BIGGA and the GCSAA have forged an alliance, which will benefit golf course managers on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond. The formal agreement sees the two largest Associations in the industry working in collaboration to continue to raise standards in course management, demonstrate a global commitment to sustainability and to enhance the professional image and status of Golf Course Managers and Superintendents. Signed in Las Vegas during The Golf Industry Show, the agreement will see the collaboration to continue to work on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond.

BIGGA Chairman, Andrew Meljon, said: “BIGGA is delighted to have formalised its already existing relationships with the GCSAA. We firmly believe that Course Managers around the world face similar challenges so sharing good practice, recognising each others skills and working together jointly to promote sustainability and the fine work done by all of our members will undoubtedly lead to better playing conditions on golf courses around the world. We are grateful to the Board of Directors of the GCSAA for their progressive approach to this collaboration and I personally look forward to working closely with them in the years to come,” said BIGGA Chairman, Andrew Meljon.

The collaboration will cover education conferences and trade shows; support from industry sponsors and partners; professional development and education and membership products, services and information. All will be carried out with a genuine commitment to sustainability in all areas.

“A special one-day seminar, looking at how golf clubs can achieve success in sustainability managing their courses and facilities, is to be held in St Andrews later this month. The free seminar will feature presentations about the sustainability strategies at world famous golf venues, St Andrews Links, and Loch Lomond Golf Club.

There will be presentations about Waste Management from Zero Waste Scotland, energy usage from the Scottish Energy Efficiency Office, and an introduction to the Golf Environment Organisation OneCourse programme and its ecocertification.

Fife Council will also outline the support available for clubs and courses implementing sustainability measures.

The seminar will conclude with a discussion session where a panel of experts in the field will be on hand to answer questions and offer advice. It will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about this increasingly important aspect of golf club management.

The event is being organised by St Andrews Links Trust and is supported by the Scottish Golf Union, the R&A, the Golf Environment Organisation and Fife Council.

To book a free place at the seminar please visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/sustainable_life

“Some areas had to be completely stripped to clear tree roots.”

The greenkeeping staff has helped by using its heavy equipment to clear areas and transport the bigger stones to where they are needed.

Head Greenkeeper, Darren Moxham, said: “I am delighted the members have undertaken this work which has added to the image of this attractive golf course.”

Lincolnshire businessman and former champion motorcycle racer Roger Burritt has a long-term development plan in place to make Laceby Manor Resort & Golf Club near Grimsby the premier golfing venue in the region.

Having taken ownership of the club last May, Roger has invested in improvements to the clubhouse, course and greenkeeping facilities, with the recent purchase of a new John Deere course maintenance fleet from local dealer F G Adamson & Son of Swarbroad, North Ferriby.

“We now have the opportunity to provide the right golfing experience, with our new machinery fleet, and with a new head greenkeeper in Rob Bradley,” said Roger.

Members at a Somerset golf club have been rolling up their sleeves to rebuild the dry stone walls around their course.

The members at Saltford Golf Club undertook a crash course in the ancient craft of stone wall building from an instructor with the British Voluntary Conservationists to get the project underway.

“The golfers who had never been involved in any work of this kind before included retired schoolteachers, an ex-navy engineer, a former council leader, a steam train fireman and a project manager on the Royal Yacht Britannia, to rebuild walls nearly 300 years old.”

Peter Williams, a former accident investigator who was club captain when the scheme was launched, said: “Our course is more than 100 years old and many of the walls had deteriorated.

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The formal agreement sees BIGGA and the GCSAA work together in areas such as sustainability, technology, research, development and education.

The formal agreement sees BIGGA and the GCSAA join forces to help and impart sound advice to his friends and customers within the turf care industry. His input into the success of our business and the friendship he bestowed on us is so special.

“We will never forget our John Farrell,” said Alan Bailey.

The golfers who had never been involved in any work of this kind before included retired schoolmasters, an ex-army engineer, a former council leader, a steam train fireman and a project manager on the Royal Yacht Britannia, to rebuild walls nearly 300 years old.

The greenkeeping staff has helped by using its heavy equipment to clear areas and transport the bigger stones to where they are needed.

Formerly an officer in the British Army, He spent 17 years with Rain Bird Europe and a further eight years with Tropiflora, working in Europe, Africa and the Middle East on many prestigious projects.

For the last four years Eric has been working in the golf industry for the last 25 years, as an agricultural engineer and MBA. He spent 17 years with Rain Bird Europe and a further eight years with Tropiflora, working in Europe, Africa and the Middle East on many prestigious projects.

Eric and I’m sure that, with our experience in the golf greenkeeping industry, we will find a ready audience when he meets up with us.

The greenkeeping staff has helped by using its heavy equipment to clear areas and transport the bigger stones to where they are needed.

New Consultant The European Institute of Golf Course Architect, has appointed Erik Ter-Tortelier as their latest BIGGA Consultant Partner. Erik, who has worked in the irrigation industry for the last 25 years, is an agricultural engineer and MBA. He spent 17 years with Rain Bird Europe and a further eight years with Tropiflora, working in Europe, Africa and the Middle East on many prestigious projects.

For the last four years Eric has been Managing Director at AREO. Julia Green, EIGCA Executive Officer, said; “It is a great pleasure to welcome Eric to the EIGCA. We created this new partnership category specifically for golf course consultants like Eric and I’m sure that, with his wealth of experience in irrigation, he will find a ready audience when he meets up with us.”

“Some areas had to be completely stripped to clear tree roots.”

Eric, who has worked in the irrigation industry for the last 25 years, is an agricultural engineer and MBA. He spent 17 years with Rain Bird Europe and a further eight years with Tropiflora, working in Europe, Africa and the Middle East on many prestigious projects.

Erik Ter-Tortelier has been appointed as the latest BIGGA Consultant Partner to support the European Institute of Golf Course Architects. He has 25 years of experience in the irrigation industry, working in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Eric’s background is in the irrigation industry, having spent 17 years with Rain Bird Europe and eight years with Tropiflora. He has experience working on prestigious projects such as the Royal Yacht Britannia.

“Tasteful and tranquil”

The greenkeeping staff has helped by using its heavy equipment to clear areas and transport the bigger stones to where they are needed.

Eric has been managing the greenkeeping staff that have helped by using its heavy equipment to clear areas and transport the bigger stones to where they are needed.

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EGEU Launch New Website

The European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU) has launched its new website (www.egeu.eu) to support its work in delivering greenkeeper education and training. The new website is designed to be user-friendly and accessible, providing up-to-date information on the latest training courses, qualifications, and industry news.

Natural Paving Products

Natural Paving Products (UK) Ltd has launched its new brochure and website. The new brochure includes flagstones and block paving, as well as a range of new products, colours and features. The Cragston Collection of weathered flagstones and circles is also new for 2012. www.naturalpaving.co.uk

Renovation Work to Witness

The opportunity of visiting Birch Grove Estate, in Sussex is a course which rarely opens its doors to witness renovation work being carried out, has arisen.

Birch Grove Estate was acquired by a select few as the best 18 holes in Sussex. No expense was spared in its construction and the millions spent created a golf course of absolute perfection.

Birch Grove is now under new ownership and is to be given a new lease of life. For one week only, an intensive renovation programme will be implemented with machinery from Koro, Imants, Dakota, Omaly, Raynum, Cormaster and Vredo.

Once the work is finished, the gates will be closed and locked by the owner and then the facilities and golf course will be once again reserved for his own private use. You can apply for your personal invitation. This is the way you can gain access – so please email your request to julia.campey@campeyturfare.com or call 01260 224566.

HERBICIDE LABEL CHANGES

New CRD (Chemical Regulation Directive) label requirements for herbicides approved for use on non-porous, hard surfaces, require increased targeting of spray applications, important in protecting water and optimising application efficiency.

“Just in the view of Bayer’s, Dormir Rep, who has monitored the new requirements. “These new label requirements – Regulatory Update 42 – will apply to all herbicides used on paved and other non-porous surfaces,” explained Dormir.

The new legislation, aligned to the EU Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides and the EU Water Framework Directive, has come into action to help minimise the use of herbicides and to reduce run-off into drains which pose a pollution risk.

“For herbicides used on such surfaces, the path of movement following application, mirrors that of rainfall, often being directed into drains and gulleys.”

“This potential pollution risk is one which must be prevented to deliver environmental protection which otherwise hinders compliance with EU and UK directives relating to pesticide use and protection of water resources.

“The objective is to improve the targeting of herbicide applications and to avoid blanket sprays when controlling weeds on impermeable surfaces,” he said.

South East Region Annual Golf Day

After a chilly start once again, members and their guests enjoyed some good weather at Walton Heath Golf Club for the South East Region’s Annual Golf and Dinner Day.

All of the large field of competitors appreciated the great condition of the Course and its presentation so early in the season.

It was very apparent that Alan Starbuck and his team had been really busy with some good work on the Heath throughout the winter months.

Competitors enjoyed the refreshments kindly provided by Johnny Beck and James Watson, of Shirtwell Amenity, at the 10th hole. Chairman of the South East Region, Tom Smith, thanked the host Club for, as always, their first-class hospitality and for making everyone so welcome on the day.

Following an excellent meal in the Holderness Dining Room guests were entertained by the popular Ian Richards, The Captain of Walton Heath Golf Club, John Aarvold, then presented the prizes to the category winning competitors.

The Ray Day Memorial Trophy was won by Gareth Roberts, from Haslade Common Golf Club, with some great golf to get around the New Course in a gross score of 72.

This year for the first time there was a Team Challenge won by the Surrey Section whose top three players had the best combined score to receive the Silver Salver.

The evening ended with the presentation of the Trophy in memory of Ian McMillan by Callum McMillan (left) to the winners of the Members and Guests’ Glyn Richardson (right) and Matt Streetrett (centre) from Beausport Park GC.

The South East Region of BBGA is most grateful to the following companies for their generous sponsorship and help with this event. Amenity Products; Blade Anonymity; CWAL; Eminent Day; Everris; Golf Mats UK; Grass Roots/Dryjet UK; JSM; P. Trackwell Ltd; Rigby Taylor; Suffolk Anonymity; Spedefcut Contractors Ltd; Siaia/Dennis

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MVP KITS from Toro give you a convenient and money saving way to keep on top of your routine maintenance and repairs. There are special MVP Kits (Maintenance Value and Performance) for spindle and reel cutting units rebuilding, popular maintenance kits for blades and service kits for all Toro machinery, even the latest models. Conveniently packaged with genuine Toro parts, MVP Kits are all you need to complete the job and maintain the ongoing performance of your Toro machinery in the field.

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The GTC’s David Golding, a Director of the EGEU, believes the new website will develop into an independent information portal for the sector as more countries look to establish a greenkeeping education and training structure to allow access to learning for all levels of operators and managers.

Any centre, college or company involved in delivering greenkeeper education and training based on best practice are encouraged to apply to become involved in the Quality Assured Accreditation Scheme.

David added, advice and guidance will be available to help grow the game globally using expertise in all subject areas to ensure best practices are used to help grow the game globally using expertise in all subject areas to ensure best practices are used to help grow the game globally using expertise in all subject areas to ensure best practices are used to help grow the game globally using expertise in all subject areas to ensure best practices are used.

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Michael Lathrope (Mick) shown above second from right, moved from Maylands Golf Club, near Romford, to take the Head Greenkeeper’s job at Eaton Golf Club in Norwich in March 1972 – he’s still there today.

He left the ‘Smoker’ with his wife, Lil, who he had recently married at the time and began a new life in Norwich. Now, 40 years on, he has three daughters, Jayne, Kate and Tina, and five grand children - with twins on the way. With a reputation of hard work and loyalty second to none, he has been East Anglia scribe to the magazine for many years. He has strong relationships with fellow Greenkeepers and Trade alike.

Mick has successfully worked to get the current young crop of greenkeepers qualified, as he has since 1981.

So March broke all records for warm weather and lack of rain, certainly in the East of Scotland, and it was so good to see dealing with irrigation issues, with sun on your back, and seeing all the golfers with smiles on their faces, in warm weather clothing. The course has greened up, it’s beginning to look nice and healthy again and growth is filling out the winter wear areas.

I’d like to start by thanking Peter Boyd for his loyal and dedicated service to BIGGA. We wish him all the best in his retirement and know he will be missed by all who have come to know him as a friend. I’d also like to wish Angela Wilson, from our accounts department all our best wishes as she moves to Scotland, and to thank her for her excellent work during her time at BIGGA.

Feedback from all the National conferences and events has been very positive, and there is definitely a more positive outlook on the golfing front. I attended the one week BIGGA Management Development Programme Level II Course, excellently hosted by the Club Managers Association of America, and approved by the Club Managers Association of America, the Industry leaders in this field. I’m glad to report BIGGA played its part with, as our CEO and Gordon McKe, ST Andrews both doing a great job in representing our Association.

All those who work in the industry would be wise to understand the impact before making their own positions clear. For example: in the shoulder seasons (Spring/Autumn), we will have longer evenings, potentially allowing more golf and a useful revenue stream to the golf clubs. Conversely, preparation time in the morning will be limited if golfers are still to get a round in before lunch, and maintenance schedules could be under severe pressure to keep ahead of play. Potentially secure income at present could therefore come under threat. It would be useful to have a wide consultation and ensure its impact is understood.

The Golf Foundation supports the development of golf in schools and the links between schools and clubs. Through its efforts, the Golf Foundation has dramatically increased the number of schools delivering golf in England from 14% to 44% and the number of schools with links to clubs from 9% to 30%. In addition, the Golf Foundation is reaching youngsters in inner city areas and is providing support for projects to involve disabled children. It has also contributed significantly to the growth of junior golf in Scotland and Wales.

Supporting the Future

The Golf Foundation...