Focus on Fungicides

Dr Terry Mabbut gets technical

The Unseen Irrigation

Irrigation matters uncovered

Horses (and Tennis) for Courses

Epsom and Wimbledon under the radar

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Gordon Child’s Lifetime Achievement Award

Interview with 2011 BIGGA Chairman, Andrew Mellon

Focus on Fusarium, with Dr Terry Mabbett

Harrogate Week 2011

12-Page Supplement Inside

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TORO NOW HAS DPA CUTTING UNITS ON ALL ITS REEL MOWERS.

TORO first began manufacturing engines for tractors in the USA almost 100 years ago. Today we produce some of the finest turf machinery, landscaping and irrigation equipment in the world. Like our renowned DPA (Dual Precision Adjustment) cutting unit, now available for the first time on the Reelmaster 3100-O triple mower. DPA allows the bedknife to be adjusted quickly and simply and offers an unrivalled quality and consistency of cut. What’s more, because it holds its settings for longer, DPA will also save you more time than any other quick-adjustment system. Now available across the full range, DPA is proving popular at many of the country’s leading golf clubs and sporting venues. Please contact us today for a free demonstration.

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Harrogate delivers once again

Those who had a feeling of trepidation in the lead up to Harrogate Week 2011, concerns brought on by worldwide recession and the horrible weather we endured in December, saw their fears dissipate as soon as BIGGA Chairman, Paul Worster, cut the green ribbon to proclaim the Show open.

The traditional buzz was there, and in abundance too, albeit assisted by the real life bees Hygrocybe had as an attraction on its stand, and the Halls soon filled up. The fact that the final attendance was just over 6,000, 2.3% up on last year was a genuine bonus. Harrogate has always been a partnership of commerce and education and it would be fair to say that the strong Continue to Learn Education Programme, supported by BIGGA’s Gold and Silver Key supporters, gave many people a bone fide reason to come to Harrogate.

The quality of what was on offer would enhance anyone’s career and those who took advantage felt all the better for doing so. Indeed, with a record 2000 plus attending workshops and seminars the week was given a great start before it had even begun.

People will point to the fact that the actual Show was smaller than it has been in the past and, with slightly under three Halls of exhibitors, that is indeed true, but to expect companies in our industry sector to be immune from the economic realities is a little unfair. It was certainly disappointed on behalf of those companies who would desperately have liked to have given themselves the boost to the start of the year that Harrogate Week traditionally offers, but through budget constraints were unable to do so. They will be welcomed back with open arms when they are in a position to re-book.

Those who did exhibit were delighted that they had done so. One of them, Vermiwind, a company in the new Enviro Zone which was exhibiting in Harrogate for the first time, actually said that it was the best and most professionally run show they had ever attended.

Harrogate Week 2011 was also the end of an era as it was the last that John Pemberton will attend in an official capacity. Having taken the decision to stand down as Chief Executive, John was the recipient of good wishes from the many, many friends and associates he had made during his 18 years with the Association.

Although he is still officially with the Association until the end of April, John will be spending his last couple of months working from home; BIGGA HOUSE will not be the same without his infectious personality and desire to do anything for anyone.

He has left no stone unturned in making BIGGA as strong an organisation as it can be, particularly during his time as Chief Executive, and there are countless members who, directly or indirectly, owe him a great deal.

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Living life to the full

Scott MacCallum catches up with Gordon Child, recipient of BIGGA’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Focus on Fusarium

Dr Terry Mabbett takes an in-depth look at the most prolific turf disease in the country.

Hitting the ground running

Scott MacCallum meets Andrew Mellon, BIGGA’s 2011 National Chairman.

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A look back at a week which proved that while times may be hard, Harrogate can still produce a “feel good” factor.

GIS for you

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The anatomy of...

Battery powered kit

James de Havilland looks at how battery power has developed in recent times.

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Offering advice on how to tackle drainage issues.

Three kings

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The official monthly magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited

GI
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A look at what’s inside the magazine this month
Adaptability in the Snow

French manufacturer Etesia enjoyed a sales boom as users of its ride-on rotary mowers have been rushing to buy snow clearing attachments and tow-behind gritters for their existing Hydro mowers so that they wouldn’t be caught out in the next big freeze.

With its wide range of attachments, the range of Etesia mowers can be transformed into multi-tasking, all-year-round workhorses for a wide-range of applications including snow clearing and salt/sand spreading.

“At times like this, end users recognise the true multi-tasking value of an Etesia ride-on,” commented Les Mellor, Etesia UK’s General Manager.

“Our accessories such as the snow plough of salt spreader are keenly priced so keeping roadways and paths clear is a very cost effective operation. Our customers have discovered that for a relatively small investment they can be prepared without the need to have expensive dedicated equipment lying idle during long periods of the year.”

For further information, please contact Etesia UK on 01295 680 120 or visit www.etesia.com/uk.

Golf Industry Professionals present more than £30,000 to Help for Heroes

A golf industry group which conquered the Three Peaks Challenge has presented a cheque for £30,169.57 to Help for Heroes.

The team of 11 friends from all parts of the golf industry took just 22 hours and 45 minutes to climb the UK’s three highest mountains – Snowdon, Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike last July, in aid of Help for Heroes’ Battle Back initiative.

Colin Mayes, Jim Conlan, Tristan Hall and Andy Owen, Bughtill Golf & Leisure; Kevin Hart, Club Car; Andrew Brown, Tonic; Daniel Houcham, De Vere; Simon Thorpe, Expressions Partnership; John Weir, Concorstone Golf; Chris Lomas, Secretary at Worplesdon Golf Club; and course designer, Jonathan Casutt, joined servicemen benefiting from Battle Back Golf at Bathfield Golf Club for a round of golf and to present the cheque.

Kevin Hart said: “Everyone was astounded with the money raised, which reflects the generosity of the golf industry and the support of this worthwhile cause.”

Any golf manufacturer, golf course or professional who would like to help Battle Back Golf with the provision of equipment, tee times, coaching or anything that may assist injured soldiers please contact Kevin Hart at kevin_hart@clubheath.com.

The photograph shows The Three Peaks team handing over a cheque for £30,169.57 to members of the Battle Back Golf initiative.

NEW ROLE FOR PAUL

Symbo has appointed Paul Lowe as Regional Manager for the North West of England. Paul brings 22 years of greenkeeping experience with him, having spent the majority of his career as Course Manager at Rhuddlan Golf Course and the past four years as Course Manager at Bromborough Golf Club.

Paul, a member of the Condered Men group, committed to environmentally sustainable management, said: “I am delighted to join the Symbo team. Moving from greenkeeping to Symbo has been a natural progression for me as we share the same passion for creating sustainable courses and landscapes built on healthy living soils.”

Martin Ward, Symbo Managing Director, said: “As the industry increasingly adopts a sustainable approach to course management, it is great to have Paul on board with his exceptional knowledge and wealth of experience in managing sustainable golf courses.”

New Partnership

BIGGA and The Golf Environment Organisation (GEO) have established a partnership that will see the two bodies collaborate in promoting sustainability in golf facility management.

The partnership seeks to make sustainability easier for greenkeepers and Course Managers to understand, and provide support for their ongoing, continual improvement efforts. Through the promotion of GEO Certified, the aim is also to enable golf facilities to attain credible and lasting recognition for ongoing golf facilities to attain credible and lasting recognition for ongoing efforts.

BIGGA will become a Golf Corporate Responsibility, environmental action and lasting recognition for ongoing efforts.

Managers to understand, and for greenkeepers and Course facility management.

Speaking on behalf of BIGGA, incoming Chairman, Andrew Mellon, added: “There are a number of reasons why BIGGA has decided to work with GEO. First of all, we recognize the importance of what they stand for and what they are trying to achieve as an organisation in support of greenkeepers. We see real value in widespread participation by BIGGA members in GEO Certified. In addition the partnership enables us all to draw on the educational, advisory and verification support of their emerging GEOSA Network of golf ready sustainability professionals. Collaboration with like minded bodies brings more strength to golf’s environmental action and lasting recognition for ongoing efforts.

Managers to understand, and for greenkeepers and Course facility management.

For recent years we have seen GEO dedicate itself to bringing forward the kinds of solutions based guidance and programmes that will help every one of our members in the field. There’s a straightforward logic to what GEO presents, and they understand the needs and priorities of Course Managers extremely well.”

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For that reason we have drafted an action plan which will enable all those who are interested to get involved and gain visibility in a cohesive approach to this important subject,” added Andrew. Jonathan Smith, CEO of GEO, added: “We are delighted to make this announcement after many months of discussion. BIGGA is one of the world’s largest and most respected greenkeeper associations, so its interest in, and endorsement of our work is incredibly valuable.”
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GEO will be presented as BIGGA’s Sustainability Partner, and BIGGA will become a GEO Partner of GEO.

Speaking on behalf of BIGGA, outgoing Chairman, Paul Worster, said: “We want to support our members further in playing an active leadership role, productively with their management team colleagues, to make the most informed sustainability based decisions in the workplace.

“The BIGGA Board feels that GEO is extremely well placed to support our organisations and our members - strategically and practically.

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“We know that many other companies and organisations are also critical to this effort, both current partners of BIGGA and GEO, and also potential partners. For that reason we have drafted an action plan which will enable all those who are interested to get involved and gain visibility in a cohesive approach to this important subject,” added Andrew.

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The photograph shows The Three Peaks team handing over a cheque for £30,169.57 to members of the Battle Back Golf initiative.
Farol Takes on John Deere Turf Franchise

John Deere has announced that the Farol branches at Milton Common in Oxfordshire and Hinckley, in Leicestershire, have become turf & utility equipment dealers.

As of last month both branches will sell and support John Deere’s full range of professional turf equipment, which includes mowers, compact and utility tractors, utility vehicles, mowers, sprayers and irrigation systems. The Milton Common branch will cover Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, while the new Farol branch at Hinckley will service the Midlands area.

Farol has created a new turf business division, which will be managed initially by the group’s recently-appointed Operations Director, Dave Roberts.

“This is an exciting development for Farol, and a natural expansion of our successful John Deere agricultural business,” said Dave.

“This signing of Farol as a professional turf dealer in the Midlands strengthens our dealership presence in this area,” added David Hart, John Deere’s Turf & Utility Equipment Division Manager for the UK and Ireland.

“Farol is a well established business with a strong focus on first class customer and product support. Alongside our ongoing Dealer of the Future initiative, it reflects our continued efforts to build the strongest dealership network for turf equipment in the UK.”

Irish Conference

The annual GCSAI conference will take place at Knightsbrook Hotel and Golf Club just outside Dublin. Speakers include Professor James Beard who wrote, “Turf Management for Golf Courses”. Lining up alongside Professor Beard is Greg Evans, who will be conducting a talk about his greens methodology.

The conference is open to all greenkeepers and groundsman across the British Isles and if you are interested in coming along please contact Maria Behan on, +3538779 17789 or email her at maria.behan@calibresupport.ie

25 YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR CAMPEY TURF CARE

The 25th Anniversary of Campey Turf Care Systems will be celebrated throughout the coming months with a number of events aimed at highlighting the achievements of its staff, the loyalty of its customers and the continuing confidence of the manufacturers which provide such an excellent range of products.

All of these elements have played a part in ensuring the success of Campey Turf Care Systems as well as a winning combination of dedication to quality of products and professionalism of after sales support.

A display of the products and brand names that have become synonymous with Campey were on display at BTME including the Dakota - 407 Mounted Top-dresser and the Imants Shockwave which are typical of the products introduced by Campey.

Also on the stand was the Vredo Super Compact seeder and the Timan - RC-750 remote control brush cutter & slope mower introduced last season.

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Simon Gale

Lely UK has announced the death of one of its employees, Simon Gale.

Simon, 40, passed away following a short battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Helen, whom he married shortly before his death.

Simon joined Lely in 2007 as the turf machinery distributor’s first key accounts product specialist, where he soon established himself as a popular and much relied upon member of the team. As well as providing hands-on servicing and parts support to customers, he was also responsible for training operators and mechanics, imparting his considerable skills and expertise to a plethora of industry peers.

Prior to joining Lely, Simon spent the lion’s share of his career at Ransomes and some of his key dealerships.

October 1990 saw him leave to take up the post of head mechanic with one of Turney’s major customers, Hewison Brothers, where he was responsible for the maintenance, repair and overhaul of the company’s extensive machinery fleet.

Three years later he joined Ransomes dealer ET Breakwell. 

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Ransomes Jacobsen’s Sales Director, Alan Peckett, who had known and worked with Simon for 21 years, concludes: “Simon was a good friend and colleague with whom I spent many years working in various roles. He was always optimistic and had a positive and ambitious attitude to life, making his loss at such an early age even more tragic. He leaves behind a great many friends within Ransomes Jacobsen and the industry.”

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Also on the stand was the Vredo Super Compact seeder and the Timan - RC-750 remote control brush cutter & slope mower introduced last season.
South East Region Annual Gentlemen’s Day Golf and Dinner

Walton Heath Golf Club
Friday 4th March 2011
One of Greenkeeping’s longest running events and is always well supported.

For more details please contact:
Clive Ogwood
South East Regional Administrator
cloeogwood@yahoo.co.uk
Phone 01737 819343 mob 07841 948840

GEO Certified™ International Sustainability Award for Auchterarder Golf Club

The first traditional UK members’ club to be awarded GEO Certified status, Auchterarder is a sustainability leader in Scottish golf. As they join the international group of clubs that has received the prestigious GEO designation, the Perthshire club can be proud in the knowledge they are positioned among the world’s most sustainably managed courses.

Archie Dunn, Head Greenkeeper at the club for 14 years and National Director of BIGGA, is not one to shy away from innovation or the need for leadership.

“GEO Certification is an important ongoing project for Auchterarder Golf Club, helping us to utilise our environmental programme and provide a basis from which we will work to make our club more sustainable year on year. The targeted support we are receiving from Sustainability Adviser, Elisabeth Coutts, has brought our planning, monitoring and recording into line with GEO requirements, a huge help on the whole learning curve towards sustainable golf,” said Archie.

Read the GEO Certified™ Report prepared by Archie and his team here: http://www.golfenvironment.org/club/auchterardergolf

IOG LAUNCHES APPRENTICESHIPS

The IOG has announced the IOG Apprenticeship in Groundsmanship – a work-based programme available to aspiring groundsman and women. Providing a choice of options – Apprentice Level 2, Advanced Apprentice Level 3 and Higher Apprentice Level the programme is targeted at anyone aged from 16 years. The IOG Apprenticeship will take between one and three years, depending on the Level chosen.

Explanating that the new Apprenticeship is the latest in a comprehensive range of affordable education services delivering high quality and accredited qualifications at every level of Groundsman Iain Lacy, the IOG’s Head of Professional Services, said that the new scheme follows the successful completion of the IOG Young Apprenticeship Scheme as a curriculum option for students aged 14 at Harrfield Academy, St Albans.

“The IOG Apprenticeship, a work-based programme designed around the needs of an employer, leads to nationally recognised qualifications such as diplomas in Groundsmanship and greenkeeping accredited by City & Guilds land-based services,” said Iain.

“[To support the new scheme, the IOG is offering a ‘two-stop shop’ apprenticeship service which includes accessing learning and numeracy, assessment of occupational skills, advice on learning styles and psychometric testing, plus help with the induction and sign-up and the assessor visit, and ongoing monitoring of progress.”

Harrogate Week: The Natural Choice For Company Launch

Solid fertility company Organic Soil Systems selected the 2011 BTME at Harrogate as the venue for their UK launch.

The Company Chairman, Ronald Oldfield, explained, “HTM is widely regarded as Europe’s leading showcase for turf and grounds care professionals, with attendance consistently in the thousands. This was exactly the right forum for us to hold the official launch of our world leading soil fertility products and technology in the UK. We have received an enormous response throughout the exhibition and look forward to developing relationships further with our new clients.”

For further information visit www.organicsystems.co.uk

Wimbledon Seminar

A total of 140 grounds and golf course managers gathered at The All England Club recently for a seminar at which prominent speakers addressed the challenges of preparing turf for major events, hosted by Scotts Professional.

Head Groundsman, Eddie Saward MBE, opened the day’s programme with an insight into the logistical challenges he and his team face in preparation for an intensive summer of sport in 2012, which will see the world’s tennis stars competing twice in a matter of weeks.

The hectic period begins in June with the regular Championship fortnight. The courts will then be brought back into action at the end of July for a week of Olympic tennis.

Simon Barzula, then took the floor to discuss the development of Primo Maxx, a maintenance product through the exhibition and look forward to developing relationships further with our new clients.

The focus then switched to the world’s most famous tennis venue, Wimbledon. Eddie and Saward outlined his team’s preparations for last summer’s Open Championship staged on the Old Course.

Completing the speaker programme was Ipswich Town’s Head Groundsman, Alan Ferguson, whose presentation described the steps he took to prepare the football club’s playing surface for the heavy plant, staging and 25,000 music fans that descended on Portman Road for Pink’s concert in June. A visit to the world’s most famous tennis venue wouldn’t be complete without a tour of the courts.

Eddie Saward and his team staff everyone the opportunity to see some of the construction work taking place in preparation for the Olympics.

George Hampton

Former SPGA, SIGGA and SBIGGA member George Hampton died at the end of last year at the age of 74 after a short illness.

George retired from left was a well-kent face in the Scottish greenkeeping and golfing circles and you would always know him if you were within ear shot with his distinctive laugh, either telling or receiving jokes.

George completed his National Certificate in Sports Turf Management which he was told he treated it like a holiday.

With his sound golfing ability and an obvious passion for the game, George was a no-nonsense greenkeeper.

George retired from greenkeeping in 1991 and took up the post as Pro at Pitlochry Golf Club which he was happy to say!

Sensible greenkeeping I am happy to say!

In the 1970s George decided to get to know the world and after his golfing career he was appointed General Manager of Inverness Football Club.

George died at the end of last year at the age of 74 after a short illness.

We pass on our thoughts to his family, friends and fellow greenkeepers.

http://www.colinbarnaby.co.uk/

The IOG Apprenticeship, a work-based programme designed around the needs of an employer, leads to nationally recognised qualifications such as diplomas in Groundsmanship and greenkeeping accredited by City & Guilds land-based services,” said Iain. Joe

George Hampton

Former SPGA, SIGGA and SBIGGA member George Hampton died at the end of last year at the age of 74 after a short illness.

George retired from left was a well-kent face in the Scottish greenkeeping and golfing circles and you would always know him if you were within ear shot with his distinctive laugh, either telling or receiving jokes.

George completed his National Certificate in Sports Turf Management which he was told he treated it like a holiday.

With his sound golfing ability and an obvious passion for the game, George was a no-nonsense greenkeeper.

George retired from greenkeeping in 1991 and took up the post as Pro at Pitlochry Golf Club which he was happy to say!

Sensible greenkeeping I am happy to say!

In the 1970s George decided to get to know the world and after his golfing career he was appointed General Manager of Inverness Football Club.

George died at the end of last year at the age of 74 after a short illness.

We pass on our thoughts to his family, friends and fellow greenkeepers.
Sustainability Adviser, Elspeth Coutts, has brought our environmental programme and provide a basis from which we will work to make our club more sustainable. The targeted support we’re receiving from the GEO Certified™ Report prepared by Archie and his team here: http://www.organicsoilsystems.co.uk.

For further information visit www.organicsoilsystems.co.uk

Wimbledon Seminar
A total of 140 grounds and golf course managers gathered at The All England Club recently for a seminar at which prominent speakers addressed the challenges of preparing turf for major events, hosted by Scotts Professional. Head Groundsman, Eddie Seaward MBE, opened the day’s programme with an insight into the logistical challenges he and his team in face in preparation for an intensive summer of sport in 2012, which will see the world’s tennis stars competing twice in a matter of weeks.

The hectic period begins in June with the regular Championship fortnight. The courts will then be brought back into action at the end of July for a week of Olympic tennis. Simon Barnsley, then took to the floor to discuss the development of Prime Max, strategically designed for tournament turf. After lunch, Dr Ruth Mann, of the STRI and her colleague, John Lodger, described some of the work the team at the institute has carried out at stadia in the Ukraine, Monaco and South Africa. The focus then switched to golf, as Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews Links, Gordon Moir, outlined his team’s preparations for last summer’s Open Championship staged on the Old Course. Completing the speaker programme was Ipswich Town’s Head Groundsman, Alan Ferguson, whose presentation described the steps he took to prepare the football club’s playing surface for the heavy plant, staging and 25,000 music fans that descended on Portman Road for Pilk’s concert in June. A visit to the world’s most famous tennis venue wouldn’t be complete without a tour of the courts.

Eddie Seaward and his staff gave everyone the opportunity to see some of the construction work taking place in preparation for the Olympics.

George Hampton
Former SPGA, SIGGA and BBIGA member, George Hampton died at the end of last year at the age of 74 after a short illness. George’s retirement from left was a well known fact in the Scottish greenkeeping and golfing circle and you could almost hear him laugh if you were within ear shot with his distant laugh, either telling or receiving jokes.

George completed his National Certificate in Sports turf Management which he was told he treated it like a long holiday. With his sound golfing ability and enthusiasm for the game, George retired from groundskeeping in 1991 and took up the post as Pro at Pinhey End during which time he won the Scottish Seniors PGA in 1993. Arthritis in his hands restricted his golf game and he finally set home for retirement in 2008.

Nineteen years ago George became the Pro at Burntisland Golf Club after his postie job led him to and through getting afternoons at the greenkeeping and golfing circles you were within ear shot with his distinct laughter, either telling or receiving jokes.

Not only a good teaching pro, George Hampton was an extremely talented golfer and was widely regarded as Europe’s leading sports turf professional, with attendance consistently in the thousands. This was exactly the right forum to hold the official launch of our world leading soil fertility products and technology in the UK. We have since seen an modest response throughout the exhibition and look forward to developing relationships further with our new clients.

For further information visit www.organicsoilsystems.co.uk

GEO Certified™: International Sustainability Award for Auchterarder Golf Club
The first traditional UK members’ club to be awarded GEO Certified status, Auchterarder is a sustainability leader in Scottish golf. As they join the international group of clubs that has received the prestigious GEO certification, the Pitfarhae club can be proud in the knowledge they are positioning among the world’s most sustainable.

Archie Dunn, Head Greenkeeper at the club for 14 years and National Director of SIGGA, is one to shy away from innovation or the need for leadership: “GEO Certification is an important ongoing project for Auchterarder Golf Club, helping us to shape our club’s environmental sustainability and provide a basis from which we will work to make our club more sustainable. The targeted support we’re receiving from

South East Region Annual Gentleman’s Day Golf and Dinner
Walton Heath Golf Club Friday 4th March 2011 One of Greenkeeping’s longest running events and is always well supported.

For more details please contact.
Clive Ogood
South East Regional Administrator
clioood@ymail.co.uk
Phone 01737 819343 mob 07841 948410

George Hampton

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The formation of goals that set out what a business is aiming to achieve is a key part of business planning.

Teams and individuals throughout the organisation need to be briefed about what the goals are and what they should do to help achieve them. This requires a management process to be in place that cascades top-level goals to teams and individuals.

What is important is that you get it right for your organisation.

In this way, progress throughout the organisation is measurable.

The Manufacturing Team

To increase productivity by 2%, by June 20XX

The Warehouse Team

To achieve a 10% stock reduction, by October 20XX

The Finance Team

To agree 12 key supplier contracts, by September 20XX

The ‘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.biga.org and click on Member Resources.
Download and learn

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

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Chairman’s Word

Incoming National Chairman, Andrew Mellon, with his first monthly column

The start of a busy year ahead

On October, 21, 2009, I received an email from Paul Worster, BIGGA Chairman 2010, asking me to give him a call. I had an initial slight concern, thinking we have done something wrong at Section level. I called him that afternoon, and much to my surprise, he asked me to consider taking on the role of Chairman for 2011.

Surprise was probably an understatement, and my initial reaction was, that I would be honoured, but that I would need to know more about the commitment required, consult with my family, my employers and our team at Elmwood Golf Course. I also wanted to speak with my Section committee (Central), and the Scottish Board to ensure I had their support.

Having done that, and discussed with John Pemberton in more detail the challenges involved, and receiving full support from all concerned, I was honoured to accept.

My first meeting was at Harrogate 2010, when I was welcomed and introduced to the Board. I came out of that meeting under no illusions to the fact that this was not a committee for committees’ sake, but a group of people passionate and dedicated to ensuring the success of BIGGA, and supporting their fellow Greenkeepers.

We were also beginning to feel the bite of the recession, and the challenges of not only running a successful Association, but a successful business, became only too apparent to me.

When I arrived at the AGM this year to step up to Chairman, I had attended many meetings, both with the Board and several working parties, attended several events in the year, including The Open at St Andrews, and formed stronger working relationships with the Board members and the Staff at HQ.

Having checked my email inbox out of interest just before the AGM, and having received a good luck email from Paul, I noticed that I had received 554 emails from Paul over the year. I knew for a fact that we had spoken almost daily during that year, not to mention my correspondence with the rest of the Board and the staff at HQ.

That may give you an indication of the level of commitment shown by those who serve you, the members, while volunteering their time to help steer the Association.

I’d like to thank Paul and the rest of the Board for their dedication to this task, and also the staff whose enthusiasm, drive and dedication ensure that we can strive to meet the needs of the members.

There are many other members, (Greenkeepers and Toole), serving the Sections, Regions, and working parties and sub committees, who often go unrecognised and their contribution is vital to our future success. The support we receive from Industry is significant and their recognition of the importance of our Association, despite their own current challenges, is something we value.

I returned from Harrogate, and once the adrenalin had worn off, I was shattered, but elated. I witnessed first hand the hunger among the members for further education, which had been more than satisfied by a fantastic record breaking education programme put together by Sami Collins, Rachael Duffy, and I’m sure support from many other staff. To see the queues up the escalator waiting to enter the sessions was incredible.

I spoke with many exhibitors in the halls.

Despite the gloom and doom expressed by many other staff. To see the queues up the escalator waiting to enter the sessions was incredible. I spoke with many exhibitors in the halls.

While we have all this attention, due to the challenges of the economic climate, it presents a great opportunity to evaluate our position and communicate. I am sure, more than ever, that not only will we face this challenge, but, that as we work together with our members, and collaborate with Industry and Golf bodies, we will flourish and ensure BIGGA’s success.

I would like to close by thanking John Pemberton for his faithful, dedicated service to BIGGA over the last 18 years. We have grown from small beginnings, to the strong vibrant Association we are today.

John will always be part of that and always welcomed by our members.

On behalf of all the members, thank you John and all the best for the future.
The GTC was back in attendance at this year’s show after one year’s absence as an exhibitor and for many of us, it has been a gap since the first exhibition back in 1989. So many faces who have attended since that first show are still committed to ensuring that greenkeeping is seen as a respected profession and they should be proud of their achievements over the years.

Prior to this year’s show, there was much talk about there being three halls and the recession will keep people away...well back in 1989 there were only two halls but that event signalled the start of something very special.

Those in attendance back in 1989 will remember the image of the greenkeepers and how BIGGA was continually encouraging members to buy Association blazers, sweaters and even giving ties away as a membership benefit, all designed to promote a more professional image.

There were even neck scarves for any lady members. You could say the Association was ahead of the sexism laws!

Image is so important and while we all accept greenkeeping is a very practical job, it is important to be professional as it clearly has put the role image plays in personal and professional success!

If my memory serves me right, Bobbie’s husband was a Golf Course Superintendent in the USA and she knew first hand how the profession, or image of the profession, had to be changed and she was inspirational for all of us at the presentation.

We have known for many years that the American Golf Course Superintendent are held in high esteem by their employers and golfers and thankfully I believe our Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers are now at least on a par with their colleagues throughout the world of golf course management.

For many years the GTC focused, quite rightly, on ensuring the agro-chemical aspect of the greenkeeper’s job were covered in education courses and qualifications and rest assured this was still the number one priority, just look at the content of the greenkeeping scheme!

However since The R&A’s discussion document The Way Forward was circulated to golf clubs and golfing bodies in 1989 which, among other matters stated, “that many Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers felt that advanced training in management skills is the greatest deficiency in their training” - times have changed!

During this year’s Continue to Learn programme, there was a workshop for assistants hosted by Frank Newbery (nowhere near as attractive as Bobbie Gee) which focused on the importance of good communication and image. It is by raising the awareness of the importance of image at the earliest opportunity in a greenkeeper’s career that we will produce the Course Managers for the future.

Some 22 years on there is so much to be proud of in the way greenkeepers have progressed both in seeking knowledge to add to their skills and knowledge and now we see many apprentices from the 1990’s at today’s Golf Course Managers and some stepping into General Manager positions.

The GTC will ensure the ranges of qualifications available within the sector include “communication” Units and that includes image.

We will work with our Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers to ensure there are seminars, workshops and short courses available to help current employers and learners to choose from. BIGGA, I am sure, will continue to promote supervisory and management short course provision through its Sections and Regions, which are often subsidised through the Learning and Development Fund and the GTC will continue the drive for professionalism throughout greenkeeper training.

In closing, please feel free to feedback any views you might have on current provision of education, training courses and events you feel the GTC should be addressing. Please contact us on Tel 01347 836640 or email david@the-gtc.co.uk

For the latest news on greenkeeper education, training and qualifications including the up to date list of Golf Course Managers, Course Superintendents and Training Providers visit www.the-gtc.co.uk

That was the week that was... and what a week it was, Rachel and I are soaking our feet while looking agahast at the attendance figures for the Continue to Learn Education Programme. Now we know why we’ve so tired and our feet still hurt.

Contact Details
Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, sami@bigga.co.uk
Rachael Duffy, L&D Administrator, rachael@bigga.co.uk
Head of L&D, Sami Collins
Contact Details
David Golding, Education Director, with a monthly update from the GTC

The GTC is funded by:

The GTC is supported by:

The GTC is endorsed by:

The GTC is promoted by:

Contact Details
Jon Allbutt Associates on 01959 575575 or visit the Events’ page on the BIGGA website.

I am forever indebted to all the those who have contributed to the success in 2012 – no pressure!

Follow the GTC’s Twitter account @GTC_Courses and @GTC_Edu on Facebook to keep up to date with the big staffed sneak peaks!

Contact Details
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Rachael Duffy, L&D Administrator, rachael@bigga.co.uk
Head of L&D

Thank you to our Gold and Silver Key Sponsors

Gold Key Individual Members: Steven Taylor, Pete Rodgers, Andy Campbell MG, CSGC, Ian Aitchison, Tom Newbery, Andrea Turnbull, Ian Matthews MG, Ian Mortimer.
Silver Key Individual Members: Bob Auster, Steve Cartwright, Scott Arthan, Howard Hargreaves, Ian Cunningham, Nick Hulme, Andrew Murray, Garry Lewis, Michael Weller, Colin Clogher, Deric Lineham, Sami Collins, Rachael Duffy, Jamie Stuart, Jane Glassett.

Thank you to the Silver Key companies and individuals to the Learning and Development Fund for their support in enabling us to present Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week.

Pesticide Update for NFUtrics Certificate Holders

Health and Safety advisor, Jon Allbutt has confirmed that the possession of a City and Guilds NFUtrics Pesticides Certificate is more than five years old may not be accepted as evidence of competence, unless the holder has updated their skills and knowledge and kept pace with the many changes in this important legislation, the Code of Practice, application equipment and techniques for the control of pests and diseases.

The following Associates subscribed workshop at Harrogate, there are a number of Update Courses being presented. For up to date availability, contact Jane Glassett at Jon Allbutt Associates on 01959 575707 or visit the Events’ page on the BIGGA website.

The current NFUtrics Code of Practice for using plant protection products is now available as a free download in the Members’ Area of the BIGGA website.

Contact Details
Jon Allbutt Associates on 01959 575575 or visit the Events’ page on the BIGGA website.

The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key Sponsors is not only used to produce training and qualification materials for training and_update courses but also to support the BIGGA, the British Institute of Golf Course Management and other training organisations through national development workshops, courses, the learning library, and the Learning and Development Fund. An equal contribution from greenkeepers and greenkeeping companies has also been taken to ensure the fund continues to sponsor training and development opportunities in the golf and greenkeeping industry.

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Prior to this year’s show, there was much talk about there being three halls and the recession will keep people away...well back in 1989 there were only two halls but that event signalled the start of something very special.

Those in attendance back in 1989 will remember the image of the greenkeepers and how BIGGA was continually encouraging members to buy Association blazers, sweatshirts and even giving ties away as a membership benefit, all designed to promote a more professional image.

There were even neck scarves for any lady members. You could say the Association was ahead of the sexism laws!

Image is so important and while we all accept that the image of the good greenkeeper is very important, many golf clubs are in fact subsidising the image as they believe it is so important.

During this year’s Continue to Learn programme, there was a workshop for assistants hosted by Frank Newberry (nowhere near as attractive as Bobbie Gee) which focused on the importance of good communication and image. It is by raising the awareness of the importance of image at the earliest opportunity in a greenkeeper’s career that we will produce the Course Managers of the future.

Some 22 years on there is so much to be proud of in the way greenkeepers have progressed both in seeking knowledge to add to their skillset. Today we have Reach and if now we see many apprentices from the 1989’s all today’s Golf Course Managers and some stepping into General Manager positions.

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We will work with our Quality AssuranceCentres and Training Providers to ensure there are seminars, workshops and short courses available to help greenkeepers and learners to choose from. - BIGGA, I am sure, will continue to promote supervisory and management training courses and short courses available to help greenkeepers and learners to choose from.

The introduction of the Turf Managers’ Conference proved to be a success with superb feedback on the speakers and the content of their presentations.

Dr David Jones from the Natural History Museum, aka ‘the worm man’, equally educated and entertained the audience with many fascinating pieces of information. The ‘Fringe’ sessions, presented by exhibitors at the show, were as popular as ever. The more established speakers imparted their knowledge to enthusiastic audiences, with newer speakers attracting a credible number of attendees.

I am indebted to all the speakers who (sometimes with a little coaxing) agree to speak on the Continue to Learn education programme. Without them, there would not be an education programme to present.

The new challenge is to replicate the success in 2012. We are looking forward to it!

A HUGE thank you goes to the Gold and Silver Key companies and individuals to the Learning and Development Fund for their support in enabling us to present Continue to Learn at Harragote Week.

Pesticide Update for NPTC Certificate Holders

Health and Safety advisor, Jon Allbutt has confirmed that the possession of a City and Guilds / NPTC Pesticides Certificate is more than five years old may not be accepted as evidence of competency unless the holder has updated their skills and knowledge and kept pace with the many changes in this important legislation, the Code of Practice, application equipment and techniques for the control of pests and diseases.

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New Name for JCB Groundhog

James Watson Joins Sherriff Amenity

Huxley Golf extend into Europe

TWO HEADLIGHTS, ONE BATTERY

What’s your number?

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

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

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

The latest turf industry news from around the globe
James Watson joins Sherriff Amenity

Sherriff Amenity has strengthened its national sales team by appointing James Watson as an Amenity specialist covering Yorkshire and the north.

James, who will be working closely with Chris Rodkin to support Sherriff Amenity’s current customers and also develop new business in the area, spent 15 years as a Greenkeeper in the UK and Europe before joining Headland Amenity as a Regional Manager.

“James’ previous experience, both as a Greenkeeper and in a sales position made him the ideal candidate for the job,” commented Mark Pyrah, Amenity Director of Agrointa UK.

New name for JCB Groundhog

JCB has rebranded its Utility Terrain Vehicles with the new name JCB WORKMAX.

This covers both the current diesel-powered models, the 4x4 for rough terrain applications and the 4x4 for ‘fine turf’ applications such as golf courses and sports fields.

Until now JCB has used the name ‘Groundhog’ for its UTVs.

JCB is focused on answering the demands of the professional equipment user and therefore the new Registered WORKMAX name has been adopted to reflect this.

The ‘Groundhog’ name has been in use since JCB entered the UTV market in 2005.

JCB Utility Products Sales Director Keith Hoskins said: “The old Groundhog name has served us well in establishing our brand, but we are on course for market share growth in several countries at the expense of ride-on quads which we believe can never offer the ride quality, safety, and lead carrying performance of a Side-by-Side design.

“Our new WORKMAX name is also easily understood in other languages.”

TWO HEADLIGHTS, ONE BATTERY

Ian Howard, Managing Director of Howardson, has announced that his company has acquired SISIS, which will now operate as a division of Howardson Ltd, alongside Dennis.

“We have acquired the respected brand, designs, patents and intellectual property and this new partnership is part of our on-going investment strategy,” explained Ian.

“I would compare Dennis and SISIS to two headlights being operated by one battery,” said Ian, as he explained the new strategy at a press briefing in Harrogate.

“The companies will run independently, while at the same time benefiting from each other’s strengths and powered by parent company, Howardson Ltd.

“Our traditional strengths of reliability and excellent customer support will enhance this partnership and we are optimistic about our future together, working as a team to grow further our profile in the market. Our products dovetail extremely well,” said Ian, who added that they would be conducting an immediate review of all aspects of the business including customer service and supply.

Ian Howard, Managing Director of Howardson Engineering, with Andrew Whiter, Field Sales Manager of SISIS

Huxley Golf extend into Europe

A new business, Huxley Golf Europe, has been formed in Luxembourg under the direction of Danish golf professional, Ole Pedersen, and businessman, Torben Poulsen.

The pair are targeting golf clubs, teaching academies, hotels and private clients across a large and important new sales territory for Huxley Golf.

Paul Huxley, Director of Huxley Golf, which has a growing network of distributors in the UK and abroad, said: “The region spanning the Benelux countries and France and Germany has become very important to Huxley Golf. Ole and Torben have the local presence and expertise necessary to position our products successfully in this marketplace.”

Huxley Golf provides all-weather surfaces for golf around the world. Clients include training and coaching establishments, golf resorts, ranges and academies as well as several Open Championship and Ryder Cup venues.

For more information, visit www.huxleygolf.com.

What’s your number?

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

Name: Fiona Gebbett

Company: PAN Publicity Limited

Position: Director

How long have you been in the industry?

Almost 20 years

How did you get into it?

In my previous job, PAN was one of my key suppliers. When a job came up there, I applied and the rest is history.

What other jobs have you done?

After university, I was a Holiday Rep in France and then Tenerife. I then joined a Conference Production company and ran corporate events around the country.

What do you like about your current job?

My clients. We handle a variety of accounts which means we get to know some great people and no two days are ever the same.

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

Very little change in the printed media compared to other industries we work in; but, of course, on-line media has developed considerably.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Socialising mainly, but living on the coast I like nothing more than getting rugged up on a Sunday morning and going for a nice long walk on the sea front. We also have the beautiful North Norfolk coast to drive to and enjoy the superb beaches and pubs there.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

I very much want to be doing the same thing in a re-vitalised industry. Basically my job is about people; talking to them and finding out how they do their jobs. It’s what I love about what I do and I don’t see that changing much in the next 10 years.

Who do you consider best friends in the industry?

The Press. They’re a great bunch of people. We’ve had some fun times over the years on Press trips in various countries. We all have some very fond memories from them. I’m sure.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

Fiona has picked Tim Merrell, of The Grass Group

NEW IRRIGATION ADVISORY SERVICE

Intelligent Watering is a new irrigation advisory service that has been founded by Adrian Handbury. Adrian has been in the industry for 17 years, originally as the first Irrigation Manager at the London Golf Club. As well as being an end user, Adrian has also installed many irrigation systems. However, his main discipline has been the specification and design of irrigation for the companies he has been employed by or those that he advises, and has worked extensively over three continents.

Intelligent Design has been set up to supply irrigation audit, advice and new system design services to the Golf, Sports turf and Landcape industries.

Email design@intelligentwatering.co.uk or go to the website www.intelligentwatering.co.uk

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What do you consider to be your lucky number?
A smile is never far from the lips of BIGGA’s latest Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Gordon Child. Gordon Child has lived life to the full and in modern sporting parlance, not left anything out on the park. His greenkeeping career was carried out at some of the finest golf clubs in the country and he watched some of the finest players in the world playing courses he’d prepared. His BIGGA career saw him become the only Chairman to date to serve for two years and spend 10 years as Regional Administrator for the South West and South Wales, while his own golfing ability was good enough for him to play in two Open Championships and now sees him beat his age virtually every time he goes out.

“It was while I was there that I enjoyed one of the pieces of luck which I’ve enjoyed all my life. I started work in 1947 and at the time there were only two colleges in the UK which did turf culture and one of them was Leeds College of Art and Technology while the other was in Scotland. The college was in easy reach of my home so for three years I was able to study three nights a week and one half day for which the club gave me time off. It provided me with the foundations for my whole career.”

It also saw the beginnings of a friendship which was to last for over half a century.

“It was while at college that I met Jim Arthur who was working for the STRI at the time and who was one of the lecturers brought in by the college,” said Gordon.

Friendship with the legendary agronomist lasted until Jim’s death at the age of 84, in 2004, and ironically saw the pair of them living just a few miles from each other in Devon – Gordon in Churston and Jim in Budleigh Salterton.

Following his time at Dore and Totley Gordon joined the Army and the Liverpool Regiment where he served in Korea along with another well known BIGGA figure, the late Bert Cross, and when he got back his grandfather told him that he was to take up a job at Royal Birkdale.

“It was while at college that I met Jim Arthur who was working for the STRI at the time and who was one of the lecturers brought in by the college,” said Gordon.

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Gordon Child
LIFE-Time AchievEMent

Tour venues at the time playing
Rickmansworth Council.
Gordon also managed the local
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somehow.
were members, but once you
class estate and a lot of celebrities
were playing.
only saw the people on the hole you
of the those courses on which you
out of a pine forest and it was one
was a gem of a club and I loved the
and I absolutely loved the place. It
Birkdale helped me get the job

“I met Eric Sykes there and he
was a great help to me. We were
like a big family and I can tell you it
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“Even when the job offer from
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Moor Park had two stunning
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municipal course on behalf of
Rickmansworth Council.

“After six years, six tournaments
and, at the age of 50, Gordon
accepted the job which was to see
him through to his retirement and
provide him with home for the next
30 years of his life.

“The Chairman of Green at
Churston played Moor Park and
came and spoke to me about
coming down to Devon.

“The timing was right because
if I had stayed at Moor Park I
wouldn’t have had the time to get
involved with BIGGA or the other
work I’ve been able to so since,”
said Gordon.

Gordon was on the Board of the
BIGGA when the amalgamation
talks started in the mid 80s and
was actually delivering a paper
on Parkland Golf at a St Andrews
conference, chaired by Walter
Wood, when the B&RA got
involved in bringing the BIGGA,
ERIGA and BIGGA together with
a view to forming what became
BIGGA.

“When it became a reality in 1987
Gordon, ably assisted by wife,
Marion, who has been a constant
companion, became a volunteer
Regional Administrator for the SW
and South Wales and remain so
until the role became a salaries
position in 1997.

He is particularly proud of the
Westurf Show, at Lower Ashton
Golf Club, which ran for 10 years and
which ensured that the Region was
financially secure for many years.
Another success was the
creation of the Cannington College
golf course for which he was a key
mover, along with Jim Arthur and,
another close friend, golf course
architect, Martin Hawtree.

The following year Gordon
became BIGGA National Chairman
and he is still the only man to date
to have held the position for two
years.

Highlights during that time
was the Duke Of York, officially
opening of BIGGA HOUSE in 1998
and being Captain of the Rest
of the World team for the Ryder
International Cup in Atlanta, USA,
that same year.

“I’ve got so many wonderful
memories of my time as
Chairman and particularly
meeting so many great and
wonderful people.

“I remember some superb trips
to the American and Canadian
Conferences and meeting
motivational speakers, Frank
Dick and Simon Weston at
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“Frank Dick’s speech is still
the best I’ve ever heard,” said
Gordon who continued to be
BIGGA’s representative on the
GTC and the Region’s Education
Officer for several years after his
Chairmanship.

Another one of the coincidences
which have followed Gordon
through his life occurred when he
retired.

“I took over from Jock Millar, at
Moor Park and when I retired from
Churston Jock’s son, Kelvin, took
over from me.

“The families have both been
close and I have to say Kelvin has
done a wonderful job since he took
over.

Since retiring Gordon has had
his fair share of health issues and
now boasts a new knee in one leg
and a new hip in the other while he
is a superb advert for a Plymouth-
based Scottish heart surgeon
from whom his quadruple by-pass
represented 286 successful
operations in a row.

“I was playing in the final of the
Devon Seniors at Totnes
recently when a friend came over
and said that a guy wanted to meet
me.

“Went over and he looked
familiar but I couldn’t place him.

“Then he said, ‘I’m the guy
who saved your life and I’ve been
hearing about your golf so I must
have done a good job!’

Marion had encouraged him to
take up golf again and Churston
initially gave him a handicap of 12.

It was cut in half by the end of
five years later, appropriately at
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Indeed, the quality of his
golf saw him play off +2 in his
prime and compete in two Open
Championships - the Centenary
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As he looks back on a life full of
enjoyment and achievement is it
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“My final golfing ambition was to
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Marion Child
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Tour venues at the time playing Rickmansworth Council. Municipal course on behalf of courts and the gardens, while golf courses as well as the tennis move.

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Moor Park had two stunning golf courses as well as the tennis courts and the gardens, while Gordon also managed the local municipal course on behalf of Rickmansworth Council.

It was interesting to play at all the premier Tour venues at the time playing host to a number of events including the Unioroyal, the Martini, the Bob Hope and the Tournament Players’ Championship.

One year we had two tournaments within the space of two months when the brand new Forest Hills wasn’t ready to take the TPC.

One of the highlights for Gordon was watching a young Seve Ballesteros win his first UK event, in a play-off with Nick Faldo.

I watched Seve play the greatest week. He was on a severe downspout with the hole cut just over a bunker on the 17th but he sized it up following week we all tried to play the shot and no-one could keep the ball on the green never mind anywhere close to the hole, recalled Gordon, who also remembered Greg Norman playing a ball from off the television gantry.

After six years, six tournaments and, at the age of 50, Gordon accepted the job which was to see him through to his retirement and provide him with home for the next 30 years of his life.

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When it became a reality in 1987 Gordon, ably assisted by wife, Marion, who has been a constant companion, became a volunteer Regional Administrator for the SW and South Wales and remain so until the role became a salaried position in 1997.

He is particularly proud of the Westurf Show, at Living Ashton Golf Club, which ran for 10 years and which ensured that the Region was financially secure for many years. Another success was the creation of the Cannington College golf course for which he was a key mover, along with Jim Arthur and, another close friend, golf course architect, Martin Hawtree.

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Marion had encouraged him to take up golf again and Churston initially gave him a handicap of 12.

It was cut in half by the end of the first season and he is currently standing at 4, with his 80th birthday in May.

“My final golfing ambition was to be playing to single figures when I hit 80 so I think I’m going to make it,” said the man who still plays three times a week, often 36 holes in a day, and only on a rare bad day does he fail to beat his age.

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As he prepares to enter his 80s Gordon will have another shot to play with so that achievement will go on for some time to come.

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Marion Child

Indeed, the quality of his golf saw him play off +2 in his prime and compete in two Open Championships - the Centenary Open at St Andrews in 1960 and five years later, appropriately at Royal Birkdale.

As he looks back on a life full of enjoyment and achievement is it any wonder that smile is never far away?

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Focus on Fusarium

the foremost disease of UK turf

Dr Terry Mabbett takes an in-depth look at the most prolific turf disease in the country.

At first sight turf appears to suffer from surprisingly severe foliar disease given the relatively small proportion of grass shoot and leaf displayed on frequently cut and well-managed swards.

However, with wider and deeper consideration it is easy to see why a perennial ecosystem perpetually wounded by mowing, stressed in summer from drought and heavy traffic then flushed with fertiliser under moist misty autumn conditions is susceptible to fungal infection and disease spread.

Fungal pathogens are present year round in thatch and spread by traffic and turf machinery to gain easy entry through cut leaf surfaces and develop more rapidly on physiologically weaker turf grass.

Sports turf in the United Kingdom suffers from around a dozen different foliar diseases but one stands head and shoulders above the rest in spread, severity, damage caused and cost of control. Surveys show how over 90% of all UK greenkeepers expect to deal with Fusarium patch disease in any one calendar year.

More than half of all professional football pitches are affected by Fusarium and one fifth of local authority pitches where disease monitoring is generally less.

As much as 80% of all fungicide applications to UK sports turf are targeted at Fusarium although other diseases are managed at the same time especially by broad-spectrum fungicides.

Fusarium is a fast moving disease and once established can only be eradicated by the use of fast acting curative fungicides. However, there is still a lot the greenkeeper and groundsman can do to minimise infection and reduce the rate spread and damage caused should Fusarium patch disease appear.

Success lies in deep knowledge of the pathogen and the disease and by establishing through the seasons and over the years those management practices which minimise infection and subsequent spread and development.
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Typical circular tan-coloured areas of Fusarium patch caused by Microdochium nivale (Picture courtesy Vitax)
with a pink tinge intensifying in sunlight.

Under the microscope M. nivale has septate (cross wall thick) hyphae (mycelium) and produces pink or white sporodochia (fruited bodies) with spores, particularly in cool weather conditions.

The tiny annual spores (conidia) are lime-green (new moon shaped) with cross walls and width x length dimensions of 2.5-5.0 x 1.0-3.0 microns (μm), 1 micron (μm) is one thousandth of a millimetre.

Survival in thatch and subsequent spread

Microdochium nivale has no trouble in surviving unfavourable conditions, including hot dry summers, because it ‘rests up’ on grass debris through the winter.

When conditions become favourable the pathogen infects the leaves of living grass plants through fungal hyphae growing up from the thatch or via germinating conidia.

The disease may grow and spread slowly at first with some weeks passing before detection, but under wet and overcast conditions and within a wide range of temperatures (freezing point to 60 °F [16 °C]) will start to spread rapidly.

Huge numbers of conidia produced at this time are readily and rapidly spread along and around the green on wheels equipment (mowers, spreaders and sprayers) on boots and the feet of animals. The pathogen grows down and becomes inactive during periods of warm sunny weather which cause the grass lawns to dry out.

Slow growing turf with deep thatch provides the ideal substrate for M. nivale. Such situations exist during cool wet conditions (32 to 46 °F [0 – 8°C]) and when turf grass is covered with snow.

Specific conditions that encourage spread of the fungus include: drizzle, fog, frost occurring night after night and alternating thawing and snow cover.

Poor drainage favours Fusarium Patch as does long uncut grass leaves becoming matted down to create a humid microclimaste within the canopy.

Which turf grass?

Most cool climate turf grass species are susceptible to Fusarium Patch disease although there are some marked differences which can be exploited.

Annual meadow grass (Poa annua) is particularly susceptible to Fusarium especially in the autumn when cool and moist environmental conditions bearing down on summer-stressed turf are ideal for disease development. Poa annua is not a resilient grass, being highly susceptible to heat stress and drought stress and prone to cold injury, all of which clearly contribute to high disease susceptibility through autumn and into winter.

Agrostis species including Agrostis stolonifera (knee-keeping bentgrass) are very susceptible to Fusarium Patch. Brown want bent (Agrostis capillaris ‘Highland’) is more prone than cultivars of Agrostis capillaris. Lolium perenne (perennial ryegrass). Poa species (smooth-stalked meadow grass) and Festuca species are somewhat less susceptible.

They have a low to mediumathing tendency compared with Poa annua and Agrostis species which is medium to high.

There appears to be positive correlation between high thatching tendency and frequency of bilar disease including Fusarium Patch. High nitrogen availability which generates soft succulent growth increases turf susceptibility to Fusarium Patch, while high available soil potassium has the reverse effect.

Factors pre-disposing to Fusarium Patch

Pre-disposing factors related to climate, weather, soil conditions and management practice provide ideal conditions for infection by M. nivale and its subsequent development and spread. They include:

• Humid atmosphere, shade and surface wetness especially when accompanied by cool temperature conditions
• Inadequate circulation of air above the grass award
• Rapid, forced, soft and succulent growth especially in autumn from late application of fertiliser especially nitrogen
• Soil pH in the neutral to alkaline range (pH 7+) and inappropriate use of lime that raises pH to alkaline levels
• Overseeding of grass especially if poorly balanced
• Damaged turf grass due to high

Microdochium nivale

Fusarium patch is caused by a fungus now called Microdochium nivale after mycologists changed the name from Fusarium nivale some years ago. The disease is additionally called pink snow mould because symptoms may appear as a distinct pink colouration of turf in cold temperate climates during the calendar year being capable of growing at temperatures as low as 21 °F (-6 °C) and up to about 86 °F (30 °C).

Thirdly the fungus is not too fussy about the type of turf grass it infects and is found infesting all mainstream turf grasses including Agrostis, Festuca, Poa and Lolium species. Equally important is pathogen preference for fertile soil, especially where excess nitrogen has been applied in autumn during inappropriate attempts to boost grass growth and green up turf after summer drought and heavy wear and tear.

The fungus grows over a wide range of temperature but other conditions are required before it can move into top parasitic growth. Prolonged periods of high humidity and surface wetness coinciding with cool temperatures make Fusarium a high risk disease for spring as well as autumn, especially after over-done nitrogen fertiliser application.

Symptoms of Fusarium patch

General descriptions of plant disease are largely subjective and in the eye of the beholder and that documented for Fusarium Patch is no exception.

General consensus has Fusarium nivale growing as circular patches on the turf, first appearing as water-soaked spots less than two inches (5 cm) in width, then quickly changing its colour from orange brown to dark reddish brown and eventually to tan or straw colouration.

If the disease goes unchecked small sized reddish brown spots may start to appear as water-soaked spots on above the grass sward especially when turf grass is covered with snow.

Specific conditions that encourage spread of the fungus include sprinkling, fog, frost occurring night after night and alternating thawing and snow cover.

Poor drainage favours Fusarium Patch as does long uncut grass leaves becoming matted down to create a humid microclimate within the canopy.
**Microdochium nivale**

Fusarium patch is caused by a fungus now called Microdochium nivale after mycologists changed the name from Fusarium nivale some years ago. The disease is additionally called pink snow mould because symptoms may appear as a distinct pink colouration after periods of prolonged snow cover. There was talk of changing the common name to Microdochium Patch (as in North America) but everyone in the UK knows the disease as Fusarium Patch and that is the way it should stay.

Pink snow mould is still appropriate because it reminds Managers in areas with regular snow cover that turf is particularly susceptible to M. nivale at this time. Closely related areas with regular snow cover that often make the grass soggy can experience Fusarium nivale after mycologists changed its name to Microdochium nivale.

**FEBRUARY 2011**

- **Microdochium nivale** has septate (cross walled) hyphae (feeding on dead decaying organic matter) or weakly parasitic mode.
- The pathogen is active over the wide range of temperature typically found in cool temperate climates during the calendar year being capable of growing at temperatures as low as -21°F (-6°C) and up to about 86°F (30°C).
- Thirdly the fungus is not too fussy about the type of turf grass attacked and is found infecting all main stream turf grasses including Agrostis, Festuca, Poa and Lolium species. Equally important is the fungus' preference for fertile soil, especially where excess nitrogen has been applied in autumn during inappropriate attempts to boost grass growth and green up turf after summer drought and heavy wear and tear.
- The fungus grows over a wide range of temperature but other conditions are required before it can move into top parasitic gear. Prolonged periods of high humidity and surface wetness coinciding with cool temperatures make Fusarium a high risk disease for spring as well as autumn, especially after over-done nitrogen fertiliser application.

**Symptoms of Fusarium patch**

**General descriptions of plant disease are largely subjective and in the eye of the beholder and that documented for Fusarium Patch is no exception.**

- General consensus has Fusarium typical as circular patches on the turf, first appearing as water-soaked spots less than two inches (5 cm) in width, then quickly changing its colour from orange brown to dark reddish brown and eventually to tan or straw colouration.
- If the disease goes unchecked small sized reddish brown spots may start to appear as water-soaked spots less than two inches (5 cm) in width, then quickly changing its colour from orange brown to dark reddish brown and eventually to tan or straw colouration.
- The disease may grow and spread slowly at first with some weeks passing before detection, but under wet and overcast conditions and within a wide range of temperature (freezing point to 60°F [16°C]) will start to spread rapidly.
- Large numbers of conidia produced at this time are readily and rapidly spread all around and along the green on wheeled equipment (mowers, spreaders and sprayers) on boots and the feet of animals.

**Survival in thatch and subsequent spread**

- Microdochium nivale has no trouble in surviving unfavourable conditions, including hot dry summers, because it ‘rests up’ on grass debris and leaf blades.
- When conditions become favourable the pathogen infects the leaves of living grass plants through fungal hyphal growth up from the thatch or via germinating conidia.
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- The pathogen shows down and becomes inactive during periods of warm sunny weather which cause the grass canopy to dry out.

**Factors pre-disposing to Fusarium Patch**

- If the disease goes unchecked, being highly susceptible to heat stress and drought stress and prone to cold injury, all of which clearly contribute to high disease susceptibility through autumn and into winter.
- Agrostis species including Agrostis stolonifera (creeping bentgrass) are especially susceptible to Fusarium Patch. Brown bent (Agrostis stolonifera ‘Highland’) is more prone than cultivars of Agrostis capillaris. Lolium perenne (perennial ryegrass), Poa annua (smooth stalked meadow grass) and Festuca species are somewhat less susceptible.
- They have a low to medium thatching tendency compared with Poa annua and Agrostis species which is medium to high.
- They express to be positive correlation between high thatching tendency and frequency of bilar disease including Fusarium Patch. High nitrogen availability which generates soft succulent growth increases turf susceptibility to Fusarium Patch, while high available soil potassium has the reverse effect.
- Poor drainage favours Fusarium patch as does long uncut grass leaves becoming matted down to create a humid microclimate within the canopy.

**Which turf grass?**

- Most cool climate turf grass species are susceptible to Fusarium Patch disease although there are some marked differences which can be exploited.
- Annual meadow grass (Poa annua) is particularly susceptible to Fusarium especially in the autumn when cool and moist environmental conditions bearing down on summer-stressed turf are ideal for disease development.
- Poa annua is not a resilient grass, being highly susceptible to heat stress and drought stress and prone to cold injury, all of which clearly contribute to high disease susceptibility through autumn and into winter.

**Pre-disposing factors related to climate, soil conditions and management practice provide ideal conditions for infection by M. nivale and its subsequent development and spread. They include:**

- **Humid atmosphere, shade and surface wetness especially when accompanied by cool temperature conditions.**
- **Inadequate circulation of air above the grass sward.**
- **Rapid, forced, soft and succulent growth especially in autumn from late application of fertilizer especially nitrogen.**
- **Silt pH in the neutral to alkaline range (pH 7+) and inappropriate use of lime that raises pH to alkaline levels.**
- **Overabundance use of fertilizer especially if poorly balanced.**
- **Damaged turf grass due to high wear and tear.**
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• West Country Steel Buildings is an authorised distributor of Capital Steel Buildings, the leading producer of cold rolled steel buildings in the UK and Ireland. Working together we give fantastic service and clever design.

• This allows West Country Steel Buildings to provide you, the customer with the very best, cost effective buildings designed specifically to suit your needs.

• Our success is based upon several factors. Firstly we have built up over the last 40 years a fantastic reputation around the UK for wear or irregular cutting which may cause ‘shaving’, too low cuts resulting in ‘scalloping’ and insufficiently sharp blades that tear rather than cut and therefore cause leaves to have cut jagged edges which are more prone to infection.

Best practice

Many good management practices minimise opportunities for M. nivale to infect grass plants and spread and spread across the turf. Examples of good practice are:

• Remove early morning dew and other surface water by sweeping or swishing and improve air circulation above the sward by good pruning and management of adjacent hedges and overhanging trees. Maintain good air circulation within the turf and ground by regular aeration. Minimise shade but where shade is unavoidable adjust (reduce) fertiliser levels accordingly.

• Maintain thatch at optimum height and density for the particular sports surface situation. Box off and remove grass clippings and do not smother turf when applying top dressing by making sure it is well worked into the turf.

• Establish a regular programme of mowing with correctly set and adjusted blades for height of cut and self-sharpening.

• Appraise seed mixtures and turf composition for maximum resistance to Fusarium Patch disease and minimise annual meadow grass content.

• Maintain surface acidity using applications of sulphate of iron to toughen and green up grass for autumn and winter and to additionally deter casting earthworms and control moss.

• Take care to balance soil fertility and increase the proportion of potassium relative to nitrogen when going into high risk autumn weather.

• Apply nitrogen early enough in the late summer / early autumn period so that grass can harden off sufficiently before winter.

• Do not allow grass to go into winter too high and ensure drainage or swishing and improve air circulation above the sward by good pruning and management of adjacent hedges and overhanging trees. Maintain good air circulation within the turf and ground by regular aeration. Minimise shade but where shade is unavoidable adjust (reduce) fertiliser levels accordingly.

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• Do not allow grass to go into winter too high and ensure drainage is adequate.

Fall back on fungicides

The foregoing management practices may not completely avoid Fusarium patch but will decrease incidence and severity should it appear.

Fungicides are required to completely eradicate Fusarium patch but adherence to best management practice should reduce the required frequency and intensity of use.

There is a bewildering range of fungicides for Fusarium control carrying increasingly sophisticated claims by manufacturers on activity and action. However, there are several salient points greenkeepers can use as markers to assess whether a fungicide product will deliver.

Fungicides are essentially protectant or curative in action. Protectant fungicides remain on the leaf surface and protect the grass plant against infection and as such deposits must be on the leaf surface before infection is attempted by the pathogen.

Curative fungicides can move into the grass plant to eradicate established infections. Fungicides may enter the plant through the leaves, the roots or both, and move around the entire plant in which case they are said to be truly systemic.

Some which do not move out of the leaf they pass into are termed trans-laminar. Curative fungicides may also deliver significant protection depending on how long they remain on the leaf surface before moving into the plant.

Protectant fungicides and systemic fungicides that only enter through the leaves are essentially lost once they drip off (or are washed off) the leaves and into the soil. Those which can additionally enter via the roots may be taken up and used to good effect.

There may be a grey area for some essentially protectant fungicides that migrate a short distance into the leaf and therefore provide some marginal curative action.

Products which contain two or more different active fungicides may deliver protectant and curative action depending on the nature of the individual active fungicides they contain.

Greenkeepers (and groundsmen) are in a unique situation with regard to fungicide application and foliar disease control.

Every time turf is mowed grass plants are ‘wounded’ thus facilitating easy pathogen entry through the cut surfaces of leaves. At the same time mowing is removing any fungicide that is on or inside the excised portion of leaf.

Microdochium nivale is ever present on the thatch component of turf, ready and waiting for the right physical conditions (temperature, humidity, leaf wetness) and biological conditions (inherently susceptible and physiologically stressed turf grass plants) to move into full parasitic disease mode.
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EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

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• From advice on location, design and planning permission through to informing you of delivery dates and when the assembly team will be at your site to erect the building. At West Country Steel Buildings we value you, the customer and enjoy giving a fantastic service from the very start of your project to handing over the keys once everything has been completed.

WEIGHT COUNTRY STEEL BUILDINGS

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website: www.westcountrybuildings.com

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Hitting the ground running

Scott MacCallum find out what makes BIGGA’s new Chairman, Andrew Mellon, tick

Some people like to ease themselves into new situations while others are great at hitting the ground running. It is perhaps fortunate that Andrew Mellon, BIGGA’s 2011 Chairman, is of the latter persuasion.

Throughout his career Andy has shown himself to be someone who doesn’t shrink a challenge and, with much to do in the first few weeks of his Chairmanship, easing himself in was never going to be an option.

“We are entering a period of change as John Pemberton, our long-standing CEO, is retiring and it is crucial that we recruit the right person to take the Association forward and continue to manage our resources as effectively as possible,” said Andy, as we chatted in his office in the grounds of Elmwood College Golf Course.

“We have appointed a company to carry out the recruitment process and getting the right person is top of the agenda. We could be looking at having someone in place as early as April, depending upon the notice period the successful person has to give, but we will take the time to ensure we get the best person” he revealed.

A relative late-comer to the profession, 43 year-old Andy has made up for any lost time with a commitment to hard work and a will to learn which has seen him recently promoted to Golf Operations Manager at Elmwood Golf Course and rise through the ranks of BIGGA with indescribable haste.

“It has been a rapid learning process while Vice Chairman because I hadn’t been involved in the main Board prior to that, so it has been a year of learning how the Association operates – what goes on at BIGGA HOUSE and how it interacts with the members through the Regions and Sections etc”

What he has always known, however, and it is a view which has hardened over the last 12 months, is just what a superb organisation it is that he’ll be chairing.

“I do believe that BIGGA is a very strong, established Association and that its great strength is its membership. We are only as strong as our membership and the Association could not have been successful in getting to where it is today without that commitment from its members,” he said.

Andy is well aware of the issues facing the Association, and the industry as a whole, as we look to the future.

“We are in a more financially challenging situation than we have ever been and, of course, we are not alone in that. It means that we must ensure that we make the most effective use of our resources and, more than that, increase collaboration with like minded bodies, which can add benefit to our members.”

Andy was born in Glasgow but spent the first six years of his life in Kenya, the family having moved to Africa through his father’s work.

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“I was in the car on the way back...
from the airport and I’d never seen weather like it. It was terrible and I can still remember wiping the steamed up windows, probably wondering why we had left Africa” said Andy, who lived initially with his grandmother and aunt in Twechar, a small mining village near Kilsyth.

It was then that he displayed a rare ability to fit into his new surroundings. “Living in Kenya I’d picked up quite a posh accent but within two weeks I was speaking like a true Glaswegian. My parents said they had never heard anyone change so quickly – kids have a strong ability to adapt”

On leaving school Andy went to Strathclyde University to study Civil Engineering, but his desire to earn a living was never far away and he took a job in the summer holidays selling photocopiers and also joined the University’s Officer Training Corp. This saw him out on exercises most weekends.

“I enjoyed the challenging outdoor, military lifestyle, so much so that I joined Glasgow’s Royal Marines Reserve Corp, and was seriously considering a full time military career.”

After having studied for two years Andy decided to take a year out and worked on a self-employed basis for an insurance brokerage. He was still serving in the Reserve Corp, but having met his future wife, Jane, the prospect of a full time military career and being away from home for long periods became less attractive and the demands of self employed Insurance Sales required his full time commitment. Having progressed to the position of Train- ing Manager he explored setting up his own company.

“I was actually in the process of setting up my own brokerage when Standard Life offered me a job and I worked for them in Glasgow for two years,” said Andy.

“I took full advantage of the superb Standard Life’s Customer service and Sales training pro- gramme which has served me well ever since”

“It was a fairly intense job and the money was good but there was something missing”.

The opportunity to make a change came when his wife was offered a job in the Western Isles.

“Jane had worked in the area before and had a lot of friends up there so I said let’s just go. I decided that I would go to college and study Business Admin and just see what happened.”

As it turned out, one of his lecturers also ran a local insurance brokerage and offered Andy a job so he found himself working in the same industry as the one he’d left behind in Glasgow.

“We settled in Stornoway for seven years and two of our children were born there. We had a fantastic house, looking out over a bay, and a great lifestyle, although it was diffi- cult being so far away from family.”

Over the years Andy turned his hand to several jobs, seeking some- thing which he would feel happy in. He played golf regularly and a chance encounter with the Greens Convenor made him aware of a vacancy as a six month labourer.

“I filled out an application form and one interview later I had my job. I can still remember my first day walking around the course with Alistair MacLeod, the then Greenkeeper. The sun was coming up and I thought – I’m getting paid to do this. This is the life and what I want to do”

The job was only meant to be temporary but Andy threw himself into it making himself as indis- pensable as possible. He serviced machines, saving the club money, and never missed an opportunity to learn more about his new vocation, using holidays to visit other clubs on the mainland and learn more about the job.

“Working in a small dedicated team, I learnt a lot from Alistair, and my desire to progress grew. The opportunity to provide the design and planning, all of the work was done in-house, was an opportunity to build on the great work done by John to make the Section one of the most proactive and success- ful in the Association, focussed on providing education and networking opportunities for the members.”

Having completed the majority of the Elmwood project the call from Paul Worster asking him to consider Vice Chairman came at a time when his work commitments had reduced a little and he could see that he could devote the time required to take on a greater role within BIGGA.

“Having ensured he had the support of his employers and more importantly his family he accepted the position.

“We are often asked ‘Why should people join BIGGA?’ I think we need to make the Association something for the club members, the question should be, ‘Why would you not join?’”

“The answer to that is one which already exists in my head but we need to get that across to all green- keepers out there as well as Club Managers, Secretaries and the owners of golf facilities.

“They need to be made more aware of how their club would benefit from their staff being members of the Association, which supports their staff and makes them the best they can be at their job,” he said.

“I honestly believe that being a member of BIGGA is worth its weight in gold because of the resources that are available to them. But I think we can improve in a lot of areas.”

“I’d like to see Sections and Regions having more support and sharing good practice while we need to continue to develop our alli- ances with other bodies within the industry so we can work together for the mutual benefit of the clubs and businesses we work for.”

“One thing I have learned in the time I have been involved is the growing respect there is among other industry professionals for the position of the greenkeeper.

“ ‘I recognize that we have a very important part to play, as part of the team which supports this great industry.’
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“I decided to study distance learning but soon realised I would have to move to to fulfil my career ambitions.”

“I decided to take on a full time HNC course in Greenkeeping which I felt was a real success as initially I’d be leaving my wife and children in Stornoway. I did so with a view to eventually getting a job in Fife. I remember that there were 50 courses in Fife and that if I couldn’t get a job after doing my HNC there would be something wrong!”

He was right, but that job came quicker than he could ever have imagined.

“Within a year he’d been appointed as Head Greenkeeper and another year on, when John left to set up his own business, he was appointed Course Manager.”

“I like to think that I was working hard and applying myself but opportunities came along at the right time and I was able to take advantage of them. Elmwood College was a very supportive employer, allowing me to fulfil my desire for further education.” Carol Borthwick, my Director, encouraged me to develop my knowledge and skills, for which I’m grateful, and took full advantage.”

Before long the Course was to undergo a massive project recon- structing eight of its holes, building a superb new driving range and training academy and a state-of-the-art maintenance facility.

“Tremendously applying for planning permission and being prepared to get it but when it came through, all of a sudden, thinking ‘Oh dear. How are we going to do this?’”

It was a fair question because, set up with a small budget Andy had Blyth Stuart International to provide the design and planning. All of the work was done in house and, after the first year, the work was being carried out, hundreds of students, at various stages of their education, worked with Andy operating as Project Manager.

“I learned a great deal from Howard and his team, and was fortunate that there was a lot of construction taking place at Kingsbarns, Fairmont and St Andrews. I was really in asking for advice for freedom and was more than happy to

Despite this he found time to join the Central Section committee and before long had become Secretary/Treasurer, succeeding another former BIGGA Chairman, John Crawford.

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“They need to be made more aware how their club would benefit from their staff being members of the Association, which supports their staff and makes them the best they can be at their job,” he said.

“I honestly believe that being a member of BIGGA is worth its weight in gold because of the resources that are available to them. But I think we can improve in a lot of areas.”

“I’d like to see Sections and Regions having more support and sharing good practice: while we need to continue to develop our alliances with other bodies within the industry so we can work together for the mutual benefit of the clubs and businesses we work for.”

“One thing I have learned in the time I have involved in the growing respect there is among other industry professionals for the position of the greenkeeper.

“Therefore I recognize that we have a very important part to play, as part of the team which supports this great Industry.”
Defying the odds, more people visited Harrogate Week 2011 than did in 2010, which is a huge tribute to the work that goes into ensuring that the week delivers what the customer wants and the attraction that the town of Harrogate holds for visitors. With 6018 coming through the doors over the three days of the Show it represented a 2.3% increase on the year before while the number who took part in a Continue to Learn Workshop or Seminar exceeded 2000 for the very first time.
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The ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

Jim Cook spent three days exploring Harrogate Week and found it to be time extremely well spent.

After a few days spent in the old spa town of Harrogate at this certain time of year, it is difficult not to feel that you have been part of something a bit special.

An exhibitor at the show told me his company return annually because it is the biggest ‘shop window’ in the industry, in Europe. This statement is certainly true, the opportunity for sales and promotion is huge, but it is also a fact that the week offers an experience outside of the capacious halls that is simply unrivalled throughout the continent. Workshops and seminars with some of the biggest names in the business run throughout the week and newly-qualified greenkeepers have the chance to plot their way to becoming a Course Manager with the guidance of the Personal Development Zone. From welcoming old pubs tucked away below street level to the multitude of restaurants, coffee shops and modern, vibrant bars, all within a short stroll of each other, the networking opportunity that Harrogate town itself provides is truly tantalising.

It was with all this and the upcoming ‘Harrogate buzz’ in mind that I arrived at the exhibition entrance at 9am on Tuesday, January 18.

If the eager throng of visitors that bustled outside Hall A was anything to go by, then this year’s Harrogate Week looked likely to be a resounding success.

BIGGA Chairman, Paul Worster, cut the green ribbon to start BTME and Clubhouse 2011. Previous to this, the Continue to Learn Education Programme, had begun on Sunday, with record numbers in attendance.

As the halls steadily began to fill, it was down to the Media Centre for the opening press conference with Top Green and Rigby Taylor who were launching their Euroflor flower seed mixes.

Brian Robinson, Seed Research Director, at Rigby Taylor, emphasised the biodiversity the flowers should encourage, due to long flowering periods from spring to autumn and this was the first of many positive environmental sentiments to be broadcast over the week.
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The announcement of Dennis acquiring SISIS was made by Managing Director of Dennis, Ian Howard. He emphasised how the two companies were metaphorical headlight, side by side, whilst parent company Howardson Ltd was the battery driving them.

Although I did not have the opportunity to see many of the seminars and workshops, I managed to catch the presentation given by Course Manager of the Old Course, St. Andrews, Gordon McKee and Gordon McIvor, Director of Greenkeeping at St. Andrew's, entitled ‘Preparing the Old Course for the 2010 Open Championship’.

This proved immensely interesting as they spoke about many things including how daily maintenance of the course continued around contractors setting up grandstands, and removing sprinklers in preparation for The Open. They talked about increasing Fescue with overseeding, top dressing little

The BIGGA social night went down extremely well, literally, as this year’s entertainment was a beer festival held at the Old Swan Hotel. The night was a definite success with attendees enjoying a buffet, live band and a wide selection of real ales.

It was with thick heads that many of us approached Wednesday morning’s calendar of events.

In the Queen’s Suite above Hall C, Chris Kennedy, Director and Course Manager of Wentworth GC, gave an overview of major refurbishments of the West Course.

His working relationship with Ernie Els proved a source of amusement and interest to the massed onlookers.

Els had said that the point of making changes was not to alter the character of the course, that would have been a crime, but to bring it up to specifications needed to host the largest competitions. His working relationship with Chris mentioned turf from their old greens, sold for charity, raised £27,000.

The vast amount of manpower and materials involved in the refurbishments was apparent from Chris’s presentation and he was keen to recognise the rest of the team responsible saying: “Everyone who has been involved over the years has contributed.”

Back to the press conferences where Vitax Amenity launched their new fertiliser, Enhance R Prime, where Vitax Amenity launched their new fertiliser, Enhance R Prime, from 2005 has done a fantastic job because they are keen to recognise the rest of the team responsible saying: “Everyone who has been involved over the years has contributed.”

Gordon Child received the prestigious BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Jack McMillan MBE.

Gordon started out at Dore and Totley and Royal Birkdale and went on to become Course Manager at such courses as St George’s Hill and Moor Park, where he prepared the course for some top European Tour events.

He became Course Manager, at Churston Golf Club, in Devon, where he stayed until retirement.

Gordon also played in the Open Championship at St Andrews in 1969 and Royal Birkdale in 1965. Out on the course, he still regularly beats his age.

Gordon Child’s 2005 Unsung Heroes were recognised at the Show. Joint Sponsors, the EGU sponsor the Unsung Hero award for a Greenkeeper and presented a cheque along with Terrain Amenity to Iestyn Carpenter, of Corhampton Golf Club.

Stevens Kennedy, of Sandgate Boys Football Club, won the Groundsman Award.

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Regional awards were given to Jonathan Smith, the GEO certificate from Aberdovey GC, Meurig Lumley, of Aberdovey GC; Carpenter; Salcman; Winner, Lestin Past Chairman, Paul Worster, AUCHENI, Greenkeeper, Archie Dunn Dunes GC Course Manager, the GEO certificate from Jonathan Smith.

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Gordon Child received the prestigious BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Jack McMillan MBE. Gordon started out at Dore and Marley GC, becoming the 52nd person to achieve this status. Stuart Yarwood, of Lynn GC, and Alan Pierce, of Harrogate GC, on the Kintyre Peninsula, Scotland, and Auchterarder GC, in Perthshire, Scotland, and said he looked forward to many more BIGGA members receiving this award next year.

Master Greenkeeper awards followed with Greg Evans, of Ealing GC, becoming the 52nd person to achieve this status. Stuart Yarwood, of Lynn GC, and Alan Pierce, of Harrow GC, also received the accolade alongside Alan Hess, of Augusta Pines GC, in Texas, USA. Alan thanked Sami and Rachael for their support and made a moving speech thanking his father for encouraging him to become a Superintendent.

Groundsman Award winner was Colin Webster, of Portmore Golf Club, who was commended as being a fantastic exemplar of the greenkeeping industry. He thanked his family and colleagues and accepted the award on behalf of all the team. James Hutchinson, of Fairhaven GC, was the winner of the individual award.

Ben Warren, Director of Communications at the Golf Environment Organisation, presented GEO certification to MacRhyndish Duness GC, on the Kintyre Peninsula, Scotland, and Auchterarder GC, in Perthshire, Scotland, and said he looked forward to many more BIGGA members receiving this award next year.

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The Ultimate Turf Management Exhibition in Europe

HARROGATE WEEK 2011
The introduction of an Envirozone was new to this year’s exhibition and with environmentalism becoming such an importance for golf courses, it was encouraging to see the area lively with activity over the three days.

Stands from British Climate Services, Golf Environment Organisation, Envirosports Ltd, Solarwall Ltd, Vermigrand and British Wild Flower Plants sent out a clear message that the industry is working hard to dispel myths about golf courses not being environmentally friendly or offering bio diversity and sustainability.

In relation to this, BTME 2011 saw Syngenta launch Operation Pollinator, which is a project designed to create new habitats in out of play areas of golf courses, for bumblebees and pollinating insects.

It is well documented that bumblebee numbers have declined by 70% over the past 40 years and Syngenta’s press conference on Wednesday afternoon made the very agreeable statement that the plight of the bumblebee should be reversed.

For the incentive, golf courses are being sought to join a national scheme in which they commit to establishing at least half a hectare of Operation Pollinator seed mix, which is designed to encourage bumblebees and pollinating insects by being rich in pollen and nectar food sources. Simon Elsworth, Turf and Landscape Manager at Syngenta, said that with the correct management, golf courses could provide the perfect habitat for bumblebees and other pollinating insects.

Late on Wednesday afternoon, BIGGA and the Golf Environment Organisation announced the establishment of a partnership between the two bodies. It will see them collaborating in promoting sustainability in golf facility management.

The partnership aims to make sustainability easier for greenkeepers and course managers to understand, and provide support for their improvement efforts.

Incoming Chairman at BIGGA, Andrew Mellon said the whole industry needs to pull together and collaboration with like minded bodies brings more strength to golf’s efforts.

The attendance figure of 6019 for the week is higher than in 2010 and shows that despite budget pressures, people are willing to make the effort for something which is worthwhile. The Continue to Learn Education Programme in the Queen’s Suite provided a catalogue of informative, educational seminars and workshops throughout the entire week, while the exhibition halls bustled throughout.

With the success of this year’s show still ringing in their ears, the BIGGA team has already begun preparing for Harrogate Week 2012, which will undoubtedly prove once again to be the ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe.
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Syngenta’s stand included a platoon of live bees which caught the attention of one young visitor

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On Thursday morning it was great to catch up with a new exhibitor at the show to get his view on the week. Richard Allen, Co-Director of Envirosports Ltd, was showcasing its riveted bunker system in the Envirozone and said: “Envirosports is a very new company and it’s our first time to Harrogate. We’ve really enjoyed the show, we’ve met a lot of people, especially in our target client list of golf courses and really enjoyed the whole experience of exchanging ideas with other people who have the same passion towards golf that we’ve got.”

After 4pm when the doors closed to visitors, the cleanup began and it was time for assessments of a hectic few days.

Any fears of inclement weather, such as the recent early December freeze, affecting Harrogate Week were quickly appeased as it became apparent we were in for cold but rain and snow free skies for the duration. This, combined with the unquestionable lure of so many industry names under one roof, led the exhibition halls to be crowded with enthusiastic visitors.

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The latest products on show at Harrogate Week 2011

**BLINDER BUNKER LINING SYSTEM LAUNCHED AT BTME**

Blinder Bunker Liner Ltd launched a new patented bunker lining system, Blinder, at BTME.

The new system is environmentally sound and uses rubber crumb made from recycled tyres mixed with a binding agent to produce a bunker lining that provides a solution to many of the problems associated with maintaining bunkers.

Blinder was developed by Course Manager, Murray Long, who was looking for a viable option to reduce bunker maintenance hours.

Rubber crumb is mixed with a binding agent and then spread onto a sub-base at a depth of 25mm. It is then smoothed by hand to provide the perfect base for the bunker sand. It can then be sprayed to match the colour of the sand, if required.

The liner is resistant to club strikes and burrowing animals and drains at a rate up to 2,400 ml per hour. It also minimises contamination to the sand, which can create substantial savings in sand replacement and reduces the possibility of stones on the fine turf areas surrounding the bunkers. It also offers protection to the drainage system, extending the timeframe for drainage replacement programmes.

The new system can be easily installed when renovating existing bunkers or constructing new bunkers.

Technical Director, Murray Long, added: “Blinder is suited to all types of bunkers and can be extremely useful in areas of heavy wear such as practice bunkers. It is also very effective in clay and flint soils, especially stopping contamination of stones and other particles into the sand. Bunker maintenance is an issue I’ve been battling with for many years, and I’m confident that I’ve found a solution, not only for me, but also for my peers.”

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**NEW SCOTTS LAUNCH**

Greensmaster Topdress Z is a fine particle-staged topdressing based on Scotts’ Pro-Lite azomite technology. This gives a particle count of 1,100-2,000 granules per gram. It has an open caged structure with a very high nutrient holding capacity, making it ideal for use as an amendment to new rootzones or in topdressing. The high Cation Exchange Capacity of Topdress Z helps turf managers with their nutrient management by enabling the soil to hold onto more nutrients.

Stuart Staples, International Technical Manager, said that turf managers can save time and money while improving the health of their turf by using controlled-release fertilisers.

“Controlled-release fertilisers deliver their nutrients over a specified period in a consistent and reliable way. In losses are minimised and nutrient use efficiency is greatly improved. While the price per kilogram is greater than conventional fertilisers, the long-lasting effects of the product, reduced nutrient losses and the saving in labour costs compared to repeated applications of a conventional fertiliser, means that multiple savings can be made over the course of a season.”

In addition, providing a steady supply of nutrients rather than a “burst of leisure” approach has been proven to improve turf health and resilience,” he added.

www.scottsprofessional.co.uk

**NEW BLEC MULTIVATOR**

A unique chassis design with quick hook-up rear attachment system turns the Multivator into a multi-use machine carrying out a wide range of tasks achieved with only one drive unit. Decompressing, soil recycling and top dressing all in one pass, the Multivator has quick hook-on rear attachments, easy change blade and the heavy duty units also feature a heavy duty 7.75m drive with forward and reverse rotation.

There are five models available in different widths – three for mid-range tractors and two for heavy duty models for high HP tractors. All units are equipped with overload cam clutch and the heavy duty models also feature a high life side gear drive with forward and reverse rotation. The heavy duty units also feature a heavy duty gearbox with four shafts to give two-speed drive and reverse rotation – mounted on a swivel base for easy drive change. On the heavy duty models a PTO shaft drive is fitted for rear attachments and an extreme duty overload clutch (pre-set).

www.blec.co.uk

**PRO-PRUNER**

The PRO-Pruner range developed in New Zealand by Lakeswood Products, offers simple, robust, well-engineered pruning tools capable of pruning branches up to 60mm in diameter. The advanced design features of the PRO-Pruner include:

- A unique curved blade: the shape of the curved blade pulls the pruner into the branch and holds it tightly, helping to avoid collar damage, blade crossover and slip. The blades hold bigger branches and easier scarifying are major benefits.
- PRO-Lock threading: threaded handles, fitted with specially designed PRO-Lock bolts, has eliminated nut and bolt failure. The easy adjust PRO-Lock bolts prevent lifting when the lock-nut is tightened. This system reduces the number of working parts ensuring the pruners perform better.
- Strength and durability: reducing the bolt holes in the handles to 7mm and relocating the thread to the high strength steel arms further strengthens the handles.
- Operator comfort: ergonomically designed grips and the offset both in the handle to head have helped in reducing shock to the operator’s arms and elbows.
- Lakeswood Products has now made the PRO-Pruner available in the UK through Baxter Baye Limited.

www.propruner.co.uk

**EUROFLOR INTRODUCED BY RIGBY TAYLOR**

Following extensive trials at golf clubs in the UK, Rigby Taylor, in partnership with seed breeder Top Green, launched EUROFLOR urban flower seed mixtures at BTME. Brightening up the golf course, natural floral cultivars are mixed with wild flower species to provide horticultural excellence.

These mixes help to provide areas which will give back to nature what has often been taken away by the destruction of natural habitats. Attracting wildlife throughout their long-flowering period from late spring well into the autumn they offer animals and insects cover and an extended food source.

Through trials and tests at 18 UK sites, Euroflor has been found to be highly successful on varying ‘normal’ soil types including loam, sand, clay, stoney and slightly acidic to alkaline soils with a pH of 6 to 8. These colourful mixtures have also performed well on steep slopes but here the sowing rate needs to be increased to 5g per square metre to allow for run-off.

Virtually no maintenance is required on the 14 hand-selected mixtures being introduced which can include mixtures which replicate a club’s corporate image.

www.rigbytaylor.com

**MORE NEW PRODUCTS NEXT MONTH...**

Blinder Bunker Liner Ltd

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Breaker Bio-Links

It’s Evolution .......... not revolution!

The 'Breaker' family of turf water management products continues to evolve!

Confirmed in independent trials, Breaker BioLinks is the proven solution specially developed to solve Dry Patch and water related problems on all turf surfaces. Particularly effective on Links golf courses and other sand based rootzones.

Integrated source of plant growth hormones provides natural moisture retention and stimulates root recovery.

- Prevents and cures Dry Patch
- Stimulates root regeneration
- Balances soil moisture content
- Improves turf health and colour

Preventative & Curative effectiveness confirmed independently by STRI

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As a golf course GIS analyst my mission is to inform and educate golf club personnel the latest technology available as freeware. Most of us now are computer literate to some degree and also we are all aware of downloadable content from the internet.

There are many downloadable programmes available for the public and there are specific ones that could directly benefit golf clubs and I would like to show you how free downloadable GIS technology can be harnessed and applied to your working lives at the golf club and your careers. Indeed many golf club personnel are simply unaware of GIS and the immediate benefit it can bring!

WHAT IS GIS?

GIS stands for (Geographic Information System). Apply this technology and you can view your golf course in great detail. GIS is based on showing many layers of golf course features.

Measurements

Area measurements to all individual greens, tees, fairways or any other areas.

Accurate length measurements for planning new drainage.

Print outs/Job Sheets

Ideal for those extra summer staff! It's an excellent communication/discussion tool for general maintenance tasks as well as "the" ongoing working document for the golf club infrastructure.

Set up for any golf course

GIS can be set up for 9, 18, 27, 36, 45 holes and in addition cater for leisure and hotel groups with any number of courses worldwide with their correct geo location co-ordinates. In addition it can be set up to specific named courses within the golf club if desired.

Languages

As freeware GIS is developed for the international community many languages are available.

GIS GOLF COURSE FEATURES

Main play surfaces

This is all the main golf playing sports surfaces that make up your golf course. All greens, aprons, tees, tee banks, fairways, semi-rough, rough stage-1, rough stage-2, bunkers, banks and mounds, tee group banks, and hole zones.

Drainage and water

Start to document your drain information into the GIS. Main drain, sand slit drain, waterfall feature, old clay drain, inspection, carrier drain, stream, rodding eye, gulley pots, vermin traps locations and repair history.

Irrigation

The main artery of your course, the main armoury against drought, no detail is enough! Each sprinkler with its own unique ID, print out or email give to your irrigation specialist includes greens, tees, aprons, fairways, ornamental, academy, air release valve, pump house, filter, main pipe, valve box, location, span [cast] and repair history.

Ian Phythian looks at the benefits that can be derived from turning to your computer for assistance.
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Projects
This could be any new or proposed feature however large or small, proposed features such as location of new tee and bunker etc.
Hand cutting - All those labour intensive jobs that compliment the main cutting programme, which is very labour and time consuming.

Plan and work smarter.
For example, strimming, flymo, bunker maintenance location, frequency, and duration.

Roads, routes and boundaries
Shows all the clubs assets, this could also be split to show land owned by the club ready for a future project as well as the existing established golf course boundary.

Buildings and utilities
Different clubs have many different facilities and utility connections, it is good practice to know where they are.
For example electric transformer, electric main, telephone line, miscellaneous, gas main, water main, pylon, sub station, club signpost, green staff HQ, clubhouse building, proshop location, repair history and locations.

Furniture
This highlights all your course extras. For example, course signage, bins, bench, practice net, toilet, ball washer and drinking water locations.

Academy
However big or small shows your academy area. Includes green, tee, fairway, bunker perimeter area and locations.

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES
Spraying
Intensive spraying record archive to keep up to date. For example, location, frequency, zone, treatment, buffer zone and maintenance.

Health and safety
Be up to date with your staffs safety. Includes flash flood, water, risk assessment area and spot location.

Agro
Document your course health, follow your agronomist advice update your report view with your consultant. For example, Ph test, agronomy report, turf nursery and locations.

Applications
Document your feeding and top dress programme show/print to the proshop to view any course delays excellent customer service. For example, machine setting, comments, initial, product applied, dates, irrigate, zone, application rate for top dressing, fertiliser (liquid and granual) and over seeding.

Nature
Highlights all the natural features that compliment your course. Plan your next tree/shrub planting project with GIPS.

For example, perma-frost, perma-shade, site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or (Triple S) areas, protected wildlife area, heather area, flowerbed, evergreen tree and group, broadleaf tree and group, palm tree, protected tree, mature tree, hedge and rushes, coppice area, shrubs location, comments and initial database.

Machine zones
Tag a machine type to a specific area. This is also useful for any risk assessment analysis.

GOLF PLAY
Golf hazards
Highlight all your course specific play rules and boundaries includes ground under repair (GUR), out of bounds (OB), lateral water hazard, drop zone locations, comments and initials database.

Summer golf play
Shows all your playing information inc: the play lines from specific tees or planned tee projects and much more.
Includes tee yard markers, green centre, practice green, yard marker post or plate, regular pin, weekend position, 50,100,150, 200yrd markers or plates, tee markers (all colour), all play lines and custom colours (eg: red tee = red play lines) location and comments.

Winter golf play
Often forgotten not now, you can switch on/off at a click winter course prepared, compared to your summer course and viewed by all.
For example, play lines, stroke index, par, yardage, and sponsor.

Weekend preparation
Highlights the time critical course preparation undertaken by the green staff for most weekends throughout the season very labour and time critical operation get it right, plan it, work smarter, print out for your staff then they know what, when and where they are working ideal for extra summer staff.

Events
Plan your event however big or small, features, planning is everything.
For example, public gallery, advertisement, press HQ, marshals, extra green staff, overflow car parks.

Base maps
Choice of ortho-rectified images in colour, black and white. Contour and topographic mapping can also be added.
Projects
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Roads, routes and boundaries
Shows all the clubs assets, this could also be split to show land owned by the club ready for a future project as well as the existing established golf course boundary.

For example traffic flow, trolley line, track, footpath, perimeter fence line, cattle grid, electric fence, green staff track, bridge, buggy path, boundary fence and location.

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Contact
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Above: Example ‘fig 3’ showing spraying spot treatment (purple), hand cut turf & flymo & spraying area.
James de Havilland takes a closer look at the intricacies of current machinery

The anatomy of...

Battery powered kit

These days there seems to be a rush to adopt any green technology. Nothing wrong in that. But sometimes there is a great deal more to ‘green’ options than just cutting down on your carbon footprint.

It is tempting to concentrate on the fact that here we are looking at battery powered equipment. But pick up a diminutive Pellenc Selion C20 chainsaw or take a test drive on the Jacobsen Eclipse 322 ride-on greens mower and the chances are the power source will not be the first point of interest.

These tools are well engineered items of equipment that deserve close inspection for what they are as opposed to how they are powered. In short battery driven equipment can now be looked at for reasons other than just its power source.

“It’s important to produce a quality mown finish that is consistent, and this is achieved by the professional use of a tool that works reliably,” says Richard Comely, Ransomes Jacobsen’s Product Manager. “With the battery-powered Eclipse 322 ride-on greens mower, advanced CAN bus digital control enables the mower to be set up so it will deliver a consistent and repeatable frequency of cut every time it is operated. The clip rate will remain constant, adjusting the speed of the cutting cylinder to precisely match variations in forward speed. This cannot be achieved on a hydraulic mower but it is a standard feature of our battery and hybrid powered Eclipse:322 models.”

The important point here is not so much that the battery powered Eclipse draws its top-up energy from the mains but that it just happens to be a pretty decent greens mower. Approach it from this angle first, and by all means compare it to its hybrid and all-hydraulic alternatives, and that is perhaps a better way to consider the mower. Look at it solely because it is the only battery powered model of its type on offer and you run the risk of overlooking what it is designed to do; cut greens to a high standard.

Taking a sideways glance at a completely different set of kit, the Pellenc battery powered range of brushcutters, loppers, saws, pruners and trimmers is completely different. Powered hand tools are now well established so on the surface the offering from Pellenc is not really that ‘new’. But where Pellenc is different is in the way it builds its equipment.

Modern battery powered tools, such as drills and impact drivers, are now designed to be battery powered from the outset. You get the impression, however, that some hand held tools now offered with a battery pack are developed from a petrol powered equivalent. With Pellenc, all the kit the company makes is battery powered. There

So what? Well it is only when you operate a battery powered tool that you get to know if it will be up to a professional job.
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Step-by-step Analysis...
Battery powered kit

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So what? Well it is only when you operate a battery powered tool that you get to know if it will be up to a professional job.
are no engine powered alternatives. Although companies like Stihl and Husqvarna do offer some well proven battery powered tools, the survival of these companies does not depend upon them being any good. With Pellenc it does.

So what? Well it is only when you operate a battery powered tool that you get to know if it will be up to a professional job.

Pellenc’s kit is engineered to be used for extended periods everyday. It shows. Similarly, the all-electric Eclipse 322 has taken a long time to come to market simply because Pellenc have to ensure it will do the job reliably over an extended period. It has to stand comparison between greens and terrain, but most operators should expect 18 to 21 greens per charge, this dropping if attachments, such as a grouser, are also operated.

With regard to operating costs, running a battery powered Eclipse 322 will save on red diesel, albeit easily overlooked, hydraulic oil too. Servicing times are also reduced, so this can also help reduce the costs of mowing overall.

An argument against battery power in the past was that you stood a very real chance of the batteries giving up on you in the middle of the course.

Hand tool battery technology
Pellenc uses lithium-ion batteries and again these are replenished using an intelligent charging system. This ensures the battery can be charged at anytime, with no ‘memory affect’. In simple terms this means you can top up the batteries without first having to fully discharge them to optimise their service life. This used to be a problem with other early small battery designs.

Of equal importance, Pellenc claim the batteries have an extended life. After 800 charges, the company suggest the batteries will still retain at least 80% of their original capacity, with no reduction in the actual power delivered by the battery. And when the batteries are not in use for more than four consecutive days, the batteries will automatically manage how they discharge to optimise their service life. Described by Pellenc, it is the in-built software that is the clever part behind the optimisation of the batteries. A dealer can use the software, for example, to interrogate the battery. This can be used to list the number and duration of charges made, operating temperatures, duration and loads placed on battery and even shock loads. The benefit of this is that users can be given a clear outline not just of how much work a battery has done but also how much life remains.

Typically, Pellenc expect professional users to get as much as three years out of a battery pack.

Now actual life expectancy can be monitored so you know how much life a battery has remaining. All useful information that can help keep an accurate tab on equipment running and operating costs.

Why no advanced batteries for larger kit?

The clever batteries used by Pellenc, and as will be fitted to cars like the forthcoming Nissan Leaf, are extremely expensive. For small hand held tools the price can be more easily justified. But the cost of a lithium-ion battery pack needed to power a ride-on mower has to be carefully balanced against the operating and cost benefits it would deliver over the whole life of the mower. At present the sums do not stack up.

The Nissan Leaf, incidentally, will benefit from a £5,000 government subsidy when it goes on sale. But even then the car will cost in excess of £23,000. That is a lot of money for a car that will ‘only’ do 100 miles between charges and is only the size of a VW Golf.

Put these figures into a mower context and it could be that a lithium-ion powered fairway mower would perhaps cost pretty much twice the price of a diesel hydraulic or diesel hybrid equivalent.

This is not to suggest only lead acid technology will be used to power electric mowers of the future as there almost certainly going to be alternatives available.

The question is what those alternatives will turn out to be and when they will become mainstream.

For more details on Jacobsen Eclipse 322 and operating costs, Ransomes Jacobsen has a website www.eclipse322.com.

This provides detailed information that is claimed to demonstrate the return on investment that can be achieved by switching to the all-battery powered 322.
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Like any good. With Pellenc it does.

Making the most of lead acid batteries

In the case of Jacobsen, existing lead acid battery technology is matched to modern electronics. The Eclipse 322 is able to maximise the capacity of its batteries by using it more efficiently and, of equal importance, having the battery pack managed to optimise the storage of electrical power. An argument against battery power in the past was that you stood a very real chance of the batteries giving up on you in the middle of the course.

“We have taken the proven charging technology of our E-Z-Go electric vehicles and adapted it to suit the all-electric Eclipse 322,” says Richard Comely. “The mower has its own integral digital battery charger.”

This intelligently manages the amount of electricity that is used to recharge the batteries and will not over charge. A centralised system also makes it simple to keep the electrolyte topped up to exactly the right level, points that combine to make it much easier to look after the power pack which in turn means consistent working periods between charges.

So how long will the Eclipse 322 run between charges? Sensibly Ransomes Jacobsen suggest a run between charges? Sensibly Ransomes Jacobsen suggests a run between charges varies between greens and terrain, but most operators should expect 18 to 21 greens per charge, this dropping if attachments, such as a groomer, are also operated.

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...
Getting on top of your drainage problems

In an ideal world, every golf course would love to tackle drainage problems when the ground is relatively dry, when access is easy and potential surface damage can be kept to a minimum.

However, greenkeepers like groundsmen in other outdoor sporting facilities are subject to limitations brought on by the demands of the sport. The dry summer months are the busiest time for clubs. Events are scheduled, matches played and maintenance issues invariably don't surface until it's too late.

The worst drainage problems invariably don't surface until it's too wet to get onto the course without causing more problems than you’re attempting to solve.

Last year seemed to be particularly dogged by poor weather conditions: the dreadful downpours that caused such turmoil during the Ryder Cup, the interminable wet weather in the late autumn followed by unseasonably snow and icy conditions. But this isn’t a new phenomenon. Winters are invariably cold, wet and windy - just varying in degrees.

Contractors know all about poor working conditions, it comes with the territory. It's how they approach the job that makes the difference to whether objectives are achieved, in spite of whatever nature throws at them.

So how do you get round the need to do the work but at a time which isn’t ideal? The first and the most important step is to select a reputable contractor preferably a member of the Land Drainage Contractors Association (www.ldca.org) who understands fully the implications of working in less than ideal conditions. Another important though rarely used resource is the reference. Get to know your contractor. Talk to others who have used them on previous projects. Get to know their strengths and weaknesses before taking them on to do a job which has a direct impact on the quality of play enjoyed by members of your club. Experience in dealing with similar situations can offer huge benefits to the greenkeeper managing the wide range of drainage issues that can arise and choosing the different methods of solving them. It is also critical to understand the effects of drainage installation on the playing surface, particularly in adverse circumstances.

The relationship between club and contractor has to work on many different levels with communication always being the key to success. It is vital that you choose a professional outfit which has a very positive attitude and understanding of Health and Safety obligations for instance. You need to be confident that any legal requirements are adhered to and all the necessary service searches for gas, water, electricity and existing drainage lines are in place before any work is undertaken.

MJ Abbott is an experienced and specialist contractors to the sports industry and have set up a list of helpful pointers for the Course Manager to help them obtain the most from their contractor and ensure that whatever the installation and whenever it takes place, it will run as smoothly as possible.

"The role of the Course Manager is crucial to the successful completion of any drainage project," said Nathan George, Contracts Manager.

"The relationship between all the parties is even more critical when the project is difficult. Patience and appreciation of all the factors coming into play from both parties can make all the difference to progress and a satisfactory outcome. So we recommend the following:

1. Provide details of existing drainage and services, outfalls etc. to the contractor before the project commences.
2. Be aware of relevant Health & Safety issues and regulations.
3. To minimise disruption to the course, installation should take place during spring, summer or autumn. If this isn't possible, choose a contractor that is experienced in challenging environments.
4. Tendering – Encourage different contractors to tender for the work, but check its like-for-like, particularly in difficult economic times when costs are not always transparent.
5. Make your contractor aware of your expectations and limitations
6. Communication is the key – open lines of communication to keep up-to-date with progress.
7. Approve all materials before use - check the quality.
8. Be realistic in your expectations and prepare club members for a small amount of disruption to your course.
9. Keep your Greens Committee informed on progress with regular updates so they can keep members informed.
10. Keep in contact with your contractor. Good client/contractor relationships are built over time as contractors become accustomed to the site and staff. When the project is completed, maintain contact with your contractor and keep them informed of progress. They are there to support you moving forwards."

"There are many factors to consider when choosing your contractor," he continued. "We have always used several different contractors for a variety of work but what we looked for in this instance was a company that had the experience to give us the confidence that they were capable of the work. We had to acknowledge the significance of re-instatement and the need to avoid surface disruption. It meant the work would take longer and the contractor would have to dedicate their time and resources of labour and equipment over a prolonged period of time to ensure quality of finish rather than speed," said Murray.

"Traditionally we would always aim to do drainage schemes in the drier late summer months" explained Nathan.

"Any drainage works would have to be scheduled for late summer early autumn and recovery would have to be swift so that the Senior Open Championship due to take place the following July would be played on a course at its peak. We just had to hope that weather conditions would be favourable. In the event, they couldn't have been worse."

Murray Long, Courses & Estates Manager at Sunningdale Golf Club, has had first hand experience of the work that would take place the following July would be played on a course at its peak.
Getting on top of your drainage problems

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1. Provide details of existing drainage and services, outfalls etc. to the contractor before the project commences.

2. Be aware of relevant Health & Safety issues and regulations.

3. To minimise disruption to the course, installation should take place during spring, summer or autumn. If this isn’t possible, choose a contractor that is experienced in challenging environments.

4. Tendering – Encourage different contractors to tender for the work, but check its like-for-like, particularly in difficult economic times when costs are not always transparent.

5. Make your contractor aware of your expectations and limitations.

6. Communication is the key – open lines of communication to keep up-to-date with progress.

7. Approve all materials before use – check the quality.

8. Be realistic in your expectations and prepare club members for a small amount of disruption to your course.

9. Keep your Greens Committee informed on progress with regular updates so they can keep members informed.

10. Keep in contact with your contractor - Good client/contractor relationships are built over time as contractors become accustomed to the site and staff. When the project is completed, maintain contact with your contractor and keep them informed of progress. They are there to support you moving forwards.

Murray Long, Courses & Estates Manager at Stanpaingolf Club, has had first hand experience of the difficulties of timing essential remedial drainage work.

“We were aware that work needed doing well before the winter of 2008 but it wasn’t possible to even contemplate interrupting the Members’ fixtures for the coming season,” explained Murray.

“There are many factors to consider when choosing your contractor,” he continued. “We have always used several different contractors for a variety of work but what we looked for in this instance was a company that had the experience to give us the confidence that they were capable of the work. We had to acknowledge the significance of re-instatement and the need to avoid surface disruption. It meant the work would take longer and the contractor would have to dedicate time and resources of labour and equipment over a prolonged period of time to ensure quality of finish rather than speed,” said Murray.

“Traditionally we would always aim to do drainage schemes in the drier late summer months” explained Nathan.
“But the problem at Sunningdale had become acute and we were asked to install drainage in conditions which were extremely challenging. Work was required on the 2nd and 14th holes of the Old Course that involved the installation of 365 linear metres of primary drainage with 100mm perforated manifolds and 650 metres of 80mm perforated lateral drainage at eight metre spacings. We excavated trenches at 600-700mm depth, laid the pipe and backfilled to within 150mm of the surface with 10-15mm gravel, and approved sand/soil mix rootzone.”

“This was then followed with secondary drainage, consisting of narrow bands of gravel banding installed perpendicular to the primary drainage. The 28mm wide x 180mm depth bands of 6mm gravel are injected into the surface at 400mm centres. They make a positive contact with the piped drainage gravel and are designed to spread the drainage of surface water lying between the lateral pipework.”

“In order to keep surface disruption to an absolute minimum, boards were deployed to displace the weight of each piece of equipment when in operation. Three machines were working side by side at any given time; the trencher, the dumper for spoil removal, and the gravel cart. Individual boards had to be laid, removed then re-positioned.”

“Foshillia Golf Club and Resort in Surrey called in Speedcut to carry out drainage work on greens as part of continuing improvements to course conditions. “A wet summer in 2009 brought drainage problems to a head on several badly-draining greens,” said Course Manager, David Wyborn.

“Speedcut Contractors Manager Kevin Smith said: “We carried out sandsetting on two greens that October with our AFT Wizz Wheel, having done one in March, and the heavy rain during the summer showed the full extent of the problem.”

“Previously, two laser-guided Masterbore 10/1212s had been employed on six fairways at Foxhills, cutting trenches, removing spoil and laying pipeline.

“The torrential rain in July, up to two inches in a day on two occasions, would have been a real problem on the Longcross course but we fairways one, two and three sandbanded and they drained fantastically,” said David.

“In 2009 we had the second wettest year on record, and certainly the wettest summer,” he recalled.

“Our drainage programme became increasingly pressing. During that summer we were hit by dreadful rain in July, which followed a terrible winter. “The rainfall in 2009 between the beginning of October and the end of February was a record 18 inches,” said David.

“Six of the fairways at Fosshill had suffered the previous winter and had to be closed for short periods not only because of water not draining but because of slippery surfaces in some areas becoming a health and safety issue.”

“We decided to drain three fairways on the Longcross course and three on the Bernard Hunt course,” explained David.

“The serious locations on the course vary between sand and heavy blue clay, but in general the soil is heavy and poor draining.”

“The three greens that were sandbait are on the Longcross course. “They have always been prone to wetness but they now drain well,” said David.

“Foxhills has superb surrounding hills, cutting trenches, removing spoil and laying pipeline. “To maintain the very high standards of drainage work is essential. This means very under-standing and know all the work and disruption for their benefit.”

George Pitts, Course Manager at Yelverton GC, offers some practical advice to preserving the over worked parts of the course.
“But the problem at Sunningdale had become acute and we were asked to install drainage in conditions which were extremely challenging. Work was required on the 2nd and 14th holes of the Old Course that involved the installation of 365 linear metres of primary drainage with 100mm perforated mainlines and 650 metres of 80mm perforated lateral drainage at eight metre spacings. We excavated trenches at 600-700mm depth, laid the pipe and backfilled to within 150mm of the surface with 10-5mm gravel, and approved sand/sol mix rootzone.”

“This was then followed with secondary drainage, consisting of narrow bands of gravel banding installed perpendicular to the primary drainage. The 280mm wide x 180mm depth bands of 6mm gravel are injected into the surface at 400mm centres. They make a positive contact with the piped drainage gravel and are designed to speed up the drainage of surface water lying between the lateral pipework.”

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Six of the fairways at Foxhills had suffered the previous winter and had to be closed for short periods, not only because of water not draining but because of slippery surfaces in some areas becoming a health and safety issue for players.

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“The severe conditions on the course vary between sand and heavy blue clay, but in general the soil is heavy and poor draining.”

The three greens that were sandbanded are on the Longcross course.

“They have always been prone to wetness but they now drain well,” said David.

“Foxhills has superb surrounds on the course, which were always prone to wet issues,” he said. “That was worse in 2008 but because of slippery surfaces in some areas becoming a health and safety issue for players, we employed on six fairways at Foxhills.”

“Then in 2009 the heavy rain during the summer showed the full extent of the problem.”

“By the autumn we were cutting the fairways three times a week in order to keep the surface disruption to a minimum.”

“We knew that the heavy rain during the summer showed the full extent of the problem. We knew that we needed to drain the greens but because of slippery surfaces in some areas becoming a health and safety issue for players, we employed on six fairways at Foxhills.”

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These days, the expectation of the modern golfer and the culture of the game demands “year round” golf and although the use of heavy bags laden with all the latest gadgets.

It is unrealistic for most to expect zero damage and compaction from going traffic. The skill is to limit the amount of damage.

Trolley / Buggy Policy.

The majority of golfing traffic damage will be caused by trolleys, power trolleys and golf buggies. It is useful to have an agreed policy in place. This is one of the important aspects of does this extend to power trolleys and buggies? We have a history of trying to control trolleys and buggies on the course. There are no hard and fast rules with implementing trolley bans, it is a balancing act of reducing traffic and subsequent compaction against encouraging members and visitors to play the course in order to meet revenue targets.

Directing Traffic.

Inevitably, golfing traffic will need to be moved around the course to spread the wear, in the same way hole cops need to be changed and testing boxes moved. This will include, signage, post and rope, hoops, stripes and lay marker. All these methods can be used to direct traffic away from high wear areas. If post and rope is used, it is important to ensure there is a system of regularly moving its position and strategy of moving post and rope forward in increments will ensure that the wear is spread. Signage will need to be clean, tidy, easy to read and prominently positioned.

Paths.

Where “bottle-necks” and concentrated areas of wear cannot be avoided through directing traffic, paths may need to be installed. Construction and materials used will depend on budget, site, design and player expectations. When installing paths, the position, shape and colour must always be sympathetic to and never compromise the overall aesthetic design of the course.

Anti-erosion / compaction products.

There are many products on the market that have been designed to improve the grass plants resistance to heavy wear. Turf reinforcement mesh and rubber-matting, if properly installed, will provide compaction and erosion relief on areas such as path ends and steps, where traffic is at its most intense. Other innovative products include winter trolley wheels that are designed to limit damage by evenly distributing the load over a smaller surface contact area. It is important to always extensively trial any new products.

Course Design.

The philosophy of a human being this includes golfers is to take the shortest route, a straight line to the next destination. There will often be random movement from tee to green, as the golf ball dictates the players movements, but, from tees to tee there maybe limited exit points to often only one destination. If exit points are restricted by hazards, traffic routes will be limited and wear further concentrated. Exit points can be greatly increased by removing some trees or repositioning a bunker.

Communication.

The key to all the above is to ensure that there is always a healthy line of communication to members and visitors of the golf course. Policies can be communicated through websites, notice boards, newsletters and presentations to the members. Communicating to the golfing public alongside sound, innovative and professional management practices should help heavy wear. A balance is that between accessibility and common sense.
The series aimed at celebrating the great work done by dealerships up and down the country

Three kings

The ‘Golf Club Management Partnership’ recently celebrated its first anniversary. Sandy Jones charts the progress made so far and looks ahead to the future.

The Golf Club Management Partnership (GCMP) has been set up by the PGA, BIGGA and the GCMA to provide a co-ordinated approach to the management of golf clubs.

We chose a particularly appropri- ate time to join forces, as golf clubs feel the effects of the economic situation and adapt to changing attitudes to knurled activities.

In every golf club there are three providers of services to the golfer – the manager, the professional and the course manager and his team, and it makes sense to work together and ensure that these services are provided at the highest level.

This has proved essential as golf club committees consider ways to cut costs in order to survive the recession when in fact they should be looking to add value. There is a temptation to simply chop our way through the operation, often because committees may not fully understand how these services are provided at the highest level.

There is a need for a more efficient and effective way of working for the benefit of all, and in the current climate far more awareness of the important contribution that golf clubs make to the economy is needed.

In the USA, the reaction to the economic impact of the Ryder Cup was far different, and in 2007 they were appointed distrib-utors for the Tru-Turf range of greens rollers.

In 2009 the company was appointed as Scottish Importers for Goupil Electric Vehicles and last year they were appointed distributors for Timberwolf Woodchippers; Gianni Ferrari Mowers; Carryme Turf Equipment; Timberwolf Mowers; and Aebi Tractor and Mowers.

Franchises

John Deere Groundcare Equipment; Lastec Articulator Mowers; Timberwolf Woodchippers; Abi Tractor and Mowers; Gianni Ferrari Mowers; Carryme Turf Equipment; Timberwolf Mowers; and Aebi Tractor and Mowers.

There is a temptation to simply chop out areas of the operation, often because committees may not fully understand how the club is run.

Sandy Arnott who had been involved in the groundcare machinery business for over 20 years formed Double A in 1995. The company is owned by Sandy and his wife, Aileen.

High profile sales helped the company to grow quickly in the early days and raise their profile in the Scottish groundcare industry.

In 1999, Double A was awarded John Deere groundcare Equipment Leadership. In 2001, along with existing franchised dealers, enabled the company to provide a fuller range of quality products.

In 2002, the company moved into a new £1m building, just over 5,000 sq. ft padouk and spruce timber building into the groundcare industry.

In 2003, they were appointed Scottish Distributors for Lampers, and in 2007 they branched into a new business when they became UK distributors for the 11-12t range of genuine rows.

In 2009 the company was appointed as Scottish Importers for Gianni Ferrari Mowers; and last year they were appointed dealers for Lastec and Charterhouse equipment.

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
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This has proved essential as golf club committees consider ways to cut costs in order to survive the recession when in fact they should be looking to add value. There is a temptation to simply chop out areas of the operation, often because committees may not fully understand how the club is run.

The difficulty is that often those people providing the services don’t comprehend the demand very clearly to the committees, and this can result in a context where the professional and greenkeeping department are fighting for survival.

We believe that our role is to communicate on behalf of all three parties and see each other as partners and committees appreciate their qualities.

In the USA, the reaction to the current economic climate has simply been to cut staff numbers, but we have aimed to put the message across to the clubs that they should take advantage of the abilities of their teams and offer better value to the members. It takes time and money to develop the skills needed to run a golf club, and this should not just be thrown away.

Of course we understand that there may need to be some reductions in staff numbers, but we hope to persuade committees to look at increasing efficiency first.

Now that the bodies involved in the partnership understand each other better, we can take our message to the club owners and to managers throughout the country.

We are also aiming to create models to show how clubs can operate more efficiently, considering the whole operation rather than just staff costs. The club must engage with its manager, professional and greenkeeping team – as they are the first point of contact with members and visitors – to ensure that the golfer’s needs are met, on the course, in the pro shop and in the clubhouse.

Our unique approach is already benefiting clubs – after the severe winter we produced some recommendations to help tackle claims relating to health and safety in bad weather which will be given to managers dealing with those situations.

We have also set up a network to tackle credit card scams affecting pro shops, getting the word around to clubs after an incident, and this has led to the arrest of offenders.

The internet will become increasingly important in the communication process, and we are already looking at the latest technology for the delivery of education programmes.

The economic impact of the Ryder Cup was enormous, and this has led to a website to promote golf.

There are other opportunities too – PGA members have given lectures on BIGGA and GCMA courses, and at events such as BIGGA’s Harrogate Weekend, many of the seminars will be applicable to all sectors.

Marketing is a further example – the professional and the course manager can contribute as much to marketing the club as the manager.

Another goal will be to communicate the significance of golf to the wider community, and to the government, to put us in a better position to lobby for support.

This is one area where the Americans are ahead of us, producing statistics on the industry and creating the GCMA, which I think everyone would prefer)

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Ayrshire

Editor’s Note

Apologies for the lack of December Notes. It was an error on my part. Thanks to Brian German for forwarding me the contents of the Scottish golf magazine for December 2011, so here are some local notes.

Scottish Open


North

It is now the beginning of January that I’m writing this and thankfully the snow seems to have disappeared. It’s still pretty cold so by the time you read this in February the snow will probably have gone, but it every year but it doesn’t half set you back with your winter programmes, especially if it’s a pretty big year! We at Murcar Links were in the middle of building and renovating some of the green areas but the snow arrived and now we’re just only getting back to it.

There’s been a couple of sad bits of news sent in to me recently. The first was that Jackie Campbell has passed away at the age of 78. A lovely lady, he spent 19 years as Head Greenkeeper at Moray Golf Club, retiring in 1997. Mike was renowned as a fit and active man who enjoyed his golf. Previous to his Greenkeeping, Mike spent time as a chef, was deployed to the Suez Canal during his National Service and he has also built boats out of the Buckie and Lossie shipyards. We would all like to pass on our condolences. His daughter, Orla. We wish you well.

East Midlands

Hello all, with the dust settling on another BTME week I hope all of you who attended got out of it what you expected and the very least that having made new friends or picked up some new ideas for the year.

Back in the East Midlands this time, we have some dates for your diaries for the coming year, with the first event a talk on how to use the skills, kitting at Wynomeswell, this is taking place on the 17th February. I hope you can make it! I hope all of you who attended Harrogate last year won’t want to miss this event to be useful once again and anyone who attended any of the other national events found them useful as well.

We held our Section AGM at Lindrick GC in December with only a few people attending the Christmas meal. The Committee from 2010 has agreed to stand for 2011 and we have one new member on our Committee this year. I would like to welcome Stuart Pigott to the committee and I’m sure he is ready to be a part of our team.

For anybody not wanting to golf there is the option of a craft walk with members of the green staff. I will ensure a translator is at hand. There is also an opportunity to watch a potential match cricket. All those interested please let us know.

As mentioned previously, this is your Section so please post it in 2011. If it is any information that you wish to put into the magazine, please let us know, finally may I wish you all a good growing Spring and a happy Winter Work.

Midland

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Scottish Section

Editor's Note

Apologies for the lack of December Notes. It was an error on my part in not getting them out of the office and didn’t follow it through when I got back.

Here are the highlights of the Notes

Stuart Mcc

Scottish Regional

North

It is now the beginning of January that I am writing this and thankfullly the snow seems to have disappeared. It’s all pretty cold so by the time you read this in February the snow will probably be back by then! It is very early but it doesn’t half set you back with your winter programmes, especially if you are pretty busy! We at Murcar Links were in the middle of building a new bunker and were removed when the snow arrived and now we’ve only just getting back to it again.

There has been a couple of sad bits of news sent me recently. The first is that the late James Campbell has passed away at the age of 78. A Lossie native, he spent 19 years as Head Greenkeeper at Moray Golf Club, retiring in 1997. Mike was renowned as a fit and active man who died in 1997. Mike was renowned for his programmes, especially if it’s pretty cold so by the time you read this it will have been the first one to email me. George Paterson remembering earlier on in the mag and our Fortrose. He sadly passed away just before Christmas and our keepers will remember George as a fit and active man who was renowned for his programmes. Especially if it’s pretty cold so by the time you read this it will have been the first one to email me. George Paterson remembering earlier on in the mag and our Fortrose. He sadly passed away just before Christmas and our keepers will remember George as a fit and active man who was renowned for his programmes. Especially if it’s pretty cold so by the time you read this it will have been the first one to email me.

West

Seasons greetings to all and hopefully we have all been busy making the course playable for the new year. I have been unable to play for some time due to the snow and now we’re only just getting back to it again.

Today I have received the following news.

North Wales

I like February so its my birth- day month and I always book some time off to celebrate junk my wounds as being another year older! It also allows me to have a potential cricket match. All those interested please let us know.

As mentioned previously, this is your Section so please support it in 2011. If there is anything you wish to ask or a petition was cancelled, due to weather we had a thaw and their comp出了 a potential cricket match. All those interested please let us know.

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South East

Thornpergh Golf Club – December 2010

Here we go again then. Hope you had a merry & happy Xmas.

Our last meeting at Thorpe was quite a change from usual, except for Yours Trulys! I missed most of the A&M and was told I had to be there. The rest of my Headmaster used to say as he put the case away – “You could do better, just the three of us”!

There was no mention of that change in the agenda. Thank God for that because I understand why he is always moaning, “What am I going to do? Who’s going to answer?”

Many thanks to our calendar sponsor for February, TH. Please consider them for your machinery needs if you are lucky enough to get some money to spend on your course every year. This all sponsors are greatly appreciated, especially in these difficult times so thank you to each and everyone of you, keep it up!

I trust many of you got to the meeting for a day or two, and despite the exhibitor numbers being down, still found the trip worthwhile. List a catch up with some old friends during your visit. I consider it the best way around and always find it an excellent way to spend a few days in January.

(South Coast)

Around The Green

Rising £362, this was divided among the Section. There were 36 players and eight extras. Please consider them for your machinery needs most of whom have already mentioned the rest are as follows.

Ben Burgess, Symbio, Scots, Headland, Shdriff, Rareseed, Jacobsen and Lely UK

Steve Deeney – 1st (Lely UK) Graham Deeney – 2nd

Peter Smith

Belated Happy New Year to everyone.

As I write this we are finally assuming it would be off and the course was open and largely snow free. A public thanks to our trade friends and sponsors for being at least a year in front for us. We then hope to introduce a new fun competition and BBQ at around the Green golf club relying on every one of you. A public thanks to our old friend CMW.

Anyway, with help from Steve Freestone, we have something to put to paper; here goes:

The mighty Royals! (Reading)

I agree wholeheartedly, that doing a job you enjoy doing and in complete confidence, with some old friends during these difficult times so thank you to each and everyone of you.

Remember that we also have our own reminiscence Facebook page, proving to be very useful, only for you to grow as more of you join in the fun. It is a good way to keep in touch and talk about the golf club. -3rd place Joe Curtis

How long have you been greening up? 5 years

1. What was the programme that attracted you that year?

Testing computer games

1. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

Being at least a year in front for you. Its time you were, ask for a sponsored place for four of Jon Jarvis. Let’s be honest here, you all know how difficult it is to manage and his guys. The course was looking as good as any other course this year, a great credit you all at Lyminge. The actual day was brilliant -36 players and eight extras from extra amazing charities. As always we had our usual famous raif, raising £362, this was divided up and donated to different charities. A great effect here.

At the Christmas fixture, the raifes so big everyone’s a winner, but for the golfing competition there can only be one....3rd place Jim Curtis 36 points at Neneham 39ga (after countback) and the winner (your committee member in writing for this name here before), Stuart Broom-40pts.

I would now like to thank our Patronage Partners, thanks to every one of you we are able to have a sponsored place for four days at Harrogate for a young greener. That year I would like to congratulate James Wright, from Worlebury Golf Club, Wolverhampton. Well done James, from supporter to supporter to you all, you can gain so much more than just a round of golf and its joke time, what’s the Australian version of LBW??

I offer a silver ring to the Section’s Section’s Assistant Profile?

Chairmen of Greens with their control of BIGGA.

President – taken over from Russell took five off Gary Ogilvie and Andy Hall. Score 52.9. Jim Plummer. Nice one.

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around the Green

**Midland**

Welcome to February’s Section notes all the way from sunny Trentham. Sean cannot complain about the month this time due to the failure of his computer once for all, and to both of those who enjoy reading, or should I say dissecting, his monthly notes, don’t worry, he tells me he ordered another computer and will be booting up and ready to go soon. Thank God for that because I understand why he is always moaning. **“What am I supposed to do now? Just the thought of it makes me want to...”**

Many thanks to our calendar sponsor for February, TH Golf - Please consider them for your machinery needs if you are lucky enough to get some money to spend on your course this year. All our sponsors are greatly appreciated, especially in these difficult times so thank you to each and every one of you, keep it up!

I trust many of you got to enjoy the day for a day or two, and despite the exhibitor numbers being down, still found the trip worthwhile to catch up with some old friends during your visit. I consider it the best way to start the year and always find it an excellent way to spend a few days in January.

Our cancelled Christmas Tournament at Woburn last December because of snow has now been rescheduled and so hold your breath and prizes wrapped up!!!

Great question also to Robin Portess, of Ingimund Golf Club, for winning the Order of Merit for 2010.

Golf fixtures have just about begun for this year, with the first being here at Ingimund on Wednesday, May 25, these fixtures will be posted here and on the website in due course.

Robert Cordery, Manager of MTM BTMR was another successful show and not adversely affected by the weather, so maybe if you have any other factors beyond the control of BGGA. I would like to thank Steve Beverley, Ingimund Golf Club.

East Anglia

Thorpe Green Golf Club - December 2010

Here we go again then. Hope you had a merry & happy Christmas.

Our last meeting at Thorpe

wesent like clockwork as usual, except for Yours Truly! I missed most of the AGM and also the Christmas Draw so as my Old Headmaster used to say as he put the case away - “You could do better, just the thought of it makes me want to...”

Anyway, with help from Steve Freestone, we have something to put to paper; here goes:

The main sponsor for our upcoming Turkey Trot was our old friend CFMW.


The Nearest and Longest are as follows: Nearest 2nd (Atkinson) Peter Ornheim; Nearest 7th (Bartram Mowers) Ross Stanford.

Nearest 10th (Ernest D) Tolles; Nearest 16th (Tomlinson - Saffron Walden) Dave Mummery.

We then hope to introduce a new fun competition and BBQ at Around The Green golf day at Sleaford. I thing the time.

The snow also forced the cancellation of the Woburn day at Harrogate for a young greenkeeper. That was three days of constant shovelling off the greens..... That was three of which I would have to admit I was not too keen on. So again I would like to thank our Patronage Partners, thank you all year to have a sponsored place for four days at Harrogate for a young greenkeeper. That is what life would be one....3rd place Joe Curtis, 4th place Tim Needham 39gta (after countback) and the winner (your name here before), Stuart Broom-40pts.

Finally on a sad note it is regret that I want to mention the passing of John Byles, John was site foreman at the Nottinghamshire GC, sadly John passed away suddenly over Christmas, we would like to thank his family and friends for their condolences.

Pete Smith

North West

Belated Happy New Year to everyone.

As I write this we are finally clear of over five weeks of snow cover, just in time for the wonderful people at the golf club to put a pinch of salt on it to keep the cars going chilling golf club relying on every pernicious need. It took two days of snow clearing just to be able to enter the clubhouse from the road, leaving the localsGrid to be thrown off the greens.... That was three days of constant shovelling but did that stop them? I don’t think so. Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper... Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper... Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

**South East**

Surrey

A belated Happy New Year to all my merry readers, please always hold the AGM and/or Christmas Draw when you have the same felicitation to all those who have the good sense not to bother with such things. Christmas 1? I did, with our new annual cruise to the sunny shores of... well I don’t know, most of the Channel Islands. We had a full house of 100-105 for Day to experience the Ventnor midday swim and were amused by the form of the hard and good clothing worn by the brave hearted and the things that the more plucky and copious chaps wore on entry into those chilly waters but who on earth were somewhat less so.

The atrophic weather before Christmas meant that my van and I stayed at home for many days and that the Surrey turf trot was cancelled. Happily Guildford GC were able to fit us in yesterday, January 7, and I was assailable, due to a prior engagement, the result was recorded by our ever efficient Secretary and golfer supreme, Ron Christie, so the following is a report of his comments. The main prize of the day, the nearest the pin, was won by Gary Cooper of the renowned Surrey Golf Club, Gary’s partner. The runner up prize went to Tony Kyle, his partner. The runner up prize was won by Mark Harvey, the course chairman and will be seriously missed by Surrey committee members. I hope your section really will come in support and you also know that you can gain so much more than just a runners up prize. Its joke time, what’s the Australian version of LHR??? Let me tell you.

Remember that we also have our own monthly newsletter, our Facebook page, proving to be very useful, only for it grow as more of you join and in complete confidence I would like to thank our Patronage Partners, thank you all year to have a sponsored place for four days at Harrogate for a young greenkeeper. That was three of which I would have to admit I was not too keen on. So again I would like to thank our Patronage Partners, thank you all year to have a sponsored place for four days at Harrogate for a young greenkeeper. That was three of which I would have to admit I was not too keen on. So again I would like to thank our Patronage Partners, thank you all year to have a sponsored place for four days at Harrogate for a young greenkeeper. That was three of which I would have to admit I was not too keen on. So again I would like to thank our Patronage Partners, thank you all year to have a sponsored place for four days at Harrogate for a young greenkeeper. That was three of which I would have to admit I was not too keen on. So again I would like to thank our Patronage Partners, thank you all year to have a sponsored place for four days at Harrogate for a young greenkeeper. That was three of which I would have to admit I was not too keen on. So again I would like to thank our Patronage Partners, thank you all year to have a sponsored place for four days at Harrogate for a young greenkeeper. That was three of which I would have to admit I was not too keen on. So again I would like to thank our Patronage Partners, thank you all year to have a sponsored place for four days at Harrogate for a young greenkeeper. That was three of which I would have to admit I was not too keen on. So again I would like to thank our Patronage Partners, thank you all year to...
of 2010, down in Southampton we had more snow than I can remember sledding and snow ball fights better than ever.

Section news is a bit slow this time of year as it is either under snow or later than usual so more news next month.

Hope every one had a great time at Harrogate, met up with old friends and made new ones. Try this year to keep in contact with all of them as you promised late at night in Wetherpans.

Make this the year that you play all the Section golf days, do extra education, get fit, read that book you have been wanting to read, start to play a musical instrument and visit that place in the world that you have always liked the look of.

Look forward to seeing you at our Section events this year as we have some great venues, so practice well get your handicap down and in, meet new people get some ideas and solve problems by asking other greenkeepers, so please support your Sections.

Chris Bitten

South Wales

Hi Everyone

Hope you are all well.

As I write, the heavy snow of the Christmas period has finally gone and many of you returned to work to find you green in a better condition than they usually are after the Christmas and New Year festivities! Mainly because there weren’t any ‘natures’ The snow didn’t help most clubs’ finances, but that is back in the future as the temperatures dropped, making a come back on the greens and coffee on arrival and also a buffet lunch. Give me a call if you would like to reserve a place.

That’s it for now. See you all soon I hope.

Ceri Richards
07863 116664
cerri@bigga.org.uk

Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

Apologies for no notes last month, but there wasn’t much to report as I managed to get the summary of the Purbeck meeting in before the deadline and in the December edition. Our Annual Christmas meeting was held at Saunton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 15 with 80+ attendees enjoying a fresh but gorgeous sunny day. The event was kindly sponsored by MIST and Britech. The day consisted of Golf or a Course walk led by Ray Day, Course Manager at Saunton Golf Club.

Starting with this month’s Golf (Apologies if I have left anyone out, as unfortunately I misplaced my notes).

The format was Greensomes playing on the traditional/Christmas Dinner which didn’t disconnect our thanks to Go and her team for looking after us. Thanks also to Wyn Davies and Chris Hopkins, from Ted Hopkins, & John Pike, from Toro, for sponsoring the day. Finally thanks to Royal Cornwall and St Mellion Golf Club for agreeing to host the event.

We also wish Tony Horne a speedy recovery after Tony suffered a heart attack before Christmas. We wish him and his family all the best.

The evening lecture for February will take place at Pensord College on Wednesday, Feb 23 at 7pm. Speaker to be confirmed. Thanks again to our friends from Countryside for sponsoring the night.

Our education front, the annual Avonacron Amenity Products Education Seminar will again be held at Ashburnham Golf Club on Wednesday, February 23. The day will include a bacon roll and coffee on arrival and also a buffet lunch. Give me a call if you would like to reserve a place.

Be SEEN BY THE BIGGA MEMBERSHIP

Advertise in GI, the monthly magazine for BIGGA members

Details of your Section’s forthcoming events in 2011 can be found in this section.

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<tr>
<td>February 7th – 11th</td>
<td>Devon &amp; Cornwall Section Event</td>
<td>Devon Golf Club</td>
<td>George Pitts at <a href="mailto:gatts.yevelton@gmail.com">gatts.yevelton@gmail.com</a> or telephone 07929 754401</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 9th</td>
<td>Devon &amp; Cornwall Section Event</td>
<td>The Oxfordshire</td>
<td>Adam King at <a href="mailto:sjk@xleydley.org.uk">sjk@xleydley.org.uk</a> or telephone 01335 543119</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 23rd</td>
<td>Devon and Cornwall Drainage Workshop</td>
<td>St Mellion Golf Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1st</td>
<td>Scottish Regional Conference</td>
<td>Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunbarline</td>
<td>Peter Boyd at pg@<a href="mailto:boyd@btinternet.com">boyd@btinternet.com</a> or telephone 0141 616 3400/07776 284120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16th</td>
<td>Devon and Cornwall Section Event</td>
<td>Merlin Golf Club</td>
<td>George Pitts at <a href="mailto:gatts.yevelton@gmail.com">gatts.yevelton@gmail.com</a> or telephone 07929 754401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 17th</td>
<td>Joint BIGGA/GCMA Educational Seminar</td>
<td>Chipping Sodbury Golf Club, Bristol</td>
<td>Karen Drake at wsg@club/eurotelet broadband. co.uk or telephone 01394 829686.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30th</td>
<td>Midland Regional Conference</td>
<td>Newmarket Golf Club</td>
<td>Peter Larter at <a href="mailto:petelarter97@aad.com">petelarter97@aad.com</a> or telephone 01476 500115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1st</td>
<td>North East Section Event</td>
<td>Newcastle United Golf Club</td>
<td>Jimmy Richardson at <a href="mailto:jasminerichardson217@gmail.com">jasminerichardson217@gmail.com</a> or telephone 07950 528582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15th</td>
<td>South West Section Event</td>
<td>Chipping Sodbury Golf Club</td>
<td>Stuart Ferguson at <a href="mailto:studey@btinternet.com">studey@btinternet.com</a> or telephone 01229 630555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19th</td>
<td>South East Section Spring Meeting</td>
<td>Cranleigh Golf Links</td>
<td>Stuart Ferguson at <a href="mailto:studey@btinternet.com">studey@btinternet.com</a> or telephone 01229 630555</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BE SEEN BY THE BIGGA MEMBERSHIP
of 2010, down in Southampton we had more snow than I can remember sledding and snow ball fights better than ever. Section news is a bit slow this time of year as it is either under snow or later, so more news next month.

Hope everyone had a great Christmas, met up with old friends and made new ones. Try this year to keep in contact with all of them as you promised late at night in Wetherpoons.

Make this the year that you play all the Section golf days, do extra education, get fit, read that book you bought about a sport you’ve always wanted to read, start to play a musical instrument and visit that place in the world that you have always looked the like of.

Look forward to seeing you at our Section events this year as we have some great venues, so practice well get your handicap down and in, meet new people get new ideas and solve problems by asking other greenkeepers, so please support your Sections.

Chris Butter

**South Wales**

Hi Everyone

Hope you are all well.

As I write, the heavy snow of the Christmas period finally gone and many of you returned to work to find you greens in better condition than they usually are after the Christmas and New Year festivities.

Mainly because there weren’t any ‘turfed’ snow didn’t help much clubs’ finances, but since returning to work, I have seen many full car parks, with golfers keen to try out their new clubs, electric trolleys and loud sweaters! And on that subject I can give you the results of the Christmas competition.

The results from the Christmas Competition at Royal Portmarnock are as follows: Winner - Andy Roach, 34pts; 2nd Leigh Davies, 30pts; 3rd. Gareth Knight, 29pts.

Nearest the Pin - Alan Abel, Longest drive - Davy Jones (about 3 miles!). Best-Trade - Alan Abel, 33pts. Christmas Special - Lucy Sellick, 12pts. Guess the ballest lost - Lucy Sellick (89) Sorry Lucy! Steve Chappell put that lid Silver Salver prize for best scores throughout the season - that’s the one that I would have liked.

Rugby is a great game and a great sport. Let’s hope for a great season in 2011.

Hello all,

Apologies for no notes last month, but there wasn’t much to report as I managed to get the summary of the Perepehnian meeting in before the deadline and in the December edition. Our Annual Christmas meeting was held at Saunton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 15 with 80+ attendees enjoying a fresh hot bizzie sunny day.

The event was kindly sponsored by MST and britech. The day consisted of Golf or a Course walk led by Ray Day, Course Manager at Saunton Golf Club. Starting with this Golf (Apologies if I have left anyone out, as unfortunately I misplaced my notes).

The format was Greensomes playing on the traditional Christmas dinner which didn’t so our thanks to Go and her team for looking after us. Thanks also to Wyn Davies and Chris Hopkins, from Ted Hopkins, and John Pike, from Toro, for sponsoring the day. Finally thanks to Royal Cornwall and Saunton Golf Club for agreeing to host the event.

We also wish Tony Horne a speedy recovery after Tony suffered a heart attack before Christmas. We wish him and his family all the best.

The evening lecture for February will take place at Penedoc College on Wednesday, Feb 23 at 7pm. Speaker to be confirmed. Thanks again to our friends from Countryside for sponsoring the night.

The morning lecture on the education front, the annual Avoncrop Amenity Products Education Seminar will again be held at Ashburnham Golf Club on Wednesday, February 23rd, at 10am. The event includes a bacon roll and coffee on arrival and also a buffet lunch. Give me a call if you would like to reserve a place.

That’s it for now. See you all soon.

Ceri Richards
07831 106645
reticereci@aol.com

**Devon and Cornwall**

FEBRUARY 2011

February 7th – 11th

National Golf Course Owners Association Annual Conference

April 19th

East Scotland Section
Spring Meeting

April 21st

South West Section
Chipping Sidney Golf Club

Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07929 754401
gutta.yevelton@gmail.com
The week that was ‘Harrogate Week 2011’

Each year the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), continue to learn Clubhouse services as vital components of the membership benefits and services BIGGA offer and 2011 didn’t fail to deliver.

Although smaller than previ- ous years (reflecting the current economy) the show offered the same buzz, excitement and atmos- phere as last year, in fact Continue to learn experienced a growth in numbers. Many of the workshops were already full before the week started.

The BIGGA Stand in Hall C wel- comed many visitors, from those who visit us year on year to say hello and catch up on the past twelve months to new visitors who come and see us for the first time to chat about the benefits of being a BIGGA Member.

Membership Benefits

Brochure (see pic inset)

This year we were able to launch the new BIGGA Membership Benefits brochure, a guide to the opportunities and rewards of being a BIGGA member.

The brochure contains informa- tion on the different categories of membership and the benefits and services each one offers with testi- monials from members of BIGGA.

Application forms for mem- bership are available from the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk, select ‘MEMBERSHIP’ from the options along the top and select ‘Application Form’ from the options on the left hand side, here you can download the information you need.

BIGGA has now firmly established itself as the professional body for golf greenkeepers and of course now BIGGA welcome applications for membership from other sports turf professionals working at sports facility.

So what makes BIGGA different to other organisations that provide a platform for people to interact and exchange information?

Well, as a professional Asso- ciation (also called a professional body, professional institute, profes- sional organisation, or professional society) BIGGA is a non-profit organisation seeking to further a particular profession, the interests of the individuals engaged in that profession and the public interest. This means that any profit made on commercial activities is put right back into the Association for the benefit of its members.

Why join a professional body?

Professional bodies aim to raise standards among those in their Industry, promoting best practice, training and recognised qualifica- tions. Members can benefit from support, networking and access to news and training opportunities.

How BIGGA can help you become a better Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager

As a Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager you may be faced with challenges for which you feel you are not completely prepared. Man- agement and greenkeeping often require very different skills from those which have got you where you are.

BIGGA could help you bridge that gap in a number of ways. We can put you in contact with others from your field, and as a result can provide information about best practice. BIGGA also offer training for managers and team leaders.

Now is the time to get involved in your section events. If you don’t already, make a deal with yourself to go at least two section events this year and take advantage of meeting other BIGGA Members in your area. The golf industry is facing some challenging times; the section events provide you with the opportunity to discuss relevant issues with your colleagues from other golf clubs. It’s reassuring to know that you do share some common problems and there may be somebody out there who can give you the benefit of their experience.

This month BIGGA welcomes the following members...

Scottish
- Duncan Frew, West Section
- John Davison, East Region
- Gordon Wood, North Section

Northern Region
- Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership
- Jane Jones, Tel: 01454 270850

Midland Region
- Peter Larter, Tel: 07776 242120
- Jane Jones, Tel: 01491 616344

Regional Offices
- Scotland & Northern Ireland
  Tel: 01347 833800
- Northern & Midland
  Tel: 0141 616 3440
- South East
  Tel: 01347 833800
- South West & Wales
  Tel: 01347 833800
- Northern Ireland
  Tel: 0141 616 3440

Contact Details
- Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership
  Email: info@bigga.org.uk

Other USEFUL NUMBERS
- Personal Accident Helpline
  0845 603 0999

For more information on new members log in to the Members’ Area of the BIGGA Website.

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS
- Personal Accident Helpline
  0845 603 0999
- Greenkeepers Support Services
  0845 603 0999
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  0845 603 0999
- Personal Accident Helpline
  0845 603 0999

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

A...xBB
9 Brainwave (4)
9 The author of 95 poems (1,3,8)
10 Roman poet, and Dante’s guide through Hell and Purgatory (6)
11 Exotic dancer and courtesan, executed for espionage in 1977 (4,4)
12, Inc. owner of the Nation (3,6)
13 Original host of Radio 4’s Counterpoint (3,7)
17 Footballers’ partners and a happy dog does this (4)
18 Electric gun, named after the fictional Tom Swift’s electric rifle (5)
19 Card game similar to poker (4)
20 Ghost of the ‘Friends’, Romans, Countrymen’ speech in Julius Caesar (5,6)
22 Brotherly surname of two Spaniard Ballet band members (4)
22 Gangster, nicknamed ‘Scarface’ (2,5)
27 Discoidal mark, two dots placed over a vowel to change its pronunciation (6)
28 US actor who stars as ‘Bilmes’ in Curb Your Enthusiasm (5,5)
29 Relative position within a graded group (4)

6. How many Test Match centuries has Sachin Tendulkar made?

7. What is the lowest score anyone has shot in a Major Championship round?

8. To the nearest 10 how many runs did Alastair Cook score in the recent Ashes series?

9. Prior to this year’s Six Nations which nation scored the nearest 10 points?

10. How many points has Johnny Wilkinson scored for England?

SUDOKU
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Puzzle Answers

Answer page 73
Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

The week that was ‘Harrogate Week 2012’

Each year the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), Continue to Learn a Clubhouse serve as vital components of the membership benefits and services BIGGA offer and 2011 didn’t fail to deliver. Although smaller than previ-

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Solving the wear problem

Rubber Grass mats assisted Eoin Riddell, Course Manager at Royal Dornoch, in the preservation of grass pathways. Eoin has been at Dornoch for 25 years and in charge for the last 10 months it is possible to play off the surface.

He cuts out the worn area and returfs allowing a clearance of 200mm from the grass edge. This is undertaken in conjunction with cable ties. The grass grows through the holes in the rubber mats and Eoin has been at Dornoch for 25 years and in charge for the last 10 years and found that the multi holed 1 x 1.5m rubber grass mats an ideal solution to some of his grass wear problems on pathways, where it has been impossible to maintain a grass surface in the past.

Eoin Riddell, Course Manager at Royal Dornoch, found that the multi holed 1 x 1.5m rubber grass mats were an ideal solution to some of his grass wear problems on pathways, where it has been impossible to maintain a grass surface in the past. He cuts out the worn area and returfs allowing a clearance of 200mm from the grass edge. This is undertaken in conjunction with cable ties. The grass grows through the holes in the rubber mats.

### AERATION

**TERRAIN**

- Turf and Trees
  - 10” drill aeration
  - 15” drill aeration

**Harrogate Week**

- 22 – 26 January 2012
- www.harrogateweek.org.uk

**Look at the latest…**

- Second Hand Machinery
  - www.bigga.org.uk/classifieds

**AERATION**

**Genuine Parts & Tines**

- The Soil Reliever
  - Deep Aeration - Pure & Simple
  - Old & New Models

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  - www.huxleygolf.com
  - Tel: 01449 673783
  - Visit greenkeeping industry...for sale
  - Tel: 01773 741100

**ARTIFICIAL GRASS**

- www.reco.co.uk

**Traditional drainage and Lytag banding of greens and fairways**

- www.butterflyirrigation.co.uk

**CONSTRUCTION**

- www.turfdry.co.uk

**COMPACT TRACTORS**

- www.topturfirrigation.com

**DRAINAGE**

- www.turfdry.co.uk

**Bunker Construction**

- www.newbuildturf.com

**SOLVING THE RUBBER GRASS MATS ASSISTED**

Eoin Riddell, Course Manager at Royal Dornoch, in the preservation of grass pathways. Eoin has been at Dornoch for 25 years and in charge for the last 10 months it is possible to play off the surface.

He cuts out the worn area and returfs allowing a clearance of 200mm from the grass edge. This is undertaken in conjunction with cable ties. The grass grows through the holes in the rubber mats and Eoin has been at Dornoch for 25 years and in charge for the last 10 years and found that the multi holed 1 x 1.5m rubber grass mats an ideal solution to some of his grass wear problems on pathways, where it has been impossible to maintain a grass surface in the past.
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Rubber Grass mats assisted Eoin Riddell, Course Manager at Royal Dornoch, in the preservation of grass pathways. Eoin has been at Dornoch for 25 years and in charge for the last 10 years and found that the multi holed 1 x 1.5m x 23mm rubber grass mats an ideal solution to some of his grass wear problems on pathways, where it has been impossible to maintain a grass surface in the past. He first saw them being used on a children’s play area and was one of the first Course Managers in Scotland to apply this idea to the golf links. He cuts out the worn area and returfs allowing a clearance and soon obscures the mats from view. Mats inserted during the winter programme have disappeared from sight by the following June and do not reappear again. After less than 12 months it is possible to play off the surface.
We’ll seal...
Recruitment

Deputy Head Greenkeeper
Leamington & County Golf Club
fill hole private members club
Golf Lane, Whitnash, Leamington Spa. CV31 2GA

Apply to: Jason Cooper, Head Greenkeeper
- Qualified to N/SVQ level 3
- Current spraying certificates PA1/PA2 & PA6
- Chainsaw certificate
- Experienced in course machinery maintenance and irrigation systems
Please include C.V and covering letter
Salary- Good salary package available in line with qualifications

Recruitment

CHELMSFORD GOLF CLUB
Head Greenkeeper

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an experienced Head Greenkeeper at this prestigious club in central Essex. The present Head Greenkeeper will be retiring in October 2011 after 25 year’s excellent service.

Chelmsford Golf Club, an original James Braid designed course, with major alterations by Harry Colt in 1925, celebrates the centenary of the course in its present location, this year 2011. It is a mature, undulating, parkland course of around 6000 yards and a par 68.

The successful candidate will:
- Hold appropriate greenkeeping qualifications as well as experience in a similar position.
- Have the ability to manage and motivate our experienced greenkeeping team.
- Have knowledge of Health and Safety Regulations.
- Have knowledge of irrigation systems and machinery maintenance.
- Be able to manage an annual budget and capital projects.

A competitive remuneration package is available for the successful candidate.
Closing date for applications is Friday 15th April 2011.

Please apply with full CV to:
The Manager
Chelmsford Golf Club
Widford Road
Chelmsford
Essex CM2 9AP

e-mail: graham@chelmsfordgc.co.uk

Qualified Greenkeeper

The Richmond Golf Club is looking to appoint a qualified & experienced greenkeeper to join their hard working, dedicated team. This 120 year old club is currently enjoying a strong membership position and has a progressive on-going course development programme. This is an excellent opportunity for any ambitious greenkeeper to further their career and work at a high quality private members club located next to the world famous Richmond Park.

Minimum 3 years experience in a similar position and NVQ2 or equivalent. Salary negotiable but in line with CGCS recommendations.

Please apply with full CV to Les Howkins MG, The Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Lane, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 7AS.

Or via e-mail coursemanager@richmondgolfclub.co.uk

Closing Date March 7th 2011
Tel: 07865 126 286

Safety Management System

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

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

Why do you need a Safety Management System?

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

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

sponsored by
RANSOMES JACOBSEN
A Textron Company

QUICK ‘NINE HOLE’ QUIZ ANSWERS:
1. 16
2. 15
3. 49
4. 11
5. 39
6. 51
7. 63
8. 766
9. 1111

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

Advertisement

LOOKING TO RECRUIT?
LOOK NO FURTHER THAN...
www.bigga.org.uk/careers

ADVERTISE IN GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL FOR A MONTH FROM £480+VAT FOR AN 1/8 PAGE ADVERT, OR GO DIRECTLY ONLINE FROM £300+VAT FOR A PART MONTH & £500+VAT FOR A FULL MONTH

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT KIRSTIN BLACK
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IN THE SHED ANSWERS
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CRoSSWoRD MonSTER SUDoKo SQUIGGLY SUDoKo

IN THE SHED ANSWERS
There are some jobs that nobody in their right mind would ever touch with a barge pole. It would be fair to say, for example, that I have never had even the slightest inclination to sign up as a Cat Food Quality Controller, although I assume somebody has to do it, and nor would I have exhibited even a modicum of enthusiasm had it ever been suggested that I should apply for the role of Chief Shoe Cleaner for Inleads Marcus.

I mention this here for the simple reason that eight months ago, when I accepted the invitation to become Greens Director at my local golf club, Welwyn Garden City GC, at least a dozen of my friends told me that I must have lost my marbles.

Long-standing acquaintances were particularly perplexed because they knew that about 20 years ago I had fulfilled a similar role at a previous club and so automatically assumed that I should have known better than to agree. I have numerous golfing acquaintances who would tell you they would rather have all their teeth removed without an anesthetic than to become the Greens Director or Greens Convener at their golf club but I’m not one of them and I can confirm nothing has happened over the last eight months to make me change my mind. Indeed, I have enjoyed the role immensely. I’m not sure our excellent Course Manager, Brett Cox, and his hard-working team would be quite as enthusiastic but, hopefully, they would agree I have done my bit and, much more importantly, let them get on with theirs.

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A new vehicle for people within the industry to express their viewpoint is the Soapbox, and Colin Callander is a former Editor of Golf Monthly magazine and is currently Greens Director at Welwyn Garden City GC. He has written in the February issue of Greenkeeper International about his role as Greens Director.

Nematodes and common toads

Colin Callander looks at what is required of the modern day Course Director

It is not rocket science, I can assure you, to say that to become a successful Course Director of a modern day golf course you are going to have to learn a great deal. The Soapbox is an opportunity to share some thoughts on what a successful Course Director looks like.

My remit was to come up with some strategy, all of which then have to be agreed at Board or Committee level. Sometimes, perhaps during spells of inclement weather or, for example, while a concerted effort is being made to rid the greens of meadow grass, the Course Director will have to act as a buffer between the Greenkeeper and irate members. That is inevitable, not to mention uncomfortable. However, for the rest of the time, when the course is deemed to be in good condition, the same Course Director can bask in praise he scarcely deserves.

It is not rocket science, I can assure you, and it can be made even less problematical if every effort is made to tell members in advance what will be done. Good communication is vital for any club that wants to minimise frustration and adverse comments from its members. This winter, we have undertaken a considerable amount of course improvement work, necessitating some holes being out of play for long periods at a time. However, because we intimated in advance what would be done and what disruption would cause, complaints have been minimal. In contrast, we omitted to publish a coherent policy on when carts and caddy cars could, or could not, be used in adverse weather conditions and this has led to uncertainty and considerable adverse comment.

The ultimate goal is to produce an exhaustive Course Policy Document outlining everything from how the course is to be managed, to the expected standards of maintenance, a five-year plan for course improvements right down to information on when the course will be closed in the event of bad weather, when winter greens will be used and when golfers will be allowed out with carry bags only.

That way, the greens staff will have guidelines to work to and the rest of us will also know exactly where we stand.

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The ultimate goal is to produce an exhaustive Course Policy Document outlining everything from how the course is to be managed, to the expected standards of maintenance, a five-year plan for course improvements right down to information on when the course will be closed in the event of bad weather, when winter greens will be used and when golfers will be allowed out with carry bags only.

That way, the greens staff will have guidelines to work to and the rest of us will also know exactly where we stand.
There are some jobs that nobody in their right mind would ever touch with a barge pole. It would be fair to say, for example, that I have never had even the slightest inclination to sign up as a Cat Food Quality Controller, although I assume somebody has to do it, and nor would I have exhibited even a modicum of enthusiasm had it ever been suggested that I should apply for the role of Chief Shoe Cleaner for Imelda Marcos.

I mention this here for the simple reason that eight months ago, when I accepted the invitation to become Greens Director at my local golf club, Welwyn Garden City GC, at least a dozen of my friends told me that I must have lost my marbles.

Long-standing acquaintances were particularly perplexed because they knew that about 20 years ago I had fulfilled a similar role at a previous club in Scotland and so automatically assumed that I should have known better than to agree.

I have numerous golfing acquaintances who would tell you they would rather have all their teeth removed without an anaesthetic than to become the Greens Director or Greens Convener at their golf club but I’m not one of them and I can confirm nothing has happened over the last eight months to make me change my mind. Indeed, I have enjoyed the role immensely. I’m not sure our excellent Course Manager, Brett Cox, and his hard-working team would be quite enthusiastic but, hopefully, they would agree I have done my bit and, much more importantly, let them get on with theirs.

I mention this here for the simple reason that eight months ago, when I accepted the invitation to become Greens Director at my local golf club, Welwyn Garden City GC, at least a dozen of my friends told me that I must have lost my marbles. However, because we are not necessarily as fast all with the recent advances in fertilisers and we probably couldn’t even tell you the difference between a Nematode and a Common Toad, I am a journalist. Other Course Directors I know are doctors, dentists, businessmen, civil servants, teachers and accountants.

We all have our own individual skill sets but, apart from the dentists, the aforementioned Messrs Peake and Park, we have little knowledge about how to manage turf grass, are we not necessarily as fast all with the recent advances in fertilisers and we probably couldn’t even tell you the difference between a Nematode and a Common Toad, so have absolutely no right whatsoever to dictate to our highly trained greens staff what to do when it comes to presenting the golf course for our members. That would be nonsensical, surely, not to mention dangerous for all concerned.

To me, the role of the Greens Director or Greens Convener is relatively simple and it is to raise, on behalf of the Board or Committee, with the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper on all matters relating to Course management, maintenance and development. Together, the Greens Director and Course Manager will set an annual budget, agree a course maintenance policy and devise a rolling course improvement strategy, all of which then have to be agreed at Board or Committee level. Sometimes, perhaps during spells of inclement weather or, for example, while a concerted effort is being made to rid the greens of meadow grass, the Course Director will have to act as a buffer between the Greenkeeper and irate members. That is inevitable, not to mention uncomfortable. However, for the rest of the time, when the course is deemed to be in good condition, the same Course Director can bask in praise he so dearly deserves.

It is not rocket science, I can assure you, and it can be made even less problematical if every effort is made to tell members in advance when vertidraining, hollow coring or, for example, while a concerted effort is being made to rid the greens of meadow grass, the Course Director will have to act as a buffer between the Greenkeeper and irate members. That is inevitable, not to mention uncomfortable. However, for the rest of the time, when the course is deemed to be in good condition, the same Course Director can bask in praise he so dearly deserves.

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By the way, did we mention ... no hydraulics.

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