Inside...

Turf Set to Suffer

DR TERRY MABBETT predicts serious withdrawal symptoms for turf

THE ONLY WAY IS UP

Hawkhurst GC, in Kent, is this month’s Golf Course Feature

Student Greenkeeper of the Year

ANDREW STANGER, OF HORSFORTH GC, IS VICTORIOUS AT BIGGA HOUSE
THAT’S A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.

TORO is the manufacturer of some of the finest turf care machinery in the world today. And now, with the recent addition of the ProCore SR Series, it is world leader in deep-tine aeration. TORO produces the widest range of aeration machinery in the industry and has a machine to suit all your aeration needs. Now, isn’t that a breath of fresh air? Please contact us today for a free demonstration.

Call 01480 226800 or visit www.toro.com

A big opportunity for golf

By the time you read this the dust will have settled on the 37th Ryder Cup and either Colin Montgomerie or Corey Pavin will be lauded as a hero. Weather and any other possible outside influences aside, the preparation work that Jim McKenzie and his Celtic Manor team, carried out in the years, months, weeks, days and hours prior to the Cup meant that no stone was left unturned in ensuring a successful week.

Putting that aside though, I would hope, and expect, that golf, and its overall profile will have come out of what is the third biggest sporting event on the planet - after the Olympics and the World Cup - on the up because the game is certainly in need of a boost.

It has come in for a real battering this year. Golf clubs are feeling the squeeze at the rank and file end while in the professional game Tiger Woods has been forced, by virtue of his performances both on and off the course, to hand over the crown of “Greatest Sportsman in the World” to Usain Bolt. Whether he will ever win it back is very much open to conjecture.

The perfect showcase of a thrilled-packed Ryder Cup would do wonders for the game, whetting the appetite of occasional players to play more often; getting the juices flowing of young aspiring Rorys, Martins and Edoardos play more often; getting the juices flowing of young aspiring Rorys, Martins and Edoardos to take up the game, and, perhaps, cement the desire of nomad golfers into taking out a membership at a good local club and putting down some roots.

I keep coming back to the virtues of golf as a game and I am continually frustrated by the portrayal of it in certain quarters as a joke pastime, undertaken by checked trousers- wearing gin swilling old buffers.

Granted, the age profile of the game could be a little more youthful, and I do baulk at the garish colour combinations so beloved by Ian Poulter and his followers, but, in general, golf offers so much to those who take part.

At my club, it is great to see young boys and girls receiving coaching on a Saturday morning. They are all well presented, often wearing smart branded clothing (and no doubt badgering their parents for just the sort of Ian Poulter inspired clothing, too neat!); well mannered and keen to learn.

And that’s not just the ability to swing the club on a consistent plane and turn three shots into two around the green, it’s the etiquette that teaches them how to conduct themselves in any company, and it any facet of their young lives.

Golf more than any other sport instills values into those people who play it and while we can’t hide from the flaws, and should work hard to remove them, we must try and make sure that our positive pronouncements douse the often snide comments of the critics.

Without wishing to tempt fate, having written this before the start of this year’s Ryder Cup, I’d like to congratulate Jim McKenzie, his team and the many volunteer greenkeepers on a successful week.
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The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.

One of this country’s most profound philosophers, I believe her name to be Yazz, once said, “The Only Way is Up!” It is a positive message, to be sure, and one which Darren Child, Course Manager of Hawkhurst Golf Club in Kent, has been using as a mantra since he took over at the nine hole village course last February.

And it would be hard to argue as, when Darren took over, the course was certainly in the gutter, but not necessarily looking at the stars – to paraphrase another acclaimed philosopher and wit, Oscar Wilde. The course had just gone into administration. The Head Greenkeeper and his part time assistant had to go as part of the old regime. The Administrator had taken what worthwhile machinery was to be had in the ramshackled building which masqueraded as the maintenance facility.

The club had struggled for a number of years, being propped up by the club’s owner, who was spending anything up to £50,000 each year, to bail the club out on salaries, overheads etc. The membership had also dwindled from a relatively robust 400 to just over a 100. It was then that the owner understandably felt that the situation was not sustainable and that, while he would be happy for the club to continue, he would no longer bank roll it, and so things came to a head. Looking into a genuine abyss, the Club Professional, Peter Chandler, and one of the club’s squash members, James O’Reilly, decided, despite the less than rosy outlook, to try and make a go of the club.

It was to this situation that Darren arrived. A man who had earned his greenkeeping stripes at Walton Heath, under Clive Osgood and latterly, Ian McMillan, and a former junior member of Hawkhurst, Darren Scott MacCallum visits a golf club which so nearly went out of existence but which is now well on the road to recovery.
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“I would certainly do it again, but it was hard work. On the first two days we rode for 51 and 57 miles respectively but the third day was 94 miles, many of them uphill,” said Bruce, who enjoyed the 10 mile final stint into Paris and the Eiffel Tower, behind a support vehicle.

The 44 people who completed the trip raised over £40,000 for the Church but contributions can still be made via: www.jamiejogging.com/Bruce-and-Alice-Jamieson

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**Man City Man Flies out to Italy**

Barenbrug UK’s Jayne Leyland recently took Manchester City FC’s Grounds Manager, Roy Rigby, on a fact-finding visit to Italy to give him an insight into the latest research and developments in grass seed solutions for the sports turf industry.

“Jayne and Roy journeyed to Landlab, in Quinto Vicentino, near Vicenza, where the independent turfgrass research centre is working on grass synergy and bio-diversity systems with Royal Barenbrug Group.

Roy and his team are charged with achieving the very best playing surfaces possible. As such, Roy is keen to use and trial cutting-edge seed solutions as a key part of his programme across the club’s Eastlands stadium, Carrington training ground and Platt Lane academy sites.

And with Roy’s expertise also in demand in the United Arab Emirates – where club owner Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan has asked him to advise on Abu Dhabi Football Club’s pitches and his personal grounds – he found the Barenbrug trials being conducted at Landlab of particular interest and practical relevance.

“The level of investment at Manchester City means I am in the unique and privileged position of being able to actively seek out the latest sports turf solutions to trial and use at our grounds,” said Roy.

“The Landlab visit was really useful – the water restitution and warm/cold season grasses trials will certainly benefit my work in Abu Dhabi. It’s given me lots to think about in terms of uses back home too – first of all, I plan to start an exciting trial with Jayne at one of our Manchester grounds next summer.”

Roy Rigby, centre, with Landlab’s Dr Adriano Altissimo and Barenbrug UK’s Jayne Leyland on his recent trip to the Italian trials site

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**Victorious at Norrie Whytock**

On Thursday, 19 August, we made our way to Auchterarder Golf Club for our annual Norrie Whytock Team event for the Sections in Scotland, hosted by Bayer. Auchterarder Golf Club was in superb condition. Our congratulations to Archie Dunne and his staff for the presentation of the course. It was a pleasure to play.

On to the event itself. After last year’s momentous win the Ayrshire Section were looking to retain the trophy but this was not to be. Due to the good weather, the scoring was the best we have seen for several years with some excellent scores being returned. In third place with 100 points was the West Section. In second with a great score of 104 was the Central Section team comprising Derek Scott, Soucie GC; Andy O’Hara, Leven Links; Tom Adams and Charlie McDonald, both Crieff GC.

However the winner, with a total of 105 Stableford points was the team from the East comprising Stuart Ferguson, Dundas Parks; George Oliver, Murrayfield GC; Alistair Holmes, Seahouses GC, and finally Scott Corrigan, Greendrum GC, who lead the way with a fine individual score of 40 points, the best of the day.

Winning Captain, Stuart Ferguson, thanked Bayer and Kenny Liddell, Scottish representative, for their sponsorship and support. The Scottish Chairman, John Godles, was also in attendance and endorsed Stuart’s comments. Our thanks once again, go to the Captain and Committee of Auchterarder GC for the courtesy and facilities. Thanks also to David Smith, Managing Secretary, for his assistance in organising the tournament.

We look forward to returning to Auchterarder Golf Club in 2011 and hope to see you there.

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**GIVE NATURE A HELPING HAND**

Do you want to encourage more birds onto your course? Enhancing the natural look of your property could bring in golfers who are after more than just a good playing experience.

The R&A and RSPI joint publication, “Birds and golf courses: a guide to habitat management”, can help you do just that. Its 80 lavishly illustrated pages contain a wealth of guidance on managing habitat for birds and other wildlife. Links, heathland, grassland, downland and parkland courses are all covered, with advice on woodland, hedgerow, scrub and wetland management for birds.

The book was written by Keith Duff, retired Chief Scientist at English Nature, (and an advisory member of The R&A’s Golf Course Committee) and Nigel Symes, habitat management specialist at RSPI.

Peter Dawson, Chief Executive of the R&A, expressed his delight in working closely with the RSPI on this publication, “I encourage all golf clubs to think about how they can put this guidance into practice on their property.”

Golf courses, if managed sympathetically, can provide a safe haven for some species of birds that were once widespread but that have declined rapidly in recent years. The R&A and its Open venues are playing their part by, for example, managing grassland rough to encourage ground nesting birds such as the Birds of Conservation Concern Red Listed skylark.

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Peter J. Boyd, Regional Administrator
The Course Care Cup

A popular annual event took place recently at Highcliff Castle Golf Club. This was the 13th time that the Wessex Secretaries met the South Coast Greenkeepers to take part in this close fought contest sponsored by Course Care. With honours even before this particular event much was at stake but, on a beautifully sunny day, the greenkeepers were successful (3½ to 1½) and presented with the trophy. Here we see Kevan Glass, Course Manager at Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club, receiving the cup from Course Care’s Managing Director David Mears.

Golf Club Histories at the EIGCA Library

The EIGCA has been actively searching out the publications of golf clubs over 100 years old for the past five years for its library. These provide a valuable insight into the early years of golf and the work of pioneers such as Harry Colt, James Braid and Alister MacKenzie. This part of the collection now stands at over 400 volumes. For clubs embarking on their own history, it is a useful starting point as there is a great variety in the form and content of these books.

The 19th century was a period of extreme change throughout Europe as we moved from a rural society to an urban one. By the end of this period there emerged a new leisureed class of people with money to spend. Now, golf had been played for many centuries before but that the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th saw a growth of interest in the game never seen before or since. Over 500 golf clubs were established in England alone during that period and 300 in Scotland.

The EIGCA is interested in the beginnings of these clubs. Many of them are considering renovation work to coincide with their centenary celebrations and are looking at the original layouts and their designers for information. Based on the library of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, and substantially augmented since, initially with a grant from the R&A, the EIGCA Library collection contains the writings of many of the great masters in the field, such as Harry Colt, H M Wethered, George Thomas, as well as the works of more modern gurus like Geoff Shackleford, Robert Muir Gravere and Michael Hurda. We have facsimile copies of many books published in the first part of the 20th century, such as The Links by Robert Hunter and Bernard Darwin’s Green Memories. There are guides to courses throughout the world and many works exploring the environmental impact of golf. And we have practical guides to irrigation and greenkeeping which detail the techniques available to the industry today.

The club histories are listed in the Library’s catalogue which can be viewed on the Institute’s web site at www.eigca.org/library.php. Non-members may borrow our books for a small fee, and are welcome to visit and view the collection. Please email me on librarian@eigca.org.

Sue Stranger, Librarian
European Institute of Golf Course Architects.
Chelsea Show Off New Star Signing

Having finished top of the Premier League last season, all eyes are on Chelsea as they open their new season in Under 21 Premier League action. And to keep Stamford Bridge in perfect playing condition, the stadium’s Assistant Head Groundsman, Kevin Fowler, knew just what the club needed – a Toro ProCore 648 pedestrian aerator.

“I’ve actually been wanting this machine for years,” Kevin says of the club’s latest signing. “I’ve demoed it alongside other aerators, but the ProCore 648 pedestrian aerator. Groundsman, Kevin Fowler, knew just what the club needed – a Toro

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Wiedenmann UK Hosts Series of Open Days

From Kerry to Kent, and from seven regional airports, Wiedenmann UK welcomed over 130 dealer representatives and prospective customers to a series of three demonstration days recently. A total of 25 machines from its fleet of turf and ground care equipment were available for testing at Wiedenmann’s show field, next to its Glasgow Airport equipment.

With eight Terra Spikes lined up side by side, visitors were able to appreciate first hand how continuous product differentiation and R&D investment has enabled Wiedenmann to develop patented technology to deep aerate and decompact turf. David Rae, Wiedenmann UK’s Managing Director, told the audience: “We are known for our Terra Spikes aerators but increasingly customers are discovering our range of mowers, collectors, conditioning and commercial machinery. “This is your chance to get behind the controls and see everything up close.”

Photograph shows one of eight groups at Wiedenmann’s series of Open Days.

New Chief Executive for Links Trust

Euan Louden, 54, who concurrently Chief Executive of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, will take up the role of Chief Executive of the St Andrews Links Trust early next year. The Trust manages and maintains the seven public golf courses in St Andrews including the Old Course and The Castle Course. A former assistant professional golfer, he joined the army in 1984 and quickly rose through the officer ranks. He commanded the 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers and in his final appointment, in rank of Major General, he was General Officer Commanding the Army’s 2nd Division and Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

In 1991, he was awarded the CBE for operational service in the Gulf and the Chief of Staff of The Desert Rats. In 2004 he was appointed OBE for operational service in Northern Ireland. Euan said, “I feel privileged to have been appointed to such a high profile position. St Andrews Links is recognised as one of the world’s finest golfing destinations and it is important to developing that reputation even further in the years ahead.”

Unsung Hero Celebrates Anniversary and Opens Eighth Awards

One of Terrain Aeration’s current Unsung Heroes, Keri-Jarman of Moor Park Golf and Country Club, was on hand at Kelso to help celebrate the company’s 10th anniversary and open nominations for this year’s awards.

Now in their eighth year, the Unsung Hero Awards are open to any Greenkeeper or Groundsman, deemed to be outstanding in his or her dedication to the industry, whether it be help and support given to colleagues, extra effort in the face of adversity or sterling, solid performance over and above the call of duty.

In other words, those who go that extra mile without any thought of reward.

The winners will be announced at Harrogate, having been judged by representatives from BIGGA, the IOG and the STRI, and will receive holiday vouchers, a framed certificate and a cheque for £200.

Nominations are invited from anyone in the industry (fair immediate family) and nomination forms will be available to download from Terrain Aeration's blogsite www.terrainaeration.co.uk

Harry Diamond Remembered

The Harry Diamond Quaich was again played over the Belleisle Course, Ayr. Weatherwise, one would have thought that the heavens had opened up and had concentrated their centre on Belleisle. Backed up by a “Gale Force” wind, swamping down from the Cumnock Hills. The brave and fearless men, women and children were standing on their respective tee assuring the ‘A9 Mawson to start off this year’s Harry Diamond Quaich.

Again this well supported competition had a full and over flowing entry sheet.

The whole Diamond family were involved in the arrangements of the golf and the apex Golf and the Harry Diamond Quaich was presented by Harry’s wife, Jessie.

The winners were H. Russell, P. Tasker, P. Watson and A. Graham who had a remarkable score of 96 points, magnificent golf considering the weather.

The family wish to thank all who donated cheques and prizes, without which support the competition would not be possible. Also the golfers who turned out in such appalling weather are to be admired and thanked.

The whole day was a credit to Harry’s memory and depicts just exactly the high esteem in which Harry was held by the Arran golfing community.

The presentation of prizes closed with the presentation for our members and guests very effective. Just as well, as the club will make history next year by holding the R&A Boys championships within the venue.
Wiedenmann UK Hosts Series of Open Days

From Kerry to Kent, and from seven regional airports, Wiedenmann UK welcomed over 120 dealer representatives and prospective customers to a series of three demonstration days recently. A total of 25 machines from its fleet of turf and ground care equipment were available for testing at Wiedenmann’s show field, next to its Glasgow Airport HQ.

With eight Terra Spikes lined up side by side, visitors were able to appreciate first hand how continuous product differentiation and R&D investment has enabled Wiedenmann to develop patented technology to deep aerate and decompact turf.

David Rae, Wiedenmann UK’s Managing Director, told the audience, “We are known for our Terra Spikes aerators but increasingly customers are discovering our range of mowers, collectors, conditioning and commercial machinery. “This is your chance to get behind the controls and see everything up close.”

Photograph shows one of eight groups at Wiedenmann’s series of Open Days.

New Chief Executive for Links Trust

Euan Loudon, 54, who currently Chief Executive of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, will take up the role of Chief Executive of the St Andrews Links Trust early next year. The Trust manages and maintains the seven public golf courses in St Andrews including the Old Course and The Castle Course. A former assistant professional player, he joined the army in 1971 and quickly rose through the officer ranks. He commanded the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers and in his final appointment, was General Officer Commanding the Army’s 2nd Division and Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

In 1991, he was appointed General Officer Commanding the Army’s 2nd Division and Governor of Edinburgh Castle. In 1991, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Desert Storm Forces. In 2005, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Desert Storm Forces. In 2005, he was appointed General Officer Commanding the Army’s 2nd Division and Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

Now in their eighth year, the Unsung Hero Awards are open to any Greenkeeper or Groundsman, deemed to be outstanding in his or her dedication to the industry, whether it be help and support given to colleagues, extra effort in the face of adversity or sterling, solid performance over and above the call of duty.

One of Terrain Aeration’s current Unsung Heroes, Keri Jarman of Moor Park Golf and Country Club, was on hand at Saltex to help celebrate the company’s 10th anniversary and open nominations for this year’s awards.

In other words, those who go that extra mile without any thought of reward. The winners will be announced at Harrogate, having been judged by representatives from BIGGA, the IOG and the STRI, and will receive holiday vouchers, a framed certificate and a cheque for £200.

Another of Terrain Aeration’s current Unsung Heroes, Susie Atkinson of Heathhall ABGT, was also on hand to present a cheque for £200.

The presentation of prizes closed with the presentation of a Diamond Quaich, a traditional Scottish competition cup, to the club’s most deserving person.

Harry Diamond Remembered

The Diamond family were involved in the arrangement of the golf and the apron Golf and the Harry Diamond Quaich was presented by Harry’s wife, June.

The winners were H. Russell, P. Tasker, P. Watson and A. Graham who had a remarkable score of 96 points, magnificent golf considering the weather.

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

"How To..." guides are now 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.

To access the "How To..." guides, log on to the BIGGA Members Area at www.biggag.org and click on Member Resources.

Harrogate Week is unique. It is the only Groundcare event in Europe to offer its members the following combination of attractions in one place.

An Education and Training event that has dozens of seminars to choose from ranging from one hour to two days.

An Industry Show that has all the latest products and services on display and under cover.

A social networking experience: year in and year out greenkeepers return to re-charge their batteries and enjoy the camaraderie that brings the town of Harrogate to life.

Greenkeepers from all over the globe gather at Harrogate every year. And so they should for BIGGA is the single largest Association for greenkeepers at all levels in the world.

However, all trade shows are now going through a period of upheaval. In response to this, BIGGA, the IOG, Pitchcare, the AEA and others are looking at how Harrogate Week and SALTEX can be ‘future-proofed’ over the coming years.

BIGGA will fight fiercely to protect and enhance its membership services.

Starting soon the industry will be surveyed to determine exactly what is wanted - e.g. the Trade, the Member Associations, and the individual working greenkeepers and groundsmen. Rest assured however - BIGGA will fight fiercely to protect and enhance its membership services at all times.

As a member of the Association you will be surveyed. May I strongly urge you – when the survey arrives, do not ignore it. Please consider each part of it very carefully.

BIGGA is committed continuously to improving Harrogate Week. This year the event will feature even more career enhancing opportunities, ranging from a one-day ‘Fine Turf Managers’ Conference’, to a ‘Development Seminar for Assistant Greenkeepers’, to ‘You Volunteers’ Workshops aimed at supporting industry volunteers from home and abroad, to an ‘Environ-zone’ where experts will be on hand to discuss projects and advise on such issues as ‘grant-aid’, carbon reductions and green energy.

I hope you will take the opportunity to visit our suppliers and manufacturers and discuss with them the latest innovations as well as the tried and tested products.

Also, take a moment to thank our supporters who have donated £1 million to the Learning and Development Fund.

I am very concerned that if we do not support our trade shows we will lose them. If we want to keep them we will need to vote with our feet and get to Harrogate Week in January.

We will need to fill out and return the surveys and show the industry what we want.

To paraphrase that well known TV phrase: ‘Should we keep Harrogate Week? You decide’

Greenkeepers may not be able to continue to thrive in the profession without producing CPD certificates.

Much will be written about Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in the coming months and years.

To continue in the profession Greenkeepers will have to embrace CPD. It is highly likely, for example, that Pesticide Spray Operators’ Certificates of Competence are to become time-limited, requiring a re-sit every three years - unless the operator can prove ongoing CPD.

This ‘compulsory’ CPD exists in other professions. Just as lawyers and dentists cannot continue in their profession without attending the seminars that update their skills and awareness then pretty soon greenkeepers may not be able to continue in the profession without producing CPD certificates every year.

BIGGA will support your advancement all the way, providing the opportunities to keep up with quality courses.

I refer anyone in the slightest doubt about this to (for example) Jon Albutt’s Pesticide Update Course (12 CPD points) on the Monday of Harrogate Week 2011.

BIGGA wishes to introduce a modern, industry recognised CPD scheme which delivers exactly the opportunities that are needed for today’s greenkeepers to thrive.

However, without your help and participation the scheme would not be as effective or as user friendly.

If you are an Assistant, or you know an Assistant who perhaps has never attended Harrogate Week, or who perhaps has felt overwhelmed at the prospect - then make a resolution to attend Harrogate Week in 2011.

There you will find something for everyone, and equal status as far as development is concerned. CPD has never been just for Master Greenkeepers.

It can be very lonely at times, and this brings me back to the network and support that BIGGA can offer.

BIGGA has the systems in place for you to get up-to-date advice and support.

Let me also assure you that your volunteer Board of Directors has the vision and the determination not to shrink from difficult decisions if they are in the best interests of our members and the best interests of the greenkeeping profession.
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It is essential to all our careers. Essential because of the pressure of the recession. Essential if we are to advance the greenkeeping profession.

Finally, may I just say that many of us can find ourselves working on far-flung sites often without close support from peers and colleagues. BIGGA provides support if you feel you are being treated unfairly by your employer or even your colleagues. We offer impartial and relevant advice through our legal helpline.

Get in touch. I would urge any member to get in touch as quickly as possible should difficulties arise.

It can be very lonely at times, and this brings me back to the network- and support that BIGGA can offer.

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Let me also assure you that your Volunteer Board of Directors has the vision and the determination not to shirk from difficult decisions if they are in the best interests of our members and the best interests of the greenkeeping profession.
The GTC is aware that many of the readers of this column are often the greenkeepers who, with the odd exception, are convinced that there is no substitute for having an educated, trained and preferably qualified greenstaff to maintain and manage the golf course. However…

For many years greenkeepers, mainly through their own association, have asked for better support from the Home Unions and other golfing organisations including the R&A, GCMA, PGA and PGA European Tour to help spread the word to the golfer on the important role and work of the Course Manager and his/her greenkeeping team contribution to the game of golf.

In recent years we have seen real progress and the GTC Board with its representative bodies, the Home Unions and BIGGA are determined to make every effort to “educate the golfer.”

We now have annual seminars and workshops hosted by the Home Unions on behalf of the clubs who represent them and more often than not include some aspect of greenkeeper education on the programme.

The GTC has representatives from the Unions on both the Board and Technical Committee and this has assisted enormously in “spreading the word” and in addition to the seminars and workshops the GTC has now been offered the opportunity to write articles in the Home Unions widely distributed newsletters.

The English Golf Union has proposed that six articles, which are very active in promoting all aspects of greenkeeper training. A couple of examples of their ongoing support to promote greenkeeper training are the Welsh Golf Union’s grant to its affiliated clubs registering a trainee at a GTC approved Centre and the Scottish Golf Union’s development of Case Studies showing best practices aligned to the Sustainable golf course programme.

There is now some excellent information available on the web sites of the representative bodies on the GTC – visit www.the-gtc.co.uk and click on the respective logos.

We should also acknowledge the support, through a special project, the R&A has given to the GTC primarily to promote the Sustainable golf course and Benchmarking to our Centre turf staff but this years series of workshops also included representatives from the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) and the Golf Club Managers Association (GCMA).

Never has it been more important that all golfing bodies work together to not only promote greenkeeper training to maintain good sustainable playing surfaces but also to play our part in helping many golf clubs who are struggling in the economic climate.

The ongoing reports from the Home Unions that many private clubs membership are still in decline and the nomad golfers are increasing has led the GTC to appeal to all golf clubs to consider donating a green fee to the work of the GTC on behalf of the casual player enjoying their facilities.

The letter to clubs from GTC Chairman, Donald Steel, can be viewed on the GTC website and any reader who feels they or their employers can assist the GTC, please feel free to download the letter and form.

All contributions will assist the GTC to continue its vital work for the game.

The most recent initiative from the GTC is the launch of its Quality Assured Scheme. One of the most important roles of the GTC is to direct both employers and greenkeeper students to those Centres and Training Providers who offer qualifications and courses in accordance with the National Standards for greenkeeping.

I make no apology in asking readers once again to look out for the GTC’s Quality Assured logo on literature and websites of those Centres and Providers who have met the criteria – see below.

For further information on any matters relating to greenkeeper education, training and qualifications contact the GTC direct: Tel 01347 838640 or email: david@the-gtc.co.uk

In Brief

David explains how there is new progress in making the private sector clubs more aware of the importance of supporting the greenkeepers of the future.

The GTC is funded by:
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The English Golf Union has proposed that six articles would be written by leading Course Managers to explain, “A Year in the Life of a Golf Course” which is hopefully just the start of an ongoing campaign to inform golfers of the work that is carried out to all areas of the golf course at various times of the year.

The Scottish and Welsh Home Unions are also considering including similar articles in their publications, which is excellent news for greenkeepers.

All three British Home Unions have Golf Services Committees, which are very active in promoting all aspects of greenkeeper training.

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October means dark nights, pumpkins and turkey. With Harrogate Week approaching, you’ll be in for a treat.

Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2011

The Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2011 programme is now available. BIGGA members should have received a copy with this magazine.

With a combination of two day, one day and half day workshops, supplemented by a series of free seminars, Continue to Learn 2011 will deliver almost 150 hours of education over five days. We have worked hard to ensure that there is something for everyone and for the first time we will be presenting a Turf Managers’ Conference.

We have been able to reduce the cost of the workshops and conference thanks to the support of the Gold and Silver Key contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

The workshop programme will include:

- Two day workshops:
  - Golf Course Design Moving into Management
  - Moving into Management: Basic Greenkeeping Techniques
  - Good Soil Chemistry and Biology
  - Irrigation System Design Moving With The Times: Design and Problem Solving
  - Basic Budgeting and Golf Club Finance

- One-day workshops:
  - Basic Golf Mechanics Workshop
  - How to be an Outstanding Manager: Part 1
  - How to be an Outstanding Manager: Part 2
  - Pest Management: The Rules of Golf and Course Set Up

- Half day workshops:
  - Basic Greenkeeping Techniques
  - Good Soil Chemistry and Biology
  - Irrigation System Design Moving With The Times: Design and Problem Solving
  - Basic Budgeting and Golf Club Finance

- Pesticide Update

So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager?

The rules of Golf and Course Set Up for PGA Events Protected Species and Habitats for Bumblebees and Butterflies

Basic Greenkeeping Techniques

Carbon Auditing for Business Advantage

Good Soil Chemistry and Biology

Development Seminar for Assistant Greenkeepers

Golf Club Management – Getting it Right in 2011 presented by the GCMA

All of the workshops can be booked online via the Harrogate Week website or by contacting the Learning and Development Department on 01347 833800 and select Option 3.

More seminars will be added to the programme and can be found on the official Harrogate Week website, www.harrogateweek.org.uk.

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Six of the Best for Bearwood Lakes

Bearwood Lakes at Slinfoldesham, near Wokingham, has recently upgraded its mowers fleet with six new John Deere’s mowers from local dealer Golf & Turf Equipment.

They include three 2300E hybrid greens mowers from 70% PrecisionCut rotary mowers and an 8800 TerrainCut rotary semi-roughs mower. All the cylinder mowers are equipped with John Deere’s new Quick Adjust QA5 or QA7 cutting units, which are described as “awesome” by Greenkeeper Daniel Lightfoot, who has been Course Manager at Bearwood Lakes for the past five years.

“We have run John Deere tractors and Gale utility vehicles for a number of years, and the QA cutting units were a big factor in persuading us to change to the new mowers after I first saw them being demonstrated at The Berkshire and at HTME/Harrogate Week,” said Daniel.

“We like to change the cutting heights to suit ground conditions each day, if possible, and these new units allow us to do them all in just a few minutes, they really are a lot of time.

They stay on cut really well too, and all the greens staff like using the machines, which are very comfortable with very good controls.”

Lewis Blois Joins Scotts

Scotts Professional has appointed Lewis Blois as Technical Area Sales Manager for the East Midlands and East of England. He’s no stranger to the turf industry or to Scotts’ products, having joined from Sherriff Amenity where he was Amenity Representative for Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

A keen semi-professional footballer with Norwich United, Lewis is looking forward to working with the Scotts Turf & Amenity Team to provide advice and product support for the company’s extensive range of fertilisers, control products and grass seeds Scotts Professional’s Business Manager for the UK and Ireland, Richard Walton, said: “I am delighted that Lewis has joined the team. His enthusiasm for the industry is abundant and he’ll provide superb technical and sales support to our valued customers and distributors.”

E-Z-GO SUPPORT WOMEN’S RUGBY

E-Z-GO supported the recent Women’s Rugby World Cup which took place at the Surrey Sports Park, a fleet of electric shuttles and an ambulance vehicle for use at the tournament. All of the preliminary round games were played at the Surrey Sports Park with the semi-finals and final taking place at Twickenham’s Stoop stadium, the home to Harlequins RUFC.

New Zealand beat England 13-10 in a thrilling final, watched by a crowd of almost 14,000. E-Z-GO provided a fleet of 10 electric RXV 2-2 shuttles, which can be used for transporting up to four people or, with the rear seats folded, converted in an instant to a two-seater with a load platform for carrying a wide range of items and equipment. The company also provided a mini-ambulance, complete with stretcher and emergency equipment, in case of injury to the players or spectator illness.

Sign of the Times

As a direct ‘sign of the times’, JSM Distribution has seen a huge increase in enquiries for the hire of their Sand Storm screening system. Principally aimed at the renovation of golf course bunkers, the Sand Storm can also handle other materials that may benefit from a screening process. Vibrating screens on the Sand Storm work to remove debris such as leaves, twigs, needles, weeds, stone and clay particles. The screens will also trap silt deposits on their surface, allowing for wash off and removal. The process removes the sand particles and fluffs ‘it’ to a like new condition.

Eliminating settling and compaction as well as cleaning away unwelcome contamination the Sand Storm can dramatically improve the playing characteristics of the bunker and reduce the need for major sand replacement or renovation programmes, where bunker contamination is a headache.

Sales Manager, David Timms said, “It is not surprising in the current financial squeeze that many organisations are considering hire rather than the purchase of capital equipment. However, the huge interest in the Sand Storm indicates that this cost concern doesn’t affect just machinery but all materials and practices. A lot more clubs are now becoming interested in the renovation achieve they can achieve recycling their existing material, rather than replacing, in the past we have treated hire in a rather ad hoc fashion, but as a result of the upturn in enquiries this summer we are now organising ourselves to be able to hire the units on a national basis’.

The Sand Storm is available from JSM Distribution and hire rates start from £350 (+ vat) per week, plus delivery. …Call 0845 026 0064.
The latest turf industry news from around the globe

**INDUSTRY UPDATE**

**Six of the Best for Bearwood Lakes**

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They include three 2500E hybrid greens and 7700 PrecisionCut railway mowers and an 8800 TerrainCut rotary semi-roughs mower. All the cylinder mowers are equipped with John Deere's new Quick Adjust QA5 or QA7 cutting units, which are described as “awesome” by Master Greenkeeper Daniel Lightfoot, who has been Course Manager at Bearwood Lakes for the past five years.

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**What’s your number?**

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

Shona Garner comes under the spotlight

Name: Shona Garner

Company: Shona Garner Coaching Services Ltd

Position: Director

How long have you been in the industry?
7 years

How did you get into it?
In the latter years of my career I’d often handkerchief after trying my hand at starting out on my own, doing what I love – so seven years ago – took the plunge!

What other jobs have you done?
Bit of a mixed bag really! Major career choices were teaching, which I did for 17 years. Then I moved into the pharmaceutical industry. But I’ve also picked carnations in Jersey; done voluntary work on a wild-life reserve in Narratu and sung semi-professionally in a band!

What do you like about your current job?
I love seeing people grow! Have an endless fascination for psychology; what makes us tick; what makes some humans more “successful” or fulfilled or happy than others – and get a huge buzz from seeing those managers I work with on workshops or 1-1 develop, grow their potential and make a difference!

What changes have you seen in the industry?
Every industry faces change – it’s the only constant! And how people deal with it is what makes the difference between organisations which thrive and those which flounder.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I love walking, yoga and my step class! Great way to burn off frustration and stress! And, sad to say – I love reading psychology books or books about management!

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?
I see myself in a small office space with wall posters of books I love – so seven years ago – took the plunge!

How did you get into it?
I was working in sales and marketing for a small company and was offered the opportunity to work for a large company. I was able to move my family around the country with ease and this led to a career change into management. I then decided to move into the world of coaching and set up my own business.

What do you consider as best friends in the industry?
I think it’s important to have people who make you feel better! People who are positive and supportive. The ones who are great at their job and make you want to be even better! And those who are always there for you when you need them.

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Back in 1997 a 12 year-old schoolboy explained to his Careers Advisor that he loved cutting grass and really would like a job that paid him to do just that.

The Advisor suggested that he think about greenkeeping and recommended that he check out the internet to find out more. When he did, the first thing he came across was a report on the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award in Greenkeeper International.

If young Andrew Stanger had been keen to cut grass for a living prior to that the realisation that you could also win prizes and make a proper career out of it set a rocket under his ambitions and 13 years later he has emulated 1997 winner, Steve Nixon, and become the 2010 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to bits," said Andrew.

"Before I got to Aldwark Manor I'd read about all the other finalists in the magazine and realised just how tough a competition it would be. It was very intimidating and when the runners-up names were read out, and it was win or bust, I looked across at the others and saw a number of potential winners sitting there. When my name was read out I could hardly move."

While Andrew was shocked to win, it would have come as no surprise to anyone who has come across him during the last five years.

Since then he has achieved his NVQ Level 2 in six months; worked at Liberty National Golf Club, in New York, as part of the Ohio State University Intern programme; worked at Augusta National for a period including the 2009 Masters, and was snapped up as Course Manager of Horsforth Golf Club, in Leeds, on his return to the UK.

"When I was 14 I got a job at a stables. It was a big stately home and the owner asked me if I could make it a full day and work on the gardens in the afternoon. I was there for six years and I always used to leave the lawns until last because that was my favourite bit."

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Andrew can trace his passion right back to the age of five when he used to join his dad at weekends as he worked at Sowerby Bridge Cricket Club.

“I used to stand on the back of his roller and go round and round for hours. I was just fascinated by the stripes, the grass clippings, the smell of petrol… everything.”

He got his first job selling lottery tickets at Halifax Rugby Club when he was just seven and started working on gardens when he was not much older.

“When I was 14 I got a job at a stables. It was a big stately home and the owner asked me if I could make it a full day and work on the gardens in the afternoon. I was there for six years and I always used to leave the lawns until last because that was my favourite bit.

“I just thought then that if someone would pay me to cut grass every day I’d do it.”

Returning home he put together a CV and sent it out to 50 clubs within an hour of his home. One of them, Calverley GC, invited him over for a chat and he met Course Manager, Clive Walton, who immediately offered him a job, starting the following day.

With Calverley short of staff Andrew was in at the deep end and loved it.

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I was with guys who all had golf course experience and I felt that I was sitting on my backside getting money from my parents which just wasn’t me.”

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Having done well at school, and looking to make his greenkeeping dream a reality, Andrew was accepted for the turfgrass science degree at Myerscough College, but left after a couple of months.

“I’d never been on a ride-on machine, or even been on a golf course, and it didn’t feel right. The course content was brilliant but...
weeks was off. Andrew had already applied to the Ohio State Intern programme, putting himself under pressure to achieve his NVQ within the timescale, and it was while he was working in a pub, something he did on Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesdays, that he got a call from Mike O’Keefe, asking him how New York and Andrew explained the attention of the Liberty National Superintendent, Greg James. “I told you I’m working in a pub, something I’d do on Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesdays, and they said, ‘what do you mean you’re done?’”

Andrew’s enthusiasm and drive soon caught the attention of the Liberty National Superintendent, Greg James. “I said yes to everything and never took a day off. I was spraying greens within a week, rolling greens and latex it all up. I’d often be there on my own at weekends carrying out the greens check and reporting back to Greg,” said Andrew. After just two months Greg asked him where he would be going after New York and Andrew explained that it very much depended on the feedback and how well Greg would say that he’d done. “I told him that I had friends at Augusta National and that I might like to think about going down there. I said I didn’t need to think about it and sent my CV down to Superintendent, Brad Owen, and within a week, rolling greens and latex it all up. I’d often be there on my own at weekends carrying out the greens check and reporting back to Greg,” said Andrew.

“The attention to detail was incredible and it never ends. Once, early on, I went back and said I’d done and they said, ‘what do you mean you’re done?’”

By the end I knew every inch of my holes!” Andrew Stanger

for two of the most famous and spectacular holes in golf making sure they were in perfect condition before and during the 2009 Masters.

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“The attention to detail was incredible and it never ends. Once, early on, I went back and said I’d done and they said, ‘what do you mean you’re done?’”

“They took me back and said what about this bit, and what about that bit. I got the idea pretty quickly. By the end I knew every inch of my holes,” he said, revealing that during Masters week itself he worked 115 hours alone. Andrew’s visa ran out the day after the Masters finished and although Greg and Brad both offered him jobs he’d already decided to return home. It wasn’t long before he was snapped up. His old boss at Calverley, Clive, rang him to say that he’d been contacted by Horsforth Golf Club about taking over for three weeks as the Course Manager had been badly injured in a car accident.

“He said he couldn’t do it but had told them that I’d do it. I must admit that I wasn’t sure that I could, but I was still brimming with confidence from my time in America and went along.”

“All the guys were older than me bar one and I hadn’t had much people management experience but I felt that as it was only for three weeks and I was capable of keeping the place tidy and mowed.”

That three weeks became three months and then, with the returning Course Manager due to retire earlier this year he was offered the job on a full time basis from June and at the Final he had been doing the job for two and a half months. The club is right behind Andrew and know that this kid was keen, and a bit nuts! They got the picture pretty quickly. By the end I knew every inch of my holes,” he said, revealing that it very much depended on the feedback and how well Greg would say that he’d done.

“I believe that given the right resources I can present a very well maintained golf course. I’m not bothered about the money or the club’s name on my shirt, it is about pushing myself as far as I can go. I’ve got a long way to go, but I believe I can do it.”

Thirteen years on Andrew is now that young greenkeeper on the front cover of the magazine and there could be no better role model or advert for the greenkeeping profession.
“The attention to detail was incredible and it never ends. Once, early on, I went back and said I’d done and they said, ‘what do you mean you’re done?’ By the end I knew every inch of my holes!”

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As before he threw himself into it and, keen not to allow home sickness to kick in, immersed himself in work, even swapping with guys from the sister squad so that he could work every weekend.

“We’d start at 4am and I knew I wouldn’t finish until at least 5pm, but would often work until 7, 8 or 9.”

Andrew’s enthusiasm and drive soon caught the attention of the Liberty National Superintendent, Greg James.

“I said yes to everything and never took a day off. I was spraying greens within a week, rolling greens and lapping it all up. I’d often be there on my own at weekends carrying out the greens check and reporting back to Greg,” said Andrew.

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Andrew got back home safely following the year and Greg and Brad both offered him jobs he’d already decided to return home. It wasn’t long before he was snapped up. His old boss at Calverley, Clive, rang him to say that he’d been contacted by Horsforth Golf Club about taking over for three weeks as the Course Manager had been badly injured in a car accident.

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“The club is right behind Andrew and know that it is unlikely that he’ll be with them for 40 years like the previous head. I’ve told them that I’ve still got a lot to prove and many goals in my career but right now Horsforth will get my full attention for as long as I’m there.”

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One of this country’s most profound philosophers, I believe her name to be Yazz, once said, “The Only way is Up!” It is a positive message, to be sure, and one which Darren Child, Course Manager of Hawkhurst Golf Club in Kent, has been using as a mantra since he took over at the nine hole village course last February.

And it would be hard to argue, when Darren took over, the course was certainly in the gutter, but not necessarily looking at the stars – to paraphrase another acclaimed philosopher and wit, Oscar Wilde.

The course had just gone into administration. The Head Greenkeeper and his part time assistant had to go as part of the old regime. The Administrator had taken what worthwhile machinery was to be had in the ramshackled building which masqueraded as the maintenance facility.

The club had struggled for a number of years, being propped up by the club’s owner, who was spending anything up to £50,000 each year, to bail the club out on salaries, overheads etc. The membership had also dwindled from a relatively robust 400 to just over a 100. It was then that the owner understandably felt that the situation was not sustainable and that, while he would be happy for the club to continue, he would no longer bank roll it, and so things came to a head.

Looking into a genuine abyss, the Club Professional, Peter Chandler, and one of the club’s squash members, James O’Reilly, decided, despite the less than rosy outlook, to try and make a go of the club.

It was to this situation that Darren arrived. A man who had earned his greenkeeping stripes at Walton Heath, under Clive Osgood and latterly, Ian McMillan, and a former junior member of Hawkhurst, Darren Scott MacCallum visits a golf club which so nearly went out of existence but which is now well on the road to recovery.

The head of the professional, Peter Chandler, thought Darren was a bright spark and was very pleased to have him on board. Darren’s main aim was to improve the presentation of the golf course, which had fallen into disrepair. He also wanted to increase the number of members and improve the overall experience for the customers.
The only way is up

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was living with friends on the edge of the golf course when a member got wind of the fact that he was between jobs and offered to pay him personally to rebuild the bunkers.

“It took a lot of graft as the bunkers hadn’t been touched since the previous October and it took me three weeks to get them into some sort of order,” explained Darren.

The bunkers had previously been the responsibility of a volunteer who had to catch a bus to get to the club, usually arriving around 10 in the morning and thinking about the main tasks that he wanted to complete. Obviously, there are the essentials and cutting greens and raking bunkers are done daily but much of the rest is often spur of the moment thinking – what needs doing now or can I do first thing tomorrow depend ing upon which volunteers come in,” said Darren, who is given some people by Pro, Peter Chandler, who is useful on a greens machine and who normally cuts the greens at the weekend.

“When I was at Walton Heath, we had all the best kit for whatever we needed to do. Now all I had was a bucket, a shovel and a borrowed half moon. Once all the leaves had been raked out of the bunkers and the water bailed out, I then started doing the edges and digging the sand around to make it more level, he recalled.

“When you don’t have someone to talk to when you are working and you are ‘on your tod,’ it is pretty hard graft,” he added, with an undeni able degree of understatement.

With the receivers taking a tractors and trailer and a fairway machine and with only a John Deere 2500 greens machine avail able, which has to be re-set each time in cut ters and surrounds. For fairways they have a John Deere 2653, which allows them to cut fairways in four and a half hours and an old Saxon to cut rough.

The club currently operates with Darren and a number of volunteers who turn up to provide support when they can.

“Some bring domestic ride-on’s which they use in their gardens while others would do driving or bunker raking. I’m really grateful for all the help but you never know if anyone is going to arrive that morn ing until they turn up. With such uncertainty, planning even for the day ahead is nigh impossible and Darren regularly works 55 hours a week, considerably more than the 40 for which he is paid.

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“If there is a big competition on, nine times out of ten I’ll be playing in it so I go in early and do them.”

But before you feel too sorry for Darren, he does have a Guardian Angel in the shape of Mike Mosse, Course Manager at the nearby large and prestigious, Dale Hill Hotel and Golf Club.

Dale Hill is part of the Leader board Group which also includes Chart Hills, The Oxfordshire, Sand ny Freys, Sandymeads and the Lea derboard Golf Centre in Reading.

“I was aware of the problems they were having at Hawkhurst as I knew the previous Head Greenkeeper. He came to see me to tell me that he was leaving and I knew the club was going into receivership,” said Mike.

“One of Hawkhurst’s members previously worked here as a greenkeeper and he approached me and said that they could do with a bit of help so he, Darren and I met for a chat.

“I was keen as I knew they’d been going through a hard time and that Darren was on his own with virtually no kit and I just thought we might be able to offer some help. I had a chat with our General Manager and he in turn with Owners Paul and Jennifer Gibbons who agreed to us helping out, as long as there would be no direct cost to us,” explained Mike.

What happened next is a perfect example of what is great about golf and greenkeeping.

“Local John Deere dealer, God frey’s, brought their trailer and free of charge transported kit over for around 30 from the low point at the beginning of the year, the members were more than happy that their course was on the up.

“The course will go forward because we have the help and people genuinely want it to work. I believe the management are looking at getting someone in part time to help me next year. Gener ally there is a good feeling about the place because they are seeing results - although there is some doubt that the fairways are a bit tighter because I’ve added defini tion to them,” he smiled.

When I arrived at Hawkhurst in a morning early in the school summer holidays the first 20 golfers I saw all appeared to be under the age of 14 and keen as mustard to play. If the club had gone to the wall those children would have been amongst those who turn up to provide support when they can.

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Having come from a top quality, highly respected club like Walton Heath to one from which survival was a huge achievement, Darren has got used to the difference in expectation.

“It is not easy but when you look at what you are working with there is satisfaction at achieving something with minimal help. You can’t just jump on a piece of kit and go, you have to physically check the machine you do have and adjust things so that you can do what you want to do,” explained Darren.

“I’ve still got good times with Walton Heath and can phone Ian (McMillan) up at any time and he’s given me some excellent advice. Walton Heath Manager, Graham Goldup has helped me no end with the problems I’ve had with machinery and Irrigation Engineer, Mark Bass, who is also a personal friend has helped with many irrigation issues. I’d have to think where Hawkhurst would be without his help.

“We had a system which had fallen into disrepair but he was able to get it going again. It doesn’t run smoothly and it needs money spent on it but I can water all the greens now which is an absolute Godsend, particularly as we’ve only had five inches of rain since April.”

The help of all these people has been invaluable and done for the genuine desire to help a club down on its luck.

Darren has been able to thank Dale Hill in a small way by providing some plants for a new pond Dale Hill has created but in the main a warm thanks has been all that has been asked or given.

“When I arrived at Hawkhurst in a morning early in the school summer holidays the first 20 golfers I saw all appeared to be under the age of 14 and keen as mustard to play. If the club had gone to the wall those children would have missed out on the chance of developing a love of golf.

Now hopefully a proportion of those children will be golfers for the rest of their days and there is a fair chance that some of them will go on to become members of Dale Hill, showing that good deeds now might be rewarded further down the line. Tian was correct in saying ‘The Only Way is Up’ but only through hard work and the determination of key people.

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Darren Child

Course Manager of Hawkhurst Golf Club in Kent

Above: Darren Child, Course Manager of Hawkhurst Golf Club in Kent
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The anatomy of...

A Charterhouse core collector

Charterhouse introduced its first pedestrian CC3000 Core Collector in 2002, the featured CC3001HL coming along in 2006. It may look the same, but it is much changed from the original.

James de Havilland takes a closer look at the intricacies of current machinery.
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The anatomy of...
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James de Havilland takes a closer look at the intricacies of current machinery

Charterhouse introduced its first pedestrian CC3000 Core Collector in 2002, the featured CC3001HL coming along in 2006. It may look the same, but it is much changed from the original.
Charterhouse has established that the average golf green will, post coring, yield around a tonne of cores depending upon size and moisture. Multiply that by 18 greens, and you could end up with 18 tonnes of cores that need to be picked up. No surprise that this task is increasingly carried out by a core collector, with many clubs hiring in a unit as needed.

The problem with hiring is that most clubs will want to be coring at pretty much the same time as everyone else which can mean you have to wait for a collector. It was to address this issue by offering a relatively low cost alternative that lead to the development of the original CC3000 Core Collector. Picking up across a 1.0m width, the pedestrian machine was designed to keep up with a pedestrian corer of the same width.

The original unit proved a success for Charterhouse, but the design has moved on. First was the hydrostatic drive system. This was directly driven from the 5.5hp petrol engine which made starting tricky; the recoil starter had to pull over not just the engine but the drive as well. This made it difficult to turn the engine over, particularly when cold.

The second issue related to the pick-up system. In outline this used the same collection head design as the existing CC3001HL model but with a pair of impellers picking up and discharging the cores into the hopper. Turning at a relatively high speed, the impellers work just fine but they also had a tendency to smash the cores. This could in turn lead to debris building up in the hopper and the ability to cleanly pick up the cores.

The CC3001HL overcomes the first issue by doing away with the hydrostatic drive and replacing it with a simple belt drive. When the collector is at a standstill, the drive brakes the wheels and disengages the transmission clutch. The power unit is thus disconnected, making it far easier to start. The 7.5hp Briggs also has a bit more power, this proving useful when handling a full hopper up an incline.

To get around the problem of cores getting broken up within the elevator, the two impellers were replaced by a conveyor. This has a more gentle pick-up action, helping reduce debris build up and the need for cleaning. Another new feature is the ability to reverse the conveyor. If the elevator does get blocked, reversing the conveyor should clear it.

These developments from the original design have helped boost sales of the Core Collector, Charterhouse having sold more of the British made units this year than any other year. The way in which cores are picked up, however, is not changed, the slimmer stainless steel bottom blade design of the original machines being carried over.

In work, the operator drives the three-wheel unit from the rear, the ‘dead man’ handle being pushed down to engage drive. Four forward speeds are offered, with the first two typically providing the right balance between a comfortable working pace and the ability to clearly pick up the cores.

The swage boards at the front of the unit window the cores ahead of the collection head, the slim profile of bottom blade allowing it to slide beneath them.

The whole system is very simple with the machine produce good results not just with cores but also debris brought up during deep scarifying. Once passed over the bottom blade, the cores are picked up by the conveyor and discharged into the 1m³ hopper. Dust and debris is contained by a hinged steel cover over the hopper.

When it comes to emptying the hopper, the operator can discharge into a turf truck or trailer, the hopper lifting to clear a side of up to 1.30m. The actual tipping action is designed so the hopper lifts and moves back, avoiding the problem of material spilling back as the load is dumped. The tricycle undercarriage affords the unit with good agility, making the Core Collector and ideal partner to pedestrian as well as tractor mounted corers. Running on smooth tyres inflated to 1.2 to 1.4 bar, a full collector will weigh in at around 530kg.

**SUMMARY**

Collecting cores manually can be time consuming, the job becoming a greater chore if the cores start to break up. Mechanical collection is therefore something that golf and sports turf professional tend to favour. The snag is some collectors are pretty costly to buy and hiring can be tricky if you are not at the front of the queue when you actually need one. With a retail price of £6,595, the Charterhouse CC3001HL Core Collector certainly appears to be well worth a look. Simple, easy to operate and, above all, capable of dealing with large volumes of cores it does exactly what it says in its name.

With grateful thanks to: Gareth Roberts, Course Manager, Hankley Common Golf Club and Nick Darking, Tim Franklin, Charterhouse Turf Machinery.
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Collecting cores manually can be time consuming, the job becoming a greater chore if the cores start to break up. Mechanical collection is therefore something that golf and sports turf professionals will favour. The snag is some collectors are pretty costly to buy and hiring can be tricky if you are not at the front of the queue when you actually need one. With a retail price of £6,595, the Charterhouse CC3001HL Core Collector certainly appears to be worth a look.

Simple, easy to operate and, above all, capable of dealing with large volumes of cores - the Charterhouse C30001HL Core Collector certainly appears to be well worth a look.

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The ANATOMY OF... Charterhouse C3001HL Core Collector
David Shelton describes the extensive drainage work that has been carried out at Loch Lomond Golf Club.
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circumstances such as these, good course drainage is essential so how has this been tackled?

Initially, specialist sportsturf drainage contractors were employed to undertake some of the work. It was expensive for intensive drainage systems were required in view of the high rainfall, and the trench digging was hard on machinery due to the excessively stony sub-soil.

It was decided to undertake the drainage work in-house. The course is closed in the winter months and this would be an ideal time to carry out the work. The John Deere tractors are fitted with the widest of wide grassland tyres to minimise compaction problems and the course workshop, with Charles Johnson in charge, built a specialist trailer and trench back-filling equipment to install the permeable fill. A Shelton Supertrencher 560, with conveyor to elevate the arisings into a trailer dial pipes 25mm of gravel was placed in the trenches to give a smooth bed. Over the pipes 100mm sand was placed in two, sometimes three passes with a tractor-mounted consolidating wheel used after each pass. In an ideal world kiln-dried sand would be preferable but cost prohibited its use. The final pass of sand is left slightly proud, using back-pack blowers any excess is removed and the grass ‘fluffed-up’ to hasten its growth.

A total of 74½ kilometres of phase two drainage with trenches dug 55mm wide and 225mm deep spaced at 1 metre intervals speed excess soil water to the piped system. The same Tillicoultry sand is used in back-filling these drainage channels, also.

In the winter of 2009-2010 the course at Loch Lomond had over 16 weeks of frosts – severe at times. On the fairways this frost penetrated in excess of 400mm, in the rough less than half this. In mild winters it has not been possible to drain areas of excessively wet rough but with frost in the ground the opportunity was grasped to carry-out drainage works. The Shelton Supertrencher dug exceptionally neat trenches in the frozen ground, and rear on the tungsten carbide tipped cutters was not excessive. Susan succinctly summarised the operations, “short term pain, long term gain”.

Charles’ work entails keeping the golf course machinery in first class order. The Shelton Supertrencher has been used to install over 312 kilometres of drainage in hard rocky ground. He had had to change the drive chain, the drive chain and sprockets, and the machine was on its third elevator belt. A remarkable performance he considers in view of the conditions.

Steel wash on the cutters is treated with building up with welding using a M6G welder. He had found this more cost-effective than hard-facing. The original digging wheel was still fitted due to the fact that the turbo bars and nut/bolt protecting blocks had been replaced at regular intervals.

The accompanying pictures show the exceptionally high standards of operations undertaken by the eight strong drainage team. In all but extreme weather conditions this course should be able to host the most prestigious competitions for the enjoyment of players and spectators alike.
A framed certificate on the office wall informs visitors and staff alike that this golf course is rated in the top 100 best golf courses in the world.

The rain gauge in the Met. Station outside records a total of two metres of precipitation a year. The waters of the loch to the east lap several fairways. The course hosts the annual Barclays Scottish Open Competition in the week before The Open Championship. Yes, this is Loch Lomond, famous the world over where the setting is superb and the course maintained to the very highest standards.

In years past the winter months were usually the wettest but more recently the rainfall pattern has been changing. In 2009, for example, the two wettest months were August and November with 345mm and 360mm of rain respectively. Conversely, precipitation in January 2010 was negligible. In running alongside, was purchased; it was powered by one of the John Deere tractors fitted with creep gears.

Susan Rothwell has been on the staff since 2003 and is now Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. Responsible for the drainage operations she has an ochre problem to contend with! Where gravel has been used as a permeable back-fill in earlier drainage works the ochre has cemented this together, dramatically reducing its effectiveness. This problem has been overcome by using a free-draining medium course sand from the Tillicoultry pit, 45 miles away.

Explaining the drainage techniques in detail Susan said 50 kilometres of piped drains have been installed on the fairways in phase one the laterals at 5 metre intervals. Due to the stones the bottom of the trenches were not smooth so prior to placing the 50mm and 100mm diameter pipes 25mm of gravel was placed in the trenches to give a smooth bed. Over the pipes the sand was placed in two, sometimes three passes with a tractor-mounted consolidating wheel used after each pass. In an ideal world kiln-dried sand would be preferable but cost prohibited its use. The final pass of sand is left slightly proud, using back-pack blowers any excess is removed and the grass ‘fluffed-up’ to hasten its growth. A remarkable performance he summarised the operations; “short term pain, long term gain”.

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David Shelton
Turf set to suffer serious withdrawal symptoms

Dr Terry Mabbett, shares with us once more, his technical expertise, and predicts some serious suffering for turf...

Herbicides used in small quantities on turf could be dragged down by residues from much greater use of the same actives in agriculture.
Turf set to suffer serious withdrawal symptoms

Dr Terry Mabbett, shares with us once more, his technical expertise, and predicts some serious suffering for turf...
Chemical pesticides registered for use on managed turf are disappearing at an alarming rate. The same is happening in other sectors but professional turf is most between a rock and hard place. On one side is EU politicians and bureaucrats looking at what they would claim is the bigger picture. On the other is the greenkeeper concerned with more ‘bread and butter’ issues like maintaining his/her greens, tees and fairways in the pristine condition which the club membership expects and is accustomed. When things go wrong such as a sudden burst of chaffer grubs or an unwelcome carpet of Fusarium patch, then the remedy needs to be applied promptly and act fast which only chemical pesticides can achieve.

Legislative weapons currently used against chemical pesticides by the EU essentially come in four directives, highly complex when dissected but simple as follows:

- **Revision 91/414 Directive**
- **Sustainable Use Directive**
- **Machinery Directive**
- **Water Framework Directive**

**Revision 91/414 Directive**: Brussels’ onslaught on the use of chemical pesticides across the 27 member-country EU is a multi-pronged attack with some chemicals targeted and shut down directly by EU Legislation on toxicity and environmental safety grounds. Other long established pesticide products which should have years of safe and effective use in front of them are essentially being withdrawn by default, due to pressures piled on manufacturers to provide more and more technical and environmental data to ensure the active ingredient’s continued registration and use. There comes a point for the manufacturer when a product’s projected financial reward does not accrue up with the costs involved, and unfortunately this position is usually reached more quickly and easily in a tiny market sector like professional turf.

**The Sustainable Use Directive** is all about the way pesticides are used. Perhaps the most ‘DANGEROUS’ aspect of this directive for future use of chemical pesticides in turf and amenity is increasing calls for tighter restrictions on pesticide use in public places which is what turf and amenity situations inherently are.

**The Machinery Directive** deals specifically with the application equipment used to deliver pesticides. It requires every new turf and amenity sprayer to achieve certification to a required level of environmental protection before being released onto the market. This is clearly not a direct hit on pesticides but the potential effect could be the same. Remove the most appropriate application technique and you essentially remove the pesticide.

**The Water Framework Directive** say inside observers is the one with the largest and widest potential impact on current pesticide use. In many cases the active ingredients under scrutiny in water suppliers will originate from agricultural and hard surface applications in the industrial and amenity sectors. An active ingredient could be withdrawn from use in turf, although the offending residues in water were largely due to its greater use in agriculture, and direct run-off of the chemical into ground water supplies from application to hard surfaces.

**Pesticide use in agriculture dwarfs that in turf and amenity while applications of pesticides to hard surfaces (pavements, roads, railways, car parks etc.) lack the soil-soaking and soil-holding buffering capacity afforded to those chemicals applied to sports turf and amenity grass. Both factors stand to impact heavily, albeit indirectly, on the future security and availability of chemical pesticides for use on turf, where the same active ingredient is used in agriculture or hard surface applications.**

What’s more it will be harder to replace chemicals lost from professional turf with its unique specific and stricter chemical use and application requirement and higher demands as a natural grass playing surface. Golf courses with their inherently high proportion of professional turf would suffer more than most.

There are many active ingredients widely used in agriculture that don’t come anywhere near professional turf such as IPU previously used as a cereal herbicide, now banned but still causing problems. Unacceptably high residues still appearing in water supplies suggest some farms are still using them. Of course this has nothing to with either turf or amenity because IPU was never specifically registered to impact heavily, albeit indirectly, on future use of chemical pesticides.

**Without herbicides there is only one way to deal with this problem, established in law – get on your hands and knees and dig it out!**
“Perhaps the most ‘dangerous’ aspect of this directive for future use of chemical pesticides, is increasing calls for tighter restrictions on pesticide use”

Dr Terry Mabbett

Chemical pesticides registered for use on professional turf are most between a rock and hard place. On one side is EU politicians and bureaucrats sticking to what they would claim is the bigger picture. On the other is the greenkeeper concerned with more “bread and butter” issues like maintaining his/her greens, tees and fairways in the pristine condition which the club membership expects and is accustomed. When things go wrong such as a sudden burst of chafer grubs or foxes looking for a feed, there is no quick, clean and easy way of dealing with a pest. Without chemical insecticide the problem remains and unfortunately this position is essentially remove the pesticide.

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There are many active ingredients widely used in agriculture that don’t concern anywhere near professional turf such as IPM previously used as a cereal herbicide, now banned but still causing problems. Unacceptably high residues still appearing in water supplies suggest some farm- ers held onto stocks and may have still been using them. Of course this has nothing to with either turf or amenity because IPM was never registered for use in these sectors. In the same way residues of amitrole (hormone-based herbicide) used against deep rooted weeds in pastures in farmland manure have no relation to turf weed control.

However, EU eyes are also focused on water pollution by other herbicide actives like clomazone and mecoprop, both widely and intensively used in farming but
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also in turf. Volumes used in turf compared with agricultural grassland are miniscule but if a problem arises any ban is likely to be blanket. These actives would be hard to replace with alternatives for turf but not so difficult in agriculture.

New turf pesticide products are appearing all the time which could cause greenkeepers to believe there is not too much to worry about. What they probably don’t realise, and there’s no reason they should, is that all these ‘novel’ actives appearing in new dedicated turf products are not as ‘new’ as they seem.

When a hitherto undiscovered active ingredient first shows up as promising on the manufacturer’s laboratory screen first focus is on those sectors where biggest returns can be made most quickly. This means cereal crops and other large-scale globally-grown field crops like potatoes, oilseed crops and sugar beet followed by grapevines and high value horticultural crops. Turf and amenity comes way down the list. For instance, imadocaprid introduced several years ago as the undiluted wader of UK turf from chafer grubs has its roots in the late 1980s. Only last week I was reading a old copy of African Farming giving the insecticide a rave write up for controlling insect pests on rice – that was in 1992.

The UK and indeed the EU is only part of the worldwide market for chemical pesticides and the turf and amenity sector is even smaller than that. Its costs money to bring an active ingredient (even an established one) to full registered use in turf, and if chemical manufactur- ers think a planned new product may fail of EU legislation in just a few years then the incentive to proceed and to pay for the privilege may be lost.

Should the worst happen to the chemical pesticide arsenal then lack of selective weed control is that likely to pose the biggest single problem for professional turf. Turf disease can be avoided or at least managed by good cultural control and more developments in turf grass varieties specifically resistant to diseases like Fusarium and anthracnose. UK turf has relatively few insect pest problems and there is biological control based on entomopathogenic nematodes for use against both chafer grubs and leatherjackets, although it is clearly less versatile and fast-acting as chemical insecticide.

Much is made about likely effects of global warming on the sustain- ability of UK turf but relatively little is said about its potential effect on turf weeds. As a traditionally cool wet country we tend not think of our native (and introduced) weeds as drought resistant plants, but many turf weeds are. You only have to look around at the moment to see how well white clover, birds foot tre- fol, yellow suckling clover, yarrow and even self heal are doing in the current South of England drought and therefore how predicted effects of global warming could make the weed situation for UK turf a whole lot worse.

“Volumes used in turf compared with agricultural grassland are miniscule, but if a problem arises any ban is likely to be blanket”

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website: www.westcountrybuildings.com
If you are using fungicides or advising others on their use to control turf diseases, you will understand the need to keep abreast of this rapidly changing market place.

Advances in chemistry and technology may cause us to change our thinking on how to choose fungicides to combat the ever present threat of disease on sports and amenity turf. The simple choice of contact fungicides in the winter and systemic products in periods of strong growth now has to be tempered by the fact that the modern fungicides, brought in to replace those withdrawn on environmental or toxicological grounds, do not always behave in the manner we are accustomed.

This article reviews the introduction of a new group of fungicides to the turf market and how they are best used for maximum effect.

In 1977 a group of German scientists discovered a new class of fungicides which they named ‘strobilurin A’ and ‘strobilurin B’ because they were isolated from the pine cone fungus Strobilurus scalaris. This organism produces these natural fungicides to restrict other species of fungi that are competing for its main food source. As a result of this research we now have a whole new family of fungicides based on these natural products.

Strobilurins were found to be very effective against a wide range of species, from all of the four families of fungi but were easily broken down by UV light. Strong sunlight is not an issue to the pine cone fungus living on the heavily shaded forest floor but in the open it is a different matter, so UV stable synthetic strobilurins were produced to get maximum use out of this potential fungicide.

Today we have three strobilurin molecules registered for use on turf in the UK. The first of these was azoxystrobin, launched under the brand name ‘Heritage’ in 1997 followed soon after by ‘Scorpio’ (trifloxystrobin) and ‘Insignia’ (pyraclostrobin). Since the initial introductions there have been several ‘me too’ products formulated from straight strobilurins and two mixtures with other fungicides; ‘Headway’ (azoxystrony and propiconazole) and ‘Dedicate’ (trifloxystrobin and tebuconazole).

All members of the strobilurin family have the same mode of action. They interfere with energy production in the fungal cells, bringing all activity to a halt – like tripping up a circuit breaker! To be more specific, they all have a ‘single-site’ mode of system enabling it to be distributed through the plant. Such movement is sometimes referred to as ‘acropetal systemic activity’ to differentiate it from true systemic action, which involves both upward and downward distribution.

Trifloxystrobin (‘Scorpio’) and pyraclostrobin (‘Mascot Elara’) are not systemic or contact fungicides but they are strongly lipophilic and become firmly embedded in the waxy cuticle cells of the leaf surface. This makes them very rain-fast and during periods of slow growth, they will persist for longer than the upwardly mobile ‘Heritage’.

Bayer’s product ‘Scorpio’ differs from the others in that it has the ability to move a short distance in the vapour phase from one leaf to the other but not one leaf surface to the other. All demonstrate cross resistance to turf-grass diseases in the USA – notably ‘Anthracnose’, ‘Gray Leaf Spot’ and ‘Pythium Blight’ – the latter two being of no importance to UK turf. However, this product also reports isolated cases of resistance to Microdochium nivale in wheat grown in Europe. In the same fungus, the ‘single–site’ mode of action is the cause of the UK’s most important turf disease formerly known as Fusarium Patch.

Where a group of fungicides has the same ‘single-site’ mode of action, resistant strains of fungi will demonstrate cross resistance to all members of the same family. Consequently, rotation of fungicides and tank-mixes should involve products from different chemical groups.

Many scientists believe the theory of evolution dictates that fungi will develop a way around any chemical agent in time. The strategy must therefore be to delay this for as long as possible by sensible use of these valuable materials.

In the past, cases of resistance have been attributed to over-use, under-dosing or incorrect application. When fungicide resistance develops, it is often the most popular, most effective material that becomes worthless almost overnight.

Fortunately we now have watching groups like PRAC who routinely follow up and monitor for suspected cases of acquired resistance and more importantly advise manufacturers and users on the best way to minimise resistance risk.

The following guidelines for use of QoI fungicides may help to prolong their usefulness:

• They should be treated as preventative fungicides and applied before or at the earliest moment after the onset of visible symptoms.

• Fungicide products must deliver effective disease management. Apply QoI fungicides based products at effective rates and intervals according to manufacturer’s recommendations. Effective disease management is a critical part of building up and maintaining resistant populations.

• The number of applications per year should be kept to a minimum. For QoI fungicides, the build-up of resistant populations is dependent on the number of applications per year, rather than the quantity of fungicide.

There is no 100% guarantee that treatment is not required at all, however there are a few things you can do to reduce its impact.

• Reduce the risk of disease before it starts. The most effective way to control fungal disease is by reducing the number of spores that are present to attack the plant. To do this, it is crucial to fertilise regularly and maintain good moisture levels. Reducing the risk of disease will mean less fungicide needs to be applied.

• Reduce the number of applications, by following the application guidelines given in this article will help to slow down the development of resistance.

• If a fungus has a ‘single-site’ mode of action, then you can use other systemic fungicides to provide added protection against resistance. Although there is no 100% guarantee that treatment is not required at all, however there are a few things you can do to reduce its impact.
“This organism produces these natural fungicides to restrict other species of fungi that are competing for its main food source. We now have a whole new family of fungicides based on these natural products”

Graham Paul

Further advice on the use of QoI fungicides can be found on the BASIS website. Another helpful source is the BASIS Action Group – QoI (www.basis.org.uk/technical.asp?newsid=8) www.sheriff-amenity.com/yourBASISPoints/ BASISPointsSec2-102010.pdf

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Action, targeting energy conversion in the cell – a process which is known to biochemists as ‘mitochondrial respiratory’, The strobilurins are classified under the group name QoI (which stands for ‘Quinone oxidoreductase’). Without energy conversion the fungus cannot grow or reproduce and death follows. However, despite the common mode of action of these fungicides, the three active ingredients used in turf have fundamental differences in the way they move within the plant. All demonstrate ‘trans-laminar’ movement from one leaf surface to the other but they are strongly lipophilic and become firmly embedded in the waxy cuticle cells of the leaf surface. This makes them very rain-fast and during periods of slow growth, they will persist for longer than the upwardly mobile ‘Heritage’. Bayer’s product ‘Scorpio’ differs from the others in that it has the ability to move a short distance in turf in the UK. 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Tim Webb provides a fascinating view of the development of the holecup

As the UK hosts two of golf’s greatest competitions this year: the recent Open Championship, on the Old Course at St Andrews for the 28th time, and the Ryder Cup for the first time in Wales, 28th time, and the Ryder Cup as the UK hosts two of

Twenty years ago a new type cup and ferrule was developed by Richard Webb of Tacit. An Anti Swivel Ferrule/Holecup combination that has now been adopted by the majority of courses throughout Great Britain and Ireland. Indeed it is so good that some companies have taken the idea and produced anti swivel systems of their own.

Tacit in recent years took another leap forward with the introduction of the Sub Cap to the central Ferrule bore, thus reducing holecup sinkage and reducing substantially the amount the ferrule will wear.

“Try measuring the soil pipe that comes from your toilet and you will see what I mean.”

Gordon Moir is the Director of Greenkeeping for the St Andrews Links Trust. In that role Moir is responsible for safeguarding a legacy that extends from the Old Course, the most venerated of golf courses worldwide, to the Castle Course, a brilliant example of modern golf design executed by a son of Scotland, David McKay Kidd. “At St Andrews Links,” Moir says, “we have found the Tacit holecups to be long lasting—especially the liners, which are excellent. They stand up well to windy conditions,” he confirms, “and help the hole stay its shape”. Old Gordon have a crystal ball in anticipating the conditions the players at this year’s Open would encounter when on the second day of play when play stops due to rain, they were soaked as balls shivered and were blown off the immaculately prepared greens. Why else perhaps a hole. On a few sites of local knowledge maebh would be ensure that the Old Lady was adorned with cups without that just wouldn’t blow out and stood to attention in conditions that the Authorities regarded as unpayable.

How did they achieve this?

Imagine the ferrule on the bottom of the flagstick to be a pebble in a stream. Imagine the holecup to be a rock pocket that has collected the pebble, as the pebble turns within the hole, both the pebble wears smaller, while the hole wears bigger.

How to stop the wear? Simple, stop the movement.

This is where the splines on the underside of the ferrule come into their own. Although unobtrusive, the splines instantly locate in the corresponding slots in the holecup and stop the flagstick from rotating within the holecup. Instead of the flagsticks needing to be replaced annually, there is now a two year renew cycle.

Adding Tacit’s sub cap to this scenario, could lead to a three or four year renew cycle, as the wear on the ferrule and holecup is slowed even more.

Without this excessive wear brought about by ferrule rotation, the flagstick stays upright longer, with the chances of the flagstick blowing out of the holecup in strong winds being substantially reduced.

Why add a Sub Cap?

The only way flagsticks will blow out of the hole or wear excessively, is if the ferrule is not located correctly in the hole. On a busy course, the flagstick is relocated every 10 to 15 minutes throughout the day; the holecup is constantly hammered deeper and deeper into the hole. Originally set to the R & A recommended 1” depth, the holecup can end up 2” below the surface after a few days, especially in U.S.G.A. specification sand greens. The sub cup increases the ambient surface area by over 300%, allowing the holecup to effectively float in the green.

The ingress of soil up the middle of the holecup is completely stopped but the cup can still be held solidly into the root zone. The flagstick and ferrule can then sit in the holecup in perfect harmony and work together at their optimum in a rootzone free world, because the ferrule / holecup combination is grit free the ferrule and holecup do not jam and therefore the holecup is not pulled out of the ground when the flag is being tended.

But what about the cup itself?

Tacit’s holecup is unique in that it works opposite to all the other cups on the market, while they have been designed to move all the debris and topdressing down the center hole causing all sorts of problems with wear and “ferrule jam” the Tacit holecup is designed to shed all that unregulated rubbish through the outer windows keeping the central bore clear. Constructed and machined to exact tolerances in the UK by skilled time served craftsmen from Marine Aluminum, the leading edges being given a taper both top and bottom allowing for ease of seating and extraction of the cup whilst maintaining an exact 4 1/4 “ diameter.

But the “piaster resistance” must be the wrap contained in the cup. For on any union jacks or European flags decide the elements have got the better of them.

As the flag flies it brings the chance of the flagstick blowing out of the holecup. However, the most profitable side of the cup is its ease of ability to be legend or branded. This can be done cheaply and easily while flat either locally or ordered in specially, the advertising space can then be sold over and over.

As we sit back and listen to the dulcet tones of Peter Allis at this Years Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor we can be pretty sure we won’t be seeing any Union Jacks or European flags in the flagsticks. It will be equally sure the players will be laying down long before any flagsticks decide the elements have got the better of them.

No ingress of soil, rootzone or other substrates

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No ingress of soil, rootzone or other substrates

Interchangeable wrap, (can be logo’d)

HoLECUP Feature

Display at Royal Musselburgh

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Display at Royal Musselborough
Major R. Owen Ltd

Location and size
Parc Road, Porthmadog, Gwynedd, North Wales. 2 Acre site

Employees and size of premises
26 Staff. 18,500 sq feet of covered trading space.

Number of service vans:
8

Brief history of company
The business was established in 1977 by Major Raymond Owen and operated from his garden shed at his home in Porthmadog. At this time, the concentration was primarily on two-stroke machinery, especially chainsaws and brush cutters. Major’s daughter, Deborah, looked after the accounts with him. Major moved to his first retail premises in School Street, Porthmadog. In 1984, he was on the move again and took up a lease on the Old Market Hall in the centre of the village and was joined by his son-in-law David Burnham and his daughter, Deborah Burnham as Manager.

Major retired in December 1997 and his son-in-law, David Burnham was appointed as Managing Director, supported by Major’s other son-in-law, Andy Jones as Sales Director and his daughter, Deborah Burnham as Administration Director.

David retired in early April 2008 and Andy Jones was appointed as Managing Director and supported by Deborah Burnham as Finance Director.

Key services offered
- Sales, service, parts, hire on all makes of equipment.
- Regrinding of cylinders and bottom blades, Specialist lathe work, all types of welding, all types of electrical testing & fault finding, all types of hydraulic testing & fault finding, Shot & bead blasting.

Franchises
- Kubota, Toro, Hayter, Greenteck, Ferris, Gianni, Skut, Husqvarna, Viking, Iber, Williams and many more.

What would you like to see changed?
More appreciation of greenkeepers and the superb job they do, especially in the current financial climate.

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

Major customers
- All leading golf clubs in North Wales, All Local Authorities, Caravan Parks, Environment Agency, All leading caravan parks

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

Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors

Unlock the potential of greenkeepers

The funding provided by Golden and Silver Key Supporters means that BIGGA can continue to produce training and career aids including DVDs, CD Roms, field-guides, as well as refunds for training fees, subsidised learning and development courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

I really wanted to develop my education but had to fund my own training, so I contacted BIGGA to ask for financial support. A refund of my course fees has enabled me to complete my chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting, felling of small trees and my PA6 spraying certificates. I really do appreciate what BIGGA, with the support of the Golden and Silver Key Companies, has done for my career.

Murray Mannall, Greenkeeper

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John Pemberton, Chief Executive

Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Richard McGlynn; Sam Langrick; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid, Derek Grendowicz

Golden Key Individual Members: Steven Trees; Wil Rogers; Andy Campbell MSG, CGCS; Ian A Macleod; Fresh Newton; Neil Pemberton; Murray Mannall, Greenkeeper; John Pemberton, Chief Executive

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To find out more, contact BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800

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

DEALER OF THE MONTH

MAYOR R. OWEN LTD

Location and Size
Park Road, Porthmadog, Gwynedd, North Wales, 2 Acre site

Employees and Size of Premises
26 Staff. 18,500 sq feet of covered trading space

Number of Service Vans
8

Brief History of Company
The business was established in 1977 by Major Raymond Owen and operated from his garden shed at his home in Porthmadog. At this time, the concentration was primarily on two-stroke machinery, especially chainsaws and brush cutters. Major’s daughter, Deborah, looked after the accounts with him. Major moved to his first retail premises in School Street, Porthmadog. In 1984, he was on the move again and took up a lease on the Old Market Hall in the centre of the village and was joined by his son-in-law David Burnham and son-in-law to be Andy Jones. As the volume of business increased, it soon became apparent that purpose built premises were necessary and in 1988 two acres of land was purchased at Park Road, Porthmadog and a building of 5000 sq feet erected.

Our operating area extends throughout North and mid Wales. Currently the company employs 20 people including a team of 14 after sales staff.

Major retired in December 1997 and his son-in-law, David Burnham was appointed as Managing Director, supported by Major’s other son-in-law, Andy Jones as Sales Director and his daughter, Deborah Burnham as Administration Director.

David retired in early April 2008 and Andy Jones was appointed as Managing Director and supported by Deborah Burnham as Finance Director.

Key services offered
Sales, service, parts, hire on all makes of equipment.

Specialist services offered
- Regrinding of cylinders and bottom blades, Specialist lathe work, all types of welding, all types of electrical testing & fault finding, all types of hydraulic testing & fault finding, Shot & bead blasting.

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- Kubota, Toro, Hayter, Greentek, Ferris, Grinn, Ferrar, Honda, Stihl, Husqvarna, Viking, Imer, Williams and many more too numerous to mention.

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Unlock the potential of greenkeepers

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Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Neil Peachey
NEW PRODUCTS
The latest products on the market reviewed

A BIG LAUNCH FROM TYM

TYM Tractors has launched its largest tractor to date, the 100hp T1003, at Saltex. Delivering 100hp from a Perkins 1104D-44TA engine, the T1003 is designed to tackle tasks from gang mowing to hedge and verge trimming and handling the heaviest aerator or decompactor. This tractor remains compact enough to manoeuvre easily around the works yard with a wheelbase of 2300mm, and weighs in at 3685kg. A fuel tank capacity of 125 litres is more than ample for a long working day.

Hello ELMOW

Allert’s new battery-powered fine-turf cylinder mower made its world public-debut at Saltex. Known as ELMOW, the walk-behind machine is available with a choice of cutting widths, both fitted as standard with a 120mm diameter, 10-bladed cutting cylinder and a powered turf groomer. Its rate of cut is 220 clippings per metre a rate, maintained irrespective of working speed or working conditions.

The battery pack powering ELMOW is a 24 volt, 42Ah gel-type unit located using a ‘slide and click’ system that allows rapid interchange of discharged and fully-charged battery packs. Price of the ELMOW 20 and 24 mowers, including a battery pack and charger, is £5,500 and £5,650 respectively.

Dethatcher And Spiker - A Two In One Renovation Machine

Having added the RotaDairon range of renovation and maintenance equipment to the stable this year, the Grass Group has launched the ED 130 T1 dethatcher and spiker with collection box - a two in one renovation machine. With the PTO engaged, the ED is capable of working from 0 to 60 mm deep, and offering fast, clean removal of thatch from fine turf. Detach the PTO and the ED becomes a spiking and a grass trimmer: only the cutting head change.

LINE-MARKING PAINT MAKES...

...AN IMPACT

The Pelline Excelion is a new product to the UK, available through Etesia. Pelline is the only manufacturer to be able to produce machines that can be used up to a full day’s work on a single charge of the ultra lithium battery and at the same time guarantees use with no-odour, no pollution and virtually no noise making them an environmentally friendly product.

The Excelion combines both a brush cutter and a grass trimmer: only the cutting head change. This change-over is very quick, taking less than one minute to change from the brush cutter version to the grass trimmer version and all without the use of any tools.

The weight of the lightest petrol brush cutters, the Excelion makes brush clearing easier in ditches and on steep slopes. Fitted with an adjustable handle, directional head and teleoscopic system gives the user exceptional working comfort.

Sanli extends its range

Sanli has added three new self propelled wheeled rotary mowers to its range of outdoor power equipment.

The new pedestrian machines are all powered by Sanli 5.5hp OHV engines with similarly sized Briggs and Stratton power units available as an extra-cost option. They comprise steel-decked 3-in-1 and 4-in-1 mowers producing a 60cm width of cut, the LSPA56 is the widest pedestrian machine to be developed and manufactured by Sanli. The mower’s tough, lightweight aluminium deck and wide cut make it ideal for commercial users requiring a high performance, quality mower at a very competitive price.

The LSPA56 can be used in either cut and drop or cut and collect modes to suit mowing schedules and the specific finish required, with cut heights adjustable from 25mm – 40mm. Large rear drive wheels are a feature also of the new LSP164 steel-decked 4-in-1 pedestrian mower which combines cut and drop and cut and collect, mulch and side-discharge capabilities in a self-propelled wheeled machine.

Powered by a 5.5hp Sanli OHV engine the LSP164 offers all of the cut, collect and mulch mowing options that are likely to be needed by professional users.

Sanli’s new wheelie bin 3-in-1 and 4-in-1 mowers were introduced at Saltex to New Pedestrian and Wheeled Power for Mowing, Mowing and Mowing

The new pedestrian and wheeled rotary mowers were introduced at Saltex to meet the needs of professional and industrial users with a wide range of mowing requirements.

Powered by a high performance 5.5hp Sanli OHV engine, the LSPA56 is a 60cm width of cut, 3-in-1 mower with a choice of 130mm or 164mm cutting widths. The LSP164 is a 60cm width of cut, 4-in-1 mower with a choice of 164mm cutting width. Both machines are available with a choice of cutting widths, either 130mm or 164mm, and come equipped with a choice of cutting units, including a grass trimmer and an aerator.

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The LSPA56 can be used in either cut and drop or cut and collect modes to suit mowing schedules and the specific finish required, with cut heights adjustable from 25mm – 86mm.

Large rear drive wheels are a feature also of the new LSPS14 steel-decked 4-in-1 pedestrian mower which combines cut, drop, cut and collect, mulch and side-discharge capabilities in a self-propelled wheeled machine.

Powered by a 5.5hp SANLI OHV engine the LSPS14 offers all of the cut, collect and mulch mowing options that are likely to be needed by professional users.
Join the Association for Sports Turf Professionals

Are you employed in the maintenance of sports turf at a sports facility? Do you want to be taken seriously as a sports turf professional? Do you want access to a wide range of bespoke education courses? 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?

If you answered YES to any of the above questions then Membership of BIGGA is for you.

Why Join BIGGA?

- Industry specific, education and training
- Greenkeeper International – BIGGA's official magazine
- Careers advice and guidance
- Regional and national events
- Sports turf industry networking
- Commitment to CPD
- Maintain standard and quality within the profession
- Dedicated members’ website

Look to your future by joining BIGGA today...
Tel: 01347 833800 select option 1, email: membership@bigga.co.uk visit www.bigga.org.uk

Scottish Region

West

The AGM has arrived and will be held at Hagg's Castle Golf Club on Thursday, October 28 and hopefully a few people will attend even those wishing to lend a helping hand by volunteering for committee duty. Our various committee members have been running things for a few years now, and some new blood is required. The day will be similar to others with the AGM and then a talk on Toro machinery or Demonstrations of equipment - weather dependent. The Section would like to thank Hamilton Bros for its cooperation and sponsorship for this event.

Bill Hillen, our running Chairman has arranged a football match against the Ayrshire Section for late October. All those interested should contact him or myself, both numbers are in the hand book, or for those who might have missed theirs, my number is 0141-942-5554, or mobile 07790823914. Sportscere is running a golf day at Eastwood Golf Club with a talk about its product, which should be interesting, as the main bone of contention on any golf course is usually the bunkers. The date for this event has not been confirmed with me in time for this magazine issue, therefore I hope Gavin can inform you at a later date by e-mail or letter.

Next month I will include a report on the Loch Lomond talk regarding the wetters which is being jointly hosted with STRI. This has been rearranged from April this year when the guest speaker could not attend due to the volcano disruption.

I will also include the results from the outing at Helensburgh.

The Patrons’ awards will be selected in the next month and those chosen will attend Harrogate, in January, which should provide them with a beneficial experience. The Section would like to thank all the patrons for their continued support at this time considering the difficult financial climate we are presently encountering.

Last but not least, the annual dinner deserves some mention, but as yet the venue has not been confirmed. The likely candidates are the Studio or Curry Karioke situated at the tall ship. I hope this should be a slightly better experience from last year and would request as many people attend as possible to help support the Section. Prices and detail will be confirmed next month.

Best wishes to all for the remainder of the season.

Contact details for all wishing to inform me of any events are stuart.tyler@jaag wastgolfclub.co.uk or 0141-942-5554, or 07790823914, please do not hesitate to contact me about anything even a moan but please something at least.

Stuart Taylor

North

As I am sitting writing these notes, the weather seems to have a turn for the worse. It is the beginning of September and there are very high winds and on top of that the rain has just decided to help out.

A few thanks to Scott, at Headquarters for his little input about the notes being missing from last month’s edition.

By the time you read this, the Autumn outing will have taken place at Huntly and I will have all the runners and riders for you in the next edition. Hopefully it was glorious and there were at least 50 people playing.

On the move this month is Eric Pickard, from Longside GC. He has decided for some strange reason to come and join us at Murcar Links. You really don’t know what you are letting yourself in for Eric. It’s true what everyone says about Brian.

Congratulations go to Kintore Deputy Dog, Davie Stephen, and his long term lover, Suzy. They tied the knot in Inshch back in August. I did hear it was a great day and I also heard that the bridegroom fluffled his lines. Instead of saying ‘To be your husband’, he actually said ‘To be my husband’! Now Davie, I’ve known you for a number of years now and my suspicions have been confirmed! Anyway well done both of you.

Last but by no means least this month, we sent a team down to play for the North Whytock Trophy, in Auchterarder, in August. George Mitchell, Robert Paterson, Paul Sharp and Mike Broadwood all travelled down and on paper you would think that we stood a pretty good chance of winning it! Well, when I say that we came fourth, you might think that’s not bad either. But when I say there were only five teams in it, then you begin to realise that they must have had an off day. Never mind lads hopefully next year we could improve our position. Congratulations to the East Section for winning the competition for the second consecutive year.

On that note I will return next month with the scores from Huntly. Happy Greenkeeping.

Ben Brookes

Murcar Links

07813899374

OCTOBER 2010 49
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Scottish Region

Ayrshire

Hey chaps, Hope you are all well.

Back to that time of year again with attention, or as the members would put it, “Dawn greenkeepers seeking our greens again”. Well, as we all know, that ain’t the case, but keeping any disruption to a minimum always helps.

I’ve got to say the majority of members these days actually warm to the tasks we carry out, with a lot more members having an understanding of what the benefits are instead of looking at the negative side of the work we do.

I find keeping our members informed of any works being carried out through a monthly newsletter helps keep the club informed and up to date.

Another thing which is popping through the ground this time of year is the dreaded leatherjackets or as they are commonly known the daddy longlegs. They are the larval stage of the crane fly (daddylonglegs).

Leather jackets start to feed on grass roots in the autumn, and they will continue to feed through the winter and spring. In the summer months the leather jackets pupate and the next generation of daddy longlegs emerge and lay their eggs in the infected areas. Arghh! Who said this job was easy, eh!

Anyway guys that’s me for another month… so as I keep asking, if you have any news please let me know.

Thanks
John Mair
07500874449
John Mair

West

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On that note I will return next month with the scores from Huntly, Happy Greenkeepers, Ben Brookes Murcar Links 07813899374

Around The Green

Promoting best practice in sports turf management
Central

Concertation of Service Vice Chairman, Derek Robson, and his wife with the news that one of our committee members, Sam who came into the world weighing a massive 4.07 lb. This might have been in the last month’s report but Sam didn’t realise it had a deadline to turn in.

We had a great turn out for the seminar on September 1 to hear Stan Zimidit, John Kaminski and Peter Deroode talk about the different types of winter damage that have been encountered and the work that they have done. There were between 40 and 50 people packed into the room and it was great to see the different age groups there. We need more greenkeepers just starting out in their career to people such as Walter Woods and John Philp who have reached the very top of the profession.

By the time you read this the autumn outing will have been played in and we will have the winners and the winning scores will be on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk and Facebook. As usual any news or interesting items will appear on the report. Finally, a reminder that the Section AGM will be held on Wednesday, October 13, in the training room at Ellmwood Golf Club. 

Northern

Hello everyone. Hope you are all well, as I sit here writing this article. Nice to see the sun after all the recent rain. On Aug 25 we held our invitation tournament at Harrogate GC. Our thanks go to everyone at Harrogate for their hospitality and organising the course. We would also like to thank Tony and his team for providing us with a superb course and credit to them all. The winners on the day were R. Walker and C. Lamplugh with 43pts on a back 9 course; 2nd J. Dobson and N. Ormsnroyd; 3rd S. Rotton and P. Saxon. Nearest the Pin 3rd P. Saxon and on the 12th was Peter of the season. Thanks to all our winners and everyone taking part. Thanks also to Mike Breen and the boys for their sponsorship.

As part of the tournament we had a couple of mementos to present to two long serving greenkeepers, Keith Gray, who recently retired from Driffeld GC, and Tony Basby, who is to retire at the end of October from Harrogate GC. We wish them both a long and happy retirement and hope to see them at some of our future golf events.

West North West

It is still time again already the 5th of the month Section news is now due to get in to touch with the editor pretty damn quick as will miss the deadline. Again nothing coming in so I have to rely on news from you all.

Well I got a very interesting phone call last weekend from David Golanski of the GTC informing me that, as from September, Newcastel College has been confirmed as an Approved Quality Assurance Centre, so if you have any staff who need to go to college get them enrolled you cannot be more any central than that. It’s a long time coming, info can be accessed from either Wayne Reid or Tracy Milan on Tel: 01922 004704.

On next list on my list is Graham retired approximately three years ago from Loughborough Silica Sand after completing 15 years service. Graham retiring he well known in the foundry and leisure industry. Our sympathy goes out to his wife and children. His absence will be missed very much. We wish to see him on the course.

Throughout September we have some events which will be needed at the winter lecture programme and will hopefully be able to inform you all shortly with a full list of events. As I have said before if anyone out there has any ideas what they would like to see at any of our future events then please let anyone on the Committee know.

As usual on the last day through GC recently held a golf day in aid of the Help the Heroes charity. 65050 was raised on the day which is a fantastic effort. I would like to thank Mike Breen, Glenn and Simon for their hard work and also afterwards held our AGM, this will be at Hinckley Golf Club on Wednesday October 20th, the last two events have been very well attended with numbers over 40 at each event, and more encouragingly lots of new faces. These two events are a great chance to meet and socialise with colleagues and as a reminder we have our AGM on the day which is a chance to inform your diary, regardless of golfing ability. The cost for the day is £17 to all golfers and £25 to trade, 3 course meal and transport included. All entries to Andy De Wet, on October 13 please.

Looking forward to future events, Brian McCabe.
Central

Congratulations to Section Vice Chairmain, Derek Robson, and his team for running the very successful Greenkeepers’ Meeting at Harrogate GC. Our thanks to everyone who attended. A couple of comments to present to two long serving greenkeepers, Keith Gray, who recently retired from Driffield GC, and Tony Badsey, who is to retire around the time of Harrogate GC. We wish them both a long and happy retirement and hope to see them in the future golf events.

Midland

Midland Region

Hello all, with everyone being heads down and working hard the last month has been quiet. We are still hoping to send news of what is going on in the area.

First some good news from Peter Hill, whose tea servicing mechanic, Mick Gough, is making good progress and hoping well all go home from his recent heart attack.

On another note, we were recently based around Forest Hill, Greg Skinner and I have decided that the only way to settle who was at fault for our whining boy, status in the Headlu top competition, will be a “Putt Out” over 9 holes at our next committee meeting at Birstall GC. News on the result in the next issue.

Brassically linking into Headlu news, the semi finals are now known and are as follows, Northern Section, P. Frith and N. Colley v P. Sands and M. Barney, and Northern Section, P. Ferguson and A. Porter v H. P. kimber. Hopefully the issue, I will be able to report on the outcome of these matches and the final.

Throughout the year we have lost some of the winter lecture programme and hopefully will be able to inform you of the dates of any that may be coming up. As I have said before, if anyone out there has any ideas on what they would like to hear or any venues they would like to join then please let yourself be heard.

By the time you are reading this update we will be due to hold our Autumn Tournament at Westfield Golf Club, so if you are able to attend please join us.

By the way just a warning and instead of holding our AGM, this will be at Hinchley Golf Club on Wednesday October 20th, the last two events have been very well attended with numbers over 40 at each event, and more encouragingly lots of new faces. These events are a great chance to meet and enjoy some golf with your colleagues and be able to chat about issues that may arise in your day to day diary of your work. Also be on your guard with regards to cutting machinery and don’t miss the event.

By way of introducing the AGM a reminder that entry fees are £25 to trade, 3 course £15 to members, without golf £10, or £25 to all greens keepers. There is also a team event which is open to the public. Any ideas on what they would like to hear or any venues they would like to join then please let yourself be heard.

Looking forward to future information, John McIlwraith

Assistant Profile

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Name: David Patrick
Age: 23
Club: Marlborough GC
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Dave

Q: 1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
A: Three years

Q: 2. What was it about the career that attracted you? Always wanted to work outside and the hours are great

Q: 3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be?
A: I would have loved to have been a pro golfer but I don’t play so much now.

Q: 4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?
A: I love to be able to cross them and make them look good.

Q: 5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?
A: Stone picking buckets. It’s just boring and very tedious.

Q: 6. What one thing - other than golf - would improve the greenkeepers’ lot?
A: There should be competitions open to the public, and people play, knowing that they are saying thanks for our efforts.

Q: 7. Hobbies?
A: Golf, socialising and taking the dog for a walk.

Q: 8. Favourite Band?
A: Blink 182 and Kings of Leon

Q: 9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?
A: I’m a huge Leeds fan and support sports and don’t support anyone.

Q: 10. What is your claim to fame?
A: I’ve been the local paper’s pet for breaking course records or holes-in-one. Or just winning big golf events

Northern Region

Northern

Hello everyone. Hope you are all well, as I sit here writing this article. Nice to see the sun after all the recent rain. On Aug 25 we held our invitation meeting at Harrogate GC. Our thanks to everyone who attended at Harrogate GC. Our thanks to everyone who attended. A couple of comments to present to two long serving greenkeepers, Keith Gray, who recently retired from Driffield GC, and Tony Badsey, who is to retire around the time of Harrogate GC. We wish them both a long and happy retirement and hope to see them in the future golf events.

North West

North West

Firstly, let me apologise for not contributing notes for the last edition. As an assistant greenkeeper Internationals, sic rights miles away and having very little to do, I have been the concerning factors. Having said that I still have nothing new to say.

The summer has now come to an end and most of us will have or are currently completing the autumnal renovation work, the turf is being kept and the concern of last year’s weather is at the forefront of my mind. I have always been one to ensure every piece of turf is laid by the end of the year. Last year, we finished turfing in February/March due to the snow, this was fully dried in the bright sun in my memory causing cracking and very poor looking turf. Having said that, “What doesn’t kill me makes me stronger”.

At Heasketh over the past weekend, we have just held a dance for the members, not only did we have a clean shed to the end, but also had 115 people raising over £3000 for cancer charities. Give it a try, it’s fun, the way we call it “The Shindig in the Shed”.

So there it has to be told. I had no important notes to report, before next month’s notes, I’m going to go on a tour to find interesting things to write about, as always please contact me with any info,

Cheers

Peter McVicar
pjmcdonald@hotmail.co.uk

07883547818

North Wales

North Wales

Autumn is well and truly kicking in now, with the leaves losing their grip on the trees, colder nights are in store and much shorter days. But do we moan? Of course we do! We have a clean shed and the view is fantastic, the true mark of a decent Greenkeeper, no matter what the time of year or how low that makes us feel, is that the course comes first.

We held two golfing events last month, the Northern region meeting was held at Vale of Llangollen Golf Club and the autumn tournament was held at Mold Golf Club. We hope to set up on both events will appear in next month’s column, if you can’t wait we can see to the North Wales BPGA group on Facebook. The Christ mass tournament isn’t far away and with it being held on the east of the Section at Mil End Golf Club, you can guarantee it will be heavily backed, so get your entry forms in early!

In local news, I’m sure you’ll join me in sending our sympathy to Andy “Acorn” Cornes and his family after his mother died peacefully at home in August after a long illness. Graham retired approximately three years ago from chocolates, Silica Sand after completing 18 years service. He was well known in the foundry and leisure industry. Our sympathy goes to his partner Etty, daughter Alison and son’s Steven and Andrew. I hope the Section AGM will be in next month’s maga

So there you have it. I told you all the highlights this month. I hope you have enjoyed them and will hopefully we can come through this winter lecture programme and the outcome of these matches and the final.

By the time you are reading this update we will be due to hold our Autumn Tournament at Silk wood GC. I hope everyone enjoys it and will hopefully we can come through this winter lecture programme and the outcome of these matches and the final.

With such in mind the Section would like to thank our serving sponsors ALS. for this month’s AGM and a big thank you to Andy “Acorn” Cornes and his family - I believe a baby girl.

Midland

Midland

Hello all, with everyone being heads down and working hard the last month has been quiet. We are still hoping to send news of what is going on in the area.

First some good news from Peter Hill, whose tea servicing mechanic, Mick Gough, is making good progress and hoping well all go home from his recent heart attack.

On another note, we were recently based around Forest Hill, Greg Skinner and I have decided that the only way to settle who was at fault for our whining boy, status in the Headlu top competition, will be a “Putt Out” over 9 holes at our next committee meeting at Birstall GC. News on the result in the next issue.

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Looking forward to future information, John McIlwraith
very little rain has been a challenge to all, what will the winter have in store for us at this time around?

Congratulations to Graeme Macdonald and Bryan O’Kane who have won places at this year’s National Championship, impressed us with their play at Chatterhouse, at The Berkshire. Congratulations and good luck to both.

The Midlands Region Inter- club competition has started for this year. As carriers of this title, we have the opportunity to take on Manchester in mid-November, to perhaps extend our winning streak from the previous year. We look forward to keenly contested matches and hope good weather will prevail.

The next day and annual AGM will be held on Thursday 21st at Louth Golf Club. Tee off is at 11am, however due to a potential training session being drawn after the golf has finished. Many thanks.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club

B&B

The Golden Yeasts, as the best of the B&B's ever, and all of the golfers are again looking forward to the Summer National Qualifier Competition on August 26 with enthusiasm. This is a course which has taken over as Course Manager at The Berkshire.

Tommas has taken on a new role as Secretary at Wargrave GC, in Surrey, and from all accounts, he is doing great. I hope you are doing very well in his new position.

Ben Edwards is also on the move having moved from Sandmartins GC and takes up his new position as Course Manager at West Hill GC.

The Section welcomes Phil Gibson who has taken a new position as Golf Technical Sales Representative with Turner Groundcare/Machinery covering various franchise areas.

News has been slowly drifting in from far and wide from all the parts of the country and if any member has any news or views they would like to share, please let me know. Any information about the section and forthcoming events, please get in touch via the following web sites www.bobgreen keepers.co.uk Mark Day

South East Region

Our Essex Trophy golf day at Boyce Hill Golf Club went well, albeit with a few showers of rain! However, the event was still enjoyed by the participants. Unfortunately I was unable to play in this event but reports are that the organizers Ben and Nick gave the day well. Our thanks to Head Greenkeeper, Andrew West, for hosting the day, and his team, who presented the course so well for us. Also to our Club Captain, Roger Taylor for playing and presenting the prizes and the catering staff that fed us all well throughout the day, and a big thank you to the committee and members of Boyce Hill for the courtesy they extended to us.

The Essex team, consisting of Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 33pts. In a close second place was Kedington GC for the courtesy of the course; Division One, 1 Barry Mann, Three Rivers GC 31pts (Also a National Championship place); 2 Dominick Rodriguez, Park Golf Club GC 30pts; 3 Ray Clark, Channels 30pts; Paul Chapple, Kingsway GC 30pts; 5 Paul Stopps, Stondon GC 30pts; 6 Gary Munn, Thameside GC 30pts; 7 Danny Leard, Orsett GC 30pts; 8 Matt Stokes, Boyce Hill GC 30pts c/b; 9 Nick Howes, Burton Golf Club 30pts; 10 Brian Colchester Essex GC 31pts. In a close third place was Chelmsford GC 32pts.

Nearset the Pin, 8th Hole: Neil Peachey from West Hill GC, 32pts; 9th Hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 10th Hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 11th Hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 12th Hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 13th Hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 14th Hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 15th Hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 16th Hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 17th Hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 18th Hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts.

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Essex

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East Anglia

Eaton Golf Club, Norwich - 11 August

What can I say, thank you, all 69 of you for turning up at Eaton Golf Club on August 11. I hope you all enjoyed your golf, pin positions and all - blame the weather!

We all enjoyed preparing the course for this event, despite the weather, mainly because it is truly appreciated and secondly, because we particularly love it when you come on a Tuesday. Our club chairman, Ernest Doe (and Son, 31pts).

Nearset the pin, 8th hole: Neil Peachey from West Hill GC, 32pts; 9th hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 10th hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 11th hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 12th hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 13th hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 14th hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 15th hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 16th hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 17th hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts; 18th hole: Steve Cousins, Orsett GC 32pts.

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South West Region

What a fantastic time of year this is....chilly mornings with dew an inch thick that covers the whole golf course, I must say, I love driving to work in the Winter months. The evenings are looking down into the valley, all the houses are covered in this frost, and look unbelievable. Shortly the leaves from the trees will start to turn then renewed colour will come back in a month, maybe I'm getting a little ahead of myself, while I sit here and write this it's the middle of August....plenty of golf weeks left.

Well there for me, as I'm off to Florida on September 1st for 10 days of golf, and look back to feel bad or anything, but I've just had a look at the weather forecast for Florida, and the current temperature is in the 90s, FANTASTIC!

Back home, at Minchinhampt on, we've just spent the last two days playing some golf on our greens. On the Average course we sold tinted all the greens followed by a second cut, and we had some pretty severe conditions. This was pretty simple, apart from the quick cut, which is probably the last minute Senior's Open Day and the ladies on a Tuesday. We had a very good day and the course was in pretty simple and was completed without any problems...we had
very little rain has been a challenge to all, we will hope for the future. The AGM is set to take place on October 21 at Louth Golf Club. Tee off is at 11am, however, people are requested to turn up earlier to attend the AGM. The day will be a Singles competition, the final event for this year’s Order of Merit, as well as being drawn after the golf has finished.

Many thanks

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club

South East Region

Essex

Our Essex Trophy golf day at Boyce Hill Golf Club went well, albeit with a few showers around the course. Unfortunately I was unable to play in this event but reports are that the weather was pretty good. Our thanks go to Head Greenkeeper, Andrew Rowlandson and his team, who presented the course so well for us. Also huge thanks to the tee staff for playing and presenting the priors and the catering staff that fed us all so well throughout the day, and a big thank you to the committee and members of Boyce Hill for the courtesies they extended to us.

The biggest winner of the day was the overall winner, Steve Cousin, Orsett GC 33pts. He wins a place in the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse.

Division One, 1. Barry Mann, Three Rivers GC 33pts (Also a National Championship place); 2. Dominic Rodgers, Warley Park GC 31pts; 3. Ray Clark, Channels 30pts; 4. Club Captain, Roger Taylor, Tom West's Meadow, Boyce Hill GC, 30pts; c/b; 5. Andy Perring, Rowlandson, Club Secretary, Ernest Doe & Sonns, 31pts.

Second near pin winner, Steve Cousin, Orsett GC 33pts.

Essex

Eaton Golf Club, Norwich – 11 August

What can I say? Thank you, all 69 of you for turning up at Eaton Golf Club on August 11. I hope you all enjoyed your golf, pin positions and all – blame Roulandson as he visited the loo and snookered himself with the long walk clocking up an unbelievable 544 minutes! Well, I keep hearing so much so that an architect has managed 40 points. I keep hearing about the criteria for winning it? Who is going to win the most and what is the secret of this? It has to be a perfect and testing venue for all abilities but also their discipline this made for a real challenge with fast undulating greens, the scorecard suggested, coupled with the fact that it was a perfect day here at Boyce Hill Golf Club went well, albeit with a few showers around the course. Unfortunately I was unable to play in this event but reports are that the weather was pretty good. Our thanks go to Head Greenkeeper, Andrew Rowlandson and his team, who presented the course so well for us. Also huge thanks to the tee staff for playing and presenting the priors and the catering staff that fed us all so well throughout the day, and a big thank you to the committee and members of Boyce Hill for the courtesies they extended to us.

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Second near pin winner, Steve Cousin, Orsett GC 33pts.

East Anglia

Eaton Golf Club

Thank you Eaton for your welcome’s Ian Morrison, from the Lady Captain at Boyce Hill GC, who has taken over as Course Manager at The Berkshire.

Alan Greens has taken on a new role as Secretary at Warblesdon GC, in Surrey, and from all we hear he is very happy with his very best in his new position.

Ben Edwards is also on the move from Sandown Golf Club and takes up his new position as Course Manager at West Hill GC.

The Section welcomes Phil Gibson who has taken a new role as Technical Sales Representative with Turner Groundcare Machinery covering various counties.

News has slowly been drifting in from far and wide in the various countries and if any member has any news or views they would like to share, then please feel free to share with me about the section and forthcoming events, please get in touch on my mobile 07775 586 521 or visit www.bbgreenkeepers.co.uk

Mark Day

Kent

Kent

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Looking down into the valley, all looking so thick layer of fog, and look unbe

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all the fun when we made a start on the Chestering course, again we had to stop mid-way through as we had other work that had to be done this time we included the use of a garden machine with the sand injectors.

We have used this machine at Minchinhampton before so we knew what we were getting into and after a few days the job had settled and then we had a couple of extra summer staff to help us out. With everything in place, on Monday morning we were ready to get on this challenge. We had the machine, we had the sand, about 15 tonnes in all and we had an important manoeuvre, nothing could stop us......apart from the weather. We started off the week and the weather just didn’t give up. I remember being on the 5th green, the garden work was complete and all that was left was the cleaning, we also hired the SQL 600 to help us, this is a powered brush that collects the material, as you walk behind it. With six of us working at once, the heavens thought this would be a cracking time to open up, all of us ran for cover......with nothing to do but watch the golfers rushing back to the clubhouse and the large rain drops bouncing off the windscreen. It didn’t take long before the greening was on. The worst thing about this is that this was at the beginning of the week, we still had four more days to go.

This is pretty much how most of the week went, stop, start, stop, start, just trying to do as much as we could when it wasn’t raining enough! this would be a cracking time to open up, all of us ran for cover......with nothing to do but watch the golfers rushing back to the clubhouse and the large rain drops bouncing off the windscreen. It didn’t take long before the greening was on. The worst thing about this is that this was at the beginning of the week, we still had four more days to go.

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played.
Wayne, and well done to all that travelled (over 100 miles) with Section. Wayne and his team where we played our friendly Section Captain, Wayne Vin
hand. A great, great job done!
way through the bad weather and a massive amount of credit
to the greenkeeping team. This was a dif
challenge for us to come through, no doubt there was a lot of bad weather
time it would have been cold and wet.
week was mostly sunny and the greens were
superb... well... maybe not so good for tea break when

South Coast

It’s all over.
Not much happening around the South Coast now, we
see to be between golf events. Next up is the match against
the South West Section held at Sherborne GC on October 6, hopefully
I will get the results of that in next month’s issue!
The Autumn tournament is at Broadstone GC on October 19. This is our AGM meeting so we
would welcome all the support for the Greenkeepers Class 2003x@hotmail.com if you are not already in. Or call Keven on 01590 624143. Remember, Broadstone is one of the best
centralised greens in theournemouth area so don’t miss out.

I have just returned from a couple of weeks in Turkey, where I must say a great
time was had by all. Barton was the
most thing of interest. For many of the workshops and seminars
is unprecedented and I challenge anyone not to find some

Sales for the space at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibi-
tion, September 3-4th at BTME or Harrogate to many, continue
to come in steadily. There is no doubt that there is redundancy
by some to commit to a stand at this stage of the year, but for
the College’s excellent learning

To the College’s excellent learning

I welcome all the support


South Wales

Hope you are all well.
Firstly, a reminder that our Asian Competition will be held at
Brynhill GC on Wednesday October 14. This meeting
will begin at 1.30pm and will include the Section,
the Greenkeeping industry in Devon and Cornwall.

situation, better known as BTME or Harrogate to many, continue
-

John Pemberton
Chief Executive

Kevan Glass at the above
direct for every-

Adam Matthews

the only two that have mentioned in this column

South Wales
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To the College’s excellent learning

I welcome all the support


South Wales

Hope you are all well.
Firstly, a reminder that our Asian Competition will be held at
Brynhill GC on Wednesday October 14. This meeting
will begin at 1.30pm and will include the Section,
the Greenkeeping industry in Devon and Cornwall.

situation, better known as BTME or Harrogate to many, continue
-

John Pemberton
Chief Executive

Kevan Glass at the above
direct for every-

Adam Matthews

the only two that have mentioned in this column

South Wales
developed from a couple of weeks in Turkey, where I must say a great
time was had by all. Barton was the
most thing of interest. For many of the workshops and seminars
is unprecedented and I challenge anyone not to find some
Pay for your Membership Renewal Online – It’s as easy as 1-2-3!

We have recently launched a secure online payment facility for existing members to renew their individual membership online.

Details and instructions are below, you will have had to register on the BIGGA website members area with your membership number, email and password in order to proceed.

1. Step One – make sure your BIGGA account is activated, you have not registered on the new revised BIGGA website you will need to do so, type the following URL into your browser: http://www.biggagolf.com/login if you have already registered that’s fine, go to Step Two, if not click on ‘Register’. If you activate your account, you account will be activated, you can log in to your account. [NB If your membership has expired your account may not be active contact the Membership Department.] 2. Step Two – once you have an active account type the following URL into your browser: http://renewals.biggagolf.co.uk to be taken to a new window where you will be asked to log in to your account, here you will need to enter your membership number and password you created when you activated your account.

3. Step Three – Once you have logged in the screen should read ‘BIGGA – Online Payments’ and show your name, membership number and category of membership including the amount that needs to be paid. [NOTE: if this is not correct please contact the Membership Department before continuing]. Enter your billing address then click next step and follow the on-screen instructions. Once completed BIGGA will be advised that a payment has been made and we can process your membership accordingly. Any queries or problems please contact the BIGGA Membership Department on 01347 833800 select Option 1.

Diary of Events

It’s getting to that time of year again when Section AGM’s and Section Education and Golf Events are happening. In order to keep up to date with all the dates of the Section Events visit the Events Section on the BIGGA Website (www.biggagolfgolf.com) or see them listed on the ‘Diary of Events’ page in this months Greenkeeper International.

There’s plenty happening for you to get involved with during the rest of this year. For those of you in the South East and South West/South Wales Regions, the Regional Conferences are being held in November, full details are available in this month’s Greenkeeper International but just to remind you below:

- South East Region on November 13th at The College, High Wycombe
- South West/South Wales Region on November 19th at Cannington College

For more information contact the Regional Administrators. Please make every effort to attend if you can, many people, mostly volunteers have gone to a lot of time and trouble to make sure these Regional Conferences happen, please, if you can, support them.

Membership Cards and Photos

If you haven’t updated your photograph within the last two/three years please can you send in a new one? You can send it by email to brad@bigga.co.uk don’t forget to tell us your name and membership number.
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- South East Region on November 3rd at Plumpton College
- South West/South Wales Region on November 19th at Cannington College

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BIGGA South West and South Wales Regional Conference

This year’s conference is on Friday November 19 at Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies. The theme for the conference is “Changing Times”.

The day will begin with a presentation entitled “The Effects Of Climate Change” and given by Felicity Liggins from the Meteorological Office, Exeter.

This will be followed by Simon Watson or Rod Buckle from Synkrete speaking on “The Changing Face Of Disease”.

The final presentations in the morning will be made by Rhys Norville, Toro Student Of The Year 2009 and Matthew Worster, Conservation Greenkeeper of The Year 2009 both telling us about their “Experiences In The USA”.

The afternoon session commences with Peter Todd, Course Manager at The London Golf Club who will be speaking on “A Modern Approach” and he will be followed by Dan Duffy, Head Groundsman at The Liberty Stadium, Swansea and Groundsman of The Year.

His presentation is “A Pitch For All Occasions” and this will give an insight into the diverse requirements of stadium today.

Entry for BIGGA members is £20 with non members £30. A reduced rate of £20 for a non member is offered if accompanied by a BIGGA member.

Places for the day are limited and booking details and information will be sent to all Head Greenkeepers / Course Managers in the region.

Anyone requiring further information or a booking form please contact Jane Jones, BIGGA Regional Administrator on: 01454 270850 or mobile 07841948110.

BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

| REGION | DATE | LOCATION | FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>1 March 2011</td>
<td>Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline</td>
<td>Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator, 0141 616 3440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Midlands</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East and South West</td>
<td>3 November 2010</td>
<td>Pllympton College, Exeter</td>
<td>Jane Jones, Regional Administrator, 01454 270850</td>
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</tbody>
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October Quiz

Geekiest quiz yet! Match the golf club to the postcode.

1. EH31 2EG
2. GU23 4LS
3. G83 8NT
4. BT56 8JQ
5. KY16 9JD
6. NP18 1HQ
7. IV25 3LW
8. CT13 9PB

R&A; Loch Lomond; Royal St George’s; Muirfield; The Belfry; Royal Portrush; Celtic Manor; Wentworth and Royal Dornoch.

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

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

October Quiz

Quick ‘Nine Hole’ Quiz

1. “Religion is the ___ of the people” - Marx (6)
2. Chinese dog, called in China the ‘Puffy Lion’ (4,4)
3. Fall (6)
4. Vegetable banned from the Whitehouse by George Bush (8)
5. Worn out (3-5)
6. To cause hurt, though not physically (6)
7. Ol’ Blue Eyes (5,7)
8. Having failed to achieve one’s goal (12)
9. Coarse, unrefined (6)
10. A bit odd (8)
11. Imposed upon another (8)
12. John ____, founder member of Liverpool skiffle band The Quarrymen (6)
13. American musician, born Robert Zimmerman (3,5)
14. The TV documentary series presented by Jacob Bronowski (6)
15. “The ___ of Man” - 1970s TV documentary series presented by Jacob Bronowski (6)
16. “The ___ Claw” - nemesis of Penelope Pitstop (6)
17. A Card game similar to whist, using a 48-card pack (7)
18. Dirty _____, British TV series similar in concept to Jackass (7)
19. An electronic effect used in modern music (6)
20. ____ Sprout - pop group (6)

Across

1. “Religion is the ___ of the people” - Marx (6)
4. Chinese dog, called in China the ‘Puffy Lion’ (4,4)
9. Fall (6)
12. Worn out (3-5)
13. To cause hurt, though not physically (6)
15. Ol’ Blue Eyes (5,7)
18. Having failed to achieve one’s goal (12)
19. An electronic effect used in modern music (6)
20. ____ Sprout - pop group (6)

Down

1. Intermittently (2,3,3)
2. Necessary for completion (8)
3. The tunnels in The Great Escape (3,4,3,5)
5. German equivalent of Mr. (4)
7. The ___ Claw” - nemesis of Penelope Pitstop (6)
8. Oddball (6)
11. Card game similar to whist, using a 48-card pack (7)
14. Dirty ___, British TV series similar in concept to Jackass (7)
16. To bind together in a promise of marriage (8)
17. Instrument played by Acker Bilk (8)
19. An electronic effect used in modern music (6)
20. ____ Sprout - pop group (6)

Puzzle Answers On page 65
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The Company is trackside sponsors of Kelty Hearts and Dunfermline Athletic Football Club and hold a ‘Corporate Box’ at East End Park.

The Company carries its own plant fleet consisting of over 40 people with many staff having over 15 years service and seven with over 25 years experience and Meiklem is always prepared to offer advice on all projects.

Meiklem Drainage is near the top of most sports clubs list of expected expenditure and Meiklem is always prepared to offer advice on all projects.

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Johan Meiklem Drainage Contractors Limited was formed in 1982 recognised widely now as Meiklem Drainage and Groundworks, one of the leading names in the field of drainage, site preparation, groundworks and hard landscaping with a proven track record stretching back over twenty-five years.

Groundworks, one of the leading names in the field of drainage, has been completed at various prisons, namely Castle Huntley, St Cuthbert's, John Meiklem Drainage Contractors Limited was formed in 1982 known as Meiklem Drainage, and its premises of Meiklem Drainage Ltd, in Kelty, Fife, in his memory.

The Company employs over 40 people with many staff having over 15 years served out and seven over 25 years service to the Company.

The Company carries its own plant fleet consisting of tracked and wheeled excavators, JCB 4t type machine, dumpers, rollers, sports field equipment and various small plant. We are members of CECA, CITB, Constructionline, and the Land Drainage Association.

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North Sea Irrigation Tel: 01206 262676 www.geosynthetic.co.uk

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We’ll seal your lake – empty or full

Top 3 facts about ESS-13

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Advertise Here from as little as £20 for a FULL 6 MONTHS, full colour, please call Kirstin on 01347 833 832 or email kirstin@bigga.co.uk

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Viton V-rootzone Turf for Greens Grown on USGA rootzone, top-dressed throughout the year, and mown at 5mm.

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For Trapezoid Shovel, MTU engine, with 2.3m cutting width and 1.5t capacity, air-cooled, new. £6,500 + VAT

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Hydrotech Solutions

Golf Machinery Wash Water Treatment Systems - Full Biological

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Machinery for Gaudes, Sports, Racecourses, Gardens or second-hand machinery.

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Advertise Here from as little as £20 for a FULL 6 MONTHS, full colour, please call Kirstin on 01347 833 832 or email kirstin@bigga.co.uk

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Visit the Classified section of the new BIGGA website for full details of machinery for sale...

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**IRRIGATION**

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Comprehensive advice regarding design and construction at lower prices.

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Machinery for Gaudes, Sports, Racecourses, Gardens or second-hand machinery.

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Advertise Here from as little as £20 for a FULL 6 MONTHS, full colour, please call Kirstin on 01347 833 832 or email kirstin@bigga.co.uk

**VERTIDRAINING HIRE**

Visit the Classified section of the new BIGGA website for full details of machinery for sale...

www.bigga.org.uk/classified

Here’s a selection...
Recruitment

WEST BYFLEET GOLF CLUB
Deputy Head Greenkeeper

West Byfleet, a private members’ club with 600 playing members, enjoys good financial stability and has a reputation as being friendly and well run, with a tradition of long service from its staff. Applicants must be able to demonstrate high levels of forward thinking, enthusiasm and commitment, together with an eye for detail.

• Qualified to N/SVQ Level 3.
• Current spraying certificates PA1/PA2 & PA6 and chainsaw certificates preferred. First aid trained.
• Good team player with ability to lead and motivate others.
• Knowledge of current Health & Safety and environmental legislation.
• Experienced in course machinery maintenance and irrigation systems.

Salary will be commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate. All applications will be treated in confidence.

Please apply in writing with full c.v. and covering letter, stating present salary and salary expectations to

Ian Attoe, General Manager, West Byfleet Golf Club, Sheerwater Road, West Byfleet, KT14 6AA.
Tel: 01932 343433. Or e-mail: secretary@wbgc.co.uk

Closing date for the receipt of applications is Friday, 22nd October 2010.

Head Greenkeeper

Applications are invited for the position of Head Greenkeeper at Shanklin & Sandown Golf Club situated on the Isle of Wight.

We are a financially sound private members club established for over 100 years, with 680 playing members. The course is on the county rota as well as the main venue for the International Island Games being held in 2011.

The ideal candidate will be fully versed in all aspects of greenkeeping and must have a ‘hands-on’ approach to golf course management preferably qualified to NVQ3 in greenkeeping.

An attractive salary and benefits package will be available to the right candidate and assistance will be considered towards relocation expenses and initial accommodation requirements.

Applications with a full CV should be sent to:

The Manager, Shanklin & Sandown Golf Club, The Fairway, Lake, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 9PR or by email to: andy@ssgolfclub.com

Jobs...Not just for Greenkeepers

A complete range of turf industry jobs are available on www.bigga.org.uk

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Make sure that you get the right person for the job - call Kirstin today on 01347 833832.

I wish to thank the team at BIGGA for their help and advice in placing our advert on the BIGGA website. The good response to the advert will allow us to employ someone who we feel is ideally suited for the job.

Tony Hawes, Course Manager, Potters Bar Golf Club

OCTOBER 2010
Recruitment

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Applicants must be able to demonstrate high levels of forward thinking, enthusiasm and commitment, together with an eye for detail.

• Qualified to NVQ Level 3.
• Current spraying certificates PA1/PA2 and chainsaw certificates preferred. First aid trained.
• Good team player with ability to lead and motivate others.
• Knowledge of current Health & Safety and Environmental legislation.
• Experience in course machinery maintenance and irrigation systems.

Salary will be commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate who will be required to work flexibly, including weekends. On site accommodation is provided.

All applications will be treated in confidence.

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The ideal candidate will be fully versed in all aspects of greenkeeping and must have a ‘hands-on’ approach to golf course management preferably qualified to NVQ3 in greenkeeping. An ability to demonstrate the experience of implementing and working to a budget and course management policy document is essential.

The applicant will appreciate the need for flexible working hours and will have the ability to manage, control, lead and develop the existing team of greenkeeping staff to deliver the full potential of this James Braid heathland course.

An attractive salary and benefits package will be available to the right candidate and assistance will be considered towards relocation expenses and initial accommodation requirements.

Applications with a full CV should be sent to:

The Manager, Shanklin & Sandown Golf Club, The Fairway, Lake, Shanklin, Isle of Wight, PO36 9PR or by email to: andy@ssgolfclub.com

Young Course – Exciting Challenges!

18 Hole Championship Golf Course Opened 2005

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

• Dedicated and Enthusiastic?
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• Join our friendly, committed greenkeeping team

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Excellent rates & good prospects

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Email: james@sandburnhall.co.uk
Web: sandburnhall.co.uk

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

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

Why do you need a Safety Management System?

Because:

• It incorporates all your legal requirements to comply with Health & Safety Legislation
• Clubs have responsibilities
• There are penalties for not complying – up to £200,000 fine and/or course closure
• Golf clubs are hazardous places to work

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

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

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

QUICK ‘HOLE’ QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. EH31 2EG - Muirfield
2. GU23 4LS – Wentworth
3. G83 8nt – Loch Lomond
4. BT56 8JQ – Royal Portrush
5. kY16 9JD – r&A
6. nP18 1HQ – Celtic Manor
7. IV25 3LW – Royal Dornoch
8. CT13 9PB – Royal St George’s
9. B76 9PR – The Belfry

CROSSWORD MONSTER SUDOKO SQUIGGLY SUDOKO
Think back and remember how over the last 30 years, greenkeeping has improved not just in the quality of the turf and grasses, but also visually. The high standards to which you, the greenkeepers, maintain the golf courses throughout the years. Yes, all four seasons are now in play for the golfers.

The club members want to play all year round, and the travelling golfers, the visitors, also want to visit and play your golf courses throughout the year.

Visiting golfers bring in more finance to the golf club and also to the local areas. Yes, all things are about money and finance.

In 2010 it is not just the golf club finances that are tight it is worldwide. The belts are pulled in, the course budgets are all adjusted and greenkeeping has to carry on.

Knowing many greenkeepers, as I do, I believe that the standards of greenkeeping will continue to improve throughout these very difficult times.

The standards of greenkeeping have improved beyond any expectations. You only need to view the TV footage which is shown regularly of events in the past.

Today we play on tees and fairways that are far better than some of the greens that are shown on these old films from 30 years ago.

Go back further and I can remember even bumper courses, but then at those times we thought that the golf courses were great and some even fantastic.

I hope and pray that I am around in another 20-30 years to see the quality that you will achieve on your golf courses. How many more of you will be working in other countries around the world?

How many young greenkeepers will be preparing yourselves both educationally and in the workplace for the future in your given profession.

The world is a much smaller place now and you the greenkeepers send in some extremely high quality photographs of your golf courses.

This competition was to show the quality, beauty and presentation of your golf courses. Also to help greenkeepers to keep fine records of the work in maintaining your courses.

Some of your photographs are now being used on club websites and in the advertisements in various magazines.

I am a retired 70 year old/young with a full time hobby, photographing golf courses. I have many friends in greenkeeping.

I thank them all for their friendships and allowing me the privilege of photographing and recording the golf courses they have and spend their working days at.

The same thanks goes to the Managers/Secretaries at these golf clubs. To all greenkeepers wherever they may be thank you for the pleasures and memories that I have both golfing and photographing your golf courses.

My view of greenkeeping over the past 30 years or so...

- The world is a much smaller place now with all the modern technologies and fast travel.
- Why does it take such a long time for a round of golf these days, when thetees, fairways, greens and all about a golf course is of a quality and condition which is so advanced and superior to those of 30 years ago when a round of golf lasted no longer than three hours 30 minutes.
- Golf club members start their competitions earlier in the year and finish them later in the year. Your golf club needs the visitors and the company days to survive and more and more. You are maintaining your course at competition standards for far longer periods throughout the years, 30 years ago there was not the amount of traffic on the courses as there is today.
- You don’t need me to tell you these facts. Every working hour down to the minute the hours is now organised and programmed by your head greenkeeper/course manager to work and perform in all weathers and all conditions.
- The greenkeepers’ buildings are also the workshops for the repairs and maintenance of almost all the machinery and equipment used on the golf course. The modern day machines and equipment are so far advanced, what next?

This has reminded me of the years long ago when I read “The Eagle” comics Dan Dare pilot of the future. Jet planes and space craft.

Fantastic. Yes it has happened. Come on take a look into the future 60 years on and ask yourself what machinery and technologies will the greenkeeper have to hand.

Hovering above the fairways, tees and greens with sappers and laser cutting the turf to heights and standards that is beyond or thought at this moment in time in 2010.

30 years ago it was very rare that the greenkeepers were involved in club meetings or discussing the golf course, green keeping methods, golf course presentation and the quality with the members and golfers.

Today the greenkeepers hold meetings/seminars and evenings for discussions questions and answers, the greenkeepers have course walks and talks to answer the questions from the members.

Promoting the golf club is very important today, this is to bring in the visiting golfers bringing in additional revenue to sustain and maintain the improving qualities of the golf club and its golf course.

Showing the golf course and the clubhouse on the web site and using good quality photographs to show how good your course is.

A few years ago a photographic competition was started in your BIGGA Magazine. The competition has now developed annu...
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How many young greenkeepers will be preparing yourselves both educationally and in the workplace for the future in your given profession.

The world is a much smaller place now, the modern technologies and the Internet makes communication on a different level.

Ask yourself what machinery and technology will the greenkeeper have to hand.

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My view of greenkeeping over the past 30 years or so...

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The views expressed within On The Soapbox are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International

On the Soapbox

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Other ‘hybrids’ still use hydraulic motors for propulsion, so when we say no hydraulics, we mean it. Traction, reel drive and lift/lower operations are all electrically driven using either a small petrol or diesel engine running a 48 volt generator. And now there’s an all-electric version using a battery pack. It’s stealth quiet and ideal for greens close to housing or hotel rooms.

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By the way, did we mention … no hydraulics.