The competition doesn’t want you to see the Jacobsen ECLIPSE® 322 riding greens mower. They can’t match its ZERO leak points. They can’t provide individual reel control to vary cut patterns. They can’t offer programmable frequency-of-clipping from an LED screen. And they can’t get anywhere near the true hybrid fuel savings or legendary quality-of-cut. When it comes to the ECLIPSE® 322, the competition can’t compete.

Looking forward to 2013

As the rain pounds down outside and much of the UK experiences yet more flooding I think it is safe to say this has been one of, if not the toughest years in living memory for greenkeeping.

Many of my conversations with members recently have centred on the importance of communicating clearly with employers, members and visitors to ensure they understand the true extent of the challenging conditions and the impact they have had (and are continuing to have) on course maintenance.

With the weather being so discouraging to golfers it is likely that revenues are down bringing further pressure on the greenkeeping team to get courses open and playable.

Never has it been more important for Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers to be able to effectively put across facts and figures in a way that is not seen as making excuses, and able to work with their employers to find ways of ensuring there is some revenue generation possible.

It is challenges just like this that has led BIGGA to endorse the Future Turf Managers Initiative that is being funded by Jacobsen (more details on page nine). This initiative recognises that there is so much more to being a Turf Manager of any kind than agronomic knowledge.

The Initiative is looking to identify those with the desire and fundamental skills to make a career in the field of Turf Management and supplement those skills with high quality management training and mentoring by senior Course Managers who have themselves made the journey from apprentice greenkeeper. The Initiative compliments our own Assistant Greenkeeper Development Programme, which has begun so successfully these last few weeks.

We genuinely believe, as do Jacobsen, that investing now in the future success of our membership is good for the golf industry and for the Association.