.

1. Cascade Goals to Teams and Individuals
2. Conduct 180º and 360º Appraisals
3. Conduct Team Briefings
4. Develop a Business Plan
5. Develop a Training and Development Policy
6. Develop an Appraisal System
7. Develop and Organisational Training Plan
8. Develop Succession Plans
9. Evaluate Individual Training and Development
10. Evaluate Training and Development Against Goals and Targets
11. Introduce Continuous Improvement
12. Plan an Induction
13. Prepare a Skills Matrix
14. Prepare a Training Record
15. Prepare for an Appraisal
16. Promote Equal Opportunities
17. Recruit the Right Staff
18. Write a Job Description
19. Conduct a One-to-One Meeting

The “How To...” guides are short, handy guides providing practical, step by step guidance on the listed subjects. The guides can be down loaded and used to help you develop your knowledge and implement new processes within your workplace.

Introduces exclusively for BIGGA Members, you’ll find the guides by accessing Member Resources in the members area of the website. The “How To...” guides are brought to you thanks to the continuing support of the contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

The National Finals will take place at BIGGA House on 12 and 13 September. I’m sure you will join me in wishing all of the finalists the very best of luck.

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to Andrew Reason – HNC Golf Course Management

Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, with an update on issue education
ROYAL CINQUE PORTS STAYS WITH RANSOMES JACOBSEN

The Royal Cinque Ports GC, situated on the narrow stretch of coastline between Deal and Sandwich Bay in Kent, has added further Ransomes Jacobsen turf maintenance equipment to maintain the championship links course. The club has added four G-Flex III ride-on triplex mowers, two with greens cutting units and two for tees, two Fairway 305s triplex mowers, two with greens cutting, to two greens and the rough, all supplied by local dealer Ernest Doe and Sons Ltd.

Ian Barnard is the Course Manager and a former professional golfer who turned to greenkeeping following a serious injury that curtailed his career. Commenting on the new equipment he said, “As you would expect from a links course we have a very undulating playing surfaces, both severe and subtle, as we need equipment that delivers a high quality finish, while having the ability to work under these exacting conditions here at Royal Cinque Ports.

The club has opted for a five year operating lease with full maintenance contract, which provides them with a fixed monthly cost and dtovetails with their operating strategy.

“This latest package, with its combination of equipment, high service levels from local dealer Ernest Doe & Sons and a finance plan that suits our business plan, is definitely the best package,” Ian Barnard concluded.

Etesia UK on the Move

Etesia UK is celebrating its 15th year of trading with a move to modern, custom built premises at Sherrington, near Banbury, Oxfordshire. The company required a larger warehouse and in-house training areas.

Etesia UK began in 1995 with only one walk-behind and one ride-on machine but have grown rapidly and now offer a wide range of products, that include a variety of walk-behind & ride-on mowers, and a range of brush cutters. The company is also the exclusive UK dealer for the range of Pellenc lithium-ion battery powered chainsaws, pruners, pruning saws and hedge cutters.

The move has been about following a steady rise in business and an increase in customers and machinery sales since the company was formed.

The contact details for Etesia UK are: Greenway House Sugworth Business Park Sherrington OX15 6HW. Tel: 01295 660120 Fax: 01295 680852.

Euros Grass Joins Turfgrass Growers Association

The Turfgrass Growers Association has welcomed grass seed breeder, producer and supplier Euro Grass BV as a new affiliate member.

Euro Grass is an international company which is active in turfgrass breeding and production in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. New to the British amenity market, its aim, through the recent appointment of Simon Taylor as UK Sales & Marketing Manager, is to offer a portfolio of amenity grasses that provides high level seed cleanliness and unrivalled cultivar performance for turf production. The company already has a number of cultivars established on the STBG/BRSPB seed listings.

Simon Taylor explained: “Our membership is very important as it enables interaction with growers members and to present Euro Grass and its products on a professional level. We are looking forward to working with the Association and turf growers to tackle some of the challenges which face the industry in current times.”

Simon can be contacted on 01522 866946 or by email on simon.taylor@eurograss.com. www.turfgrass.co.uk

Sherriff to be Sole Suppliers

Sherriff Amenity has signed a new extended agreement with De Vere Hotel & Leisure to remain the sole suppliers of chemical, fertilizer and grass seed to their golf courses nationwide.

Mark Pyrah, Sherriff Amenity Director said: “We are delighted that De Vere have chosen Sherriff Amenity to remain their exclusive supplier.

“The agreement that has been reached will ensure that De Vere continue to benefit from volume group purchases, a high level of sales support and the latest in new product technology within the amenity arena.

“Sherrif Amenity’s industry leading research and development programme allows us to provide our customers with the latest in new technical innovation backed by our unrivalled range of products, selected from regional, national and international manufacturers.”

What’s your Number?

1. What is your position within the company? Owner and chief coffee-maker.
2. How long have you been in the industry? As a journalist for 42 years. In the sports surface management sector 15 years.
3. How did you get into it? From school as a trainee reporter on a local paper. After various newspaper jobs, joined the Daily Mail for 10 years. Entered horticulture in the 80s while running a six-acre smallholding in West Sussex, and later freelanced on The Water Gardener and Turf Management magazines, followed by editing The Groundsman for 11 years.
4. What other jobs have you done? It’s all been journalism and public relations, plus photography — but my family were all farmers so I really feel comfortable when working outdoors. I’ve done my fair share of cultivating, growing and harvesting over the years.
5. What do you like about your current job? The opportunity to meet so many people who enjoy their work. Greenerkeepers, groundsmen and gardeners all share a common passion for perfection and are all very friendly.
6. What changes have you seen during your time in the industry? More science, better machinery and an increase in the recognition for people who produce top-notch sports surfaces and excellent parks and gardens.
7. What do you like to do in your spare time? More science, better machinery and an increase in the recognition for people who produce top-notch sports surfaces and excellent parks and gardens.
8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? Still working! Unless my lottery ticket comes up and then I’ll be on my yacht in the Bahamas.
9. Who do you consider best friends in the industry? Cannot name ‘em all – but they know who they are.
10. What do you consider to be your lucky number? 18 – the date of my son and grandson’s birthday.
11. Pick a number…31 Mike has picked Lee Penrose of the STBG

14 AUGUST 2010
15 AUGUST 2010
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**What’s your Number?**

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month’s lucky number...

1. What is your position within the company?
   - Owner and chief coffee-maker.

2. How long have you been in the industry?
   - As a journalist for 42 years. In the sports surface management sector 15 years.

3. How did you get into it?
   - From school as a trainee reporter on a local paper. After various newspaper jobs, joined The Daily Mail for 10 years. Entered horticulture in the 80s while running a six-acre smallholding in West Sussex, and later freelanced on The Water Gardener and Turf Management magazines, followed by editing The Groundsman for 11 years.

4. What other jobs have you done?
   - It’s all been journalism and public relations, plus photography — but my family were all farmers so I really feel comfortable when working outdoors. I’ve done my fair share of cultivating, growing and harvesting over the years.

5. What do you like about your current job?
   - A common passion for perfection and are all very friendly. Greenkeepers, groundsmen and gardeners all share this passion for perfection which is very important to me.

6. What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?
   - More science, better machinery and an increase in the recognition for people who produce top-notch sports surfaces and excellent parks and gardens.

7. What do you like to do in your spare time?
   - Pottery, photography – but my family were all farmers so I really feel comfortable when working outdoors. I’ve done my fair share of cultivating, growing and harvesting over the years.

8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?
   - Still working! Unless my lottery ticket comes up and then I’ll be on my yacht in the Bahamas.

9. Who do you consider best friends in the industry?
   - Cannot name them all – but they know who they are.

10. What do you consider to be your lucky number?
    - 18 – the date of my son and grandson’s birthday.

11. Pick a number...
    - Mike has picked Lee Penrose of the STRI.
A gamble pays off

Scott MacCallum visits Donaghadee Golf Club which has turned around its fortunes thanks to some brave decisions.
A gamble pays off

Scott MacCallum visits Donaghadee Golf Club which has turned around its fortunes thanks to some brave decisions
Three years ago Donaghadee Golf Club, near Bangor, in Northern Ireland, took a gamble.

Losing members, with the course not maximising its potential, the club recognised that a change was needed and advertised for a top Course Manager to turn around its fortunes as well as setting aside a significant amount of money to invest in the course.

Local man, Aaron Small, who had been number two at Clandeboye Golf Club for the previous 10 years, was attracted by the prospect of making his mark on the course and took on the challenge. If it was indeed a gamble for both sides, fortune has certainly favoured the brave.

The course is now in superb condition with an extensive bunker programme nearing completion which has transformed the golfing challenge and a new practice facility which will surely become the envy of many others. All in three short years.

“The course was lacking definition to be honest while the bunkers were in serious need of attention—they were old, in the wrong places with inconsistent sand,” said Aaron, who had played the course a number of times both as a junior and a senior team player.

“Basically the course was behind the times but credit to the club, they appreciated that something needed to be done—the nettle was grasped and money spent.”

“I knew, coming here, that it was going to be a challenge but I certainly wasn’t daunted by it.”

Aaron had been honest at his interview, highlighting where he thought the problems were, and that was music to the ears of the interview panel, who knew then that they’d get their man.

“Personally believe that the Head Greenkeeper needs to play golf otherwise it’s like a chef who doesn’t taste his own food. If I’d been a member of Donaghadee I wouldn’t have been happy and I could understand why they were leasing,” said Aaron, a hand-crafter who hits the ball a country mile.

The first thing he did when he started was, as with most new men, turn the greens around, and the club was quick to honour its commitment with around £80,000 worth of new machinery, which has since been added to by another £70,000 worth of kit.

“Visually they look excellent but despite the fact that it has made the course more off the front, one on the right and another at the back. Now it looks like a real signature hole with bunkers surrounding the green. With the 18th it meant people left the course thinking what a good golf course it was. The club was over the moon and the decision to extend it to the rest of the bunkering was easy,” said Aaron, or “Bunker Boy” as some of the members call him.

After that a programme which involved Howard visiting twice in the year, in February and October for three days with two holes being done each time.

“The course is a little below average length wise and there is no way we can make it longer so really the only way we can improve the challenge is to tighten the course up with the bunkering and make sure they are in the correct places.

“We put £20,000 in the budget each year which worked out at £5,000 per hole covering all architect fees, digger men fees, drainage, sand etc. I really enjoy working with Howard because he is on site the whole time and can make amendments as we go rather than him leaving plans for us to interpret.”

Asked to describe a Swan bunker, Aaron explains that they fit in well to the landscape and that they are built in proportion to the scale of the golf course.

“Visually they look excellent but they do require a bit of maintenance as they need to be bailed regularly. Aaron firmly believes that bunkers are the toughest element of a golf course to get right and that it is certainly harder to get bunker consistency right than it is green consistency.

“Category One gofer like them to be firm but harder handcappers like a bit softer and fluffier. But we’ve also got to contend with wind blow as well as the fact that some bunkers drain better than others. Then you’ve got to look at the fact that sun facing bunkers dry out more quickly, while those that are more in play will react differently to those that are not found so often. It is an impossible task to achieve total consistency.”

With the bunkers on track and due to be completed in another four visits, there is a steady improvement much to the delight of the members, despite the fact that it has made the course at least a shot tougher.

While this has been going on, other areas of the course haven’t been neglected and have seen an upgrade.

“We’ve improved the signage and made money,” explained Aaron.

“We bought some excellent signs from Eagle Promotions which have been cemented in. They are wooden and have a map of the hole painted on them and look great. We get them sponsored for an average of around £500 each for two years more for par 3’s as they are studied for yardages more others and the 1st is more as well. For the sponsorship they also get 20 rounds at Donaghadee. This brings more people into the club to spend money at the club or in the shop so we benefit consistency right than it is green consistency."

Howard Swan’s Short-course Plan

Consistency is the key to good golfing and good business and this is why Howard’s Short-course Plan is key. The new practice grounds have been added to by another £70,000 worth of kit.

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“Basically the course was behind the times but credit to the club, they appreciated that something needed to be done – the nettle was grasped and money spent.

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Aaron had been honest at his interview, highlighting where he thought the problems were, and that was music to the ears of the interview panel, who knew then that they’d got their man.

“I personally believe that the Head Greenkeeper needs to play golf otherwise it’s like a chef who doesn’t taste his own food. If I’d been a member of Donaghadee I wouldn’t have been happy and I could understand why people were leaving,” said Aaron, a 4-handicap who hits the ball a country mile.

The first thing he did when he started was, as with most new men, turn the greens around, and the club was quick to honour its commitment with around £80,000 worth of new machinery, which has since been added to by another £70,000 worth of kit.

“Before I started they had one guy stuck on a three unit rough mower and it took him a full week to cut the rough. We now have a seven unit Toro and we get the work done in a day and a half. We were immediately saving there and a half days’ worth of wages each week which meant that the machine basically paid itself and we got a better quality finish,” said Aaron, who couldn’t believe how busy the course was when he arrived.

“It thought it must have been Open week as we regularly have 600 people out between Friday and Sunday and I’d been used to Clandeboye, which had two courses to swallow up the golfers.”

“The greens are our bread and butter. I took out about 210 bases of thatch and sanded them straight away to get them running true. It was the best thing for them.”

Having made an impact on the greens and added definition to the fairways Aaron then turned his attention to the bunkers.

“I was grubbing a greenside bunker on the 4th when the Captain came over. I pulled the hand grubber through the first time and it was HS Masters sand. I pulled it through again and it was Wentford White. The third time it was Silica. So basically there had been a problem with the Silica sand so instead of digging it out the Wentford had been put on top and when there was a problem with that the HS was put on top of that. It was good for the Captain to see what we were up to.”

Aaron had worked with architect, Howard Swan, at Clandeboye on 70 bunkers which had been well received by the members and felt that Howard could make an impact at Donaghadee.

“I’d been in the club around six months before I approached them and suggested that we'd look at Howard in to take a look and they agreed.”

Howard visited and the club agreed that he would look at two holes, the visually appealing par-3 13th and the 18th, the two holes that would make the biggest impact.

“The downhill 13th was a bit unbalanced with one bunker on the front, one on the right and another at the back. Now it looks like a real signature hole with bunkers surrounding the green. With the 18th it meant people left the course thinking what a good golf course it was. The club was over the moon and the decision to extend it to the rest of the bunkering was easy,” said Aaron, or “Bunker Boy” as some of the members call him.

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“The course is a little below average length wise and there is no way we can make it longer so really the only way we can improve the challenge is to tighten the course up with the bunkering and make sure they are in the correct places.

“We put £20,000 in the budget each year which worked out at £5,000 per hole covering all architect fees, digger man fees, drainage, sand etc. I really enjoy working with Howard because he is on site the whole time and can make amends as we go rather than him leaving plans for us to interpret.”

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“Visually they look excellent but they do require a bit of maintenance as they need to be hand raked.”

Howard firmly believes that bunkers are the toughest element of a golf course to get right and that it is certainly harder to get bunkers consistency right than it is green consistency.

“Category One golfers like them to be firm but harder handcappers like a bit softer and fluffier. But we’ve also got to contend with wind blow as well as the fact that some bunkers drain better than others. Then you’ve got to look at the fact that sun facing bunkers dry out more quickly, while those that are more in play will react differently to those that are not found so often. It is an impossible task to achieve total consistency.”

With the bunkers on track and due to be completed in another four visits, there is a steady improvement for the sponsorship money which will be cemented in. They are wooden and have a map of the hole painted on them and look great. We get them sponsored for an average of around £500 each for two years – more for par-3s as they are studied for yardages more than others and the 1st is more as well. For the sponsorship visits we also get 20 rounds at Donaghade. This brings more people into the club to spend money at the club or in the shop so we benefit from it.”
You can play it as a six hole or a nine hole course,” said Howard, who added that the project was given funding by Sport NI Northern Ireland.

“There were strict tight deadlines for every stage of the project which, if missed, would have caused the funding to be withdrawn but we met every one.”

“The new area will be administered by the Pro Shop, with a booking system ensuring that there are not too many people on it at any one time, and schools will be invited to bringing enthusiastic children to the area to receive lessons from the professionals and hopefully ultimately become members.

“It will also be a great warm up for those with a later tee time and we will have matches for the various groups within the club – juniors, ladies, seniors etc. It will help to bring the club closer together while developing we needed to employ a professional architect – and we have two big natural turf tees at each end – the North and the South – which you can pay to play to six of the holes, which have signs telling you the yardage to each hole, while there are also signs telling you the yardage to each hole, while there are also signs telling you the yardage to each hole.”

“It was a very poor area, about the size of a football pitch and you very rarely saw more than two people on it at any one time.”

Coupled with a 40 x 40 area of trees which was cleared, on which bunkering were built, it amounted to an area of around 1600 square metres.

“Howard designed it for us – to ensure we were eligible for the fund – that number to seven.

Howard is extremely impressed with the vision of Donaghadee Golf Club and the commitment that has been required to get it done.

“The achievement at Donaghadee is immense and has been fully supported by the public purse very generously and it is excellent news for the province’s golf and golf development that the Government feel it is important enough to support us in this way,” said Howard.

“It seems to me that many, many golf clubs do not make good use of their practice facilities, however comprehensive they might be, and much comes down to the fundamental philosophy of the club to see new blood coming into the game. Donaghadee has been very enterprising in looking at this innovative approach to swell their membership, both adult and junior, and they have been very successful indeed in doing this on both counts,” he explained.

With the new short game facility to manage, which requires hand mowing of the greens, Aaron operates with a team of six including himself with summer help bringing that number to seven.

“I’m over the moon at the way things have worked out and delighted at the way the club has supported me. They gave me the job and let me get on with it which is exactly the way to a successful club. Pay the professionals to get on with the job,” said Aaron.

Perhaps it wasn’t such a gamble after all for Donaghadee Golf Club.
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“It will also be a great warm up for those with a later tee time and we will have matches for the various groups within the club – juniors, ladies, seniors etc. It will help to bring the club closer together while sharpening up our short games, and let me get on with it which is exactly the way to a successful club,” he explained.

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Aaron Small
Blown away by St Andrews

The BIGGA Open Support Team proved its worth at St Andrews this year when poor weather hit. Scott MacCallum reports from St Andrews.
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The 150th anniversary Open at St Andrews saw the BIGGA Open Support Team returning to the venue where the very first team started work back in 1984. Much has changed in those 26 years but one thing has remained constant – just how important the team is to the smooth running of an event where you never know what will happen next.

This year, for example, a suspension of play on the second afternoon because of high winds meant matches couldn’t be completed until Saturday morning. The knock on effect meant that those 30 players left out on the course had to play the same course as the players who had already completed their rounds. That, in turn, meant that Gordon McErie and his team couldn’t complete their third round prep until much later than intended which put pressure on everyone involved.

The BIGGA team was there to help and a phone call from the R&A’s Grant Moir at 9.15pm on Friday evening asking for 20 Support Team members to shoot fairways ahead of the fairway mowers at 4.30am the next morning was met by a sea of hands volunteering to take on the task. Such desire to get in and help, whatever the hour, is what the BIGGA Open Support Team is all about.

One of the many highlights was the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to Cecil George (see page 34). National Chairman, Paul Worster, was Master of Ceremonies and introduced Past Chairman, Elliott Small, who outlined Cecil’s career. The actual presentation was made by BIGGA’s first Chairman, Walter Woods, the former Links Superintendent at St Andrews.

The thoughts of everyone on the team went out to one of their number, Anthony Gillis, of Cork Golf Club, who had to cut short his time in St Andrews, almost before it had begun, and return home because of a family illness.

Next year the team will reform and be there to help at Royal St George’s Golf Club. Look out for the application form in the December and January issues of Greenkeeper International.

“The hard work and effort was matched only by the fun and laughter that was had by all”
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Drawn from a list of BIGGA members who applied for the team at the turn of the year, greenkeepers came from all points of the UK and Ireland as well as the USA, Sweden, Germany and Slovenia.

A St Andrews Open benefits from the collective greenkeeping might of the St Andrews Links Trust Greenkeeping resources, managed by Gordon Moir, so, outside of emergencies, the BIGGA team members were able to concentrate on supporting their matches.

And what a fine job they did. The Association should be proud of them all. The hard work and effort was matched only by the fun and laughter that was had by all.

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Join the Association for Sports Turf Professionals

Are you employed in the maintenance of sports turf at a sports facility?
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Do you want to be part of a large network of like-minded people where shared knowledge is a key ingredient?
Do you want to be part of a progressive association that actively works to enhance the professional reputation of sports turf professionals?

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email: membership@bigga.co.uk
visit www.bigga.org.uk

Promoting best practice in sports turf management

BIGGA Titbits (by BIGGA Open Support Team Members)

• An early start does have its benefits. In the second match out Loren Roberts’ caddie spotted a lady watching the golf from the window of a room on the third floor of the Old Course Hotel covered only by her bra.

Bob Malbush MG, of Hinsdale Golf Club, Illinois, USA.

• Jean Van de Velde is still serving his apprenticeship as an on-course reporter. In trying to get a better view of Tiger Wood’s putt on the 15th he wandered onto the line of the group teeing off on the 16th. He was met with shouts of “Jean! Jean!” from the crowd, and the golfers, including Tiger, but as he was wearing headphones it took him a while to realise that he was an obstruction. He turned red and moved out of the way cheers from the crowd and the other players.

Matt Wormald, of Luffenham Heath Golf Club.

• In an eventful day for Tiger he formed part of an illustrious queue for a portaloo on the 7th. Justin Rose went first, Tiger was next in line with Camilo Villegas bringing up the rear.

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• DA Points pulled a bag of beef jerky from his bag during the delay. Once he’d finished he then pulled a roll of dental floss from his bag and announced to the gallery, “The big problem once you’ve eaten beef jerky is that you gotta floss!”

John Mair, of Dumfriesshire Golf Centre.

• Just as Steve Stricker sent his putt on the way to the hole on the 8th green a hare raced across the green missing the rolling ball by inches.

Bil McMillan, of Tyrell’s Wood Golf Club.

• Ignacio Garrido’s caddie had a bad day on Saturday. Caught short he disappeared into the bushes to do what he needed to do and as he raced to catch up he tripped, fell over and all the clubs fell out of the bag.

Jeremy Hughes, of Vale of Llangollen GC.

• BIGGA Support Team member John Mitchell, of Penporth GC, had an unusual working day on Saturday. With 10 matches still to be completed early in the morning John was part of a small BIGGA team which arrived at the golf course at 5.30am to finish the matches. John was allocated the match closest to home and joined his group on the 18th tee. With no bunkers on the 18th Henrik Stenson asked him why he was there and John told him that it was to make sure the team of referee, scorer, scoreboard carrier and BIGGA Support Team member was intact. John completed the walk up the 18th returned his rake and, not having been allocated a match on Saturday, had completed his day’s work by 6.40am.

• Two players completed the four rounds without going into any bunkers at all – Rickie Fowler and Edoardo Molinari.

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The Open - Complete Bunker Stats (1995 to 2010)

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26 AUGUST 2010
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Sustainability is becoming a key factor and alternative energy sources may now be viable to clubs that could potentially act as a business selling energy to the national grid, as well as providing electricity or heating for their own use.

From deer to grass snakes, a whole host of wildlife species seek golf courses as a haven to inhabit and as a place to rear their young. Jim Cook visited four golf clubs to find out more...

**Thorpeness Golf Club, on the east coast of Suffolk, sits within a 300 acre site. Sprawling areas of rough, deep rough between holes, heathland, wetland, copse trees, regenerating gorse and heather create a number of habitats for a multitude of wildlife species and rare plant types.**

A man-made mere with several islands tends to attract birds you would expect to see, and some you certainly would not. Course Manager, Ian Willett explained.

"What course can you go to at five o’clock in the morning, drive out onto the course in early spring, just as the sun is rising and hear the boom of the bittern? We get that from the north warren which is at the back of the fifth. You've got the northern diver out there and we've even had a white egret pair nest and rear two young. They got blown off course during the spring ended up here and lived it up. We were running around with cameras thinking it was white herons, but when we got a decent shot in and got the book out we realised they were white egrets nesting on the mere."

Ian is backed up at the club by a team that has the same attitude toward the environment as he does.

"The team and I know that everything we do on the course has an environmental impact - large or small. We are lucky because a member, called Dr Ray Harding, has been keeping records over 25 years and his journals about the golf course have been published. He has carried out studies and he keeps us on track, so we discuss everything we do with him."

Dr Ray Harding spoke of changing attitudes towards golf clubs.

"The Wildlife Trust and other organisations always tended to look at golf courses as a problem, but now they see it the other way round; that they are a reservoir or a last resort for wildlife, who can then re-colonise. That's working quite well so at least we have achieved that."

Ian spoke of how a disastrous situation was turned into a positive at the club.

"Last year we've had arsonists in and set fire to various parts of the golf course. So we went in this year and cleared the site. Literally we scrubbed it down to the seed bed took all the timber out and piled it to one side which will give us an adder hibernacula, and we are trying to encourage a few grass heaps around the course. The snake population isn't that great. Adders we are fine on and we have hundreds. Grass snakes, we've got them but they are not that active, so we decided to leave the odd grass heap to try and encourage the females to lay their eggs there."

Although all wildlife was welcome on the course, some had become a bit too cosy.

"Last year we had about six to eight stoats going on the course, lowering the rabbit population, but this year I think I have seen just one stoat. The rabbit population has gone absolutely through the roof - they are thousands of them. We use a pellet chicken manure mix though, because the rabbits don't like the smell of it."

Ian said that one year of carelessness could effectively undo 30 years of hard work.

"You need staff coming in after you who think the same way as you and carry on the work."

It was not only on the course where environmentalism was considered.

"We use air jets for the showers, where it takes a certain amount of air into the head so you are cutting down the amount of water you use, but still getting a good shower."

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Meldrum House Country Hotel and Golf Club, in Scotland, completed a new greenskeeping centre in January which contains a number of eco-friendly technologies.

The £750,000 development stores all the maintenance machinery and contains a wood pellet or log burner to provide heat and hot water for the complex. Insulating materials in the walls help reduce heat loss. Rainwater collected is used to wash machines, and then filtered to be used again.

Kenny Harper, Golf Course and Estate Grounds Manager, said the club was working towards self-sufficiency.

“At the moment we’re using pellets for the burners, but we hope to use wood only from the estate by this time next year. We think it is extremely important to adopt a responsible approach to energy and water usage and as a result, eco-planning has become an important part of our business.”

Aside from the new centre, Kenny saw sustainability as the way of the future.

“It’s the way everything is going now. I’m interested in land and management. We are only here for a short time so I think we should try and leave it in the best state we can. The guys use electric buggies instead of petrol and diesel, and it’s just little things like that to help keep the carbon footprint down. Things are going to change. We are going to have less and less pesticides to cure problems so we need to start managing how we run our businesses. It’s long term and it is not going to happen overnight. I mean fungicides will be here for a while yet, but there are less and less available every year. We use a fair bit of organics instead of synthetics. As far as fertiliser is concerned, we don’t spray pesticides as a preventative, only as a cure. We wait until there is a problem and if there is no other answer we’ll use them.”

The golf course at Meldrum House is a thriving eco-system. Retired graphic designer and starter at the club, Morgan Fisher, has recorded over 60 different types of animals and birds that inhabit the course, from Roe Deer to buzzards.

“The many lakes and ponds at the club have buffer zones around them to prevent run off from fertiliser and pesticides. This spring, carp were introduced to the ponds and instead of using chemicals, it was hoped would be a more natural way of clearing pond weed. Kenny was looking forward to seeing the results.

“It is early days at the moment and the fish are only four to six inches so it will be a little while before we see any results, but if you don’t try how are you going to know if it’s going to work?”

“We think it is extremely important to adopt a responsible approach to energy and water usage and as a result, eco-planning has become an important part of our business” Kenny Harper
Meldrum House Country Hotel and Golf Club, in Scotland, completed a new greenkeeping centre in January which contains a number of eco-friendly technologies.

The £750,000 development stores all the maintenance machinery and contains a wood pellet or log burner to provide heat and hot water for the complex. Insulating materials in the walls help reduce heat loss. Rainwater collected is used to wash machines, and then filtered to be used again.

Kenny Harper, Golf Course and Estate Grounds Manager, said the club was working towards self-sufficiency.

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“Everything we do at the club is looking at reducing carbon” said Colin Webber, Managing Director of Portmore Golf Club, in North Devon.

They are currently undertaking the year-long process of testing wind speeds to check whether or not wind turbines will be viable at the club. He admitted that although he used to hate the appearance of turbines, they have now grown on him, due partly to a trip to Scandinavia.

“I went on a trip to Denmark and I saw just how far behind the rest of Europe we were. It woke me up. At first you see them all over the place and then after a while you don’t even notice them.”

Colin mentioned that the block of concrete used to secure the turbine was the biggest problem for him.

“There is so much carbon tied up in making that block of concrete that you’re looking at almost 17 1/2 years worth of carbon. That’s if you use new concrete. The past few years worth of carbon. That’s if you learnt with bio-diesel: you can jump in too deep and get yourself in trouble, but so far so good. We will not do away with the modern products, but just reduce reliance on them.”

They have built their own environmental wash pad as well as their own high volume, low pressure sprayer so compost can be drenched onto the course.

Last year Portmore recycled close to eight tonnes of cardboard and glass.

Colin mentioned that electricity usage constituted organic nitrogen sources as fertiliser, such as fish oils and seaweed, as a trial, on Portmore’s par-three course.

“You’ve got to do it gently, as I learnt with bio-diesel: you can jump in too deep and get yourself in trouble, but so far so good. We will not do away with the modern products, but just reduce reliance on them.”

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The wind turbine would provide electricity for the clubhouse, charge the buggies and also put electricity back into the national grid” Colin Webber

In 2007, Maesteg Golf Club, in Wales, formed a course development group to enhance all areas of the club cost effectively, but with particular attention toward sustainable, environmentally friendly solutions, since the course proved to be home to a wide range of ecological habitats.

The course is positioned in 150 acres of land, and tracts of deeper rough grassland have been allowed to develop, which offer a habitat for ground nesting birds. They have built their own environmental wash pad as well as their own high volume, low pressure sprayer so compost can be drenched onto the course.

The trials proved so successful that the club now has new wooden bridges. Further plans are in place to use this material extensively for new and unique purpose.

“Maesteg Golf Club may well be pioneers in helping to solve a problem that has been a headache for greenkeepers all around the world” Rhydian Lewis
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The course is positioned in 150 acres of land, and tracts of deeper ecology rough grassland have been allowed to develop, which offer a habitat for ground nesting birds and for many various types of animals, birds and creatures including the carniivorous plant sundew and the rare marsh fritillary butterfly.

A showpiece project was a tree planting project funded by Better Woodlands for Wales.

Rhydian Lewis, Chairman of Greens at the club, explained.

“We put together an environmental plan and part of that was to come up with a tree planting programme across the course with the idea of planting about 9,000, 10,000 trees. We worked together with Carbon Earth and secured funding from Envirosports Ltd, a specialist trenching machine, the AFT 45, which is being used to cut trenches to fit the Aquadyne precisely. A drainage programme for the coming years will see these drains fitted around the entire course.

With regards recycling and sustainability, energy efficient bulbs are used throughout the club with as Rhydian said, “A significant reduction in costs.”

He also mentioned the club’s use of recycled artificial grass on the course.

“We have used the material on pathways and slip areas such as wooden bridges. Further plans are in place to use this material extensively for new and unique purpose.”

In 2007, Maesteg Golf Club may well be pioneers in helping to solve a problem that has been a headache for greenkeepers all over the world” Rhydian Lewis
I’d only been with BIGGA about a month when I travelled to Dornoch for the Scottish National Championship, ably run by Elliott and Edna Small, and found myself sharing a hotel with Cecil George and Jimmy Neilson.

They regaled me with stories long into the night – I had been warned what to expect – and breakfast was taken with a delicate head the following morning.

But it had been an experience and spending those few hours in the company of Cecil and Jimmy was instrumental in bringing me up to speed on BIGGA and the greenkeeping profession as a whole. In short, it was an education.

Indeed, I was only the latest member of a huge band of people who owe Cecil for providing us with an education.

While mine was face-to-face as we sat at a bar, thousands of others have every reason to thank Cecil for their own education, even although they may never have had the pleasure of meeting him in person.

Cecil is the latest recipient of BIGGA’s Lifetime Achievement Award and while he spent 37 years as Head Greenkeeper at Lenzie Golf Club, just outside Glasgow, he was nominated for the Award for the pioneering work that lead to the development of formal greenkeeping education – a programme which was subsequently followed throughout the rest of the UK and then worldwide.

“I started out as a gardener, working for my uncle, but at the end of my first summer he told me that I’d be finishing at the end of the week as there wasn’t enough work for me. To lessen the blow he gave me tu’pence and told me to go to the big white house and ask for a lemonade. I knew that the building was Whitecraigs Golf Club and as I drank the lemonade – they wanted the bottle back – I chatted to the man who asked me what I was doing. When I told him that my uncle had just sacked me he told me that there was a job going at the club for a greenkeeper,” recalled Cecil, as we chatted in his magnificently manicured garden on a sunny day last month.

For the next two years Cecil worked as a greenkeeper before the Second World War intervened and saw him join the Army in 1944. He spent four months with the Cameron Highlanders before volunteering for the Parachute Regiment.

Cecil, who turned 83 in January, fell into greenkeeping as a 15 year old.

“I started out as a gardener, working for my uncle, but at the end of my first summer he told me that I’d be finishing at the end of the week as there wasn’t enough work for me.”

Had he not done so he would have been fighting in Germany with the infantry.

“It took nine months to train a para and I was about to be sent out east when the atomic bomb was dropped in Japan, so instead I was sent to Palestine and saw action when we had to hunt down some guys in Iraq,” said Cecil, who undertook 109 jumps, many of them from as low as 500 feet.

On his return to civilian life he didn’t think he’d go back to greenkeeping but instead follow a career in engineering.

After an interview with a Pollockshaws-based engineering company Cecil was told that if he returned the next morning there would be a job waiting for him.

“But I didn’t go back. I was in the pub that night and met the Head Greenkeeper of Whitecraigs who said I should go back to the golf course as I’d enjoy it. I went up, had a go on one of the machines and was hooked. It hadn’t met him that night I’d have become an engineer and wouldn’t have been here talking to you.”

It was during the next phase of his career that Cecil began to become frustrated.

“Thanks for the education, Cecil!”

Scott MacCallum enjoys a few hours in the company of the latest recipient of the BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award
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“They didn’t have weed fertilisers, what they did and what the same. I wanted to grow - I learned about years. I learned an awful lot – not Glasgow, and I went there for two natural college at night school. “It was in Blythswood Square, in “I thought to myself that it was stupid. I had a job but I didn’t know half of what I was supposed to be doing! So I decided to go to agricul
tural college at night school. “It was in Blythswood Square, in Glasgow, and I went there for two years. I learned an awful lot - not necessarily about the grasses that I wanted to grow - I learned about the seed grasses rather than bents and fescues - but the basics were the same. I did learn about soil analysis, fertilisers, what they did and what they were. We didn’t have weed killers or selectives then but we did have preventativest and the greatest of them all was Lead Arsenic which was absolutely marvellous for worms and leatherjackets.” Cecil was Secretary of the West of Scotland branch of SIGGA by this time and, having experienced what studying had done for him, felt that the College could offer something for young greenkeepers who wanted to be educated. The first person to go through the system at Glasgow Horticultural College one day release was Davie Galt, who went on to become Head Greenkeeper at Cardross Golf Club - taking over from Jack McMillan - who became the world’s first apprentice greenkeeper. Davie got papers for what he did and you could say was the world’s first Apprentice Greenkeeper.” Cecil went on to become Chair- man of SIGGA, while Bob Moffat took over as Secretary and together they approached Charles Crossan, Principal of Woodburn House, the Glasgow Horticultural College, to see if it would be possible to develop a City and Guilds qualification for greenkeepers. “Davie sent in his papers and some of my notes to the five main colleges in Scotland to see if it would be possible to develop a City and Guilds qualification for greenkeepers.” Cecil and Bob both taught at the College and put together some of the syllabus. “Bob did the machinery while I did the practical greenkeeping side. I’d do weed and chemical identification while I’d get them to dig a six by six bed, lift the off the turf, delve it, rake it, fertilise it and put the turf back down again. All in an hour and a half. You want to see some of the messes we got,” he chuckled, thinking back over his time at the College. With other colleges in Scotland taking up the mantle too, offering education for greenkeeping Cecil wrote to the five main colleges in an attempt to have the education programmes co-ordinated. “We had greenkeepers moving from Glasgow to Dundeer and discover that the college was in the middle of the curriculum that they’d just finished and they were going over old ground. “Initially the colleges said they couldn’t possibly change, as their main client was the local council, but I asked them to write out what they did and then we reordered it for them to about 90% uniformity. It worked out very well.” The next stage was to develop an HNC, and both Woodburn House and especially Elmwood College, worked hard on this with Cecil on this although it took six years of toiling and fruitlet particularly on the language required to frame ques- tions, it was achieved. With it eventually in place the HND was much easier and was in place around 18 months later. “Everyone latched on to this and I was quite surprised at that. It went around the world apparently and it all started with our work at Woodburn House and two guys saying I think I could get a guy to go to agricultural college and learn how to be a greenkeeper.” Cecil’s own career had taken him from Whitecraigs, to Fereneze and they came away beautifully. When I left in 1991 the greens were 90% Bents. “I never got the job at St Andrews I have never regretted staying.” As Cecil enjoys his retirement and a garden that provides much of the family veg, as well as a wonderfully tranquil retreat, he can look back at a life that has done so much to improve the lot of the greenkeeper. “I always arrived for was better wages. If we got better wages we’d get better men and better students. With better greenkeepers we’d get better golf courses.” Thanks for the education, Cecil! “It went around the world apparently and it all started with our work at Woodburn House and two guys saying, ‘I think I could get a guy to go to agricultural college and learn how to be a greenkeeper’” Cecil George

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“I thought to myself that it was stupid. I had a job but I didn’t know half of what I was supposed to be doing! So I decided to go to agricultural college at night school.

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Within a few years the Lenzie pro had moved on and Cecil offered to take on the pro duties as well - running the shop, repairing clubs and giving golf lessons.

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Eight Years On…

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Golf courses can, with appropriate management, be valuable landscapes for wildlife with a number supporting some of our most rare and vulnerable wildlife species.

The English Golf Environmental Advisory Scheme (EGEAS) was set up by the R&A in 2002 to raise awareness of the benefits of good environmental and ecological practices to their affiliate clubs and to golfers playing at these golf clubs. The first ambition was to demonstrate and communicate to central and local government, and the local communities, that golf is a responsible land user, providing wildlife opportunities and real conservation benefits.

Eight years on, 220 golf clubs have benefited from heavily subsidized ecological and environmental advice and received certification for their achievement and dedication to ecological management.

So how did the scheme operate and just what has been achieved?

The process

The scheme was initially designed to run for three years, but was later extended due to high demand, to raise awareness of environmental and ecological issues, by providing free consultancy to those who applied. Within the scheme, it was decided that clubs would receive an independent consultancy visit, during which ecological highlights of the site were identified, together with recommendations on how they could be improved and managed more effectively. Following the visit, clubs received a report detailing the discussions held on site and outlining a series of targets set for the club, the progress of which were reviewed 18 months later. A second visit would take place nine months after the initial visit to review the recommendations provided. The targets were set to be achievable yet challenging, and the regional experts are dedicated to the scheme.

Facts and Figures

Following the second visit to the club, during which target progress was assessed, a total of 143 clubs (75%) had done a sufficient level of work to be certificated under the EGEAS. Given that the targets were set to be achievable yet challenging, this is an impressive rate of success.

Consider traces under the scheme.

A total of 19500 native trees were planted either as replacements to inappropriate trees or to create new woodland ecosystems.

Over 1000 linear meters of hedge- nowes was planted, helping to reduce some of the losses that have been made. Various species were planted throughout the countryside over the past 30 years. Hedgerows are important for plants, nesting birds, invertebrates and for bats which use hedgerows to navigate between areas.

A significant amount of deadwood in the form of log piles has been created for the life that they can support. Deadwood is a fast diminishing resource in the countryside and one that we should not overlook. Random dead wood lain on the surface will provide connecting habitat for a range of specialist invertebrate species. Standering dead wood too is in extremely short supply and can be better accommodated than its current use on our golf courses.

Over 450 bird boxes were erected, providing nesting habitat in the absence of standing dead wood and other habitats such as hedgerows.

Grasslands are a main part of any golf course and it was possible under the scheme to create over 1,514,300 m² of new deep rough grassland habitat on a range of different soil types.

Over 30 new areas of wildflower meadows were created.

Our heartland too has benefited from the scheme, this fast diminishing resource is vital for sand lizards and other reptiles and is the chosen habitat of butterflies such as the silver studded blue and birds like the Dartford warbler and nightjar. Over 22 additional hectares of heathland were created.

Ponds and other associated water features are important for a range of wildlife and can vary massively depending upon how they are looked after.

The EGEAS has improved the quality of more than 100 ponds and has resulted in the creation of 20 new water bodies, thereby increasing the country’s habitat resource for a broad spectrum of organisms including great crested newt and natterja cker toads.

Testimonials

Many clubs following advice from the STRI Ecologists went on to outline the positives that came out of the service and the visits and a few are illustrated below.

Weymouth Golf Club

‘Thank you for nominating Weymouth Golf Club for the certificate which has given our conservation officers some very useful publicity in the local newspaper and The Golfer magazine. Informing both the club members and the local community will I am sure prove to be beneficial to our aims of conserving the local environment. We have managed to introduce at least one of the recommendations provided. Thus far we have provided about 20 mealworm feeders which will be extremely useful and we were able to purchase enough seed to conduct a trial in a second area of rough.

Davenport Golf Club

‘Since your visit in July 2003 we have set up an Environmental Management Plan and held numerous course walks for members. On the practical side, woodland thinning commenced through nine areas, around 300 shrubs, 142 5 ft trees and 90 shrub square areas of different areas around the course. Two areas of long rough (each of around 70 m x 30 m) were allowed to develop as an ecological corridor for wildlife, three bare end boxes were erected by the local Barn Owl Group.

The club found the work rewarding, putting something down for future generations whilst giving as much pleasure to those using the course.

The English Golf Environmental Advisory Service

The scheme has resulted in a quantity of advice and received certification for their achievement and dedication to ecological management.

In Conclusion

A full account of the service, the results obtained, and the comments received from participating golf clubs is contained within a new publication produced by STRI on behalf of the English Golf Union and the sponsors.

STRI and the EGU would like to thank Natural England and The R&A for their continued support throughout.
Golf courses can, with appropriate management, be valuable landscapes for wildlife with a number supporting some of our most rare and vulnerable wildlife species.

The English Golf Environmental Advisory Scheme (EGEAS) was set up by the EGU in 2002 to raise awareness of the benefits of good environmental and ecological practices to their affiliate clubs and to golfers playing at these golf clubs. A second ambition was to demonstrate and communicate to central and local government, and the local communities around each golf course, that golf is a responsible land user, providing wildlife opportunities and real conservation benefit.

Eight years on, 220 golf clubs have joined the scheme, the most recent being in North East England. The second ambition has been met, as work to be certificated under the scheme in recognition of their commitment to ecological management.

So how did the scheme operate and just what has been achieved?

The process

The scheme was initially designed to run for three years, but was later extended due to high demand, to raise awareness of environmental and ecological issues, by providing free consultancy to those who applied. Within the scheme, it was decided that clubs would receive an independent consultancy visit, during which ecological highlights of the site were identified, together with recommendations on how they could be improved and managed more effectively. Following the visit, clubs received a report detailing the discussions held on site and outlining a series of targets set for the club, the progress of which would be reviewed 18 months later during the second follow-up visit.

The targets were prescribed giving the club, during their second visit, the chance to explain how they had progressed. The following visit, clubs received a report detailing the discussions held on site and outlining a series of targets set for the club, the progress of which would be reviewed 18 months later during the second follow-up visit.

For a day or two beside the pond before removal. The beech hedge to the right of the 16th hole has been extended along the 17th to provide a hedgerow corridor. Other work undertaken has included planting marsh marigolds within two wet areas and several significant new trees and salad plantings.

A total of 19,500 native trees were planted either as replacements to inappropriate trees or to create new woodland ecosystems. Over 1000 linear meters of hedgerow was planted, helping to reduce some of the losses that have been rife throughout the countryside over the past 30 years. Hedgerows are important for plants, nesting birds, invertebrates and for bats which use hedgerows to navigate between areas.

A signal amount of deadwood in the form of log piles has been created for the life that they can support. Deadwood is a fast diminishing resource in the countryside and one that we should not overlook. Random dead wood lain on the surface will provide connecting habitat for a range of specialist invertebrate species. Standing dead wood too is in extremely short supply and can be better accommodated than it currently is on our golf courses.

Over 450 bird boxes were erected, providing nesting habitat in the absence of standing dead wood and other habitats such as hedgerows. Grasslands are a main part of any golf course and it was possible under the scheme to create over 1,516,300 m² of new deep rough grassland habitat on a range of different soil types.

Our heathland too has benefited from the scheme, this fast diminishing resource is vital for sand lizard and other reptiles and in the chosen habitat of butterflies such as the silver studded blue and birds like the Dartford warbler and nightjar. Over 22 additional hectares of heathland were created.

Ponds and other associated water features are important for a range of wildlife, which can vary massively depending upon how they are looked after. The EGEAS has improved the quality of more than 100 ponds and has resulted in the creation of 20 new water bodies, thereby increasing the country’s habitat resource for a broad spectrum of organisms including great crested newt and natterjack toad.

Testimonials

Many clubs following advice from the STRI Ecologists wrote to outline the positives that came out of the process and the visits and a few are illustrated below.

**Weymouth Golf Club**

...Thank you for nominating Weymouth Golf Club for the certificate which has given our conservation objectives some useful publicity in the local newspaper and The Golfer magazine. Informing both the club members and the local community I am sure prove to be beneficial to our aims of conserving the local environment. Wildlife groups have been introduced between the 5th and 9th holes. The vegetation is being managed in accordance with the recommendations provided. The information you provided about yellow rattle seed proved to be extremely useful and we were able to purchase enough seed to conduct a trial in six new areas of rough.

**Davenport Golf Club**

...Since visiting your golf course in October 2002 we have set up an Environmental Advisory Service Working Group that produced an Environmental Management Plan and held numerous course walks for members. On the practical side, woodland thinning commenced through nine areas; around 300 shrubs, 142 5 ft trees and 90 alder saplings were cut, the different areas around the course (two areas of long rough each of around 70 m x 30 m) were allowed to develop as ecological corridors for wildlife, these bare and brown spaces were erected by the local Barn Owl Group. Considerable work has been carried out with regard to the development of the water features including marginal and semi-aquatic planting. We have also benefitted from an article published in the Liverpool Daily Post (Tuesday 6 December 2005) entitled Eaton are chasing birds with a difference. We have aimed to strike a balance between the needs of nature and the needs of the golfers working to get the balance right.

The club found the work rewarding, putting something down for future generations whilst giving so much pleasure to those using the course.

**Eaton Golf Club**

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**In Conclusion**

The English Golf Environmental Advisory Service is available free from the English Golf Union, Tel: 0044 1526 334500 or write to Paul Keeling at the English Golf Environmental Advisory Service, Covers Campus, Cheltenham Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TP.
Championship conditions, come rain or shine

How irrigation is helping keep Celtic Manor Resort and St Andrews links in perfect playing condition for this year's top tournaments, writes Jenny Hughes
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How irrigation is helping keep Celtic Manor Resort and St Andrews links in perfect playing condition for this year's top tournaments, writes Jenny Hughes.
No sooner has Louis Oosthuizen lifted the Open Championship Claret Jug 2010 at the Old Course than the golfing world switches its gaze to Celtic Manor Resort and the Ryder Cup...

But, weather-wise, preparations at the Usk Valley resort in south Wales couldn’t be in starker contrast to the recent hard work carried out at The Home of Golf. While St Andrews Links Director of Greenkeeping, Gordon Moir, and crew were battling heavy downpours in the run-up to the tournament, Celtic Manor Director of Golf Courses and Estate Management, Jan McKenzie, is currently dealing with the effects of a three-month drought.

Come rain or shine, however, both courses rely on Toro Irrigation products to keep their surfaces in championship condition. And, boy, is it shining at Celtic Manor at the moment, making irrigation a crucial part of Jim’s preparations! “We’ve recently experienced an unprecedented period of drought,” he revealed. “April, May and June have been very dry, so irrigation has been really important. The Twenty Ten course that will host the Ryder Cup uses a hybrid irrigation system, but basically everything above ground is Toro in terms of sprinklers and solenoids. The sprinklers on the fairways have served us particularly well as they’re coping with some strong winds at present, plus we’ve been impressed with the minimal maintenance that has been required.”

The Twenty Ten and the Montgomerie course feature a mixture of 835S, 810G and 725 Series sprinklers as part of the hybrid systems. Moreover, Celtic Manor Resort’s original course, the Roman Road, uses a system controlled by its SitePro central control system – one of the most widely used systems in the golf course industry.

“The full system on The Roman Road course works really well and has seen us through some major events too, like the Celtic Manor Wales Open 2005, 2006” Jim McKenzie

as one unit, yet through SitePro each of the four Course Managers has complete control of his system – something Gordon says is particularly useful. “Each Course Manager can determine their exact requirement irrespective of what the other three are planning. We can even access it and make alterations to a programme through our home computer, so if weather conditions should change after we have left for the day, we can make adjustments accordingly.” Features like the remote control operations using the handheld radios are also popular with the team.

“This is great for washing-in products after application to a specific area or checking out a sprinkler that you suspect may not be getting an electronic signal. Other great features are station testing, the weather station and T.Map, which is a handy tool to use in other situations such as producing a plan of a specific area for staff or committees.”

Opened in June 2008, The Castle Course also benefits from a recently introduced 8558 Series sprinklers with TrueJetery adjustable trajectory.

“Those have proved very efficient in the wind, which is a constant presence on the courses and so, since 2008, we have replaced a number of sprinklers on our other courses with the 8558 Series ones to help overcome the challenges the wind presents us with.”

In conclusion, Gordon states: “The versatility and control the Toro system gives you, together with the ease with which you can customise your programmes to suit every situation, is ideal for us. “It can also have a positive effect in conserving water – something we feel is important from an environmental point-of-view as well as helping us maintain the courses with the correct grass species and fast, firm surfaces we aim for.”
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“The full system on The Roman Road course works really well and has seen us through some major events too, like the Celtic Manor Wales Open 2005, 2006” Jim McKenzie with the Toro SitePro system for 10 years. Says Gordon of the system: “Our Course Managers find the SitePro controller very straightforward to use, plus it offers huge flexibility with regards to quantities of water being applied to different areas within various time windows.”

On six of the seven courses, the pipework is actually linked together as one unit, yet through SitePro each of the four Course Managers has complete control of his system – something Gordon says is particularly useful.

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Wild about heather

Mike Beardill visits an East Sussex golf club where bio-diversity is taken seriously on the heathland course.

Heather regeneration and bio-diversity have been passions for Head Greenkeeper John Shepherd since he first encountered Piltdown GC’s Shepherd since he first for Head Greenkeeper John, 45.

He began serious heather regeneration about 12 years ago, and it has been a long hard struggle for his team and the supportive club officials. “Biodiversity was hardly talked about in the early days,” says John. 45.

But I knew that we had to reintroduce heather if we were to attract birds, butterflies and insects. “The heather had been wiped out, but the seed lies just under the soil waiting to flourish, which it cannot do without help.”

“We had to remove a good number of birch trees, which we regard as the enemy, before taking off the topsoil and laying down heather bracken, obtained from Ashdown Forest, with their permission.”

“This encourages the seed to germinate and gives the young plants protection. It takes from four to five years for heather to get established so this is not a short-term project.”

This magnificent course has brought back vast swathes of heather, through much effort from his team of five and, in recent years, the work of Speedcut Contractors, who have also been carrying out work on new tees and greens.

There are no bunkers at the 18-hole Piltdown club, but the tee layouts and newly-established wild areas of heather, gorse and flowers make this a challenging course for players.

Being on silty clay the course suffers from extremes, either very wet or very dry – as it has been during the summer months. A Watermann TW2 system of pop-ups keeps greens in pristine condition.

“It’s hard work finding the balance between managing heathland and traditional greenkeeping practices,” says John. “We don’t aim for the sharp, neat and tidy look and the dramatic green stripes – we are used to areas looking dry, and the members appreciate what we are trying to achieve.”

“It’s very much a team effort all round because the director of greens, Philip Russell-Vick, is very supportive being a landscape architect himself. He, myself, a former greens chairman and the club secretary all meet regularly and agree tactics as a team, so we all know what we want to achieve.”

The golf course was the subject of a thorough survey by European Golf Design about six years ago and their final report included the comments: “Piltdown is not a modern corporate golf machine. There are no plans to host major regional, national or international tournaments. It’s members’ golf, it’s companionship, it’s comfortable, it’s familiar and it’s really rather good.”

The greenkeeping team, BBGA members, agree completely. John heads a very loyal group – young, ex-student Josh Brown, 19, who is working on his level 2 sports turf management qualification at Plumpton College.

Tony Woolley, who has been at the club since the late 90s and is first assistant, and went to America with the Bernhard-sponsored BBGA delegation to the States about six years ago.

Assistant Head Greenkeeper David Welfare and greenkeeper Peter Millin have been at the club since the early 2000s and longest-serving member is greenkeeper and mechanic John Scott who has been at Piltdown since 1979.

“We have a very happy team,” says John. “We all work hard to maintain standards and the development of the course is constantly under review, with plans for several new tees and greens in the future.”

Speedcut Contractors, under contracts manager Barry Pace, have carried out a lot of work in the last two years, including building a new ladies tee at the 18th and a new green, plus recontouring around the men’s tee and a new winter tee at the 9th, plus building five other new tees.

Nearby courses using similar practices include the Royal Ashdown, Surrey Heath and the West Sussex Golf Club at Pulborough. “We get a lot of positive feedback from club members and the committee and the greenkeeping staff are really encouraged by the praise we get,” said John.
Wild about heather

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Heather regeneration and bio-diversity have been passions for Head Greenkeeper John Shepherd since he first encountered Piltdown GC’s heathland golf course in 1981. That was his first job and, after several years at the RAC Golf Club, Epsom (becoming Head Greenkeeper on one of the two courses), and a brief spell at the Sussex National while it was under construction in 1988, he returned to Piltdown, in East Sussex.

He began serious heather regeneration about 12 years ago, and it has been a long hard struggle for his team and the supportive club officials. “Biodiversity was hardly talked about in the early days,” says John, 45.

“At the time we had to reintroduce heather if we were to attract birds, butterflies and insects. “The heather had been wiped out, but the seed lies just under the soil waiting to flourish, which it cannot do without help. “We had to remove a good number of silver birches, which we regarded as the enemy, before taking off the topsoil and laying down heather bracken, obtained from Ashdown Forest, with their permission.”

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Nearby courses using similar tactics include the Royal Ashdown, Sunley Heath and the West Sussex Golf Club at Pulborough.

“We get a lot of positive feedback from club members and the committee and the greenkeeping staff are really encouraged by the praise we get,” said John.

“When heather reaches about 150mm we tend to cut it back to encourage fresh growth. The results are well worth it and bio-diversity is no longer just a phrase, but a reality” John Scott.
James de Havilland turns his attention to the tees and surrounds mower...

The anatomy of...

Tees and Surrounds mowers

An interesting point is that the cylinder cutting units of these mowers are increasingly designed to not just offer an improved finish but to also be easier to set up and maintain. Where the clippings are not being boxed off, the ability to reduce clumping has also been improved as the cutting units evolve.

To suggest these models are the only ride-on models to consider for tees and surrounds work is of course not the point. There are a whole host of mowers that can, and do, offer the required combination of abilities to do a great job. These models, however, are among the most popular when it comes to new sales. The biggest surprise is that despite their similarities they all have their own points of difference.

Jacobsen AR3 / TR3 – choice of rotary or cylinder units

The Jacobsen AR3 and TR3 family of tees and surrounds mowers provide greenkeepers with a choice of either rotary decks or cutting cylinders for maintaining tees, approaches and bunker surrounds. The 1.83m working width AR3 has three articulated rotary decks with Jacobsen’s TrimTek system which is claimed to keep the clippings suspended for longer to help provide a finer mulched finish, particularly when using a high lift blade. The latter blade type suits heavier swards. The rotary decks can convert to rear discharge for longer grass mowing, increasing the versatility of the mower.

The Jacobsen TR3 utilises the same tractor unit as the AR3 and is offered with a choice of 5, 7 or 11 blade cutting cylinders. Offering the same 1.83 cut width as the AR3, the TR3 also features the same offset to provide an overhang for trimming bunker edges. The units can be switched between front or rear discharge by adjusting the concaves that direct the flow of the clippings. A popular feature is the unit’s rear roller brushes. These help improve the finish, particularly in damp conditions.

“Our approaches and semi-rough need to be presented in pristine condition”, says Avon Bridges, head greenkeeper at Luton Hoo Golf & Spa. “We use an AR3. Although a rotary mower, the fully floating decks have a rear roller so they can add a striped definition to the finely shaped contours of these areas. The seating position on the AR3 is excellent as it allows good visibility of the front decks and the traction control is very good. For the tees and surrounds we wanted a cylinder mower that was capable of tight turns without marking. The TR3 is superb and we have purchased two. The added bonus is that they use the same tractor unit as the AR3, so that helps keep spares to a minimum.”

John Deere 2653B – durable performer with quality cut

The John Deere 2653B three-wheel drive triplex mower is designed to cope with more difficult areas of grass on golf courses and other amenity turf areas, including slopes and rough terrain. It can be used equally well on golf courses for tees,
James de Havilland turns his attention to the tees and surrounds mower...

Tees and Surrounds Mowers

There is a huge choice of mower that can be used for tees and surrounds work. So in a departure from our dedicated look at just one model, we take a brief look at some of the top selling models used for this and other work.

An interesting point is that the cylinder cutting units of these mowers are increasingly designed to not just offer an improved finish but to also be easier to set up and maintain. Where the clippings are not being boxed off, the ability to reduce clumping has also been improved as the cutting units evolve.

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The Jacobsen rotary deck AR3 and cylinder TR3 utilise the same three-wheel hydrostatic three-wheel tractor unit. Power comes from a 32 hp turbocharged Kubota diesel engine, the hydrostatic transmission delivering power to all three wheels. A design feature is electro-hydraulic weight transfer that is aimed at improving traction in difficult terrain.

Where the clippings are not being boxed off, this can help improve the finish, particularly in damp conditions.

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Although John Deere offer a wide range of alternatives to its 2653B, it is the model that is biggest seller for tees and surrounds work.
THE ANATOMY OF... surounds and fairways leading up to the green, or for cricket outfields and other sports turf areas.

The hydraulically driven QA7 quick adjust 7 inch cutting units can operate in fixed or float settings as necessary, the front rollers coming with a choice of a smooth or grooved finish. Optional equipment includes a smooth or grooved roller scraper and grass boxes.

A choice of five- or eight-blade cylinders, each with a choice of 66 or 76cm (26 or 30in) wide cut are available with micro-lap backlapping is standard. Mowing height can be adjusted in 3mm steps, from 9.5 to 76mm, and overall cutting width is 1.8m (72in).

Power comes from 20hp, three-cylinder diesel with a traction system that is designed to offer good stability on wet or hilly terrain provided by a hydrostatic system that sends oil flow away from any tyre that slips and directs it to the tyres with more grip. This allows the mower to maintain good traction in demanding conditions.

Fairway tender conditioner, or ‘recycler’, and rear brushes can now also be fitted to 26 in width cutting units. The key advantage is that this offers a much reduced need to box of grass when mowing tees. This can save time and costs.

Toro Reelmaster 3100-D SERIES – now with DPA units

Toro Reelmaster 3100-D trim and surround mowers are designed to be versatile and manoeuvrable, the 3100-D Sidewinder version offering the ability to offset the triple cutting units 610mm to the left or right. The Sidewinder option is well worth looking into for mowing close to vulnerable bunker edges or when mowing under overhanging shrubbery.

More recently, Toro has fitted Dual Precision Adjustment, DPA, cutting units to the 3100 series. This makes setting the cylinder to bottom blade clearance easier, with the claim it makes it more straightforward to maintain a consistent quality of cut. DPA units are designed to hold a sharp edge for longer too.

Part of the DPA system is the use of a honeycomb die-cast aluminium frame. According to Toro the cast frame is less liable to distort in service, with strength up by 30% with much improved rigidity when compared to fabricated designs. The bottom blade can be quickly removed, replaced and reset with the claim that this speeds up setting the cylinder to bottom blade clearance easier, with the claim it makes it more straightforward to maintain a consistent quality of cut. DPA units are designed to hold a sharp edge for longer too.

Where the Sidewinder option is specified, all three cutting units can be offset to work 610mm to the left or right, this allows mowing close to vulnerable bunker edges or when mowing under overhanging shrubbery. Where the Sidewinder option is specified, all three cutting units can be offset to work 610mm to the left or right. This can save time and costs.

Toro Reelmaster 3100-D trim and surround mowers are designed to be versatile and manoeuvrable, the 3100-D Sidewinder version offering the ability to offset the triple cutting units 610mm to the left or right. The Sidewinder option is well worth looking into for mowing close to vulnerable bunker edges or when mowing under overhanging shrubbery.

More recently, Toro has fitted Dual Precision Adjustment, DPA, cutting units to the 3100 series. This makes setting the cylinder to bottom blade clearance easier, with the claim it makes it more straightforward to maintain a consistent quality of cut. DPA units are designed to hold a sharp edge for longer too.

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sustains and fairways leading up to the greens, or for cricket outfields and other sports turf areas.

The hydraulically driven QA7 quick adjust 7 inch cutting units can operate in fixed or float settings as necessary, the front rollers coming with a choice of a smooth or grooved finish. Optional equipment includes a smooth or grooved roller scraper and grass boxes.

A choice of five- or eight-blade cylinders, each with a choice of 66 or 76cm (26 or 30in) wide cut are available with micro-lap backlapping is standard. Mowing height can be adjusted in 3mm steps, from 9.5 to 76mm, and overall cutting width is 1.8m (72in).

Power comes from 20hp, three-cylinder diesel with a tractive power of 110hp. This allows the mower to maintain good traction in demanding conditions.

Fairway tender conditioner, or ‘recycler’, and rear brushes can now also be fitted to 26 in width cutting units. The key advantage is that this offers a much reduced need to box of grass when mowing tees. This can save time and costs.

Toro Reelmaster 3100-D SERIES – now with DPA units

Toro Reelmaster 3100-D trim and surround mowers are designed to be versatile and manoeuvrable, the 3100-D Sidewinder version offering the ability to offset the triple cutting units 610mm to the left or right. The Sidewinder option is well worth looking into for mowing close to vulnerable bunker edges or when mowing under overlapping shrubbery.

More recently, Toro has fitted its Sidewinder system should not only shift the two outer units, but also the central one, to provide the ability to shift all three cutting units left or right on-the-move. This forms the key to maintaining a consistent finish across a tee. Toro suggest that only shift the two outer units, then reset with the claim that this speeds up the process further options that are now available since their fitting to the 3100 series.

Apart from its more obvious advantages, the Sidewinder gives operators the ability to shift all three cutting units left or right on-the-move. This can be used to vary the position of the tyre tracks, a useful feature when working in a fixed mowing pattern across a tee. Toro suggest that this offers an unrivalled quality and consistency of cut. What’s more, because it holds its settings for longer, DPA will also save you more time than any other quick-adjustment system.

Cutting units options available.

The cast alloy Toro DPA units are now well established, extending the range of cutting units options available.

Although the engine sits ahead of the operator, the view to the front allows quick adjustment of the cutting units from the rear of the mower. This makes the body of the mower to maintain good quality and consistency of cut across the tee. This can provide an unrivalled quality and consistency of cut. What’s more, because it holds its settings for longer, DPA will also save you more time than any other quick-adjustment system.
GI NEW PRODUCTS
The latest products on the market reviewed

UNIQUE, NEW FOUR-IN-ONE COMBO FEEDS FINE TURF FOR 25% LESS

Vitax has combined a conventional fertiliser, a slow release organic fertiliser, Amino-Sorb R and a natural bacterium into a homogenous mini granule that feeds fine turf with an application rate 25% lower than parallel products. Enhance R, with even granules of between 1 and 2mm contains Amino-Sorb R, that stimulates healthy, deep rooting, increases wear resistance, stimulates chemical uptake and maximises the benefit of pesticides and plant growth regulators. Enhance R is suitable for use on Golf Greens, Bowling Greens, Cricket Squares and Grass Tennis Courts throughout the growing season, at application rates of 15g to 25g per sq metre ie 150kg to 250kg per hectare.

NEW MACHINE FROM SEPPI PROVES TO BE A STAR

The drive to do more with less and to do it better has never been as keen as it is today. For many years Seppi have made a large range of mulching heads for excavators and in more recent years they have diversified into stump grinders and stone crushers.

The New Seppi Star FC combines these machines into one very heavy duty head that is designed to be fitted to excavators from 15-35 tonnes and to take up to 300hp.

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The Star FC is designed to grind stumps up to 40 cm, crush stones up to 15 cm, destroy roots to a depth of 30 cm, till the soil to a depth of 30 cm, to prepare for new plasting, much unwanted vegetation up to 40 cm, and rocorase stone tracks or roads.

01892 800364

INNOVATIVE SNOW CLEARANCE MACHINERY TO BE UNVEILED AT SALTEX

Two developments in snow clearance technology will be unveiled by Wiedenmann UK at Saltext. Ice Master™ is a clever dual-scraper which is sufficiently compact to negotiate pathways and pedestrian routes. The innovative box unit can spread metered quantities of salt, sand or grit either via a drop spreader or spinner system. With a flick of a switch the operator can change settings without leaving the seat.

Wiedenmann will also launch three styles of super smooth homogenous mini granule Enhance R, with even granules of between 1 and 2mm contains Amino-Sorb R and a natural bacterium into a homogenous mini granule that feeds fine turf with an application rate 25% lower than parallel products. Enhance R, with even granules of between 1 and 2mm contains Amino-Sorb R, that stimulates healthy, deep rooting, increases wear resistance, stimulates chemical uptake and maximises the benefit of pesticides and plant growth regulators. Enhance R is suitable for use on Golf Greens, Bowling Greens, Cricket Squares and Grass Tennis Courts throughout the growing season, at application rates of 15g to 25g per sq metre ie 150kg to 250kg per hectare.

GATOR GETS NEW OLIVE LIVERY

John Deere has introduced a new version of its popular XUV 850D high performance 4x4 utility vehicle, in olive and black livery. This model is aimed at customers who prefer an alternative to the usual bright green and yellow colour scheme.

This olive and black Gator is fitted as standard with aggressive tread, off-road style tyres, but otherwise is the same specification as the existing XUV model, with a steel tipping cargo box.

The XUV Gator is specifically designed for off-road and rough-terrain performance, and is based on a hydroformed steel frame for increased durability. It also offers a true four-wheel drive traction system to maintain excellent traction in the toughest ground conditions.

The XUV Gator’s 24hp (850cc) liquid-cooled, three-cylinder Yanmar diesel engine is the most powerful and quickest accelerating in its class, with the fastest top speed at 35mph in high range.

Advanced clutching ensures smooth power delivery and engine braking assistance from the dual range, continuously variable transmission.

All round independent suspension offers improved handling, operator comfort and ride quality, which enables the XUV Gator to follow rough and bumpy terrain with ease.

Additional operator friendly features include a gear box and storage compartment, cup holder, 12V power outlet and integrated 50mm (2in) rear hitch.

Base UK list price of the new John Deere olive and black XUV 850D utility vehicle, which is available in limited numbers this summer, for £11,033 plus VAT.

024 7630 8912
www.johndeere.co.uk

MORE POWER TO YOUR ELMOW!

A battery-electric pedestrian fine-turf mower will be launched by Allett, this month, at Saltext.

Designed, built and tested at Allett’s development and engineering centre in Hassan, Staffordshire, the Allett ELMOW is to be offered in 510mm and 610mm cutting widths to suit the mowing requirements of bowls and golf clubs, turf maintenance contractors and those looking after quality ornamental lawns.

Shown left, handles on top of the slide-in battery pack enable fast, convenient removal and replacement.

01889 880128
www.allett.co.uk

NEW SUPATURF BROCHURE

Vitax Supaturf’s brand new brochure is now available with details of their full range of line marking machines, marking paints and accessories.

Fronted by the top selling XUV model, renowned as the industry standard, exported worldwide and now with a new, 2.5 litre fuel tank that sits between the factory fitted or purchased in kit form for simple self assembly, the brochure also carries details of the no-compromising high quality TLS marking machines and the latest, top-of-the-range XUV utility vehicle.

The brochure also carries details of the full Supa Stadia Eco line marking paint.

Other line marking liquids – the full Supa Stadia range, Britain’s developed for use with transfer wheel or box type marking machines such as the Supaturf Britax, and the full range of Stadia Colours are joined by Sunproof Aerosols.

The new Supaturf brochure is available from Vitax Supaturf representatives or direct from the company.

01530 510060
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NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on the market reviewed

AUGUST 2010

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The Bigga Training & Development Manual, sponsored by John Deere, is an invaluable tool for everyone working within the greenkeeping industry.

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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.

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1. Go to the BIGGA website www.bigga.org.uk
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3. Enter your login details and select the BIGGA Training & Development Manual from the left hand menu.
4. The fourth icon on the top menu bar is to click on Enter the Site to view a welcome video or can select 1-9 or 10 on the top menu bar.
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7. When clicking on a downloadable document it will automatically open in your default word processor. This can then be printed, saved onto your computer’s hard disk or printed and filed in your personnel files.

Section Notes

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Scottish Region

Central

The seminar with Iain Zentarik and John Kaminski, which had to be cancelled in April due to the volcanic ash, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 1 at the training room at Elmwood Golf Course, Tynie.

There will be more details on the website www.bigga-central.org.uk. It may seem bizarre to have this in September but the thrust of the presentation will be about winter damage to golf greens and I am sure it will be entertaining as well as informative. All welcome, no charge.

Congratulations to the Section members who did well in the Scottish Championships at Murcar, David Simpson won the Scottish prize with Arthur Dunn, Charlie MacDonald, Lewis Birch, Gary Small, Mike Carson and Elliot Small all picking up prizes of some description, while some of the aforementioned helped the Section win the St. Mungo Team Trophy.

Well done to all those Course Managers and staff who hosted Final Qualifying which is an important part of the tournament and the same to Willie Swann, and his team at Luton Golf Club, who had the World Junior Open on the Tuesday and Wednesday of Open week.

Congratulations also to John Philip and Sandy Reid and the Carnoustie guys for a successful British Seniors Open the week after us and to the Course Managers and their teams at the qualifying venues for that tournament.

Finally good luck to Scott Fenwick and his team at Glenoe for the Johnnie Walker Championship at the end of August which should see a thrilling finale to the race for Ryder Cup places.

Write all dead on our fort here from a very busy Open Championship and we still have the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and a host of local club tournaments to look forward to. Roll on winter!

Gordon Moir

West

A few problems with the submission dates of my article and hopefully have caused an absence with the last two monthly issues and I hope that apologises, but here we are at last. The weather has been great to us over the last couple of months and golf seasons are in full swing.

Recently I was informed of some special occasions which are worthy a mention as they don’t happen too often, Sandy Brusley, Kenny Broxden, both of East Kilbride Golf Club, and Gary Burns, of Lenzie Golf Club, both received invitations to their respective clubs, something which should be commended in these present climate. Well done to all and I hope you are around for another 20 years, I might joke but the way pensions are going I don’t think I will be too far off the mark.

Another item worth a mention is the recent retirement of Bob Berven, of Alex McDougall Mowers, who has decided it’s time to put the slippers at the fence side. Bob, who believe it or not is 68 and doesn’t look a day over 60, has worked for a few different companies over the years but my fondest memory was when he worked with Tom (Russell’s) and asked if he could practice using the new GM machine operation on one of our greens so make him sure he didn’t make a full of himself when on Demon-
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Scottish Region

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Recently I was informed of some special occasions which are worth a mention as they don’t happen too often, Sandy Buley, Kenney Henderson, both of East Kilbride Golf Club, and Gary Burns, of Lenzie Golf Club, have been awarded 25 years of service to their respective clubs, something which should be commended in this present climate. Well done to all and I hope you are around for another 25 years, I might joke but the way pensions are going I don’t think I will be too far off the mark.

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Next item, which was a long time ago, being the John Deere demonstration day held on April 20 at Play Golf in East Kilbride. It appears to have been a very good day with a large turn out from all areas of the West of Scotland even if the weather was slightly brisk. A good range of equipment and irrigation products were shown to all and nine holes of golf. Thanks to Nairn Hillows for their usual excellent organisation and the well received coffee with filled rolls.

Unfortunately I cannot report on the Loch Lomond day regarding setting agents as the main speaker could not travel due to the volcanic ash. Maybe next time.

The outing held at Lanark on April 29 once again had a good attendance – 37 people came to sample a beautiful course in excellent condition for the time of year considering the severe weather we’ve experienced. Jim Lyon and his staff are to be congratulated for all their superb work in preparing the course, may I also thank the Secretary, Captain and members for allowing us the courtesy of the course.

The eventual winners were: 1st Class. 1. A. Prater; 2. A. Reid ; 3. I. Young; 2nd Class. 1. C. Carvel; B. Bown; 3rd Class. 1. A Peace; 2. A. Reid ; 3. I. Logan; 4th Class. 1. G. Jarvis; 2nd Class. 1. C. Carvel; B. Bown for there usual excel-lent organisation and the well received coffee with filled rolls. Unfortunately I cannot report on the Loch Lomond day regarding setting agents as the main speaker could not travel due to the volcanic ash. Maybe next time.

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Silverbuck

Strathallan brings you this Silverbuck collection of over 6000 Protection for Outdoor Workers. Designed in conjunction with outdoor workers, Strathallan brings you this Silverbuck collection of over 6000 protect for outdoor workers. Designed in conjunction with outdoor workers, Strathallan brings you this Silverbuck collection of innovative kits to reduce UV skin damage, provide cooling relief and anti-glare eye protection to improve your working day when you’re out there in the intensity of summer heat.
North
Hello everyone hope you are all well and coping with the heatwave. The Section would like to thank Debbie Dunn, who has agreed to be a Committee member at Scarborough North Cliff Golf Club for hosting our President’s Day, and also to Bob Wilde and Steve Brown who kindly sponsored by Bob Wilde Grass Master. We had a great turnout and it was nice to see some new faces. The results are as follows, Div 1, Nick Clothier (with an impressive 42 pts); 2, Dave Collins, 3, Stuart Mason, 4, Steve Brock, 5, Rob Walker 3 Steve Trowsdale. Div 3 1 Joe Baxter 2 Peter Colley 3 David Fear. Nearest pin on the 7th  Dave Fetherston. Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to everyone who played and I’m sure you all had a fantastic day once again. It was also very nice to see some new faces it may go long.

The Section would like to announce that Nigel Coultish, Dave Featherton, Steve Trowsdale. Div 1. 1. Nigel Coultish 2. Dave Featherton 3 Steve Trowsdale. Div 2. 1. Nigel Coultish 2. Dave Featherton 3 Steve Trowsdale. Div 3. 1 Dave Featherton 2 Randy Newman 3 Steve Trowsdale. Sales of our new polo shirts are going well and if anyone is interested please contact me to order a shirt as available in many sizes and are available for £10. Thanks once again to Golfbreaks.com for helping us produce these shirts.

Hello again it was another great day despite the heatwave. Things have been fairly quiet over all the last month but I sat in front of the computer and realised I had not written my newsletter for the past month so here it is.

First of all, I must apologise for not putting a column in for last month but I sat in front of my computer and saw that I had no new relevant news to pass on, so I thought “stuff it” and went back over the back issues. But this month, Hallelujah, I do have some news and views. We knew we were going to have some good weather before must be warning people of the dangers of sunburn. I was thinking have you noticed how many notices golf courses have been putting up this summer around “Buggies to the right...” or the left. “Slope steep “Look left”, months of the year since 1929. What a year we’re having so far I wonder what next? Surprise! Has anyone got a guess? J.D. Brownlowe, Trade T. Dobson, Nearest the Pin D. Brownlowe. Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to everyone who played and I’m sure you all had a fantastic day once again. It was also very nice to see some new faces it may go long.

Around The Green
Of the month for writing Section LS8 2DY, tel.07947401278, E sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk wishing to take part, please get in touch. Around the Green is being held at Beacham at 7pm@beacham.com or preferably send a CD to rich71@btconnect.com. Please send to Richard Beacham at rich71@btconnect.com received. Please send to Richard Beacham at rich71@btconnect.com. Be quick reminder that our Autumn Educational is to offer Excavator training, and have a look at Wentworth south of London for details on both.

East Midlands
Hello all, firstly I would like to make two apologies, the first is for the poor weather and the poor state of play this year. We have had some good dry days but this month it was the usual air in the last two issues, we have addressed this and would like to thank you all for your input but I thought you would like to enter the world of home on all from now on! One great news item that has been trying to contact our Secretary, Andy de Wet. He has now moved and is living in the twilight zone! Seriously though he is now settled in his new home in Cambridge, and he can be contacted in the usual manner.

Well here we are again, another month’s edition of the Section’s newsletter and I wonder if any of you know the month is wrong, but Nigel Tyler will be competing in the BMW tournament at Wentworth Honda Gold Wing, which has heated seats and handle bars, air bags for his lady’s safety. Strikes me that Nigel has moved from the speed demon to the ever cautious Come up on the results from our Spring Open this month. I think that’s about it for this month...

Phew until next month

With us not posting any news for two months we ought to catch up with some important news. Tournament and first part of the national championship qualifier, this was held at Evesham Vale GC with an excellent 37 people turning out in honour of the 43 years of service and impending retirement of course manager, Graham Arnold, the course was in excellent condition and the weather held fair. In the victory went too; D. Spencer, 38pts, closely followed by N. Collett and reigning National Champion – H. Miller. In Division 2 D. Bull rolled out something strange from the tee box and was still there for the last round, he must also go to Russ, and have a word with his local911 operator. The next 3 days saw no change as far as we could tell and could be impossible to pick a winner if we don’t have their support. The results on the day are as follows.

Middle East

2. Stuart Mason 3. Peter Colley 4. Steve Trowsdale. The Support team can only help in the end of May when that was held. Well done Steve and your staff, the course was in great condition.

AUGUST 2010

Well her we go again its that time of year again the East Coast! That’s about 5mm of stop rainfall and the brown Japans at Sports Metals UK. Continuing the golf theme, the Headland Pairs competition is progressing well, the first day line for bonus points has now passed, and many groups have been playing the games to play. So we done to all of you for sorting out fixtures etc., if plans has been confirmed the season transfer window so that the match is open to all new partners! As table whipping boys myself and Greg Cram, Course Manager, can be attended to, in the long run, well that’s all we could be saved. Yes, tarmac is now all the buggie paths on the new course was always regarded as a safe stop, but this month’s very kind sponsors of the Section T.H White Grassacre. Please get in touch with your machin the day once again and as said before we would be impossible to pick a winner if we don’t have their support. The results on the day are as follows.

First of all, I must apologise for not putting a column in for last month but I sat in front of my computer and saw that I had no new relevant news to pass on, so I thought “stuff it” and went back over the back issues. But this month, Hallelujah, I do have some news and views. We knew we were going to have some good weather before must be warning people of the dangers of sunburn. I was thinking have you noticed how many notices golf courses have been putting up this summer around “Buggies to the right...” or the left. “Slope steep “Look left”, the greens putted very quietly, they were firm, true and
Hello everyone hope you are all well and coping with the heatwave. The Section would like to congratulate all our members who took part in the recent national competition at Scarborough North Cliff Golf Club for hosting our special competition. Steve Ransome, which was kindly sponsored by Bob Wilde Grasscare Machinery. We had a great turnout and it was nice to see some new faces. The results are available, Div 1. Nick Cuttle.

Steve Ransome 3 Steve Trowdale. Div 3 Joe Baxter 2 Pete Coley 3 Steve Featherstone. Nearest the pin on the 7th Div. Featherstone. 15th Yours Truly. The trade prize went to Men Guy. The President’s plate went to Gordon Milne.

The Section would like to congratulate Scott Baxter, of Bingley Grasses, who got married on July 10, Hope you have many more years of married life. Our Institution Day takes place on Aug 25, at Harrogate GC. Anyone who has any new information to put in touch to book a place. First time in 9:30.

If you have any questions or gossips please get in touch as usual, Frank Stewart 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY, tel. 07947401278, E-mail frankstevet3@aol.com 07756001187.

Midland

Hello, hello, hello...

East Midlands

Hello, hello, hello...

Midland

Hello, hello, hello...

Sheffield

Hello, hello, hello...

East of England

Hello, hello, hello...

South East Region
The course presentation was very impressive. Oliver’s had Hole in One prizes including Woodman’s and the Invisible Man) in Macy’s in New York

9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would you do to improve the lives of the greenkeepers?

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?

3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be doing? What was your dream job?

2. What was it like working for the previous employer?

1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

Steve Hopkins

Name: Steve Hopkins

Age: 50

Club: Ralf Cottomhere

Position: First Assistant

Around The Green

South Coast

South West

Firstly, I have to give a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored me in last month. I hope you enjoyed the article, as James mentioned that it was just a quick snap and I promise you I worked way harder than last month. However, this month it was more worth the wait. God knows how we managed to put together such a great article. I have to say that the heroes behind the scenes were Jason and Scott, without them this wouldn’t have been possible. I’m sure they would be proud, but I know they are always busy behind the scenes. They are always there to support me and help me with my articles. So let’s talk about the important item first...my hobby. Last month saw me and a few friends head to Las Vegas, and I have to say it was BRILLIANT. We spent nearly 20 days in the city and that was a great experience. To feature as an Assistant Profile, simply email Scott: scott@bigga.co.uk and he will send you a questionnaire!
the course presentation was very impressive. Oliver’s Hole in One’s prizes including Workman’s and the Invisible Man) in Macy’s in New York. Almost knocked over David MacCallum (Man from Uncle) into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...体内をinside himself, but...
South Wales

Hello Everyone! Suit Mac!

Firstly, let me say that it gave me no pleasure at all to see the whole of England’s perfor-

mance during the World Cup. All Blacks and were quite pleased

of Stuart, has kindly put together

to give up, no matter what the
to give up, no matter what the

and outdoor pursuits because,

but it's closeness to the

be there too!

$110.50 last outs turned out to be

and greenkeepers and, at those
time of the day! I think the

with Mickey Mouse, they’ll

to discover, the sun won’t last

of him with Mickey Mouse, they’ll

West

 Would it be hard trying to
to discover, the sun won’t last

of him with Mickey Mouse, they’ll

to discover, the sun won’t last

Ahmad M.J.addis@hotmail.co.uk

Greenovation Country Club Costa Tropical

use the Facebook page to reach a

around upcoming events

a comprehensive description

is the most valuable resource of

adapt and overcome many of the

And Michael Clarke

are a true

the sun won’t last forever!

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**South Wales**

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Hello Everyone Suzie Mac! Firstly, let me say that it gave me no pleasure at all to comment upon England’s perfor-

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**Around the Green**

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John Pemberton

Chief Executive

Around the Green

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Another Open comes and goes and congratulations are due to Gordon Moir, Gordon Miller and the remainder of the greening staff at St Andrews for their superb presentation of the course. The television did not do it justice especially when seen in the early morning or late evening sunlight (when we had it). The long shadows accentuated the contours of the fairways and added something special to the approaches and greens, at such times I defy any golfer not to wish that this could be their home course to play as often as they like.

Thakies are due to the many volunteers drawn from the membership that formed the BIGGA Open Support Group and who represented the Association in such an excellent greenkeeping capacity as hosts to the event. We could not have done as much as we did catch up with members that I had met on some previous occasions. The Team had an unexpected extra duty to perform when called out at short notice to do stoush fairways at 4.30am on Saturday morning as a consequence of the delay in playing the day before. Undeterred by the prospect of such an early start they took it in their stride, reinforcing to the R&A the value of the Team service.

Friday was memorable not just for the chaos that it caused in the pace of play but also for the presentation to Fred Couples Group of the GA Ladies National Team who had great win at the Solheim Cup in Atlanta. This took place, quite fittingly, in the BIGGA marque and was witnessed by many of his fellow teammates and supporters.

The team were all present to present various prizes to the players as you will read elsewhere in this magazine and when I started with BIGGA in 1993, subsequently under the direction of Delhi King who had been well known as in those days by Cecil and Jimmy Nelson who were in charge of BIGGA’s presence on the 1st tee, a role they were always preparing and looking to develop.

By the time you read this column I will have had a further meeting with the Executive Committee of the BIGGA to decide if we as a trade are seeking to develop a one show strategy for the industry. As I write it has been raised quite as an idea which came up this group referred to as the ‘trade’ but I am sure I will be enlightened in due course. BIGGA and the IOG are in the process of finalising a strategy for their presentation on certain projects but I can assure our members and our supporters that this does not currently include abandoning Harragge Winter and Saliers in favour of a unified show. BIGGA is working hard to make it event Harragge meet the expectations of the industry and I know that the Board and Staff are determined to shake off and counter the criticisms of ‘same old show, same old visitors’. We’re up to speed with what our members will have to wait to see what Watch this space as we say.

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**South Wales**

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George Pitts

www.kentgreenkeepers.com

AUGUST 2010

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AUGUST 2010
Congratulations to the BIGGA Open Support Team

Well done to members of the Open Support Team in successfully supporting Gordon Moir, Director of Greenkeeping and Gordon McClay, Head Greenkeeper and their team in managing the Old Course at St Andrews during last month’s Open Championship.

To be part of the Open Support Team is a fantastic opportunity to see golf at the very highest level from a privileged position – inside the ropes. It’s hard work but worth the effort. To apply to be part of the team for the Open 2011 at Royal St George’s look out for the invitation to apply in the December and January editions of GI or talk to Scott MacCallum or Rachael Duffy at BIGGA HQ.

NEW Membership Benefit

Check out the members area of the BIGGA website for the new “How To...” guides available exclusively to BIGGA Members on a range of Human Resource topics. These short, handy guides provide practical, step-by-step guidance on a range of subjects. The guides can be downloaded and used to help you develop your knowledge and implement new processes within your workplace.

Section and Region Events

Visit the ‘Event’s Section on BIGGA’s website to have a look at what’s on around the UK, www.bigga.co.uk select ‘EVENTS’ from across the top row.

Somebody asked me the other day if it was possible to be a member of two sections, unfortunately, not, but that’s not to say that if you would like to attend an event in a different section just contact the Section Secretary and ask, I’m sure you would be made most welcome.

After all, each section is about the same thing, meeting new people, establishing new friendships and maintaining old ones, at the same time as discussing all things greenkeeping and turf.

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At the time of writing this month’s article most places have experienced very little, if any, rainfall to speak of and a fair bit of sunshine. It’s the sunshine I want to touch on, following on from John Mair’s (“Ayrshire Section”) mention in his Around the Green column last month, “Remember to put sun block on and wear a cap if possible...especially those short on top!”

If we are going abroad on holiday we pack sun tan lotion, it’s always high on our list of things to take; yet in this country we hardly give it a second thought.

Some Sun Smart advice

• Aim to cover up with T shirt, hat and sunglasses.
• Use factor 15+ sunscreen (sun cream)

Cheap sunblocks are usually just as good as expensive ones. They are all tested the same way and it is the level of protection they give you against the sun that matters most.

This is the ‘sun protection factor’ or SPF. The SPF tells you the amount of protection the sun cream gives against UVB radiation. Cancer Research UK recommend at least factor 15. This is because it gives the best balance between protection and cost.

Skin Cancer and the sun

Most skin cancers are caused by long-term exposure to the sun and research has shown that those who work outdoors are more at risk of skin cancer due to this fact. It is thought that these could be as many as 100,000 cases of skin cancer each year in the UK, but many aren’t reported.

Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Diary of Events

Details of your Section’s forthcoming events in 2010 can be found here...

Date
Event
Venue
Contact

AUGUST

Thursday August 5th
Sussex Section Event
Haywards Heath Golf Club
Dave Allen at d38a@msn.com or mobile: 07515 428573

Wednesday August 11th
East Anglia Section Event
Eaton Golf Club, Norwich
Ian Willet at info@choppensess.co.uk or mobile: 07929 205398

Thursday August 12th
Essex Section Event
Bentons Hall Golf Club
Dominic Rodgers at dominicrodgers@talktalk.net or mobile: 07929 205398

Tuesday August 17th
East Scotland Section – Willie Woods Tournament
Gullane Golf Links (No 2 Course)
Stuart Ferguson at studegg@btinternet.com or mobile: 07961 630553

Thursday August 19th (To be confirmed, subject to change)
Central Section Event
Auchterarder Golf Club, Norrie Whytock Trophy
Andrew Melton at AMelton@Elmwood.ac.uk or mobile: 07780 995602

Saturday August 21st
South West Section Race Night
Landsdown Racecourse
Adam Matthews at adam.1.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or mobile: 07732 503855

Thursday August 26th
BB&O Section Event
The East Berkshire Golf Club
Adam King at ajk@radley.org.uk or mobile: 07738 719614

Friday August 27th
South West Section Match v’s Welsh Section
To be advised
Section Captain: Wayne Vincent at wayne.vincent@google.com

SEPTEMBER

Monday September 13th
Sheffield Section Event
Silkstone Golf Club
James Stevens at jimmy_jama20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614

Wednesday September 22nd
East of England Section Event
Lincoln Golf Club
Bruce Hicks at brucelicks1@gmail.com or 07931 714922

Tuesday September 28th
Sussex Section Event
Cophorne Golf Club
Dave Allen at d38a@msn.com or mobile: 07515 428573

OCTOBER

Monday October 11th
North West Section Autumn Tournament
Bolton Old Links Golf Club
Phil Dewhurst on mobile: 07768 180604

NOVEMBER

Wednesday November 3rd
BB&O Autumn Section Event
Deanwood Park Golf Club
Adam King at ajk@radley.org.uk or mobile: 07738 719614

Monday November 29th
Sheffield Section Event
Lindrick Golf Club
James Stevens at jimmy_jama20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614

DECEMBER

Thursday December 2nd
North West Section AGM & Bert Cross Trophy
Wilsalow Golf Club
Phil Dewhurst on mobile: 07768 180604

GI NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on the market reviewed

GI New Products has made a comechall! Please email your press releases and photograph to tom@bigga.co.uk
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Regional Offices

Scotland & Northern Ireland

Regional Offices

Northern Region

Northern Region

Regional Offices

Northern Region

Midland Region

Midland Region

South East

South East

South West & Wales

South West & Wales

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland

Overseas

Overseas

Contact Details

Contact Details

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Assistant/Help line
0779 920 2319
Inner Circle of old Boys
0787 920 8195
Devon Greenkeeping Support line
07989 172 021

GI New Products

The latest products on the market reviewed

GI New Products has made a comeback! Please email your press releases and photography to tom@bigga.co.uk
The new Eclipse 322
The world’s first diesel electric hybrid greens mower with no hydraulics

Reduced noise, low fuel consumption and minimal maintenance means a lower cost of ownership
Electric drive systems mean no hydraulic leaks causing damage to greens
Diesel hybrid version
Cutting performance can be infinitely adjusted to any course condition
Ergonomically designed operator station reduces fatigue and provides an unobstructed view

The Eclipse 322 – the green solution to precise greens mowing

Want an even better finish to your greens? Then contact Ransomes Jacobsen for further information

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd
West Road, Ipswich, IP3 9TT UK
+44 (0) 1473 270000
www.ransomesjacobsen.co.uk

Driving Environmental Performance

Franchises
Ransomes Jacobsen, (inc Iseki, EZGO, Smithco, Turfco, Ryan)
Wiedenmann, IPU products, Greentek, Boxer skid steer and Major
and many more too numerous to mention

To nominate a GI dealer of the Month contact Scott MacCallum with your reasons why the dealer of your choice should be featured:
email scott@bigga.co.uk

A new series aimed at celebrating the great work done by dealerships up and down the country

Golf & Turf Machinery

Location and Size
Wakefield, Derby. £3 million yearly turnover

Employees and Size of premises
18 staff. 140000sqft of covered area spread over the two locations

Number of Service vans: 6

Brief history of company
The GTM business was formed in summer 2006 by Glen Sawyer and John Passfield. They put together a small team of experienced grounds care industry professionals with a wealth of experience in the grounds care industry. Each team member is nippered in their own field of sales and after care service with many years experience working for large dealers across Yorkshire and the Midlands. Soon after springing, GTM was quickly appointed the Ransomes Jacobsen dealer for South Yorkshire and then in October of 2009 had the selling area extended to South, West and North Yorkshire. Steven Nixon joined in November 2009 as the Sales Director to help develop sales in the Golf sector. In June 2010 the company moved into a new depot in Wakefield so it can service the new larger area better.

Key services offered
New and used equipment sales, spare parts, service department, Hire of equipment, Training.

Specialist services offered
Operated Hire of equipment, Training and advisory service offered

How has the dealership changed over the years?
We are a young company of only four years, so the company is growing and changing almost daily. Our recent investment in new IT software programs will improve our overall operation.

What would you like to see changed?
Greenkeepers and Groundsmen to be given the professional respect by their members and committees allowing them to do their jobs better. Also for more customer and dealerly association, forming stronger partnerships between the customer and dealership which would help them achieve their goals of keeping their golf courses and grounds in pristine condition.

Do you support customers who have in-house service facilities (ie OEM parts supply)?
Yes, we have no problem with customers who have in house service facilities, in fact we have supplied several Golf clubs with Grindall systems and with technical training to help them service their own equipment. More clubs will go down this route in the future and we support progression.

Major customers
No real famous Golf clubs in our selling area, we consider that all our customers are major!
A new series aimed at celebrating the great work done by dealerships up and down the country

GOLF AND TURF MACHINERY

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Franchises

Ransomes Jacobsen, (inc Iseki, EZGO, Smithco, Turfco, Ryan)
Wiedenmann, IPU products, Greentek, Boxer skid steer and Major.

Do you support customers who have in-house service facilities (ie OEM parts supply)?

Yes, we have no problem with customers who have in house service facilities, in fact we have supplied several Golf clubs with Greensfast systems and with technical training to help them service their own equipment. More clubs will go down this route in the future and we support progression.

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The world’s first diesel electric hybrid greens mower with no hydraulics

Driving Environmental Performance

Wanted an even better finish to your greens? Then contact Ransomes Jacobsen for further information
MonSTer SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

Across
1. Ben, comedy partner of Alexander Armstrong (6)
4. Ancient mathematical devices (8)
9. Comic actor, inventor of Ali G and Borat (5,5,5)
11. Jet black (4)
12. A dull, yet persistent pain (4)
13. Make legally void (5)
15. Those living during the reign of Henry VIII’s daughter (12)
18. Compulsorily or mandatorily (12)
21. The area closer to the centre (5)
22. 1998 animated film featuring Woody Allen and Sylvester Stallone (4)
23. A Devon village; alcoholic drink (4)

Down
1. An incorrect or inappropriate designation (8)
2. Type of National Lottery line involving no personal selection (5,3)
3. Stylish elegance (4)
5. Distraught, especially in matters of love (6-7)
6. Place one’s thumb on one’s nose, and waggle one’s fingers derisively (4,1,5)
7. Mythical creature with a lion’s body and a human head (6)
8. Unattached (6)
10. A grant of formal recognition (13)
14. Duran Duran named themselves after a character in this 1968 film (10)
16. Often said to be nervous in cricket (8)
17. A spelling similarity in differently pronounced words, e.g., rough and through (3,3)
18. Common term for a centrist party politician (3-3)
20. Not heralded or celebrated (6)
24. Ballistic projectiles (6)

Can you unscramble the following letters and reveal some famous golf clubs?

1. CHEAP BELBBE
2. DRAMA LEVAR
3. WONT THREW
4. RAIL BREAK YOL
5. MOON DOLLCH
6. LATINO SAGA TUNAU
7. BLETHY REF
8. MANIC CLOTER
9. PURSEN HIT

Fancy improving your IT skills?

BIGGA members can access an official Microsoft® Office 2003 Training Library that includes programs such as Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Outlook.

BIGGA are able to offer these practical and effective online courses at a discounted cost of £15 (+ VAT) (usually £20 + VAT) to BIGGA Members, and £30 (+ VAT) to non-members, thanks to support from the Learning and Development Fund. For further information contact the Learning and Development Department on 01347 833800 option 3.

Microsoft Office 2007 training is also available on request.
**Puzzle Answers**

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you’re forced indoors.

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**MonSTer SUdoKU**

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**CROSSWORD**

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**QUICK ‘NINE HOLE’ QUIZ**

AUGUST 2010

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**REACH**

Official Microsoft Training Available at low cost to BIGGA Members

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**Microsoft online learning**

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• Each course takes only 4-6 hours to complete
• There is no limit to how many times you complete the course
• You have 12 months access to the programme
• All your learning takes place online and can be taken at a place and time to suit you
• A certificate can be given upon 100% completion

Microsoft Office 2007 training is also available on request.
For the past two years or so the Gods have conspired to make the life of all specialist irrigation companies extremely challenging. Wet summers have caused many golf clubs to review irrigation budgets and to postpone numerous major projects. The effect on some companies has been severe.

T & G Irrigation took the changing market conditions as a sign that it was time to diversify and set about finding alternative ways to maintain work levels for the staff. It has been rewarding to see that with a relatively small effort new schemes for diverse private companies has also risen in one Client at the bottom of his extensive garden. Landscape bowling green irrigation systems having seen the whole life costing, producing savings in labour and improvements to the life of all specialist irrigation companies extremely challenging. Wet summers have caused many golf clubs to review irrigation budgets and to postpone numerous major projects. The effect on some companies has been severe.

T & G Irrigation

 prepared to tackle the challenges you come out the stronger All of which proves that in the face of adversity if you are...
T & G Irrigation

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CONSTRUCTION

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Looking to Recruit?

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Advertise in Greenkeeper International for a month from £490+VAT for an 1/8 page advert, or go directly online from £300+VAT for a part month & £500+VAT for a full month.

For further information contact Kirstin Black
On 01347 833 832 or email kirstin@bigga.co.uk

Recruitment

TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER

Reporting: Reporting to the General Manager
Qualification:
A Qualified Mechanical/Electrical Engineer working in a Golf Course environment
Responsibility:
· Must be customer service orientated and believe in teamwork, collaboration, adaptability and Initiative.
· Excellent analytical and problem solving skills, combined with the ability to provide quick resolution to problems.
· Strong verbal and written communication skills are mandatory.
· Must be customer service orientated and believe in teamwork, collaboration, adaptability and Initiative.
· Experience in coaching and staff development is mandatory.
· Experience in coaching and staff development is mandatory.
· A valid driver’s license is necessary to allow the obtaining of a driving licence through the UAE application process.
· Tax free income would suit the candidate wishing overseas experience.
· Normal expats benefits included in package.

Email full CV to annettedxb@gmail.com

Sales Professional Required

TurfCare Solutions Ltd., are suppliers of a large range of Turf maintenance products to the sports turf and amenity markets. We distribute a number of market leading U.S. brands including The Andersons, Gregg Brothers and Gro Power and always maintain a particular focus on nutrition and plant health.

We are currently seeking to expand our sales base in the U.K. throughout the Midlands and south east and require a suitably qualified and motivated individual to join our existing team. Sales experience and/or knowledge of the turfgrass industry would be a distinct advantage, however, excellent interpersonal skills and a strong focus on customer service are essential. An attractive package, which includes salary plus commission and a company vehicle, awaits the ideal candidate.

If you believe that you have what it takes to excel in this position then please send your CV, in the strictest of confidence to Pat Galavan, Managing Director, TurfCare Group Ltd., W9 Tougher Business Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland. Tel:00353 45 409330, Mobile:00353 86 2590370, email pgalavan@turfcaregroup.com

The best just gets better!

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to assist at the Open. I had an absolutely brilliant time, the weather could ruin!

pretty great guys.

As it was my first time at an Open event I was unsure whether this would make everything that little bit more special Everyone involved made everyone so so welcome and it was great to see!

The way everything was so well organised was FANTASTIC, even more so when plans needed to be adjusted at such short notice on the Friday night.

I really pleased that we were with such a great group. I sure we would all agree, greenkeepers are pretty great guys.

Again thank you for a fabulous week that not even the weather could ruin!

Adam Matthews
Mishenburton Golf Club

Many Thanks!

On behalf of everyone at St Andrews Links, could I use Greenkeeper International to say a massive thank you to so many people who helped make the recent Open Championship the success it was. Faced with the extremes of weather during the week, we constantly had to review our plans and it was very reassuring that BIGGA were able to provide 20 people at short notice to come and help us divert the fairways at the very last minute of 4.30am on the Saturday morning. They were there prompt and smiling even though they hadn’t had any breakfast and did a tremendous job working alongside some of our own staff. Indeed, all the BIGGA volunteers did a great job of looking after the blankets through the golf.

I would also like to thank once again, all of our own staff and especially the seven who travelled and stayed for the week to work as volunteers. Also, the STRI team who delivered great support to us with their measuring and data collection, not only during the week but right from the 60th of July. Ady led by Richard Windows and Christian Spring, their help was invaluable and my thanks go to all of the STRI people who worked through the week. I’d also like to thank Toro for providing the staff uniforms for the tournament and Aquatrols, Farmura, Richard Athiems, Syngenta, and Bayer for providing the food to keep us all going.

Finally, I would like to thank all those people who called, emailed or sent text messages to both myself and Gordon Moir. We had literally 100’s of messages of support, congratulations or just saying how great the course looked. We have tried/will try to respond to all of you but please accept our apologies if you are missed out. Your messages reflected the hard work everyone here put into making such a successful event, not just the two of us.

Gordon McKie
Course Manager
Old Course

Looking for Further Information Contact Kirstin Black
On 01347 833 832 or EMAIL kirstin@bigga.co.uk

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Course Manager
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Quick ‘Nine Hole’ Quiz Answers:

1. Pebble Beach
2. Valderrama
3. Wentworth
4. Royal Birkdale
5. St Andrews
6. Augusta National
7. The Belfry
8. Celtic Manor
9. PGA Centenary

Crossword

IN THE SHED Answers

1. Celtic Manor
2. The Belfry
3. Minchinhampton Golf Club
4. Great Torrington Golf Club
5. Loch Lomond
6. Valderrama
7. The Belfry
8. Celtic Manor

August 2010
Recruitment

TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER

Reporting: Reporting to the General Manager

Qualification:
A Qualified Mechanical/Electrical Engineer working in a Golf Course environment.

Responsibility:
- Motivate a team of Technical Support through performance coaching, career planning.
- Improve productivity by highlighting efficiencies and recommending change in tools, training, processes, reporting, and employee engagement.

Requirement:
- Manage projects which include preparation for large tournaments.

We know the extent of the person’s technical knowledge.
- Must be customer service orientated and believe in teamwork, collaboration, adaptability and Initiative.

We are currently seeking to expand our sales base in the U.K. throughout the Midlands and south east and require a suitably qualified and motivated individual to join our existing team. Sales experience and/or knowledge of the turfgrass industry would be a distinct advantage, however, excellent interpersonal skills and a strong focus on customer service are essential. An attractive package, which includes salary plus commission and a company vehicle, awaits the ideal candidate.

If you believe that you have what it takes to excel in this position then please send your CV in the strictest of confidence to Pat Galavan, Managing Director, TurfCare Group Ltd.,

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ADVERTISE IN GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL FOR A MONTH FROM £300+VAT FOR AN 1/8 PAGE ADVERT, OR DIRECTLY ONLINE FROM £300+VAT FOR A PART MONTH & £500+VAT FOR A FULL MONTH.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT KIRSTIN BLACK ON 01347 833 832 OR EMAIL kirstin@bigga.co.uk

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Course Manager
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GOLF QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Pebble Beach
2. Valderrama
3. Westpoint
4. Augusta National
5. Loch Lomond
6. Valderrama
7. Augusta National
8. Wentworth
9. The Belfry
10. Pinehurst

QUICK ‘NINE HOLE’ QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Pebble Beach
2. Valderrama
3. Westpoint
4. Augusta National
5. Loch Lomond
6. Valderrama
7. Augusta National
8. Wentworth
9. The Belfry

QUIZ AND SUDOKO ANSWERS:

In the Shed Answers

Crossword monster

AUGUST 2010
When Scott MacCallum asked me to contribute to the Soapbox a slight apprehensive feeling came over me. Well it would. I am not, as everyone knows, a person who is given to ranting on different issues that affect our industry but then, given the cold light of day I probably am. In fact, isn’t that all that I have been doing for the last 20 years, remaining defiant when speaking out for the plight of the environment within golf?

Over the years I have pushed golf clubs to take stock of the environment in which they play and manage it for both golf and for wildlife. I have also used legislation as a driver to generate awareness and encourage motivation, to ensure that best practices are adopted and adhered to. This is not a bad thing, far from it.

Collectively as an industry we have taken on a level of responsibility towards the environment that is unsurpassed. Which other industries can boast the reclamation of 23 hectares of heathland, the reinstatement of over 1127 linear metres of hedgerow, the expansion of our grassland resource and all this arising from projects like the EGU Ecological Advisory Service.

STRI along with organisations like The Golf Environment Organisation, BISGA, The R&A and Home Unions have created a wealth of literature geared towards managing the environment, but yet it seems strange to me that there are still many golf clubs churning out there that give little attention to their environmental responsibilities and are still dragging their feet and this can have ramifications for others.

Twenty years ago ecology was a buzzword, rather like sustainability is today, the main difference is perhaps that ecology is a term specifically related to species and the places in which they live, sustainability brings social and economic factors into the equation, changing our approach to golf course management in managing as a commercial modern business.

Even 20 years on I still regularly hear the old chestnut that this is a golf course and not a nature reserve, the reality is, that while a nature reserve can be specifically set up for wildlife, golf clubs have another overriding function i.e. that of golf. This is in the fact the reason why so many areas throughout the country are being given special protected status by way of the Site of Special Scientific Interest designation (SSSI). There is clearly no way that all golf courses could be given elevated scientific status but that does not mean that they do not contribute positively to wildlife and wildlife conservation. Many are indeed important staging posts for wildlife passing through.

They provide linkage with other important sites and they do protect some of our rarest and most vulnerable wildlife.

Individual golf clubs are functioning as individual business units, their main focus is income generation through visitor and member retention. It always strikes me as odd that golf clubs pour all their resources into their greens, giving them ultimate priority and while this is clearly necessary very little resource is given to the environment in which they sit. How many players would return again and again to play the course if it were not for the contribution of the environment and the pleasure gained from it.

This would never be the case unless some underlying factor such as poor performance in the past, pollution etc lies at the heart of the matter.

We must stop thinking that ecological management is for richer golf clubs, which probably make up less than 10% of the 3,300 golf clubs now established throughout the UK.

Just think of the contribution that the remaining 90% can have on protecting and conserving our nations wildlife. It was Steve Outram from Wilmslow Golf Club who once said: “I like to think that I am managing this golf course so that my children and grandchil-

dren can still benefit from the wildlife that I have created.”

That perhaps in a nutshell sums it up, the wildlife that we all take for granted will not be there in the future unless we as custodians of a very special and unique landscape manage in a way that will conserve it for present and future generations.

Bear in mind however that good perfor-

mance needs to be balanced with disclosure of performance, good and bad, hence the need for auditing, record keeping and peri-
odic review.

I still visit golf clubs that remain wor-
Considering the views expressed within on the Soapbox are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International
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In fact, isn’t that all that I have been doing for the last 20 years, remaining defiant when speaking out for the last 20 years, remaining in the industry but then, given the cold light of day I probably am.

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I still visit golf clubs that remain worried that if they highlight their ecological interests they may be stopped from implementing traditional management practices, this would never be the case unless some underlying factor such as poor performance in the past, pollution etc lies at the heart of the matter.

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That perhaps in a nutshell sums it up, the wildlife that we all take for granted will not be there in the future unless we as custodians of a very special and unique landscape manage in a way that will conserve it for present and future generations.

Protect our wildlife

Environment gives beauty to the game, it adds interest, challenge, history, nature and above all a real feeling of wellbeing.

The more I spend in Europe, particularly within the Scandinavia, the more I realise that potential visitors are seeking golf clubs with good social, environmental and ethical performance.

Golf Clubs providing this are thus better placed to attract and retain visitor numbers who share these values.

The more we do for the environment, the easier it will be when it comes to seeking planning permission for developmental change.

A golf club with a good track record, compared with direct competitors may gain an advantage through public approval and acceptance.

Bear in mind however that good performance needs to be balanced with disclosure of performance, good and bad, hence the need for auditing, record keeping and periodic review.

I still visit golf clubs that remain worried that if they highlight their ecological interests they may be stopped from implementing traditional management practices.

Sadly, Rescue can only rid your course of one disaster...

Rescue is an exciting new selective herbicide for the effective control of coarse, weed Ryegrass infestations, which reduce turf quality on golf courses. Trials have shown that the Rescue programme will quickly and effectively control weed Ryegrass and some other invasive coarse grasses to reinstate high quality playing surfaces across the golf course.

Clean out the coarse, for finer turf quality with Rescue.

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Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology & Environment at STRI, takes to the Soapbox and looks back over this evolving industry
Shift your perception of what a trim & surrounds mower can do

The New 7400 TerrainCut Trim & Surrounds Mower offers the flexibility to handle every part of the rough, with the push of a button. Shift from a 1.7 – 1.9 m (68 – 74 in) width of cut, from the seat. Shift a deck out 38 cm (15 in) to trim around trees or bunkers or climb and cut with the GRIP all-wheel drive and best-in-class horsepower. Contact your local John Deere dealership to arrange a demonstration and never look at your trim mower the same way again.

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