As the dust settles on the European Ryder Cup team’s win at Celtic Manor, please excuse the pun, those of us working within greenkeeping would never have doubted Jim McKenzie and his team’s skills and ability to present the course to the standards that had been planned for months and years.

However, out of very adverse weather the spotlight well and truly fell on greenkeepers far more than anybody could have dreamed of.

Jim, himself a great supporter of greenkeeper training, quite rightly has had so much praise heaped on him and his tremendous team of in-house greenkeepers and the many volunteers for their unbelievable efforts and while extreme, it did help raise the profile of greenkeeping with Sky, BBC and the wider media all homing in on the work of greenkeepers.

It was also a pleasure to hear the First Minister of Wales and Colin Montgomery pay tribute to Jim and his “ground staff” and greenkeepers for their hard work during the closing ceremony.

I was pleased to accept an invitation from the PGE to attend the Opening Ceremony and stand alongside the greenkeepers during a ceremony organised with military precision by the European Ryder Cup committee.

What really struck me was how much closer the various factions of golf have become in recent years and maybe, just finally, greenkeeping and greenkeepers have at last earned the respect they have strived for over many many years.

Usage horses seemingly are now being recognised as skilled knowledgeable professionals and members of any golf club management team and whether is it Celtic Manor or the little 9-hole golf course with one greenkeeper I believe the profession is slowly but surely receiving the respect it truly deserves.

A watershed you might say!

http://www.royalashdown.co.uk/html/about-us/course-managers-facts

Clubs, both private and proprietary, now produce Newsletters and these often feature a Course News section written by the Course Manager.

- Monthly or quarterly course reports to management seem very much part of a Course Manager job role and these or a summary appear on club notice boards hopefully for members and visitors to read.

Nine: To be sure members read a notice always make a spelling mistake, they are sure to tell you! This is at least a sign they have read it!

- A GC Party – an evening when the clubs equipment and machinery is displayed for the members to view their investments and to question the Course Manager on which machine or piece of equipment does what on the golf course.

This I remember as being a huge breakthrough for Ed McCabe, Course Manager at Brocketshurst Manor Golf Club, his great ally at the club, Arthur King, and was subsequently promoted by the English Golf Union to a series of workshops along with the benefits of a Course Policy Document.

- Since those halcyon days technology has moved on not just in modern golf course machinery but the internet with many clubs now having their own websites.

I am sure many Course Managers have their own ways of handling members questions and answers however recently I was directed to the Royal Ashdown Golf Club’s website where Chris Mitchell the Course Manager maintains a feature on – Course Manager – Frequently asked questions.

It is well worth a visit to see how Chris keeps his members updated on the work being done or about to be carried out on the course.

The following link will take you there and is provided with the kind permission of the club and Chris.

http://www.royalashdown.co.uk/html/about-us/course-managers-facts

Remember – all of the Seminars are FREE and available on a first come, first serve basis. With this in mind, ensure that you are at the Queen's Suite in plenty of time to secure your seat.

With the smell of bonfires and fireworks in the air, we find ourselves in November. Time seems to be moving faster and faster these days, the next thing you know it will be Christmas and that only means one thing... Harrogate Week is just around the corner!

Please prepare to enjoy an extensive programme of Seminars presented by an array of speakers on a wide variety of subjects there is sure to be something that whets your appetite.

- Featured sessions: STRI – Part of the Winning Team at the World Cup Ryder Cup Cymru Preparing the Old Course for the 2010 Open Championship The West Course at Wentworth Course Manager to Club Manager – The Challenges. Integrated Management of Dollar Yields Demythification of Synthetic Sports Surfaces Working on Your Own at a 9 Hole Course

For a full list of seminars visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education/seminars.

For the course as agreed by the employers.

It is also appreciated, that for some, report writing and making presentations, i.e. to the local businesses on their natural skills for some Course Managers but with the help of staff within the GTC Quality Assured

The field guide is now available to Members, free of charge by contacting the L&D Department on 01347 833800 (option 3) or by emailing rachael@bigga.co.uk with your name and membership number.

The production of this guide has been made possible by the continued support of Gold and Silver key contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

Events Calendar

Have you visited the Events page of the BIGGA website?

- Displaying all of the events that are going on around the country that we’ve been advised of this feature is a useful tool to use when planning your diary.

You can browse the calendar by month, by host or by using the search facility. Clicking on the event name gives you further information about the event including how many CPD credits will be awarded for attendance (if eligible).

If you have events coming up in your Section that are not listed, send us the information and we’ll update the calendar. As Aleksandr the meerkat would say ‘Simples’!

Send your event information to sami@bigga.co.uk.

BIGGA Library

We have added four new books to the BIGGA Library: Sustainable Golf Courses – A Guide to Environmental Stewardship – Ronald O Dodson Ecosystems, Genetics and Breeding – Michael D Calser & Ronnie R Duncan Turf Maintenance Facility Design and Management – John Pernuos, Harry Y Smith Managing Wetlands on Golf Courses – Gary Libby, Donald F Harper, Kay Harper

Higher Education Scholarships

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to Giancarlo Latto – BVQ Level 4 in Management