

## BIGGA Appoints New CEO

Jim Croxton has been appointed as BIGGA's Chief Executive Officer, following a thorough and searching recruitment process.

Jim comes to BIGGA from the PGA, where he served most recently as Sponsorship Manager, having previously held the posts of Regional Secretary of the PGA North Region and National Tournament Director.

BIGGA Chairman Andrew Mellon said, "On behalf of the BIGGA Board of Management and our members I am delighted to announce the appointment of Jim Croxton as our new CEO. He is a confident, energetic and determined golf industry professional, with a track record of driving and implementing commercial and operational strategies, delivering successful and financially secure events and leading and motivating teams of staff.

He has more than 12 years of experience of senior roles within

The PGA, a volunteer committee-led members' Association."

Jim said, "I am proud and delighted to be appointed to this role and am looking forward immensely to working with the Board of Management and the excellent team at BIGGA HOUSE to continue the work of the Association. The work of BIGGA members is fundamental to the future health of the game of golf and I am convinced that the Board's ambitions to raise the profile of this vital work are worthy and achievable.

"At the same time I am sad to leave the PGA as I have thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of 16 years employment with them but am heartened by the fact that the two organisations enjoy a close relationship, so our paths will hopefully continue to cross."

Jim was born in July, 1972, and is a BSc Honours graduate of Leeds University. An active



golfer for over 20 years, playing off 6, he also represented Northamptonshire at Junior level.

He regularly participates in several sports including 5-a-side football, tennis and skiing; and is a keen spectator of most sports, particularly football and rugby union.

He lives near Macclesfield with his partner, Caroline, and children, Samuel and Megan.

## Change at Avoncrop

Avoncrop Amenity Products has announced that they are to restructure their business by the middle of June and will operate solely from their recently acquired site in Winkfield, near Windsor.

"We decided that now was the time to restructure our business as the lease for our Sandford, North Somerset site comes up for renewal. We also believe that basing our business in one location means we can benefit from greater cost efficiencies and give our customers a continued high level of service," said Managing Director, Rod Feltham.

The head office and business operation will now be performed from the Winkfield site, including sales, technical support, distribution and finance. The technical field staff will not change and it will be business as usual.

"We recognise the importance of ensuring our customers are serviced in the best way possible. By optimising our operations in one location, we believe we can focus on offering quality products, competitive prices and service to those we do business with in the amenity sector," said Director, Johanna McCloskey.

## New Sanli Man

Sanli UK, has strengthened its national sales team with the appointment of Russell Kelly as Area Sales Manager for the South of England and parts of East Anglia.

Russell takes over an area looked after previously by Claire Morris who, in her new role as the company's General Manager, is working with and supporting Mark Osborne in his dual capacity as Managing Director of Sanli UK Ltd and Director of European Operations, China Engine Group, Fujian Sanli Engine Co Ltd.

Russell joins Sanli UK from well-known garden machinery dealer, Tylers Ltd of Uckfield, East Sussex, where he had been for the past 15 years, initially as Sales Manager and latterly as Sales Director. Prior to that, Russell was a Regional Sales Manager with Atco Qualcast.

"I have watched Sanli's progress with great interest over the past 18 months and am delighted to be joining a company that is the first subsidiary of a Chinese outdoor power equipment manufacturer to be established in Britain," commented Russell.





## Bayer Appointment

Claire Matthewman has joined the Bayer Environmental Science Professional team as Product Manager.

Claire will be responsible for all marketing and portfolio decisions relating to the Turf and Amenity and Professional Pest Control business for UK and Ireland. A main part of her role will be managing key brands like Chipco green®, Dedicate®, Scorpion®, Merit® Turf, Longbow®, Festival®, Finale® and CDA Vanquish®.

Claire goes to Bayer with a wealth of marketing experience and fresh ideas having previously worked outside of the industry, which will help shape the future Professional business.

## JCB INNOVATION HONOURED WITH QUEEN'S AWARD



A product innovation that reduces fuel usage on JCB diggers and allows operators to get to site quicker is today recognised with one of the highest honours in the UK – a Queen's Award.

The Queen's Award for Innovation has been handed to JCB for developing a product

called TorqueLock, which is fitted to the company's biggest selling product, the backhoe loader.

The Queen's Award is the 26th to be won by the JCB Group since the first one was granted in 1969 – a record for a UK company.

JCB Chairman Sir

Anthony Bamford said: "JCB TorqueLock is just one innovation among many that we've produced with our customers' needs in mind and I'm delighted for the whole team at JCB that its development has been recognised with a Queen's Award."

## West Malling GC Owner Drives New Half a Million Toro Deal



West Malling Golf Club, in Kent, has recently signed a £500,000 deal with Toro turf maintenance machinery distributor Lely UK.

The club, which has two 18-hole courses, has been kitted out with over 30 brand new Toro machines. "Toro has an excellent reputation and a range of machines more solidly built than any other we've seen.

We chose Toro because we wanted a fleet that does a great job, plus I'm pleased that they look the part and suit the overall image of the club, which is important to me as its owner," said Mike Ellis.

Key pieces of Toro equipment that the club has invested in include six Greensmaster 1000-D and two Reelmaster 5510-D mowers, a ProPass 200 topdresser, a MultiPro 5700-D sprayer, five Workman MD utility vehicles and a ProCore 648 aerator.





## Tim Hands Over The Reins At TGA's Spring Meeting

Incumbent Chairman of the Turfgrass Growers Association, Tim Fell, was praised for steering the TGA through a challenging two years as he handed the reins over to fellow grower Hugh Dampney at the Association's spring members meeting in Southport.

Hugh drew applause from the 60 members gathered at the Ramada Plaza Hotel as he described the achievements Tim had contributed to during tough trading conditions, including the inclusion of TGA member-grown turf in the landscaping contracts for the 2012 Olympic Games and the successful negotiation of a discretionary 28 day exemption for newly laid turf in the event of drought orders being imposed.

He presented his predecessor with an engraved decanter and some fly fishing vouchers to mark his term in office.

The next time the turf growers will convene will be at the TGA's biennial turf show, which is being hosted by J&B Farnaby near Scotch Corner, later this month on, June 28 and 29.

Further details on [www.turfshow.co.uk](http://www.turfshow.co.uk).

## Farewell to BIGGA's Membership Man

BIGGA's Membership Assistant Brad Anderson has left the Association to manage a pub in Harrogate.

Brad, who joined the Association from school as one of the Reception Staff over 10 years ago will be managing the Coach and Horses pub in the town.

Brad's membership role will be covered by existing staff for the time being.



## GREENCAST SITE GETS MAKEOVER

There's a new look to the Syngenta GreenCast website, with improvements to make it faster and easier to find all the essential knowledge for more proactive turf management.

GreenCast is the most comprehensive website for weather forecasting, disease risk prediction, turf management information and turf specific application advice, according to Syngenta GreenCast Project Manager, Karen Roberts.

"It remains completely free for all turf managers, agronomists and students. They just have to register once, to gain full access to all the resources and knowledge."

She also highlights site features that include Weather Radar Information, so users can track weather fronts moving across the country and foresee potential issues:

"Used in conjunction with the Syngenta Spray Windows Forecast, greenkeepers and turf managers can plan spraying opportunities and programme work schedules.

"It's part of our ongoing commitment to provide the most useful information for turf managers in a quick and convenient format."

GreenCast is also now available as a mobile website, enabling greenkeepers, turf managers and agronomists to have instant access to practical information whilst out on the course or pitch, direct to their iPhone, Blackberry or mobile phone.

Key features on the new look website include:

- Five-day local and national disease & weather forecasting – proven by course managers to be more accurate than other turf-focussed weather providers
- Unique forecast of key turf disease risks – proven to aid more effective proactive decision making
- Valuable five-day spray window forecast – enabling better work scheduling and optimum spray timing
- Essential Integrated Turf Management advice from STRI and Syngenta technical specialists
- Full product information and advice to help achieve the best possible results
- Application advice to get sprays on target
- The latest news, innovation and technical updates for more effective turf management
- Entirely free access for turf managers, agronomists and students

For further info, visit [www.greencast.co.uk](http://www.greencast.co.uk)





## John Steps into Retirement

BIGGA Headquarter's staff were on hand to pay tribute to retiring Chief Executive John Pemberton last month and presented him with gifts bought from donations gathered from staff, Past Chairman and others keen to pay tribute to his 18 year contribution to BIGGA.

John was given a book containing pictures from all aspects of his BIGGA life over the years and a driving experience where he will get behind the wheel of a number of performance cars including an Aston Martin and a Ferrari.



## GROUNDSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS ANNOUNCED BY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The winners of the 2011 Groundsman of the Year awards for the npower Football League have been announced.

After a season when extreme weather pushed pitches to their limits, the efforts of ground staff across the country have been recognised.

Ewan Hunter, of Nottingham Forest, has been named winner of the npower Championship accolade, with Burnley's, Paul Bradshaw, and Gary Kemp, of Norwich City, both highly commended.

Carlisle United's, David Mitchell, scooped the Award for npower League 1 while Joe Aylett, of Milton Keynes Dons, and Southampton's, Andrew Gray, – last year's winner – both received commendations for the surfaces at Stadiummk and St Mary's.

In npower League 2, Anthony Haywood brought more success to promotion winners Chesterfield with the divisional Award for best groundsman. Bradford City's, Michael Doyle, and Shrewsbury Town's, Richard Barnett, were highly commended.

Presented by the Playing Surfaces Committee, the Groundsman of the Year Awards recognise the importance of the quality of pitches and to acknowledge head groundsmen and their staff.

The Awards are determined initially using marks from referees and away managers for each game, and are then followed by detailed pitch inspections and a review of management operations. These visits were carried out in late March and early April.



EAGLE

Eagle designs and delivers quality golf club collateral

t +44 (0)1883 344244  
f +44 (0)1883 341777  
e info@eagle.uk.com  
www.eagle.uk.com

## Tee off in style with Eagle's top quality timber tee accessories...



Handmade Timber Bins



Seed & Divot Boxes



Augusta Caddie Markers



# Silent Running for Nick Skelton's Yard

Showjumping legend Nick Skelton has acquired a Polaris EV 4x4 electric vehicle, to assist with work on his state-of-the-art stable in Warwickshire.

He uses the EV for something everyday whether it's at feeding time, towing a set of harrows to prepare the school, monitoring the gallops, cleaning up the stables or just

general ground care.

Nick makes the point that as it is totally silent and will never backfire it won't spook the horses. Important when it's working around some very high value horses and can be used when they are exercising and for a whole variety of tasks throughout the day.

He says the concept of the EV is invaluable and reassuring.

At 5 o'clock his horses have the last feed of the day, followed by a late night check.

The ideal time to plug in the EV for its overnight charge, ready for the next working day.



## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

Greg Evans MG has launched a new website as part of his golf course solutions consultancy which he set a couple of years ago to offer practical advice to golf clubs seeking to improve their product.

Greg said of [www.gregevanmsg.com](http://www.gregevanmsg.com):

"The new look website heralds those changing perceptions and confidence in me to deliver a first class product and services which include staff training, agronomy and budgeting among them. What has proved popular with several clubs is the course audit, where I reviews all aspects of course operations, suggesting areas for improvement which can save money and increase the club's revenue and profitability."



## Habitats and Wildlife

Rob Duff, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at St Ives Golf Club, has shown that his talents spread further than course management by producing a superb booklet Habitats and Wildlife – St Ives Golf Club which may soon find its way into the local libraries and schools as well as the clubhouse.

"I was looking into a project for my Foundation Degree at Myerscough College into Golf Club Environmental Policies and found that there was an opportunity produce something that golf club members might enjoy showing what work is done on the golf course and identifying the bird life we have.

"I found a site on the web which offered an on-line editing suite and I put the book together with pictures I'd taken on the course as well as those supplied by members and some I bought in," said Rob, who works with Master Greenkeeper Phil Gates at St Ives.

Such has been the interest in Rob's work that he is giving a presentation to the club later this month and he has been asked to visit local schools to talk about environmental issues.

