Dr. Terry Mabbett looks at the impact the oak processionary moth has had on Richmond Golf Club.
Celebrate 175 years of innovation with us.

In 1837 John Deere produced his famous plough which cut through the sticky prairie soil. That spirit of innovation continues today with the 2500B/E greens mowers. Their offset cutting units and hybrid technology help to create championship greens the world over.

Now you can celebrate this special birthday with us. We’re offering an extra set of either cutting or verti-cut units, for just £175* with every new 2500B PrecisionCut or 2500E E-Cut Hybrid riding greens mower. These quality extra units have no shelf life. Compatible on models back to 2006.

Just ask your dealer for details of our big birthday offer.

*Offer valid from 1 February to 30 June 2012. Available only at participating dealers.
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Get yourself to Harrogate International Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) 2012 Conference and Exhibition to mark 100 Years of Greenkeeping and raise the professional profile of greenkeepers.

Happy New Year. We may be in the depths of a recession which is showing no signs of ending but 2012 does contain some highlights that should keep us all interested.

Apart from the London Olympics and the European Football Championships closer to home, BIGGA celebrates its 25th birthday – a quarter century of providing education and raising the professional profile of greenkeepers.

The Silver Anniversary, along with an Exhibition to mark 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations, will be celebrated at Harrogate this year. Look out for our new Anniversary logo.

The Continue to Learn programme this year is exceptional and if you are still undecided on whether or not to attend I would urge you to get pre-registered and along there. I’ve never met anyone who has regretted going to Harrogate.

The phrase “Lifelong learning” is one which you hear increasingly these days, but there can be few people to whom it is more relevant than Paul Mitchell, Head Greenkeeper, at Harrogate Golf Club.

Paul has gone from strength to strength and, having been given that vote of confidence by the Chairman and Course Manager, he began working as a greenkeeper when he left school. He became Deputy Head Greenkeeper in the mid 80s and made sure he was attending BIGGA training courses and keeping himself educated and up to date. When the Head Greenkeeper retired Paul wasn’t automatically given the job but had to go through an intensive interview process. Not having had an interview since he was a 15 year old, it was the BIGGA training courses and the fact that he was in tune with current greenkeeping developments that gave him the skills and belief to do well and he was offered the job at the ripe old age of 50.

Having been given that vote of confidence Paul has gone from strength to strength and, as you can read this month, so has Harrogate Golf Club.

On the same theme, we have an article on how technology has impacted on the greenkeeping industry with smart phones being almost as vital a greenkeeping tool as a hole cutter. It goes to reinforce the need to keep up to date with the requirements of the job. Whereas an ability to mow a straight line would be enough for you to stand out as a young apprentice at the beginning of a career, dealing with Spreadsheets, computerised irrigation systems and Safety Management Systems – you can also see news of this in this month’s issue – to mark you out as a top Course Manager.

There can be few jobs where the jump between initial requirements of the job and those later on in a career is as quite so vast and that is where BIGGA offers so much help.

The training courses that the Association can provide ensures any gap in education can be filled at a fraction of the cost of similar courses in other industries, thanks to the support that BIGGA receives from its industry partners in the Gold Key Learning and Development Fund.

I hope you do have a successful 2012 and that I will have the opportunity to see you in Harrogate.

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The rise of digital technologies in greenkeeping

Jim Cook looks at how the job of greenkeeping is being transformed with digital technologies.

Applications must be Greenkeeper members of BIGGA. Closing date for entries 21st September, 2011.

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The Movember charity, which raises money for testicular cancer is, gaining in popularity hence the number of rugby players, growing moustaches, of varying qualities, through the month of November.

“I got the idea last year when I picked my daughter up from the child minder and her husband had a big Mexican moustache. He explained that he was growing it for charity and I thought that this would be a good idea for our greens staff to get involved with as we have quite a large membership who are potential sponsors,” said Mark Gumbrill, First Assistant at Buchanan Castle.

“When I put the idea to the rest of the guys they were all up for it and were counting down to the following November! We also thought we could have a play on words and call it MOWvember!” said Mark, who added that, thanks to the Buchanan Castle members, they raised over £700.

A few hundred miles south, staff – including one lifeguard – at the Roehampton Club were also working away on their facial hair and they too raised a considerable sum for the charity.

JOHN DEERE LEAVES THE IRRIGATION MARKET

John Deere has announced that the company is withdrawing from the turf irrigation business, which has been developed over the past six years in partnership with US manufacturer Signature Control Systems Inc (SCS).

SCS will sell existing and current irrigation products through its own distribution network, which may include selected John Deere dealers worldwide.

“Under the terms of the agreement, irrigation products will continue to be a part of the John Deere range, but the company will continue to support all customers who have installed their irrigation systems and parts. This strategic realignment will enable both John Deere and SCS to focus on their core equipment competencies in the worldwide golf and turf markets,” said Gregg Breningmeyer, John Deere’s Global Golf Segment Manager.

“In addition, our European Parts Distribution Centre in Bracknell, Germany, will continue to stock and provide replacement parts across Europe for the foreseeable future.”

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR RICHARD CAMPEY

Richard Campey, Managing Director of Campey Turf Care Systems of Mac Melton, has won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the IOG Industry Awards at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton.

Richard has spent the past 25 years promoting a strategy of best practice in sports ground renovation and maintenance, which has not only enabled him to build a successful company but importantly also help ensure that young people especially have the best possible playing surfaces at their disposal.

In addition, Richard’s ‘national instigator’ for the turf care business has also earned him a reputation as someone who sets industry standards – he was, for example, the person who introduced, in 1997, the Koro machine to this country.

The impact this has had on the way sports pitches are managed today is profound – an industry that was once seen as a rather unrecognised generic term in the industry.

The Award was presented, in Richard’s absence, to Campey Turf Care Systems Sales Director, Simon Gundrell, by Richard Walton from category sponsor Everris and Richard responded via a video and Skype link.

“I am surprised and delighted to receive this award and would like to thank the IOG and all those who voted for me,” said Richard.

“I have been in this industry for 35 years, 25 running my own business.

“I learned a lot in those early days but I owe thanks to two people in particular, both Head groundsman at the time; Archie McGaughey, of University of London Motspur Park and Bert Flack from Old Trafford.

“I have never forgotten how they taught me the importance of instilling your knowledge in the next generation.

“Educating the young in the methods of ‘best practice’ is as important today as it was back then, and this is integral to the way we operate at Campey Turf Care.

Thanks again to everyone for their recognition.”

SCOTTISH REGION CONFERENCE

The 2012 BIGGA Scottish Conference will take place at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Carnegie College, Dunfermline on Tuesday, March 6.

Speakers include Grant Moir, Director – Rules of Golf, The R&A; Robert Smith, Souters Irrigation Services Ltd/Graeme Francis, RHS/Donnachie GC, and Les Hookana MG, Course Manager, Richmond Golf Club.

Other speakers include Robert Patterson, Course Manager, Royal Aberdeen Golf Club; David Vrooman, The Anderson’s, Turf & Specialty Group, and John Philip, MBIE, Course Superintendent, Carnoustie Links.

Tickets cost £35, which includes tea/coffee on arrival, coffee/pastry at the mid morning break and buffet lunch.

Full details and booking forms will be posted to all members in Scotland and further forms can be obtained by contacting Peter J. Boyd, Regional Administrator. Tel: 0141 616 3440 or pj.boyd@btinternet.com.

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Retirement

Arthur Bayfield has retired from Buchanan Castle Golf Club after 48 years at the club. He started work in September 1964 aged 15 years, has worked at the club in different roles and has completed 48 years and four months to date. He was his third apprentice under a new scheme brought in by the SGA. He worked until April 2011.

Arthur’s father became Head Greenkeeper, then became his father’s First Assistant. When his father became ill, Arthur worked as Acting Head Greenkeeper until his father retired in 1979. Arthur then became Head Greenkeeper, Son, Stuart, is now a third generation greenkeeper working at Loch Lomond Golf Club.

Despite retiring, Arthur will continue to work at the club during the Summer months part-time to look after the Academy Course and to continue to assist Ronnie Myles and the Team.

Volunteers wanted for BIGGA Support Team

Volunteers are once again required for the BIGGA Support Team for the BMW PGA Championship, The Wentworth Club, May 24-27. Volunteers are wanted to help Chris Kennedy and his team at The Wentworth Club on the above dates. All or any one day would be greatly appreciated. Bunker raking duties on the last two days.

A great chance to see at close hand the Course preparation for the European Tour flagship event on the West Course at Wentworth.

A great opportunity to see at close hand the Course preparation for the British Open Championship, The Royal Liverpool Golf Club, July 18-21. Volunteers are wanted to help the Club’s greenkeeping team on the course over the three days, both days and evenings.

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For more information please contact Clive Ogsgood, South East Regional Administrator claivesgood@yahoo.co.uk Mobile 07841 984410 or 01737 819343.
ALBATROSS FOR ANDY

Northern Section Secretary, Andy Slingsby, looked to be just out of the running at a Stableford Competition at Baldon Golf Club where he came to the par–5 18th. Two shots later and he pipped the clubhouse leader with a birdie on 16th. He hit a great drive and had 230 yards to the hole. Then hit a 3-wood which pitched 10 feet from the hole and went in,” said the 13 handicap. “It was an albatross 2 and with the shot I had on the hole it was a six-pointer” said Andy. 

It is the second albatross scored by a BIGGA member this year with one made by Gary Burgess during the BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, at West Lancs GC in October.

Retirement

Arthur Bayfield has retired from Buchanan Castle Golf Club after 48 years at the club. He started work in September 1964 aged 16 years with 10 years amenity grass and has completed 48 years and four months to date. He was the third apprentice under a new scheme brought in by the SGA. He worked under Bill Bradfield until his death in 1969. When Arthur’s father became Head Greenkeeper, he then became his father’s First Assistant. When his father became ill, Arthur worked as Acting Head Greenkeeper until his father retired in 1979. Arthur then became Head Greenkeeper. Son, Stuart, is now a third generation greenkeeper working at Loch Lomond Golf Club.

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The new Turfgrass Seed 2012 guide, published later this month contains all the information needed to help professional users assess the suitability of different cultivars for a range of applications, and to determine which grasses best suit their particular needs. The guide provides comparative information based on the results of comprehensive trials designed to test suitability in three key areas of application:

- Winter sports pitches and municipal recreation areas
- Lawns, summer sports pitches, tennis courts, turf and general landscaping
- Artificial, close-mown surfaces such as golf and bowling greens

A wide range of characteristics are assessed to test and score the performance of different species and cultivars, ranging from physical attributes such as colour, fineness of leaf and award density to agronomic factors such as disease resistance, re-growth rate and recovery from wear.

“Breeding new improved grass cultivars is a costly and time-consuming business, taking at least ten years of crossing, selection and pre-commercial trials to reach the market. For professional amenity users, making the most of the investment and innovation by plant breeders requires expert guidance and advice in cultivar selection.”

“Turfgrass Seed is the best available source of reliable and impartial data on high quality amenity grasses, based on trials conducted by the UK’s leading independent centre in turfgrass research,” said Robert Jackson BSTBP Trials Co-ordinator. The new guide will be available online from 24th January 2012 at: www.bsbsp.co.uk/news.html. Additionally please order your for a hard copy (priced at 4.84 per copy) via Robert.Jackson@BSTBP.co.uk or tel. 01353 653202.
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10/12/2011 15:57

GI JANUARY 2012

As you read this, I hope you have all had a good Christmas and are off to a good start in 2012.

As I write this, my 12th column, I find myself trying to think ahead and plan for what will be happening and where we will be.

In these changing times this is something that is harder for everyone now, across every part of society. However we must learn to look for and exploit all the opportunities that such an environment creates. There is no point in dwelling on the difficulties. We need to be able to adapt, and sometimes think outside the box to find ways of dealing with what we face.

I believe that Greenkeepers are naturally good at this, as we are constantly managing an environment in which some of the aspects change rapidly, outside our control. Yet the standards demanded by our customers is ever higher. We have always been innovative in finding solutions to meet these demands.

That all sounds easy on paper doesn’t it? The reality is a more difficult situation, and one which is not easy to face alone. Many mistakes are made along the way, lessons learned, difficult consequences faced, but hopefully we get through those and come out stronger on the other side.

To me this has been the main benefit of my membership of BIGGA, it has given me more impact on helping me than anything else I have faced, but hopefully we get through those lessons learned, difficult consequences and come out stronger on the other side.

I hope you at least got a short holiday during the festive period to do just that. But we also need to rest and re-charge the batteries, and get ready for another year of challenges and opportunities. I can’t recommend it highly enough.

My trip to China this month to teach Superintendents for a week was another great experience. I learned as much as the students, and it was great to see them interacting and learning from one another. It was not without incident, I locked myself in my hotel room trying to catch my flight home. Cardiac arrest was on the cards at this point, but some help from a friendly Chinese couple smoothed the unrest and I was thankfully last on the plane and on my way home. Such are the joys!

I’ll be at Harrogate Saturday 21st through to Friday 27th, and I hope to see many of you there.

Chairman’s Word

BIGGA National Chairman, Andrew Mellon, gives his thoughts for the new year

25 more years to celebrate

As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary this year at Harrogate we will reflect on the many successes of our members and supporters and the impact they have had on the Golf Industry in which we all work

in their support during the year ensuring that my time spent on BIGGA matters has not resulted in a diminution of quality at my own facility.

We all need to reflect occasionally. We also need to rest and re-charge the batteries, and Hope you at least got a short holiday during the festive period to do just that. But we also need to rest and re-charge the batteries, and re-evaluate our forward direction also.

Every year, since I came into the Golf Industry, I have attended HTML at Harrogate. I can say with no hesitation it has had more impact on helping me than anything else.

My knowledge has grown due to all the education I’ve undertaken. I’ve made fantastic contacts who have shared so much experience and knowledge with me. I’ve kept abreast of all the developments and innovations that the trade have brought to market, enabling me to make informed buying decisions on behalf of my employers. Every year I’ve learned something new, and been given ideas that have helped me do my job better. Socially, I’ve enjoyed the company of some of the finest people you will ever meet, who I am lucky to now call friends. It’s re-charged my batteries and set me up each year, enthused, focused, and ready for another year of challenges and opportunities. I can’t recommend it highly enough.

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My very best regards for 2012,

Andrew Mellon
07780 995602
amellon@elmwood.ac.uk
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That all sounds easy on paper doesn’t it? The reality is a more difficult situation, and one which is not easy to face alone. Many mistakes are made along the way, lessons learned, difficult consequences faced, but hopefully we get through those and come out stronger on the other side.

To me this has been the main benefit of my membership of BIGGA. I always have someone to turn to and will find someone who can shed some light on a problem I’m facing, has been there before, got the T-shirt and can help me find a solution, or at least see the best way forward in dealing with any issues I have. In what can sometimes seem a lonely job, that extra support goes a long way.

I have spent some time reflecting on my time as Chairman over the last year, and it has not been without some significant challenges and major changes, as well as many highlights. I’m honoured to have had the privilege of serving the Association.

As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary this year at Harrogate we will reflect on the many successes of our members and supporters and the impact they have had on the Golf Industry in which we all work.

In their support during the year ensuring that my time spent on BIGGA matters has not resulted in a diminution of quality at my own facility. We all need to reflect occasionally. We also need to rest and re-charge the batteries, and I hope you at least got a short holiday during the festive period to do just that. But we also as individuals need to re-energise and focus on ways to ensure we work together effectively in ways which are mutually beneficial.

It has been reassuring to hear their recognition and respect for the significant part we play in the success of Golf, and I’d like to thank them all on behalf of the Association for their co-operation and support.

I’d also like to sincerely thank the team here at Elmwood who have been unstanding innovations that the trade have brought to market, enabling me to make informed buying decisions on behalf of my employers. Every year I’ve learned something new, and been given ideas that have helped me do my job better. Socially, I’ve enjoyed the company of some of the finest people you will ever meet, who I am lucky to now call friends. It’s re-charged my batteries and set me up each year, enthused, focused, and ready for another year of challenges and opportunities. I can’t recommend it highly enough.

My trip to China this month to teach Superintendents for a week was another great experience. I learned as much as the students, and it was great to see them interacting and learning from one another. It was not without incident, I locked myself out on my balcony one evening, and tested my powers of sign language to the limit trying to explain to security, tiny Chinese women.

My very best regards for 2012,

Andrew Mellon
amellon@elmwood.ac.uk
Happy New Year everybody.

Those of us lucky enough to be in employment and returning to work after the festive break, will no doubt face ongoing difficult times as the UK economy still seems to be stuck in a deep economic rut.

We hear more and more golf clubs are struggling to stay afloat and some radical measures are having to be taken to keep the business going.

The GTC sincerely hopes that employers look to maintain and improve the standards offered at their clubs by investing in staff development.

At the majority of golf clubs, certainly in Europe, a small team of multi-skilled operatives, led by a qualified competent Course Manager has managed to work its way through previous recessions (showing my age now!).

The British greenkeeper education and training system supports those employers willing to invest in staff skills with Government funding being available through the Apprenticeship Scheme and other funding initiatives.

The Scottish and Welsh Governments have introduced schemes to support clubs in considering recruiting new apprentices and more recently the UK Government has proposed a Youth Contract, which again is designed to give employers funding to support the employment of apprentices.

Scotland has Employer Recruitment Incentives and Flexible Training Options available and while it is often difficult to keep track of new initiatives such as these and they are often subject to change at short notice we do encourage employers to contact their Quality Assured Centre for the most up to date information.

Greenkeepers themselves can also apply for funding for Scholarships and Bursaries available through organisations such as BIGHGA and The R&A as well as individual funding initiatives such as the LIA in Scotland.

I hear more and more stories of professionalism by Course Managers when developing their course maintenance and development budgets for their employer to consider.

“Making the case” for new equipment, materials and staff isn’t easy at the best of times but all of these skills can be gained through training and a well presented case can engage an employer especially when they see the projected benefits from the proposals.

While we would always prefer golf club employers to recruit skilled full time staff to maintain and manage the golf course to the highest possible standards we also have a tradition of using part-time and volunteers to aid the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper.

The standards now expected at the majority of golf clubs are at levels which demand on both employers and their employees have never been greater.

Why have standards been set so high? Clearly golf courses chosen for the televised tournaments ensure adequate resources are provided for their staff to perform excellent playing surfaces for the leading golfers in the world to show off their skills, but without knowledgeable skilled greenkeepers, the game at all levels would undoubtedly suffer.

The GTC has maintained a career structure which can be used for apprentice greenkeepers to progress but also every other person employed or volunteering to play their part on and off the golf course.

I know many of today’s top Course Managers have had to learn so many skills far beyond the apprenticeship and together, with helpful comments from these Course Managers who have stepped up to becoming General Managers, we must now ensure our Quality Assured Centres and the Training Providers support the next generation, with quality education and training which is aligned to the National Occupational Standards recently agreed for the sector.

How can we ensure these training courses are available?

The National Occupational Standards cover craft, supervisory and management skills and the knowledge required and are written in a format which can be transferred into short training courses or full qualifications.

The GTC promotes both formal and informal education and training for both greenkeepers and golf club employers.

The National Occupational Standards are sometimes better explained as UNITS and all can be delivered through training courses but to date are mainly used to cluster Units together to make up vocational and college based qualifications.

So whether you are an apprentice, assistant or deputy greenkeeper, Head Greenkeeper, Course Manager, volunteer or Chairman of Green, the GTC can assist you to have a meaningful contribution to supporting your golf club business aspirations.

The GTCQuality Assured Centres are available to assist employers access all of the new Government funding from Apprenticeships.

Youth Contracts to other schemes as they become available to assist trainee developers develop their skills and knowledge and for employers to employ “more hands”.

I hope to check out the National Occupational Standards and the GTC’s Quality Assured Centres and Training Provider network on the GTC’s website www.the-gtc.co.uk.

Happy New Year! I can’t believe another year has passed - where did 2011 go? Rachael and I wish you all health, wealth and happiness for 2012.

The focus this month is firmly on Harrogate Week and specifically, for the LAD department, the Continue to Learn education programme.

Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week
Harrogate Week kicks off the year in grand style with the Continue to Learn education programme running from Sunday 22 to Thursday 26 January. For those of you that haven’t booked yet - fear not, you can book up to Wednesday 11 January 2012.

Thursday 26 January
Experiences of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award
Managing the Business of Sustainability
GEO Certified™ - Making Your Turf Management – What’s Most Important? You Decide

Tuesday 24 January
The Use of Phosphite in Cool-Season Ame- rican Turfgrasses
Performance – What’s Most Important? You Decide

NEW FEATURE for 2012
The Showfloor Theatre, located next to the BIGHGA Stand, will be unveiled for the first time. Presentations and Awards will take place at the Showfloor Theatre, attendance is free of charge and open to all attendees. I hope you will take the time to attend some of the events that are taking place that are:

Tuesday 24 January
Edwin Budding Award
STRI Ecology Awards
Want to be an R&A Greenkeeping Scholar?
How to Write Your CV and Prepare a Cover Letter
Presentation of CFD Diplomas and Master Greenkeeper Certificates
Experiences of the Ohio State Internship Programme

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Wednesday 25 January
Achieving Smooth Golf Greens Being a Professional and Living it
The Ultimate Renovation Pack-
BASIS Contribution for the Future of Amenity Industry

Thursday 26 January
Sustainable Golf Course Management and the Impact of the Cutting Unit

Thursday 26 January
Secrets from the Sandman
Toro Cutting Unit – The Way Forward

Using an Integrated Management Approach to Eliminate Turf Disease on Fine Pine Surfaces

THE RESCUE CLUB

BIGHGA Greenkeeper Training Listing

On page 66 the December 2011 issue of this magazine the advert for Oaklands College should have appeared – where did 2011 go? Rachael and I wish you all health, wealth and happiness for 2012.

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Happy New Year everybody. Those of us lucky enough to be in employment and returning to work after the festive break, will no doubt face ongoing difficult times as the UK economy still seems to be stuck in a deep recession. We hear more and more golf clubs are struggling to stay afloat and some radical measures are having to be taken to keep the business going.

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Practical Interview Skills for Greenkeepers
Multifunctional Golf Courses – An Underutilised Resource
How to Negotiate Your Salary Package
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Experiences of the Ohio State Internship Programme

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Harrogate Week and specifically, for the LAD department the Continue to Learn education programme...
John Deere Enhances European Parts Service

John Deere's European Parts Distribution Centre has inaugurated its new deconsolidation and packaging facility, a 2 million euro investment, which will create additional employment for around 90 people.

The new operation was established within just ten months and will help to streamline parts logistics and further enhance the supply of parts to John Deere dealers and customers throughout Europe, the CIS, Northern Africa and the Near and Middle East (EAME). “In light of the rapidly growing range of John Deere machines in all equipment divisions, we must continue to improve our supply of parts and merchandise,” said Fritz Renthofle, Director Parts Operations.

The new 16,000 square metre deconsolidation and packaging complex in Bruchsal will serve as a hub for incoming parts, which will either complement outgoing parts shipments or be forwarded to storage areas at E-PDC. 

Due to logistics and handling improvements, the company expects to reduce delivery times even further, especially in peak harvesting seasons. The Bruchsal E-PDC currently stores more than 200,000 part numbers in a 62,000 square meter area.

Inturf Fullfills Green Promise

In 2009 Inturf signed up to 10:10 to signal its business commitment to doing something about climate change. The business aimed to cut its use of energy by working more efficiently and as a result achieved a 10% cut in its carbon emissions in the process. In fact, through dramatically reducing its use of electricity, heating oil and diesel Inturf has cut emissions by 18% in the first year. “We’ve taken a fresh look at how we use energy in every part of the business,” says Alex Edwards, Joint MD. “Every stage of turf production from sowing to harvesting has been made more efficient. We’ve redesigned our delivery systems too so that—substantial part of our costs—has been greatly reduced.”

Lone Britannia

Ecoco Turfcare was the only British exhibitor at GreenExpo, held in Bordeaux in November 2011. Operator of the Drill n Fill/Deep Drill aerators and sports turf maintenance and renovation systems, Ecoco has just returned from a highly successful visit to the French Greenkeepers’ Association exhibition, taking place over three days at the city’s lakeside venue. Ecoco MD, Brettton King was impressed by the quality of the visitors. “We’ve seen increasing numbers of European golf clubs booking us for Drill in Fill contract work and machine sales over the past few years,” he said, “so a personal presence on the Continent was a no-brainer.

“We had a lot of informed interest in Drill in Fill from the major clubs, some of whom made definite bookings and there was evidence that smaller clubs were co-operating to book the system between them. In addition it was great to meet several satisfied customers, from management to greenkeeping staff.”

Double Promotion

Bolans has promoted Jonathan Hill to Sales and Marketing Director and Emily Kirkland to Customer Service Manager. Jonathan was previously National Sales Manager, has been with the company for over eight years. *Jonathan’s appointment as a Director is a key part in achieving the demanding objectives we have set as a company. We are all enthusiastic about the way the company is developing in these challenging times and Jonathan’s experience and enthusiasm will be invaluable in achieving our objectives,* said Paul Dawson, MD.

Emily worked as both a Sales Administrator and Customer Services Coordinator. “Our policy of internal promotion for staff members who demonstrate outstanding skills and an excellent work ethic is perfectly summed up by Emily’s promotion. We are delighted that she has taken on this important position, which is vital in the way we support our customers,” said Jonathan Hill.

TURFCO iPAD WINNER

Graine Lorimier, Course Manager at Bishopshill Golf Club on the north eastern outskirts of Glasgow, has won one of the six Apple iPads offered as prizes in Turfco’s promotional campaign celebrating 50 years of topdressing.

Turfo, the Minnesota-based manufacturer and inventor of the first mechanised topdresser, have been running the competition since the February 2011.

At the end of the year, a Grand Prize draw will be held, with the winner receiving a Turfo WideSpin 1540 EC topdresser.

Graine was presented with his prize by John Quinton, Ransomes Jacobsen’s UK and Ireland sales manager, during a visit to IGOG Scotland in early November. “I can’t believe it—I’m not normally very lucky when I enter competitions, so when I was notified that I’d won, I was absolutely astounded,” said Graine.
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Moving on up

Scott MacCallum visits the golf club of a town synonymous with greenkeeping and meets a man who is relishing the opportunity to make an impact on the course
Moving on up

Scott MacCallum visits the golf club of a town synonymous with greenkeeping and meets a man who is relishing the opportunity to make an impact on the course.
When Harrogate Golf Club’s Head Greenkeeper announced his intention to retire, the club started the process of looking for a successor. They advertised widely and pulled together a strong short list of candidates who were then put through an arduous interview process.

The club was delighted with the final decision, they had appointed a man with vast experience with a vision to take the course forward.

That man was Paul Mitchell, but there was no need for a long induction programme, or introductions to the rest of the staff, as Paul had been a member of the club since 1972 and been Deputy Head Greenkeeper since 1985.

“I was really pleased that the club went through the interview process and that I wasn’t just handed the job. It meant that I was able to demonstrate that I was going to move the club forward and that I got it on merit. If I’d said that I was happy just to keep it ticking over I certainly wouldn’t have got the job,” explained Paul, who was 50 when he took up the post.

“During the interview I highlighted some of the issues – woodland management, ryegrass on the greens, bunker drainage and a thatch problem and explained what I would do to resolve it. I was also told at the time that the aim was to produce a higher quality golf course, but with a reduced budget and I was to operated with one member of staff fewer than before.”

Paul had been attending BIGGA training courses over a number of years and felt ready to take the step up to be Head man.

“It felt less of daunting prospect than when I became Deputy, because then there were guys on the team much older than me, who had been at the club for a long time, and I had to issue them with orders. “Over the last four or five years I had had a major input on the projects we were doing, as well as in the day to day running of the course, so it wasn’t so much of a jump when I got the job.”

The first task Paul and the team tackled after he had been appointed was the bunker drainage.

“As with most clubs there was a complaint about the bunkers holding water. If new drainage was needed we put that in, as well as some upside down turf because stones were coming up through the clay.”

Paul Mitchell who plays on a Saturday morning coming back the following Saturday and not seeing any obvious progress having been made.”

Having made his initial splash Paul and his team of four set about the next phase, which was to improve the greens.

“We’d had a ryegrass problem in the greens for many years, while there was also an organic matter issue,” he explained.

“I did some research on Rescure, reading about it and going on BIGGA’s Bulletin Boards and decided to do a trial on our 4th, which is just beside our sheds. That proved successful and following discussions with Simon Watson, of Syngenta; Simon Hardcastle, of Scotts; our agronomist, Henry Sheehan, and another local Course Manager, who’d carried out the same work the year before, we agree that we should go ahead. The feeling was that if we didn’t do it now we’d achieve is putting it off for another year.”

To aid accuracy Paul borrowed a pedestrian sprayer, worked out that he needed 25 litres for 500 square metres and carried out tests on two greens using pure water. Confident that he was applying at the correct rate, and happy in his own mind with the approach, he sprayed all 18 greens, the extra green which is used in the winter, and the putting green.

“At first I didn’t think anything was going to happen but then it kicked in and it has done a great job and it has got rid of 90% of the ryegrass. I’ll look to do it again next September,” said Paul, who made sure the membership was kept informed of what was going to happen through the Green News which he introduced and the noticeboard.

Paul has also been using Primo Maxx on tees and greens and has been delighted with the results.

“We often have club matches in the evening and the player asked us to double cut as they were not playing until 5pm and the greens were a little slower but the Primo Maxx has meant that single cutting has been sufficient, again reducing the amount of hours required.

The organic matter issue had been something Paul had been aware of for some time – he could smell it – and he had白斑 tined three times in the space of seven months but, by his own admission, had got rid of 5% of the problem at best.

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That man was Paul Mitchell, who was 50 when he took up the post. “I was really pleased that the club had appointed me,” he explained. “I’ve always wanted to be Head man. It felt less of a daunting prospect than when I became Deputy, because then there were guys on the team much older than me, who had been at the club for a long time, and I had to issue them with orders.

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“Henry had it analysed and found that the problem was in the
top 40mm. He recommended that we use the Graden, which I’d seen at the STRI’s Turf Science Life the previous year with Keith Kennett. I’d also had a short demo of it here. I was very impressed.”

Paul had changed the top dressing from a fine grain to a medium and the Graden’s ability to insert this straight into the soil profile was another plus.

Prior to hiring the Graden in from Kennett Sport, Paul enrolled half a dozen members – including his brother-in-law – to help with the filling of the hopper.

“The whole process took two days including doing the 3rd green twice as it was particularly soft. It was extremely hard work but fortunately the members know me and were prepared to help. We vertidrained and pencil tined ahead of the Graden pass and it took an hour to do each green and followed up with a core harvester and drag matted each green three times. We put temporary greens in place but within two hours the greens were back in play.”

And the work has paid off.

“I said in the Course Policy Document that we should only carry out alterations to the golf course if we bring in a professional architect. Jonathan was here all day and was very positive about some of the things we’ve done here. I’m looking forward to reading his document.”

Paul has been delighted with the support he’s had since taking over as Head man.

“I would like to thank Green Chairman, Neil Ormondroyd, the club Council and the members for their encouragement and positive comments since I became Head Greenkeeper. I’d also express my thanks to the rest of the Greenkeeping staff whose efforts I greatly appreciate,” said Paul, who added that his daughter, Tori, had helped out by working 15 hours a week in the summer and a day a week during the autumn and winter.

Paul has been a BIGGA member since day one of the Association and has taken full advantage of what the Association has to offer.

“I’ve attended Management Courses and did the Design course at Harrogate about four years ago while, as I’ve said, I find the Bulletin Boards a great source of information. I posted about a soil moisture meter recently and got over 1000 views and 15 replies which I thought was really good.

“Also, I contacted Paul Worster about staff appraisals through the Forum and he very kindly sent me some information. It’s very rare that I contribute but I do read it a lot.”

While many people travel thousands of miles to attend BTME and the Continue to Learn Programme Paul has it much easier. He lives a 10 minute walk away and can always return to his own bed at night.

“The seminars and workshops are excellent and I enjoy nipping into see some of the free ones. The half-hour ones can be very good. I’ll take the lads for a curry and meet up with people there. You can learn so much just by sitting in a pub having a few beers.”

“It comes at a good time of the year and it’s the ideal place for it.”

Paul may have had to wait to step up to Head man at Harrogate but he is making sure he makes the most of the opportunity.

Good design goes unnoticed. Hunter Industries’ TTS rotor keeps all the innovation unseen and below the green. Featuring Total Top Servicing, TTS is the no-dig solution for simple and quick maintenance, so golfers have more time to play on. With the world’s first DIH+ (Decoder-in-Head) capable rotor, you can forget about hundreds of unsightly decoder enclosures on your course. Out of sight, out of mind.

www.huntergolf.com
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And the work has paid off. “The members have been saying that they have never seen the greens so good. Ideally we should do them again but that will come down to whether the club can afford it,” explained Paul, who is also a three time Club Champion.

While many people travel thousands of miles to attend BTME and the Continue to Learn Programme Paul has it much easier. He lives a 10 minute walk away and can always return to his own bed at night. “The seminars and workshops are excellent and I enjoy nipping into see some of the free ones. The half hour ones can be very good, I’ll take the lads for a curry and meet up with people there. You can learn so much just by sitting in a pub having a few beers.”

“It comes at a good time of the year and it’s the ideal place for it.” Paul may have had to wait to step up to Head man at Harrogate but he is making sure he makes the most of the opportunity.

Top 40mm. He recommended that we use the Graden, which I’d seen at the STS’s Turf Science Life the previous year with Keith Kensett. I’d also had a short demo of it here. I was very impressed.”

Paul had changed the top dressing from a fine grain to a medium and the Graden’s ability to insert this straight into the soil profile was another plus.

Prior to hiring the Graden in from Kensett Sport, Paul enrolled half a dozen members – including his brother-in-law – to help with the filling of the hopper. “The whole process took two days including doing the 3rd green twice as it was particularly soft. It was extremely hard work but fortunately the members know me and were prepared to help. We vertidrained and pencil tined ahead of the Graden pass and it took an hour to do each green and followed up with a core harvester and drag matted each green three times. We put temporary greens in place but within two hours the greens were back in play.”

And the work has paid off. “The members have been saying that they have never seen the greens so good. Ideally we should do them again but that will come down to whether the club can afford it,” explained Paul, who is also a three time Club Champion.

The club is currently waiting on a report carried out by architect, Jonathan Gaunt, specifically on bunker redesign, but also with a broader remit of creating a template for the next five to 10 years. “I said in the Course Policy Document that we should only carry out alterations to the golf course if we bring in a professional architect.”

Jonathan was here all day and was very positive about some of the things we’ve done here. I’m looking forward to reading his document.”

Paul has been delighted with the support he has had since taking over as Head man. “I would like to thank Green Chairman, Neil Ormondroyd, the club Council and the members for their encouragement and positive comments since I became Head Greenkeeper. I’d also express my thanks to the rest of the Greenkeeping staff whose efforts I greatly appreciate,” said Paul, who added that his daughter, Tori, had helped out by working 15 hours a week in the summer and a day a week during the autumn and winter.

Paul has been a BIGGA member since day one of the Association and has taken full advantage of what the Association has to offer. “I’ve attended Management Courses and did the Design course at Harrogate about four years ago while, as I’ve said, I find the Bulletin Boards a great source of information. I posted about a soil moisture meter recently and got over 1000 views and 15 replies which I thought was really good.”

“I also contacted Paul Worster about staff appraisals through the Forum and he very kindly sent me some information. It’s very rare that I contribute but I do read it a lot.”

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A

Anniversary.
Harrogate Week 2012 marks the start of BIGGA's 25th anniversary celebrations. A quarter of a century during which time the status of the country’s greenkeepers has risen at the same rate as the quality of course maintenance.

B

BTME.
The exhibition is one of the principle attractions of Harrogate Week and provides a temporary “Shopping Mall” tailored to the needs of all visitors.

C

Continue to Learn.
The world class education programme at Harrogate Week attracts people from all over the world to listen to speakers and tutors who are leaders in their fields.

D

Directions.
There are many ways to get to Harrogate and we can help you find the best way to get there.

E

Exhibition Centre.
Harrogate’s International Exhibition Centre has been home to Harrogate Week since it was launched and each of the Halls has its own character. Hall A and the traditional entrance; Hall B with the Café at the end; Hall C with its access to both the Queens Suite and and Hall M itself – the modern entrance to the Show and the newest of the Halls.

F

Free Entry.
There is no entrance charge to get into BTME while the Seminars are also free to attend.

G

Greenkeeping.
Slice open the vast proportion of the visitors and you’ll find the word “Greenkeeping” etched through their core. Greenkeeping is the only way of life most visitors know and to them it is far more than a job or career – it is a vocation.

H

Harrogate.
The town most synonymous with the greenkeeping world. It is the industry’s equivalent of Fleet Street, Billingborough or Harley Street. You know what you are going to see or get when you arrive.

I

International.
Harrogate Week attracts delegates and speakers from all over the world and the range of countries represented makes for a truly cosmopolitan week.

J

Job Shop.
If you are looking to enhance your career prospects you could do much worse than take a look at the Job Shop.

K

Knowledge.
So much can be acquired during a week at Harrogate whether it be in the formal setting of a Workshop or Seminar, on the floor of the Halls or at a bar or restaurant in the evening.

L

Learning.
There is nothing more important than to keep on learning and there is nowhere better to make it happen than Harrogate.

M

Memorable!
No-one leaves Harrogate without a host of memories many of which will last a lifetime.

N

Networking.
One of the main benefits of attending Harrogate is the networking potential. Not only do you get a chance to mingle and meet people from all over the industry they get a chance to get to know you. Remember it’s not always what you know – it’s often who you know!

O

Old Swan.
The official Hotel for the week where the greenkeeping chat will go on long into the night.

P

Personal Development Zone.
Come and meet people who can offer advice on your career, assistance with CV writing, interview techniques, working abroad and general greenkeeping issues.

Q

Queuing.
Avoid the queues by pre-registering. It makes attending the Show so much more enjoyable.

R

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Seminars.
The world class education programme at Harrogate Week attracts people from all over the world to listen to speakers and tutors who are leaders in their fields.

T

Tour of Harrogate.
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U

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V

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W

Workshops.
Harrogate Week attracts delegates and speakers from all over the world and the range of countries represented makes for a truly cosmopolitan week.

X

Xmas.
Harrogate Week is the ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe.

Y

 Yorkshire.
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Z

A-Z of Harrogate Week
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Avoid the queues by pre registering. It makes attending the Show so much more enjoyable.
Register Now.

If you register now on-line you can avoid the queues (see above).

Showfloor Theatre.

New for 2012 is the venue for all the presentations and awards that will be made during the three days. Go along and check it out.

Travel.

Make sure you take advantage of the Park and Ride Service. It is simple and effective and saves parking charges!

Unity.

There can be no more united profession than that of greenkeeping. Everyone pulls for each other and if anyone has a problem there is always someone to share it with and nowhere is this more in evidence that Harrogate.

Volunteers.

The success of BIGGA is down to the time and devotion of many, many members who give up time to support BIGGA and Harrogate Week.

Workshop Programme.

There are many to choose from and each one gives you the chance of experiencing hands-on education from a top tutor. But make sure you book early to avoid disappointment.

Bear with us on this…

Harrogate gives you Xactly what you want at a time of the year when you are in need of a boost!

Zzzzs

Sleep is often in short supply and catching up on your return home is very important!
A-Z of Harrogate Week
The ultimate turf management exhibition in Europe

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Harrogate gives you Xactly what you want at a time of the year when you are in need of a boost!

Y
Yorkshire.
The added benefit of attending Harrogate Week is the chance to experience the delights of England’s largest county. It may often be cold – particularly in January, but the warmth of the people more than makes up for it.

Z
Zzzzs
Sleep is often in short supply and catching up on your return home is very important!
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READY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME?

The latest group of BIGGA members to be selected for the Bernhard & Co sponsored Delegation head for Nevada at the end of next month

Las Vegas here we come
Meet the delegates....

The BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard, and reached a significant milestone when it travels to Las Vegas for the Golf Industry Show next month.

Included within the number will be the 100th delegate to have made the trip since the very first Delegation, and the only one to travel to the Canadian Superintendents Conference and Show, did so in 2001. A total of 1000 Superintendents have also made the return trip to Harrogate.

Not one of the 90 BIGGA members who have already experienced the Delegation will ever forget the experience and the programme that has been organised for the 2012 group is sure to leave the same impression.

The latest Delegates will fly out to Las Vegas at the end of February with a full week ahead of them. They will enjoy the full Conference Package, including the Opening Session and the GCSSA President’s Reception.

They will also be taken to two local golf courses to meet the Superintendents and inspect the golf course.

They will also have access to two full days of GCSSA Seminars and will be guests at a Bernhard Reception which will provide the opportunity to meet top 100 golf course Superintendents, members of the GCSSA, members from BIGGA, international golf course Superintendents, and research agronomists from US universities.

“We are delighted that the Delegation is such a significant programme for BIGGA members and that we had such a high quality group of applicants to select from,” said Bernhard’s Managing Director, Bob Huddleston.

Age: 28
Name: Daniel Norsworthy
Club: Richmond Golf Club
Position: Deputy Course Manager

Daniel started his greenkeeping career at Cradleigh Golf & Leisure, and after a few years joined his dad to gain his Level 2. He was then offered a job at The Richmond Golf Club.

He continued his training and development gaining Level 3, and other relevant qualifications and after seven years at Richmond, he was offered the position of Head Greenkeeper at the now closed Cradley Heath Golf Club. He enjoyed this role, and during this time he also gained his Level 3 in golf course construction. He was appointed Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Delamere Golf Club that ignited his passion for the traditions of the game and sustainable greenkeeping. In 2009 at the age of 22 he was promoted to the position of Course Manager at Lymn Golf Club where he works today.

In 2012 he founded the Delivering the Eliot Shirtbed Men’s to promote sustainable greenkeeping and networking among greenkeepers, and in 2009 he qualified as a Master Greenkeeper.

Stuart started his career in greenkeeping after undertaking HND in Golf Course Management in 1993. After graduation he spent two years in golf course construction. It was then the appointment of Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Delamere Golf Club that ignited his passion for the traditions of the game and sustainable greenkeeping. In 2009 at the age of 22 he was promoted to the position of Course Manager at Lymn Golf Club where he works today.

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Stuart joined John O’Gaunt in May 1995 as a Greenkeeper and subsequently was offered a three year apprenticeship. Having gained an NVQ Level 3 he recently returned to education to do NVQ Level 4 and ILM in Sports Turf Management at Myresoun College. Although looking after a clay based golf course built on a limestone ridge has its challenges, he has very much enjoyed his time there.

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He is married to Alex and they have two children, Rhia and Layla, and enjoys playing golf and in a huge football fan, supporting Tottenham Hotspur.
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“We are delighted that the Delegation is such a special group of BIGGA members and that we had such a high quality group of applicants to select from. The experiences that the successful 2012 Delegation will take from their week in Las Vegas will be unique and I am sure that the friendships which will be formed and developed during the week will last a lifetime,” said Bernhard’s Managing Director, Bob Badgeringham.

Name: Neil Ballingall
Age: 48
Position: Superintendent

Neil started out as an Assistant at Luton Golf Club in 1987, before becoming Deputy Course Manager, at Murrfield Golf Club in 1997. In 1997 he was appointed Golf Courses Manager at Moray Golf Club and four years later, he became Course Manager.

He is married with two daughters, three step daughters and two dogs. He lists his hates as gardening and shopping and his hobbies as hitting the gym and trying to play golf!

Name: Daniel Norsworthy
Age: 28
Name: Daniel antioxidant
Age: 30
Position: First Assistant

After graduation he spent two years in Corporate Golf Course Management in 1993. After graduation he spent two years in golf course construction. It was the appointment of Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Delamere Golf Club that ignited his passion for the traditions of the game and sustainable golf. In 2003 at the age of 19...
Cast larval skins from an early instar stage of OPM and skeletonised oak leaves (Picture copyright RBG Kew)

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**Beware of the OPM**

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the impact the oak processionary moth has had on Richmond Golf Club

**L&D Feature**

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Beware of the OPM on the golf course

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the impact the oak processionary moth has had on Richmond Golf Club

Turf renovation and maintenance machinery

L&D Feature

Dr Terry Mabbett looks at the impact the oak processionary moth has had on Richmond Golf Club
2006 saw Britain enter a new dimension in insect pest infestation with the discovery of oak processionary moth (Thaumetopoea processionea) on newly planted imported oak trees in the London Boroughs of Richmond and Ealing.

For the first time the United Kingdom faced a dual-dimension insect pest (amenity and public health) affecting people as well as trees and with the capacity to kill either, as well as domestic pets and farm animals.

Oak processionary moth (OPM) had been spreading northwards in Europe for some years and was already endemic in Germany and the Benelux Countries.

The insect sneaked into England as plagues of eggs on semi-mature cypress discovered on oak trees (Quercus robur f. fastigiata) imported from a nursery in southern Holland and subsequently planted on landscape projects in Richmond and Ealing.

At first the Forestry Commission (FC) claimed it could eradicate the pest but soon realised it ‘had bitten off more than it could chew’. By 2001 OPM was well established in five contiguous London Boroughs (Richmond, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hounslow and Brent) in what became known as the ‘core outbreak zone’.

In March 2011 FC stopped serving statutory enforcement notices for OPM nest removal and pest control in this ‘core zone’, leaving local authorities, private landowners and householders to take the initiative and continue to pay for any control. FC said it would now serve notices within a ‘buffer zone’ of 10km radius around the ‘core zone’. This ‘buffer zone’ was subsequently breached by OPM during the spring and summer of 2011 including eastwards onto Wiltshire County’s landscape.

Additional outbreaks almost certainly originating from new introductions on oak trees imported from the Netherlands subsequently occurred during 2010. At least one post-dated the necessity for oak trees imported into the UK from the Netherlands and other EU countries to be accompanied by an ‘EU Plant Passport’. This became effective on March 31 2008. The outbreaks were found in North Surrey, Pangbourne in Berkshire and Sheffield in late summer 2010.

OPM is a poisonou pest OPM attacks all oaks of all ages and stages, and appears to favour trees growing in an open well-lit situation. In this context OPM could not have chosen a better place to invade than the London Borough of Richmond which is exceptionally well blessed with large open spaces and places. Kew Gardens, Richmond Park (Royal Park), land belonging to Richmond Borough Council and several high-prestige internationally acclaimed golf courses are all affected and now operating programmes of pest containment, control and eradication.

They employ specialist arboriculture companies with the equipment and expertise to deal with this new well-established pest carrying serious implications for public health and safety. Each third instar (growth stage) larva carries over 60,000 stinging hairs ‘barbed’ with an urticating (irritating) and allergic reaction histamine-releasing protein with potential lethal risk to people, pets and livestock.

One of the golf courses affected is The Richmond Golf Club at Sudbrook Park which is using Bartlett Tree Experts, headquartered at Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire. Bartlett Tree Experts has country-wide coverage through a series of regional offices and depots from where it carries out pest management programmes. I spent a day in May 2011 with a highly experienced two-man specialist spray application team (Adam Clarke and Chris Gill) from Bartlett Tree Experts on The Richmond golf course to learn first-hand how they are managing this dynamic pest problem.

I later spoke at length with Course Manager Les Howkins MG to get his views on OPM, its control and the implications for golf courses in the UK.

A spray day in May

Adam Clarke and Chris Gill, two highly skilled arborists, had started to spray and were well on their way to treating all 700+ oak trees on the course, including saplings and newly planted trees.

‘Most are native English oak (Quercus robur) with significant numbers of Turkey oak (Quercus cerris) and a few red oaks (Quercus rubra), all of which will be sprayed,’ said Chris Gill.

The Richmond has a management plan comprising preventative spray application to all oak trees that were infested in the previous year with accompanying treatment of all adjacent susceptible oaks. However, it faces constant threats from adjacent infested sites not able to spray insecticide due to SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) status or not willing to implement adequate control, or indeed any control, for financial or other reasons.

This presents the risk of re-infestation on a yearly basis from sites doing nothing or having inadequate programs in place. Golf courses in particular are in no position to mess around with OPM (for safety reasons). The Richmond has opted for desaminthrin, a highly potent synthetic pyrethroid insecticide to provide a quick, efficient and cost effective kill of OPM larvae.

‘There are no water courses on this site so the toxicity of desaminthrin to fish and other aquatic life does not arise,’ said Chris.

No risk

The Richmond is clearly not prepared to take any chances from using less quick and complete-kill products like the insect growth regulator diflubenzuron or the bio-insecticide Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt). Bottom line for The Richmond is protecting the health and safety of members and players from urticating (irritating) hairs on OPM larvae from the L3 (third instar) stage onwards.

“We take all precautions when spraying. Bee hives are shut down and extra care is taken to ensure no spray droplet drift occurs across the course and onto adjacent land and properties”

Adam Clarke

is protecting the health and safety of members and players from urticating (irritating) hairs on OPM larvae from the L3 (third instar) stage onwards.

“We take all precautions when spraying. Bee hives are shut down and extra care is taken to ensure no spray droplet drift occurs across the course and onto adjacent land and properties,” said Adam. Ideal spray timing is when OPM larvae are in L1 to L3 prior to the development of urticating hairs and when they are most susceptible to insecticides. When larva reach L4 they are covered in toxic urticating hairs and the fall out of dead larvae from trees after spraying creates whole-life management and safety problems.

Adam and Chris were on the lookout for clusters of early instar larvae.

“It is too early to see any results of feeding activity or damage although we would have started to find skeletonised leaves very soon,” said Adam.

Maintaining OPM populations as low as possible is the only realistic policy as far as this golf course is concerned.

“Unfortunately they can only approach and achieve it on an annual basis despite the near 100% control we will have achieved by spraying with deltamethrin. Our re-infestation is likely to occur

Mark Mabbett

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This became effective on March 31 2008. The initial infestation at The Richmond was discovered in June/July 2010 during a routine FC inspection and the club was duly served with a statutory notice for OPM control. But this was after the time period for effective control spraying had passed leaving a programme of nest removal as the only option for that year.

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Re-infestation is likely to occur from adjacent infested sites not
annually so long term eradication is not going to happen.”

Tony Bartram, Assistant to The Richmond and a qualified tree surgeon, monitored the course throughout summer 2011 and did not see any OPM nests following the spraying. “However, residual OPM infestations from surrounding sites will migrate straight back onto the golf course every year which means the golf course management will be forced to review their control program and decide whether to spray every year from now on,” said Chris.

The spray operation

The Richmond is a busy golf course and the 700+ oak trees are spread across the 18-hole course, some singularly, others in groups with many already at full grown size. You could gauge just how tricky it was for these guys to spray effectively and safely as Adam hailed up to treat a group of 18 English oak trees. There was a fairway with players on both sides of the grove but Adam wasted no time in knitting up in full safety gear of protective clothing. This was the bigger of the two spray rigs used by Bartlett Tree Experts along with other reputable tree contractors are looking at all the tools in their arsenal for the management of OPM, whether spraying with deltamethrin, insect growth regulators and BT or nest removal or a combination of any of the above.

Further research projects both in the UK and in Europe are looking at other options for OPM control and continued cooperation with all involved parties is essential. Evidently some of the key sponsors are interested in environmental considerations, however laudable that may be.

“We’ve already budgeted for next year’s OPM control operations. We’ll spray with Deltamethrin next Spring, with the arrival of warmer weather and its influence on the timing of hatching of OPM larvae from the egg stage” Les Howkins

Richmond resigned to spraying

Les is resigned to spraying every year against OPM even though the cost represents a 25% increase on his existing budget for pest, disease and weed control across the course. “We have already budgeted for next year’s OPM control operations. We will spray with deltamethrin next spring; the exact timing left to Bartlett and related to the arrival of warmer spring weather and its influence on the timing of hatching of OPM larvae from the egg stage,” said Les, in early December 2011. We essentially have no choice to use deltamethrin because it is the most potent and fast acting product available, if OPM ‘skeletornises’ oak canopies or even kills the old tree then it is not the end of the world, but harming and perhaps killing a club member is an entirely different matter, and we have many active members some of whom are well into their 80s.

“The Richmond has been entirely up front about OPM with its members who have reacted with interest and inquisitiveness, rather than anger or fear. They are pleased we dealt with the situation promptly as soon as the pest was identified,” said Les.

I asked Les how OPM, which is spreading rapidly and now beyond eradication from the UK, would affect golf courses in general. “The amount of money involved will clearly present a ‘big hit’ and drain on those clubs which are not in such a stable and fortunate financial position as The Richmond. “But in practice golf clubs have no option but to contain and control OPM with its serious public health and safety dimension. “Golf clubs which fail to take precautions to protect the health and safety of their members could easily find themselves facing a lawsuit for damages if a player gets ‘stung’ by OPM,” he added.

We are all going to have to learn to live with OPM over the coming years,” said Richard Trippe Area Manager and Account for Bartlett Tree Experts based at the Beaconsfield Office.
annually so long term eradication is not going to happen.”

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The spray operation

The Richmond is a busy golf course and the 700+ oak trees are spread across the 18-hole course, some singularly, others in groups with many almost at full grown size. You could gauge just how tricky it was for these guys to spray effectively and safely as Adam ‘tooled up’ to treat a group of 18 English oak trees. There was a fairway with players on both sides of the grove but Adam wasted no time in kiting up and down in his MEWP’s and dislodged from a previously secure position on the underside of a scaffold branch some 10m up the tree.

OPM next collection is not an economically viable control option. The process is time consuming and ineffective as nests are bound to be missed despite best efforts. And there is the strain and fatigue of working in full PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) in the summer’s heat combined with the increased risk of exposure to OPM’s toxins. “We cleared this site last year through nest collection as the infestation was discovered too late in the season for effective control by spraying. This included one mature oak with 80+ nests,” said Chris.

“OPM larvae have hatched earlier than expected this year due to the early spring which means we have been spraying at different sites since the beginning of May and are faced with a much more dynamic and fast moving situation,” said Adam.

Some private parks, estates and local authorities opt for dichlorobenzene, either straight away or after hittting OPM hard with deltamethrin. “We've already budgeted for next year’s OPM control operations. We will spray with Deltamethrin next spring, the exact timing left to Bartlett and related to the arrival of warmer spring weather and its influence on the timing of hatching of OPM larvae from the egg stage,” said Lees, in early December 2011.

“We essentially have no choice but to use deltamethrin because it is the most potent and fast acting product available. If OPM ‘skeleto- nises’ oak canopies or even kills the odd tree then it is not the end of the world, but harming and perhaps killing a club member is an entirely different matter, and we have many active members some of whom are well into their 80s.”

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Looking at experience with OPM in other countries is looking at all the tools in their arsenal for the management of OPM, whether spraying with deltamethrin, insect growth regulators and BT or nest removal or a combination of any of the above.

“Further research projects both in the UK and in Europe are looking at other options for OPM control and continued cooperation with all involved parties is essential.  

“Golf clubs which fail to take pre-cautions to protect the health and safety of their members could easily find themselves facing a lawsuit for disregarding the health and wellbeing of their members.”

The upside is that only oaks are affected and of course there are many other trees that golf courses can plant. And even though it would be a drastic measure they could fell existing oaks where legislation allows. But as Lees says “oaks, and especially English oaks, are ideal for golf courses because they live so long and the fallen leaves are easy to get rid of.”

Poor prognosis for overall control

“Prognosis for the eradication of OPM from the UK is not good and is unlikely to be achieved,” said Adam and Chris. Bartlett Tree Experts along with other reputable tree contractors are looking at all the tools in their arsenal for the management of OPM, whether spraying with deltamethrin, insect growth regulators and BT or nest removal or a combination of any of the above.

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Volunteers wanted to work at The Open

The Open Championship, Lytham and St Anne’s, July 19-22, 2012

This is your opportunity to work at The Open Championship and assist the Lytham and St Anne’s team with the preparation of the course and be a part of the on-course team which accompanies each match ensuring bunkers are raked in a correct and professional manner.

It will be your responsibility to make your way to the team’s base for the week - a hotel in the centre of Blackpool, but after that transport to and from the golf course, accommodation and meals will be provided for the duration of the Championship. Accommodation will be on a shared twin-room basis. You will be expected to report for duty by 5pm on Wednesday, July 18, and be available until the close of play on Sunday – a meal and bed and breakfast will be supplied for the Sunday evening and Monday morning if required.

This opportunity is open to full BIGGA members only.
Younger members, relatively new to the Association, will also be actively considered, as will a number of first-time applicants.

To apply please complete this application form and send to: Scott MacCallum, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Ault, York, YO61 1SF

For further information contact Scott on: 01347 833800 or email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Closing Date for applications for The Open Support Team is February 1, 2011, and you will be notified later in the month.

Name
Age
Position
Email Address
Mobile Number
BIGGA Mem Number
I have applied for/appeared on the team at
I am/have been a member of the PGA Championship Support Team
Royal St George’s, 2011
St Andrews, 2010
Turnberry, 2009
Royal Birkdale 2008
Carnoustie 2007

Yes
No

I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee
I have attended three of the last five Harrogate Weeks
I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years
I have served, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee
I am enrolled on BIGGA’s CPD Scheme
I am willing to be a mini bus driver (You must have held a full driving license for three years and be over 25 years of age.)
I am an overseas Member

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members. Subject to the availability of sufficient numbers of experienced team members no regular team member will be selected for more than three teams in succession. A limited number of places will be made available to younger members and overseas members. Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off.

Should you be chosen you must send a passport picture of yourself to BIGGA HQ.
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Should you be chosen you must send a passport picture of yourself to BIGGA HQ.

Your R&A services

Hopefully, by now, you will all have visited the new course management section of The R&A website at www.randa.org/thegolfcourse

The look, feel and content of the site have been designed to appeal to the site have been designed to appeal to the site have been designed to appeal to

The reality can be very different and how golf facilities can thrive by confront- ing these issues head on.

The Course Health Check is a simple, six question, two minute tick box teaser to raise awareness of sustainability. Our market research suggests that users get much more out of it:

“Good spot check as to how the club was performing and a good argument for underpinning future policies.”

Recommended evidence fields

The Course Health Tracker will be the means by which you can monitor and manage The R&A recommended evidence fields for the assessment of ongoing sustain- ability. They will be outlined on our website and can be sourced through the Downloads and publications area.

The R&A is working with the professionals who make the important strategic decisions at golf facilities to provide tools that will make their life easier! Come and see your R&A services at Harrogate Week. We look forward to seeing you and, more importantly, to hearing your ideas as to how we might be able to help you.

The Course Health Tracker will

The tracker is simple to use and will be of great benefit to Course Managers at any type of club.”

“it gives me a tool that will help me make green committee members understand what it takes to run a golf course.”

Data entry will be 100% confi- dential and totally anonymous when pooled. To ensure anonymity, polling will only be available in a given country once an adequate number of facilities are using the service.

Downloadable charts and reports will provide the course managers with a great tool to help you:

• track performance year on year
• establish trends and charges
• produce a better course for customers, at less expense
• achieve a lighter environmental footprint
• keep a record for future continuity
• provide evidence of your success in becoming more sustainable.

The Course Health Tracker will provide an annual audit by which the net balance of revenue brought into the club by its primary asset, the golf course, is offset by what is spent on the course. It also offers the possibility to show where the greenkeeping team’s time is spent on the course over the year and what efforts are being made to enhance biodiversity. The service will enable sensible in-country comparisons, with pooled data that shows average percentage income, spend and time so that you are able to see where your programme sits in relation to others.

The R&A will be demonstrating the website during Harrogate Week, at the Showfloor Theatre from 12 noon to 12.30 pm. In addition to the features mentioned above, we will also be previewing two new services which are under develop- ment; the Course Health Check and the Course Health Tracker. These services are the subject of ongoing refinement, informed by market research. An Edinburgh-based company has been working with us to find out what web-based tools will interest, excite, inspire and be of real value to those involved in “managing the business of sustain- ability” at golf facilities.

The Course Health Check is a simple, six question, two minute tick box teaser to raise awareness of sustainability. Our market research suggests that users get much more out of it.

“The CRC will record the super- intendent of places where they can improve, which usually could have been overlooked.”

“Good spot check as to how the club was performing and a good argument for underpinning future policies.”

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The reality can be very different and how golf facilities can thrive by confront- ing these issues head on.

Comments from market research suggest that we are on the right track with the Tracker!...
The rise of digital technologies in greenkeeping

Jim Cook looks at how the greenkeeping industry has embraced new technology.

In most areas of modern life, digital technology does seem to be king. Be it at home with the internet and also the recent digitising of television, travelling with the aid of satellite navigation systems or communicating with Smartphones, it is nigh on impossible to spend a day without coming into contact with digital technologies in some form or another.

The same must be said for greenkeeping.

We have all kinds of digital devices from small digital timers which make sticking to machinery maintenance schedules easier, through digital thermometers, to the big one: digitised irrigation systems.

Another common one is greenkeepers using Smartphones to make certain tasks less arduous. Some take pictures of broken machinery parts while out on the course and send an email off the phone to the manufacturer and have a replacement part despatched as soon as possible. Some use them to work out such things as fertiliser application calculations. A greenkeeper I know has the ability to input the fertility rate into the phone and it just makes the application process easier, with no mess-ups. His phone is a tool that machine. The idea of fitting brushes onto fairway mowers was one which Karl has developed and made reality and did so with the aid of digital technology.

Another digital tool utilised at Denbigh is the online tee-time booking system by BRS GM. Karl Parry, Course Manager at Denbigh Golf Club, in North Wales, said: “I love my technology and gadgets and I try to incorporate this into my job as much as possible. It makes my life easier and helps everything run efficiently on the golf course. I use a tablet so that when I’m out of the office, in seminars or at home I can do such things as updating the daily diary, upload pictures onto our Facebook page or communicate with our Chairman,” said Karl.

“One of the best uses I have for the tablet is going Green Committee meetings. I can have options and graphics on the wide-screen television, in our clubhouse, by plugging in the tablet via a HDMI cable. It brings a bit more life to the meetings and can make things clear to people who may be unsure. We can show things like the drawing on scans in pictures, when we did it where we did it and how long it took us.”

Karl has developed a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet which allows him among other things, to calculate his total NPK input. It is a simple tool which I developed by myself and my staff and there has never been a moment where we can’t deal with a job,” said Karl.

Syngenta’s Greenscare phone application was favoured by Karl. “It gives you the weather, spraying windows of opportunities and other helpful things to give you the best timing possible for spraying fungicides. Because fungicides are so expensive, this helps us to save money as well as effort.”

Karl Parry, Denbigh Golf Club

Social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn continue to show how we interact with each other in everyday situations and for professionals they can be an important method of communication.

“We have just set up a Denbigh Golf Club maintenance page on Facebook and all the jobs we do around the course will have pictures taken and will be uploaded straight onto it. It’s like a news bulletin page, so members know what we are doing,” Karl added. He ended by saying that he was looking into getting a new irrigation system that can be controlled from a phone.

This deserves a closer look. Irrigation systems have come a long way: The beginning of the road in digital can be traced back to the 1960s. The first electrical control systems appeared on the market in the 1960s and allowed greenkeepers to control watering schedules electronically with an on-course housing. Basic though they now may seem, it was revolutionary for the industry of the time and paved the way for more sophisticated inventions through the following decades.

During the 70s Rain Bird developed a system that could control up to several hundred sprinklers from a central base. What followed next was the introduction of computer technology and what is still, in a modernised form, the standard on many courses around the world: computer controlled irrigation systems.

Now, a Mobile Internet (MI) controller by Rain Bird allows the user to input the sprinkler pattern and control your sprinklers from anywhere, as long as you own a Smartphone and there is mobile phone or wireless signal. It can be set up so you can monitor your

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One greenkeeper who makes full use of digital technologies is Karl Parry, Course Manager at Denbigh Golf Club, in North Wales. He said: “I love technology and gadgets and I try to incorporate this into my job as much as possible. It makes my life easier and helps everything run efficiently on the golf course. I use a tablet so that when I’m out of the office, in seminars or at home I can do such things as updating the daily diary, upload pictures onto our Facebook page or communicate with our Chairman,” said Karl.

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Another common one is greenkeepers using Smartphones to make certain tasks less arduous. Some take pictures of broken machinery parts while out on the course and send an email off the phone to the manufacturer and have a replacement part despatched as soon as possible. Some use them to work out such things as fertilizer application calculations and some to just have a glance at the weather forecast.

It would be hard to deny that using such methods can be a real time-saver and the benefits are obvious.

So then, the question could be asked: Is digital technology on the golf course another world? Is it just the modern day greenkeeper’s armoury or is it, in the grand scheme of things, a fad or luxury likely to fade away more quickly than some new phones’ batteries?

One greenkeeper who makes full use of digital technologies is Karl Parry, Course Manager at Denbigh Golf Club, in north Wales.

He said: “I love my technology and gadgets and try to incorporate this into my job as much as possible. It makes my life easier and helps everything run efficiently on the golf course. I use a tablet so that when I’m out of the office, in seminars or at home I can do such things as updating the daily diary, upload pictures onto our Facebook page or communicate with our Chairman,” said Karl.

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Karl has developed a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet which allows him to work out things like NPK rates for fertiliser and calculate what the total NPK input is. “It’s a simple tool which I developed myself using the aid of digital technology, to utilise the total NPK input.”

Another digital tool utilised at Denbigh is the online tee-time booking system by BRS GM. Karl said: “It is a fantastic way to control the reservations and ensures the system is not over预订ed. It also means I can control the reservation system in my phone.”

He ended by saying that he was looking into getting a new irrigation system for the golf course. Karl added: “It’s a simple tool which I developed using the aid of digital technology. It helps things run efficiently on the golf course. When I’m out of the office, in seminars or at home, I can update the diary, upload pictures onto Facebook or talk with our Chairman.”

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During the 70s Rain Bird developed a system that could control up to several hundred sprinklers from a central base. What followed next was a flood of new technology and what is still, in a modernised form, the standard on many courses around the world: computer controlled irrigation systems.

Now, a Mobile Internet (MI) controller by Rain Bird allows the course superintendent to monitor your sprinklers from anywhere, as long as you own a Smartphone and there is a mobile phone or wireless signal. It can be set up so you can monitor your
pump station and adjust parameters if need be, so traditionally you had to go and visit these locations which sometimes can be very remote and make any adjustments and now these can then be dealt with from the phone. Not only that, but the pump station and control can have a virtual ‘talk’ together. If the pump station has more capacity it can tell control to turn on more sprinklers and conversely if it is struggling with low pressure, can tell it to turn some off.

Kneale Diamond, of Rain Bird, spoke about what has just been released with regard to digital technology in greenkeeping.

“Integrated soil sensors which take moisture, temperature and salinity readings from any soil types and feed them back to a central control through wireless communication and this is proving to be very popular. We are always looking at different ways to becoming as efficient and responsible as possible and these systems help with reducing water and especially power usage.”

Kneale mentioned the advantages of digital technology: “One of the biggest benefit is the internet, being able to remotely access control systems. Whereas before if somebody rang with a problem with a new control system, you’d jump in your car and drive to where the problem was and fix it in 10 minutes perhaps. Nowadays most manufacturers will have call centres with technicians who can access systems and computers, download and upload files, perform diagnostic tests and complete modifications.”

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Kneale went on to explain how Rain Bird’s MI controller had been available on the market for just over two years, and in the last six to nine months sales of the product had dramatically increased. This can be attributed to the dramatic rise in popularity of Smartphones and especially, the iPhone becoming a household name.

Stewart Brown, Sportsturf Team Leader at Myerscough College, was enthusiastic about new digital technologies and said that as well as being important for education and knowledge, were also a useful, if sometimes limited, tool to be used by greenkeepers out on the course.

“I think digital technology around the golf course is great. It helps save time and has been really good for enhancing communication, learning and finding knowledge. It is so easy to find answers now with forums and sites dedicated to sharing knowledge,” he explained.

“Basically digital technology is another tool available to use to help you do your job from a diagnostic point of view, working with irrigation and various other things. I would say use the tools, but the tools are there to help you do your job and you’ve still got to know what the tool is telling you. That intuition and knowledge only comes from experience,” added Stewart.

“There are occasions when you don’t need the gizmo or gadget though. It wouldn’t be clever to solely rely on a moisture sensor on the furthest part of the course without getting out there and seeing for yourself. It is the subtle things which can tell the most, such as slight colour changes in grass or a weed just emerging and these things need a person to see them with their own eyes. The day a greenkeeper doesn’t walk out onto the course to look at it will be a disaster. You’re never going to replace that experience and knowledge.”

As an education tool, digital technology can really excel and Stewart spoke of how it is used at Myerscough for various greenkeeping courses and how far-reaching it can be: “We have a lot of provision online now particularly because you can do a BSc or foundation degree entirely online as distance learning. It’s one of our biggest areas. All the resources and materials are delivered online and you basically log onto the website, download the materials and there are videos, tests and interactive sessions. These students don’t usually come anywhere near Myerscough and the first time we see them is when they arrive for graduation. Our furthest student at the moment is in Japan, but we have students all over the world including in Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, United Arab Emirates, in the USA and all over the UK and Ireland.

Also, because we do NVQ levels 2, 3 and 4 in the workplace, a lot of those students are supported by online materials. So they can download workbooks, submit work or can have a webcam chat to interact with tutors.”

Stewart spoke about a multitude of other digital methods used in learning such as video assessments and clips for portfolios and subscriptions to massive online turf databases. He also spoke about how practical skills could be in with online learning.

“If you’re studying online then you are also working in the industry and some of the modules revolve around the work that you are doing. One of these is called Work Skills Development where they create their own website and basically build their own online portfolio. It is something to show an employer as it will include such things as a CV, projects managed and courses worked at. It can also help people develop digital and computer skills if they aren’t confident in that area.

We use industry resources to give students practical knowledge of such new technologies as mobile internet for irrigation. Most students coming in now already have Smartphones, iPods and knowledge in these areas, but we do consciously try.”

Electric automatic mowers have been in development for some years and there are models out there on the market already, but Stewart was certain greenkeepers would never be replaced by digitised robots in the future.

“I don’t think you’re ever going to remove the person from behind the mower. By the very nature of greenkeeping, it’s a practical, outside, hands-on job. You need the visual, practical skills to say a green may be under stress or it has a certain disease.”

All in all then, many digital technologies can not only make life easier for greenkeepers who choose to use them, but can also provide more efficient use of water, fertilisers and chemicals. Perhaps one of the greatest benefits digital technologies can offer greenkeepers is that of learning and shared knowledge. From online degrees to Smartphone applications which give practical advice, opportunities to learn are vast and expanding rapidly. Due to the practical nature of greenkeeping, digital technology will never replace greenkeepers, but as a support tool it can certainly make life easier, be used as a learning method and help with general efficiency. As Loretta Lynn sang, we’ve come a long way baby and it is just mind boggling to think where digital technology might take us in the coming years.

One thing is for sure: it is here to stay.
If somebody rang with a problem controlling systems. Whereas before being able to remotely access the biggest benefit is the internet; possible and these systems helping as efficient and responsible as to be very popular. We are always communicating and this is proving central control through wireless salinity readings from any soil released with regard to digital tech-
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Weed focus
Ragwort

Graham Paul offers some practical advice on that most awkward of weeds – Ragwort and offers the opportunity of picking up some BASIS points.

Rosette stage found in year 1

Common Ragwort (Senecio jacobaea)
Graham Paul offers some practical advice on that most awkward of weeds – Ragwort and offers the opportunity of picking up some BASIS points.
Ragwort belongs to the daisy family and along with the Groundsels is classified in the genus Senecio.

Common Ragwort (Senecio jacobaea), as the name implies, is a common Ragwort species and is normally a biennial, having a rosette stage in the first year that overwinters and in the second year grows a hairless, leafy flowering stem that is divided at the top.

Yellow flowers 1.5 to 20mm across, are borne in flat-topped clusters from June until November when the plant dies. However, in some instances the plant becomes damaged by grazing or by the silage process. When the plant dies, it is much reduced relative to horses, cattle, and sheep. There are reports that the alkaloids kill pasture worms in the sheep’s stomach, so in small doses they can be beneficial.

Ragwort presents little risk to the health of humans since the bitter taste precludes its use as a food. However, alkaloids can be absorbed in small quantities through the skin when the plant is handled causing an allergic reaction in sensitive individuals. Among the alkaloids found in ragwort is a group known as the sesquiterpene lactones that can cause the condition vasomotor dermatitis. These are different from the pyrrolidine alkaloids that are responsible for the toxic effects to the liver that result from eating the foliage.

Horses will avoid ragwort in pastures

When a horse has been poisoned by ragwort, the symptoms include: yellow mucous membranes, depression, and lack of coordination. Sheep and pigs have a much greater tolerance to ragwort and will eat small quantities of the plant with relish. Although they do suffer damage to the liver from consuming ragwort, it is at a much reduced relative to horses, cattle, and sheep. There are reports that the alkaloids kill pasture worms in the sheep’s stomach, so in small doses they can be beneficial.

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**Five Injurious Weeds**

Common Ragwort is one of five injurious weeds cited in the Weed Control Act of 1959. The term injurious weed describes an invasive species that is injurious to; crops, natural habitats, ecosystems, humans and livestock such as horses and other grazing animals. Indeed, Common Ragwort is the only one of the listed species that is toxic; the others are included in the legislation because of their damaging effect on crops. They are: Spear Thistle (Cirsium vulgaris), Creeping or Field Thistle (Cirsium arvense), Curled Dock (Rumex crispus) and Broad-Leaved Dock (Rumex obtusifolius).

Under the terms of the Weed Control Act of 1959, landowner can be required by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to take steps to prevent the spread of one or more of the five species. However, the growth of the plant is not made illegal by the act and there is no statutory obligation for control placed upon landowners in general. It is only when the potential spread of the weed to neighbouring landowners is deemed to be harmful that the powers of the legislation are used.

Three other species of legislation are relevant to ragwort:

1. The Ragwort Control Act of 2003, a private members bill introduced by Mr John Greenway MP for Ryedale.
2. Adverse effect of Mr Greenway’s bill was the publication of “Code of Practice for the Control of Ragwort” by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).
3. This code defines the situations in which there is a likelihood of ragwort spreading to neighbouring land where it will present an identifiable risk of ingestion by vulnerable animals and provides guidance on the most appropriate control measures. The Ragwort Control Act 2003 gives this Code ‘evidential status’ in any proceedings taken under the Weeds Control Act 1959. Failure to follow this Code is not an offence, but non-compliance may be used as evidence in any legal action. Equally, owners/occupiers should be able to establish a defence if they can demonstrate that they have adopted control measures that comply with this Code’s guidance.

**Biological Control**

The Cinnabar moth Tyria jacobeae is an interesting species that has provided a biological control for ragwort. Both the adult and caterpillar feeds on ragwort plants and are not affected by the toxic alkaloids they absorb through their digestive tracts. They assimilate the toxins into their bodies as a defence mechanism against birds and other predators, who would otherwise find them unpalatable.

Cinnabar moth

The high visibility marking of the moth and caterpillars is a warning for predators to leave them alone. Survival is also helped by lack of competition for their main source of food. However, distribution of the Cinnabar moth caterpillars tends to be patchy, making control unfeasible. It is not uncommon to see a ragwort plant totally devastated by the caterpillars and one next to it untouched.

Chemical control

Barrier H+ is an herbicide based on a natural product (citroneola) that can be used at all stages of growth and is marketed in a ready-to-use spot treatment pack. It produces a rapid, severe search on ragwort and certain other weeds and will also temporarily scorch the grass but this soon recovers.

Selective herbicides containing MCPA (e.g. Agritox 50) will give moderate control of the rosette stage of the weed. Products containing 2,4-D (e.g. Depitox) will give a moderate level of control at doses ranging applying 1.65kg of the active ingredient per hectare (3.3L/ ha of a 500g/L amine formulation) to the grass in the immediate vicinity of the target plant. It is possible to use a weed-seeker applicator to apply the glyphosate without damaging the rest of the grass.

With all herbicide treatments, livestock must be excluded during the time of application and kept out of treated areas for at least 4 to 6 weeks until all traces of the weed have rotted away or have been removed. Animals are unable to recognise dead or dying plants and in most cases the decaying plant tissues will contain higher levels of sugars making them more palatable.
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Ragwort poses little risk to the health of humans since the bitter taste precludes its use as a food. However, alkaloids can be absorbed in small quantities through the skin when the plant is handled causing an allergic reaction in sensitive individuals. Among the alkaloids found in ragwort is a group known as the sesquiterpine lactones that can cause the condition transplant dermatitis. These are different from the pyrrolizidine alkaloids that are responsible for the toxic effects to the liver that result from eating the foliage.

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Under the terms of the Weed Control Act of 1959, an alien weed can be required by the Secretary of State for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to take steps to prevent the spread of one or more of the five species. However, the growth of the plant is not made illegal by the act and there is no statutory obligation for control placed upon landowners in general. It is only when the potential spread of the weed to neighbouring landowners is deemed to be harmful that the powers of the legislation are used.

Three other pieces of legislation are relevant to ragwort: 1. The Ragwort Control Act of 2003, a private members bill introduced by Mr John Greenway MP for Ryedale.

2. A direct result of Mr Greenway’s bill was the publication of the Code of Practice for the Control of Ragwort by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

3. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 delegates the functions relating to ragwort to the Secretary of State under the Weed Control Act under which the Secretary has specific powers to deal with ragwort. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 enables Natural England to investigate complaints where there is a risk that injurious weeds might spread to neighbouring land. Natural England gives priority to investigating complaints where there is a risk of weeds spreading to land used for grazing horses or livestock, land used for forestry production and other agricultural activities.

**Control Measures**

The Code of Practice for the Control of Ragwort outilineing appropriate control methods that can be encouraged or be the subject of legal action. This is done in the spirit of the general headings of: cultural, biological and chemical control.

**Cultural Control**

Hand pulling is an ideal technique for use in arable pastures such as grazing pastures, if there are only a few ragwort plants present. Regular removal, especially prior to flowering, may be all that is needed to keep pastures free of the potential hazard to livestock. Alternatively, the whole plant can be leaved out of the soil using a special tool. Hand pulling and levering out the plants is best carried out in moist soils. Gloves must be worn when pulling and handling ragwort, which can be disposed of by drying the plant material, away from access by livestock, and then burning.

Cutting down the plants to prevent the seed-heads from maturing should be regarded as an emergency treatment to halt the spread of the weed and must be followed up by some other form of control. One factor that encourages the proliferation of ragwort in pastures is over-grazing, which results in thinning of the grass sward, leaving room for this weed to establish. Good turf management practices coupled with a sensible rotation of grazing will help to crowd ragwort out of grazing areas.

**Biological Control**

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All herbicide treatments, must be carried out in moist soils. With all herbicide treatments, livestock must be excluded during the application. Grazing must be kept out of treated areas for at least 4 to 6 weeks until all the traces of the weed have rotted away or have been removed. All animals are unable to recognise dead or dying plants and in most cases the decaying plant tissues will contain higher levels of sugars making them more palatable.

**SELF ASSESSMENT**

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Reader can check their results against the questions are answered correctly!

Circle the correct answer(s)

1. Which other species belongs to the same genus Senecio as Common Ragwort (Senecio jacobaeae)?
   a) Ground-ivy
   b) Ground elder
   c) Ground-pine

2. Which of the grazing animals mentioned have a much greater tolerance to the alkaloid toxins in Ragwort plants?
   a) Cattle
   b) Sheep
   c) Horses
   d) Pigs

3. Apart from Common Ragwort which other injurious weeds are cited within the Weed Control Act of 1959? More than one may apply.
   a) Marsh Dock Rumex palustris
   b) Spear Thistle Cirsium vulgare
   c) Curled Dock Rumex crispus
   d) Giant Hogweed Heracleum mantegazzianum

4. Which Government Agency has specific powers, delegated by act of parliament, to investigate complaints under the Weed Control Act 1999?
   a) Environment Agency
   b) Forestry Commission
   c) Natural England
   d) HGCA (Heritage Gateway Commission)

5. Which species of moth provides a biological control for ragwort?
   a) Orange swift (Hepialus hastatus)
   b) Cinnabar moth (Tyria jacobaeae)
   c) Large yellow underwing (Cucullia verbasci)
   d) Brown-tail moth (Euproctis chrysorrhoea)

**Acknowledgement of trademarks:** “AgroMix 50+” and “Depal” are trademarks of Bayer Environmental Science. **“Rapita” is a trademark of Foremost Agribusiness. “NuFarm UK Ltd. ‘Relay Turf’ is a trademark of Bayer Environmental Science. **“Bayer Environmental Science” and “NuFarm UK Ltd.” are trademarks of Bayer.”
Greens mowers …more choice or more confusion?

James de Havilland casts his net over the range of greens mowers and marvels at the technology involved.

Eclipse, eFlex and E-Cut. Jacobsen, John Deere and Toro. The ‘big three’ all have some electric trickery up their sleeves to help golf courses cut greens in a greener fashion. Or should you substitute greener for more efficient?

There are several ways in which you can approach the adoption of all-battery and hybrid power for both walk behind and ride-on greens mowers. For some, the development of some form of hybrid or full electric power is just a knee-jerk reaction by manufacturers to be seen to be making an effort to reduce the production of greenhouse gas. For others, electric power is the future and marks the beginning of the end of hydraulic drives and internal combustion engines.

At this point, however, it is perhaps best to relish the fact that there is a choice. The best way to look at any form of alternative drive and power is to skip straight to the ability of the mower to do its job. If a given model does what you want the next step is to work out if it does it in a cost effective fashion over its whole life.

At the moment, opting for an all-battery pedestrian mower over a petrol-powered alternative will cost more up front. Hybrid versus ‘mechanical’ pricing is not as clear cut as manufacturers have been known to adjust hybrid prices to make them more competitive in response to supply and demand. So you need to ask before just assuming ‘hybrids are too expensive’ or battery power is ‘too left field’.

One issue that is difficult to address is the life span of lithium based battery packs. All batteries have a finite number of charge cycles and all designs will lose their ability to hold a full charge as they age. So while lead acid battery technology is now well understood, lithium based package life for mowers is something of a ‘known unknown’. That said, the way in which purpose developed lithium battery chargers work is fully automatic. There are no electrolyte levels to check and the charger will manage how the battery is charged to enhance its lifespan.

Power choice is nothing new

Not so long ago, courses looking to buy a ride-on greens mower would have ‘only’ to choose between petrol or diesel power; cheaper to buy versus cheaper to run. Now you have to think of hybrids and full battery power. Again, cheaper it is all too easy to concentrate upon the latest greens mower developments, overlooking existing proven designs. The Baroness LM56 and LM66 pedestrian models from Kyoeisha UK are tough ‘conventional’ mowers with independent gear drive to the split rear rollers. Available in a contour hugging 18 inch and 22 or 26 inch cutting widths, these and other traditional designs of mower can deliver an exacting finish.

THE NEW eFLEX.
OUR QUIETEST GREENSMOWER EVER.

Introducing the new Greensmaster eFLEX from Toro, our first lithium-ion battery-powered electric greensmower. This revolutionary power source is far superior to lead-acid batteries, being cleaner and far more efficient. What’s more, the eFLEX battery is designed to last five years, cutting as many as nine typical greens on a single charge. And with minimum downtime and low maintenance costs, the eFLEX will even save you money in the long run.

Of course, its superior cutting technology delivers the finest putting surface and playing experience you would expect from Toro, but added to this, the mower is clean, environmentally friendly and, crucially, incredibly quiet. All this, and more, make the eFLEX the perfect choice for golf clubs looking for a green solution, especially those with hotels and guest accommodation.

Call 01480 226800 or visit toro.com

MACHInerY
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At the moment, opting for an all-battery pedestrian mower over a petrol-powered alternative will cost more up front. Hybrid versus ‘mechanical’ pricing is not as clear cut as manufacturers have been known to adjust hybrid prices to make them more competitive in response to supply and demand. So you need to ask before just assuming ‘hybrids are too expensive’ or battery power is ‘too left field’. One issue that is difficult to address is the life span of lithium based battery packs. All batteries have a finite number of charge cycles and all designs will lose their ability to hold a full charge as they age. So while lead acid battery technology is now well understood, lithium based package life for mowers is something of a ‘known unknown’. That said, the way in which purpose developed lithium battery chargers work is fully automatic. There are no electrolyte levels to check and the charger will ‘manage’ how the battery is charged to enhance its lifespan.

Power choice is nothing new.

Not so long ago, courses looking to buy a ride-on greens mower would have ‘only’ to choose between petrol or diesel power; cheaper to buy versus cheaper to run. Now you have to think of hybrids and full battery power. Again, cheaper it is all too easy to concentrate upon the latest greens mower developments, overlooking existing proven designs. The Baroness LM56 and LM66 pedestrian models from Kyoeisha UK are tough ‘conventional’ mowers with independent gear drive to the split rear rollers. Available in a contour hugging 18 inch and 22 or 26 inch cutting widths, these and other traditional designs of mower can deliver an exacting finish.

THE NEW eFLEX.
OUR QUIETEST GREENSMOWER EVER.

Introducing the new Greensmaster eFlex from Toro, our first lithium-ion battery-powered electric greensmower. This revolutionary power source is far superior to lead-acid batteries, being cleaner and far more efficient. What’s more, the eFlex battery is designed to last five years, cutting as many as nine typical greens on a single charge. And with minimum downtime and low maintenance costs, the eFlex will even save you money in the long run.

Off course, its superior cutting technology delivers the finest putting surface and playing experience you would expect from Toro; but added to this, the mower is clean, environmentally friendly and, crucially, incredibly quiet. All this, and more, make the eFlex the perfect choice for golf clubs looking for a green solution, especially those with hotels and guest accommodation.

Call 01480 226800 or visit toro.com
to buy and cheaper to run? The key is to look at costs to buy and run and to also try as many machines as you can. Moving towards hybrid or full electric power suits some but not all. It also pays to talk to those who have adopted alternatives to ‘just’ internal combustion power. Have they had to make changes to fit a hybrid or battery powered mower into their routine? What is perhaps of greater interest is that electric drive to cutting units is now both well proven and ‘familiar’. Because electric drive to the wheels of a ride-on calls upon a different type of drive, full electric power as per the Jacobsen Eclipse 322 is more adventurous but still based around proven technology. The same applies to Jacobsen fitting electrically powered units to raise and lower the units into work and of course electric power steering.

The upshot of this is that it may well be that some ride-on mowers will soon only be offered with a hybrid drive, doing away with hydraulic hose runs and reducing the chance of fuel oil spills on precious greens. But a ‘conventional’ pedestrian mower still has a lot of life left in the concept and for many will still be the best choice.

One final point. It is possible for a golf course to generate electricity; it is difficult to create your own petrol diesel! Look at each greenkeeper’s shed with photovoltaic panels and use these to help cut the cost of charging up a fleet of electrically powered mowers and potentially you could cut you daily operating costs.

Not so long ago this would have been considered a pipedream but now there are hundreds of companies installing photovoltaic systems. Many of these are now looking for work following the sudden announcement that the Feed in tariff has been cut from 43p/kW to around 21p/kW. Time to get your calculator out?

FeAtUre

(DRAWING) Because the electrical system powers the traction drive motors, cutting reels, steering and lift and lower, Jacobsen is able to offer its Eclipse 322 in both hybrid and full battery forms. Hybrid models are said to cut fuel consumption by up to 43%, the all-electric version returning claimed savings of up 80% based on annual operating costs. Features include programmable frequency of cut. A swing-out centre unit is carried over from existing Jacobsen greens mowers.

(LEFT) Toro will offer its Greensmaster 3400 TriFlex in hybrid form. As with the walk-behind pedestrian models, a key design aim has been to reduce maintenance, using sealed bearings to cut the need for greasing. The mower also has a ‘modular’ design, with all the key components being shared between the various power options offered. This advanced thinking in mower design is critical in enabling manufacturers to offer a choice of power units and adapt to changes in demand.

(Jacobson) Jacobsen offered an all-electric E-Plex back in 1997, with the company suggesting many of these original machines are still in service. Modern electronic control and improved motor and generator technology ensure current Eclipse models offer high levels of efficiency, with dependability to match.

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(BELOW) John Deere has offered its E-Cut hybrid 2500e ride-on greens mowers since 2005, with the company’s commitment to hybrid power now extending to its 8000E three-wheeled ultra-light and 7000E and 8000E fairway models. A key claim for hybrids is their ability to offer a reduction in running costs. This is primarily down to the ability to run the engine at a lower speed than is needed with hydraulic drives.

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FeAtUre

Why have so many of our members switched to hybrid or battery powered mowers into their routine?

To fit a hybrid or battery powered mower, one must ask, ‘just’ internal combustion power. Have they had to make changes to their existing systems. Many of these are now being shared between manufacturers to offer critical in enabling advanced thinking options offered. This means both petrol and battery powered variants can be specified with a brush or groomer and choice of cylinder.

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Drawing its power from a 185 watt, 25 amp-hour Lithium-Ion battery, the recently launched Toro Greensmaster eFlex offers a nominal nine-holes per overnight charge capacity. Offered in 18 and 21 inch widths, the all-electric model shares its key mowing components with its petrol-powered Greensmaster Flex alternatives. This means both petrol and battery powered variants can be specified with a brush or groomer and choice of cylinder.

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New SMS launching at Harrogate Week

Welcome to the new the Safety Management System (SMS) sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen. BIGGA and the GCMA have spent the last year updating and simplifying the SMS.

Accessible through the members’ area (BIGGA) or library area (GCMA) of each of the Associations’ websites, the updated system allows users to download and save all of the relevant documents for using a Safety Management System.

Since golf clubs are not complex organisations the SMS is short but nevertheless robust. Clubs need to manage health and safety with the same degree of expertise and to the same standards as other core business activities if they are to reduce risks and prevent harm to people.

The key elements of the SMS are:
1. Policy
2. Organising
3. Planning and implementing
4. Measuring and auditing
5. Reviewing performance
6. Auditing occurs at each stage, and feeds back to improve performance

A new area has been added for Fire Safety. This area includes a dedicated Fire Safety Policy downloadable from the Fire Safety home page.

The original SMS will be available until the end of April 2012 for users to have access and to download their stored Risk Profile information. Every document is downloadable and there is no requirement to store any information online.

For further information contact:
BIGGA
01347 833800
www.bigga.org.uk
GCMA
01934 641166
www.gcma.org.uk
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The new Safety Management System website has been made possible thanks to the continued support and sponsorship from Ransomes Jacobsen.

1. Greenkeeping activities
2. Maintenance facility
3. Golf course
4. Clubhouse
5. Kitchen
6. Pro shop
7. Fire safety

Within each of these areas, users will be able to access the following downloadable documents:
- Risk Profile (available in word and excel formats)
- Risk Assessments relevant to that area of the golf club
- Hazards - Information and web links

Every document is downloadable and there is no requirement to store any information online.

For further information contact:
BIGGA
01347 833800
www.bigga.org.uk

GCMA
01934 641166
www.gcma.org.uk
South Region

Scottish Region

Happy New Year to all our members and I hope it turns out a much better one than 2011 - weather wise at least. As I write this in early December, many of our courses are struggling from all the rain we have had recently, and with the mild November there has in fact been more disease around than usual. Still, at this time in 2010 most of us were under a good blanket of snow or ice.

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Central

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Scottish Region

Well A GUID NEW YEAR TAE YE AW Health and Happiness to you and yours.

We had our AGM at Niddry Castle GC, in W inchburgh, on November 15.

The occasion was sponsored by Hundy Golf, so thanks again to Hugh for the excellent presentation very informative.

There were 32 members at the meeting which proved to be successful with some good ideas coming from the floor.

Thanks to those of you who could attend, indeed, thanks goes to all of you who attended our outings throughout the past year.

We are pleased to announce that our committee has increased in numbers to 19 and I hope phone or email if you have any queries or information you may wish to ask or pass on to me.

West

Well, ‘Gowdie’ it’s 2012, a brand new year. A year in which we have had to move up to the 21st century in the way we communicate.

Happy New Year to all and best wishes for the coming season, here’s hoping it will be a good one with plenty of sunshine and only a few showers. I hope everyone enjoyed the festive season and didn’t over indulge with the amber nectar, I guess the New Year’s resolutions are already made they just need to be adhered to for a small time at least. As I sit here typing this up the snow is lying outside creating wonderful winter scene pictures, this is when it’s a joy to work outdoors as some of the scenery is breathtaking, I hope to see plenty of entries for next year’s photographic competition from the West Section.

At this time of year the tree surgery work is the priority for us, pruning, clearing and filling damaged trees and branches, thus thinning out heavy woodland areas creating stock piles for insects and removing diseased plants. Health and safety checks already completed after all the poor weather in late November and then the painting tasks started, it’s amazing how things have been made in 25 years. Please be aware safety officers are now completing on spot checks to ensure golf clubs are up to scratch with paperwork and equipment is in a safe condition.

Well all the general talk passed I don’t have too much to mention other than the annual Scottish Conference, at Dunfermline, on March 6. As usual a fine collection of speakers will be there and definitely worth a visit.

The annual conference and trade show at Harrogate in late January will be coming up soon and I hope to bump into a few people there although I will be tucked in my bed early each night, as I have to be on my best behaviour. The West Section intend running a small seminar with Eversis in February and notification should be out in the new year, the venue being Renfrew golf club. The dates for the spring outing will be giving out shortly, and as soon as I hear, I will let you know.

Just a mention a small thing, I was recently contacted by Graham Shearer, who used to work at Balloch and Loch Lomond, but is now based in Scotland. Graham is a keen photographer and will be coming down to Harrogate in January.

The West Section have been confirmed for next year and are at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club on April 26th, the Scottish Open and Grangemouth on September 13 for the Autumn Outer. There will be a Photographic Course around the second week in February by Lantra which you might find useful for dealing with rabbits and moles. Anyone interested please get in touch with me. If there is enough interest by the time you read this I hope you all have had a good Christmas and a good New Year.

Ross Macrae
Mobile No: 07588986635
e.mail: ross.macrae@hotmail.com

North

On a positive note the weather been very good and November and hopeful you will have made a good start to your winter programmes. I would like to mention the Patron Awards winners for 2011 which are Stuart Brown, from Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, and myself (Ross Macrae), from Newmachar Golf Club. We will look forward to meeting everyone down at Harrogate in January.

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Ross Macrae
Mobile No: 07588986635
e.mail: ross.macrae@hotmail.com

North Region

Northern

Hello everyone!

I’m sure most of you are aware that BIGGA have been involved in the development of the Hockey in the Park in Harrogate. This was an idea that was brought to us by the Harrogate in 2010. As a result of the BIGGA and Olympic Park support, this event has continued to grow and on 7th January 2012 in Harrogate, 500 local school children were involved in a day of Grassroots sport.

We have also been involved in the development of the new facilities at the Olympic Park Harrogate, where we have an excellent team of hockey instructors. This is all leading up to the Olympic Park 2012 launch held in Harrogate on 16th February.

In line with this we will have a Royal Greenkeepers workshop in Harrogate on 8th March. This will include a visit to the Olympic Park 2012 site. Details will be available from our website.

North Wales

Happy New Year, here we go into 2012, either a great year when the Olympic torch teachers our shores and our hearts or as the Mayans have predicted the world will end on the 12th day of the 12th month of the 12th year? I don’t think that the Olympics will make a massive difference to us here in North Wales and if I’m wrong I could be making a very big mistake! So can how can be they predicted the world would end on the 12th day of the 12th month of the 12th year? Mmmm?

The Christmas tournament and AGM took place on December 7, at Housfall Golf Club, as normal this column has gone to the printers before the day took place, so I will put a full write up in February’s column.

Depending on interest the Section could be running a coach to Harrogate but this will only happen if enough seats have been booked to make it viable, I do hope enough seats have been taken up as Harrogate is the Association’s flagship event and we should make the effort to attend.

I think that’s about it for this month not a massive amount for you to digest, I still look forward to hearing from members; let’s make this the year we get in touch with me and share your news with the Section.

All the best until next time.

Pete Maybury e.mail petemay66@bt.com mobile 07775600001 or Facebook group North Wales biggas.
In October, we had our Autumn Tournament at a superbly presented Dunham Forest GC, which was run by Steve Sanders, and yet again the quality of the golf was excellent. From Wilmslow GC, and yet again the ston, from Wilmslow GC. Out at the presentation for the Autumn Tournament at the Cross Greens, I am now writing the Section for the next season please contact me via e-mail and I will pass on the details for the next two years. A couple of other things. Firstly, could I please encourage members for their support in next month’s magazine. Our first lecture working alongside Myerscough College will take place in February and as I mentioned this month all members have now access to this. It is a mas...
Midland Region

Right here we go again this time last year we had several inches of snow at the moment we can see here it is now and I just hope it doesn’t come to anything I am getting to the point where I prefer it. It seems to be a Christmas card must be a sign of getting old. Well there’s not a lot to write this month but I have managed to bring some news from around the land first let us did any of you members watch the programme ‘The Cube on the Green’ around Christmas? And if so, did you see Alan Morton, of TLT, Terry Charlton company and Matthew Hooton where one of his family was a contestant. She was unlooked, just failing on that £50,000 prize. This isn’t the first time he has been on TV in recent months as he was on local ITV channel before his wedding day crossing the river Tyne in the hard way, meaning that he started from a high point then down using a pulley across the river and where people do get attention.

Bit of golf course news, Tyneside GC is having a bit of a change on the 1st hole. The island which was designed all those years ago by H.Colt is going back to that style so there are some things people do get attention.

As we enter January and shake off the post Christmas blues and exaces, attention is now turning to the new season of spring and what 2012 will hold.

With the excitement and expectation of the Olympics around the corner I hope the Battalion Saga at Sheffield are focused and driven to rise to the challenge of producing a section to sit top of the Order of Merit for the Section for all our members. We have many ideas for the new year and we will be working hard to make sure they all put in place.

I hope everyone had a good day at Christmas golf and AGM all information from this event will be posted on facebook in next month’s magazine.

Midland

Firstly, may I wish all a very happy New Year and happy New Year. Congratulations to our Section AGM winners, to the magazine. The first bit is a new feature - longer sunny months.

East Midlands

In other news from the Sec- tion, the Nottinghamshire Golf Club AGM was held held on the 29th November, to Christchurch Park Golf Club, July 11; Autumn: Oxley Park Golf Club, May 23; Summer: Oxley Golf Club, June 19; Cheese; Autumn: Headland Golf Club, May 29; Autumn: Woodham, STRI. The weather

Our monthly look into the life of a volunteer greenkeeper... Name: Andy

2. What is the most useful tool in the shed? A very useful tool in the shed is a lawnmower.

3. What do you think people would be surprised to know about your role as a greenkeeper? People might be surprised to know that I spend a lot of time working outdoors in all weathers.

4. What is your average working day like? I typically start my day at around 7am, followed by a cup of coffee and some reading material.

5. What is the most rewarding aspect of your role as a greenkeeper? The most rewarding aspect of my role is seeing the improvement of the golf course and the satisfaction of the golfers.

6. What is your least favourite aspect of your role as a greenkeeper? The least favourite aspect of my role is dealing with difficult customers.

7. What do you enjoy most about your role as a greenkeeper? I enjoy the challenge of maintaining a high level of course performance and the opportunity to learn new skills.

8. Favourite Band?

9. Which team do you support for football or other sports?

10. What is your claim to fame? All of our golfers love the layout of the course, and it’s often remarked as one of the best in the area.

11. How did you get into greenkeeping? I got into greenkeeping through a love of gardening and a desire to work outdoors.

12. What is your most memorable moment as a greenkeeper? One of the most memorable moments was when we hosted a professional golf tournament and the course looked amazing.

13. What is your proudest achievement as a greenkeeper? I’m proud of the fact that I have been able to improve the golf course and make it more enjoyable for all golfers.

14. What is your biggest challenge as a greenkeeper? One of the biggest challenges is dealing with weather conditions and maintaining the course throughout the year.

15. What is your most important piece of advice for someone considering a career in greenkeeping? My advice would be to get as much experience as possible and to stay committed to learning and improving your skills.

16. What are your future plans for your career in greenkeeping? I plan to continue improving the golf course and expanding my knowledge of the industry.
Happy New Year!

Over the last few months it has been my privilege to work at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club - we all thoroughly enjoyed the fine meal that we received on Kev’s masterpiece in the mess room. Thanks guys.

Our 2011 season was sponsored by the greenkeeping profession while focussing our attention on government legislation.

As an Association it also provides a fantastic platform for us to interact with all the governing bodies in golf to make sure that they have the evidence of many members to support their cause.

I’ve been very much involved in BIGGA’s annual show, which usually has guest speakers and unexpurgated details will be learned from the feedback of the many members at this event. I can assure you that we will welcome guests who can provide positive feedback from ex-members who feel that the values for this year’s Exhibition are good.

So they place great faith in BIGGA and its membership, we are encouraged to ensure they enjoy playing the game and we work closely with all of the other governing bodies in golf to make sure that they have the evidence of many members to support their cause.

Our AGM. Moving through the agenda, Kev gave his State of the Section report; on Kev’s masterpiece in the mess room. Thanks guys.

This year, the first being in January, (that being the postponed AGM from 2010 due to snow). Our second was a lot more competitive although a little windy and a slightly frost before we commenced a finely fought Texas Scramble, where 67 players graced the fine turf of Royal Cinque Ports.

I would like to thank all of the above, for without their support and backing we have not managed to put on as many things for the members of the Section, over and above what has been achieved in this past season.

If you have anything for inclusion in Greenkeeper Interna- tional or on the Section’s Website www.essexbigga.co.uk please contact me on 07766 662 337 or at arnold@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Mid Anglia

Hi all. I hope you’ve had a Happy Christmas and maybe a few well earned days off over the festive period.

Firstly, information regarding the training mentioned last month, the First Aid At Work course is now available. If you have any questions or require any more information on all our events, please check here are: Doug, Harry and Mikey. Who we shall never forget and I would like to thank all of you for all your hard work.

Secondly, results from the Christmas Texas Scramble tour will be in the next issue also I’ll have details of venues, competition details and any upcoming changes to the course.

Happy New Year!

Nigel Phelan

Kent

Happy New Year!

Over the last few months it has been my privilege to work at and attend many of the big golf courses in the UK and I have been with the team at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club has been an experience I shall never forget. I would like to offer sincere thanks to Gavin Kiminella, the club’s committee members and the greenkeeping team for providing such a warm and welcoming environment.

Around The Green

certainly are an eclectic mix of characters who all contribute to making working there such a delight. I can’t see anything other than a future of golf on his horizon. Kent Section also decided to make an annual competition to the year the person who had accumulated the most points throughout the year. The winner of this competition was our very own Tribly Tour Champion, Mr Darren Burton. Well done Mr Burton. We have also suggested that they would like to have a new position within the Section committee, that of a President. This position was accepted by the assembled members and is to be held by Martin Forrester be asked to accept the position was accepted by all present.

In your careers and Hadlow is a very special place to me. It has been my privilege to work there and to work with such a great group of people. It has been a very special time for me. The golf course is now fully subscribed, the training mentioned last year, the first being in January, (that being the postponed AGM from 2010 due to snow). Our second was a lot more successful with coffee and cake followed by some with incredible people and a tenuous drive across the wild that I shall miss. I shall miss seeing fly past me on the south was round in four and a half hours, which is a good time for most players graced the fine turf of Fawkham to again revel in the picturesque course.

For everyone who has supported the course and the various events that have been held at Redlibbits, which was served by the excellent catering staff at Redlibbits, which was appreciated by all after their hot Coffee and Burgers. This was provided by the course and for which we are very greatful.

The very deserving winner of the trophy for 2011 was Alex, who has been on the biggest and most successful of all our events is that everybody is always, however, the absolute fundamental premise to all of us is that everybody is well taken care of and that we can better serve your needs in the future.  We know you are sharing the delights of his large collection of books and golf memorabilia.

When I took up this role in May, January 2012 seemed a long way away but it has arrived in a rush bringing with it not just our Annual Celebrations but also the BTME in Harrogate. At the time of writing sales of exhibition space are strong with continued interest in the last few stands available.

We have worked very hard over the last few months to promote attendance at the event because we genuinely believe, have the evidence of many members to support our exhibitions and the ever changing pressures of the ever changing pressures of government legislation.

A total of 35 golfers descended on the greenkeeping profession and 30 of them have been associated with my short term tenure at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club. I have been with the team at Hadlow College and the维修 team there and I would like to offer sincere thanks to Gavin Kiminella, the club’s committee members and the greenkeeping team for providing such a warm and welcoming environment.

I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to represent this great Association as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary and as Greenkeeping Associations as a whole reach for the first time 12 attending also there is one free place on the next course.

I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to represent this great Association as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary and as Greenkeeping Associations as a whole reach for the first time 2012 is a landmark year for BIGGA and presents the chance to reflect warmly on what has been achieved by the greenkeeping profession.

Personal award of Golfer of the Year to the following. Summer Trophy: 1. Andy Cracknell, of Hadlow College, informed us of Hadlow College’s very last competition and various reports on how our Section had closed the year.

Happy, everything has gone swimmingly smoothly as possible. The plan to continue doing much of the same this year. We have been working closely with all of the other governing bodies in golf to promote attendance at the event because we genuinely believe in your careers and Hadlow is a very special place to me. It has been my privilege to work there and to work with such a great group of people. It has been a very special time for me. The golf course is now fully subscribed, the training mentioned last year, the first being in January, (that being the postponed AGM from 2010 due to snow). Our second was a lot more successful with coffee and cake followed by some meeting, Wertings on the Essex Section web site for next year (please see webpage before Mr John Millen sparked a lively discussion. John, as representative of Hadlow College, informed us of Hadlow College’s very last competition and various reports on how our Section had closed the year.

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A big thank you as always to our sponsors New Forest Farm Machinery and Blade who spon-
sored the event last year. A sad note that our friend and colleague Lewis Andrews, who was a
member of our team and a fantastic greenkeeper, passed away in the last months of the year. He will be
missed by all.

The day itself was a huge success and once again we could see the huge interest in our
region with many people coming down to the golf course to support our team and enjoy
the event. As always, the catering was fantastic and was something that we always
make sure to get right.

A huge thank you to all those who came and supported our event and made it such a
success. We are already looking forward to next year and hope to see everyone again.

Happy New Year to all!
hot tub. Have a Happy retirement from all Burrey members.

Hankley Common GC was the venue for the Burrey Turkey Trot on December 6 and thanks to Gareth for organising the fine weather, cool but dry and with little wind. The course, as always, was in excellent condition and the turkey roast dinner that followed was delicious. Messrs Guy, Marney, Hall and Folds, whom by their hat design, were representing a golf club from Mexico and in true buccaneering fashion took first prize for the 3rd year running. Messrs Bremer, Freeman, Sellers and Harvey came 2nd with Messrs Durrant, Faby, Fady and Reeves at the rear of the prizes. Nearest the pin was Neil Davey and longest drive Kevin Hagen. One of my playing partners, Mr Mike Kirkham, another of our illustrious team, could not remember where he goes and I just broke wind.

The meal was followed by the Burrey AGM. The present committee were re-elected en bloc and our Chairman, Les Howkins, reported that the education day at Epson GC, although a success, the attendance was disappointing and he hoped that in future events more course members would encourage their staff to attend. He thanked the committee for the work they had done over the past year and looked forward to another successful year in 2012. The Treasurer's report was concise and acceptance of its content was proposed and seconded. Thanks to all those who contributed to the raffle prizes and the profit of £350 will go into the sections funds.

Brian Willmott

South West and South Wales Region

South West

Hi all, I have apologised to you all this month... I really don’t have that much to report. I know, shocking to believe, I have no exciting tales to tell you (maybe you could share some of yours with us)

As for the Section, 2012 fixtures will be with you all very shortly, we will send them out by email again, I feel that this method is working very well. If you are not receiving emails from me regarding the Section, please drop me a line and you will then be receiving all the e-mails you could ever wish for.

With regards to training, Paul Worster and myself are working hard to ensure we target what you people are asking for (trust me, we are spending many hours on this). Some workshops have already taken place and many more are in the pipeline, if there is anything you should want please feel free to contact either one of us.

As finish #2 did say this would be a short one this time I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and on behalf of the whole Section we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

We also have a new facebook page for the South West Section that one that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don’t have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your fingertips.

I would like to thank our patronage partners for all of their support for 2011, Ecosol; our sponsors New Forest Farm Machinery and Blade who sponsor every year in our out. On a sad note our thoughts go out to the family of Lewis Andrews, who was a member of the greenkeeping team at High Post whose life was cut short in an accident near his place of work. Lewis was a serious athlete who would have competed in the Beijing World Championships at triathlon.

Our Autumn Regional Seminar has taken place at the Oak Tree Centre. As many of us drove into the venue we probably thought “Where have we come to?” but it was an absolutely perfect location and venue thanks Jane and Steve for finding the venue and I’m sure we would love to return next year.

The day itself was a huge success all speakers were fantastic and the event was attended by over 140 greenkeepers plus contacts and have taken valuable information back to our day jobs and it was very pleasing to meet, greet and openly discuss the new CEO of BIGGA. Thank you for your honesty and you time to come and speak to us.

Harrogate is here I hope the cars are full and many of us are heading up. Not many places left - about 2 weeks left to book a place so give Jane Jooes a call to book a last minute place.

Happy New Year guys.

Peter Hulsmann

Section Notes

Please email your notes to scotts@bigga.co.uk by the 5th of the month.

South Wales

Hello Section Happy New Year, hope all of you guys have had a 2011 and we all can make 2012 an even better year. As you know the committee has been changed and we are asking for as many of you as possible to contact myself, Gareth Knight (07799598712), or any of the other committee members with ideas thoughts or any information you wish to share. I would love for all of us to pull together as a Section let’s talk more to each other and keep South Wales Greenkeeping a fantastic place to work.

Mike Stokes, Head Greenkeeper of Whitchurch, is putting a morning meeting together for neighbouring greenkeepers - something similar to the Links Forum meeting some of you guys are involved in. Mike’s details are Tel: 077990214629 email thecourseranager@iol.co.uk please drop him an email or a call so some dates can be arranged.

The Winter Golf Tournament takes place at Royal Porthcawl GC. Results will follow in next month’s magazine.

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Happy New Year guys.
Welcome 2012

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new year and to thank all the many BIGGA members who currently volunteer in one role or another to a BIGGA team at BIGGA Headquarters.

Without their valuable help, advice and countless hours of volunteer work your Association would not be what it is today.

By working closely with your Section committee the membership team are looking forward to a successful and prosperous new year. But the best people to promote any membership professionally are the members themselves.

Please encourage your fellow greenkeepers to take a look at the benefits of joining BIGGA, all information is available on the BIGGA website including membership forms.

Save money if you pay for your own BIGGA membership!

Are you one of the 31% of BIGGA members who pay for their own membership subscriptions? If the answer is ‘yes’, then you can claim tax relief on your annual membership subscription.

When you can get tax relief for professional fees and subscriptions

The HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website states that if an employer pays for their own professional fees and subscriptions then they may be able to reduce their tax bill by getting tax relief on any professional fees and subscriptions they pay.

If you are working as

a) greenkeeper, a groundsman, or are involved in the fine turf industry, and
b) you are a member of BIGGA and
c) pay for your own annual membership subscription

Then you may be able to deduct the cost of the membership subscription from your taxable income and reduce the amount of tax you pay.

The HMRC recognise that membership of BIGGA is helpful to your job and BIGGA’s activities are relevant to your work.

BIGGA has been approved by the HM Customs and Excise and we appear on their approved list http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/intr/ intr.htm.

It is possible for a person to go back several years to get tax relief.

How to get tax relief

BIGGA produces an easy to complete ‘Tax Relief Claim Form’ for members to fill in and send to their local tax office, instructions are clearly given on the form but your membership team are always here to help if you have any queries.

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Or contact a member of the Membership Team at BIGGA HQ to send you a copy.

Increased Pressure at Work

During my travels around the Sections I’ve become increasingly concerned to hear how many members are under increased pressure at work. Apparently, one in five of us are stressed at work, with workload, management style and relationships at work as the top three causes of work-related stress.

Stress is the feeling of being under too much mental or emotional pressure.

Pressure turns into stress when you feel unable to cope. People have different ways of reacting to stress, so a situation that feels stressful to one person may in fact be motivating to another.

Many of life’s demands can cause stress, especially work, relationships and money problems, and when you feel stressed, it can affect everything you do.

Stress can affect how you feel, how you think, how you behave and how your body works.

Sleeping problems, sweating, loss of appetite and difficulty concentrating are common signs of stress.

If you are a full member of BIGGA you are entitled to access to a CONFIDENTIAL Helpline where you can speak to a trained counsellor 24 hours a day 7 days a week, your details will never be passed on to any third parties.

BIGGA Membership – Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

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South West & Wales
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peterlarter972@aol.com

DIGITAL DIARY

February 2012

Date Event Venue Contact

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February 8th Evening Greenkeeping Workshops – Golf course presentation Hadlow College, Canterbury Campus John Millen on Mobile: 07967 902285

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February 21st Symbio – Bringing Life Back To Your Soil Seminar Reaseheath College, Nantwich, Cheshire Polly on Tel: 01428 685762

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Overseas

International Members, Denmark

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Michael Clark, Affiliate Member, Central Region
George van Zyl, Affiliate Member, East Region
Richard Jukes, Affiliate Member, East Region

Northern Region

Sharon Donald, Affiliate Member, North West
Amy Clark, Affiliate Member, North West
Jennavine Cline, Affiliate Member, North West
John Cline, Affiliate Member, North West
Ben Durig, Affiliate Member, North West
Stuart Gregory, Affiliate Member, North West
Bruce Jervois, Affiliate Member, North West
Zoe Roberts, Affiliate Member, North West

Midland Region

Adam Barks, Affiliate Member, East Midlands
John Millet, Affiliate Member, East Midlands
Sheryl Mead, Affiliate Member, East Midlands

South East

Charlotte Boring, Affiliate Member, East Sussex
Fiona Landesi, Affiliate Member, East Sussex
Clare Siddons, Affiliate Member, East Sussex

South West/South Wales Region

Lee Gregory, Affiliate Member, South West
Andrew Todd, Affiliate Member, South West
Tracey Maddison, Affiliate Member, South West
Caroline Green, Affiliate Member, Dorset & Cornwall

Northern Ireland

John Currie, Affiliate Member, Northern Ireland
Andrew Ennis, Affiliate Member, Northern Ireland
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Diary of Events

Details of your Section’s forthcoming events in 2012 can be found here...
Get the experts involved

David Figgins-Barrett looks at how bringing in a contractor can be the best way to get a project completed.

On a daily basis it can seem that we are bombarded with adverts in golf magazines for golf products that will improve a golfer’s game - clubs that strike better, balls that fly further and putters that are more accurate.

Over the years this has inevitably made golf courses less challenging than the original architects intended them to be, yet all players still want to play on challenging and entertaining courses. This means that all clubs are under pressure to constantly, or at least regularly, improve courses while retaining their original character.

“As a Top 100 golf club in England, it is essential for us to ensure that our course remains an exciting and interesting challenge for all that play it. This is why we have adopted a programme of continuous improvements,” said Steve.

When these types of projects are undertaken in-house, weather and ground conditions can play a big part in whether the project comes in on budget as it only takes a small amount of adverse conditions for the job to drag on, costing more every day.

An advantage of outsourcing these projects is that you can manage the project budget more effectively as you have a clear project price that a contractor has agreed to meaning that there will be little opportunity for the project cost to increase, and you get better value for money.

When planning your annual improvement programme and the associated budget it is wise to involve your preferred construction partner in the preliminary pricing. This way, when you go to the Green Committee you can be confident in giving them a clear picture of what can be achieved and at what price.

Steve feels that having a professional contractor involved in your improvement projects is invaluable, as their experience, knowledge and ability to share in your project vision is key to making projects a success.”

Beau Desert chose Senior Golf Construction, for whom Stephen Senior, added: “We understand the pressures that golf clubs face, and are happy to work with them to help maximise their budgets and develop a project that will be of great benefit to both the club and everyone that plays the course.

“Having the assistance of a construction company that you can trust to act in your best interests ensures that the club and the members get great value from the work. Year after year, the club, committee and members are happy to approve projects because they know that the budgets won’t overrun and they’ll get great results,” added Steve.

Senior Golf Construction started at Beau Desert Golf Club in 2008 undertaking Laser Grading projects and has completed several successful projects since.

This year the Club’s continuing improvement programme will involve lengthening some of the holes to maintain the challenge for all players. To do this seven new tees are being constructed on key holes.

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“I feel that having a professional contractor involved in your improvement projects is invaluable, as their experience, knowledge and ability to share in your project vision is key to making projects a success.”

Steve Senior, Course Manager at Beau Desert Golf Club.

It can be difficult for clubs of all sizes to fund this kind of programme but the alternative is to allow the club to stagnate, which is a very daunting prospect. Whether your main competition is from the club next door or other Top 100 clubs around the UK, the problem is the same. The club and the course need to be better than that of the competition to ensure that they achieve the required footfall to make them profitable. In the current financial climate it can be difficult for clubs to allocate suitable funding for course improvements and renovations.

“Most Course Managers around the UK are now expected by the clubs to do more with less. This means that we will have to be smart with our budgets, and with some of the improvement projects, outsourcing is the best solution,” said Steve.

When these types of projects are undertaken in-house, weather and ground conditions can play a big part in whether the project comes in on budget as it only takes a small amount of adverse conditions for the job to drag on, costing more every day.

An advantage of outsourcing these projects is that you can manage the project budget more effectively as you have a clear project price that a contractor has agreed to meaning that there will be little opportunity for the project cost to increase, and you get better value for money.

When planning your annual improvement programme and the associated budget it is wise to involve your preferred construction partner in the preliminary pricing. This way, when you go to the Green Committee you can be confident in giving them a clear picture of what can be achieved and at what price.

Steve feels that having a professional contractor involved in your improvement projects is invaluable, as their experience, knowledge and ability to share in your project vision is key to making projects a success.”

Senior, added: “We understand the pressures that golf clubs face, and are happy to work with them to help maximise their budgets and develop a project that will be of great benefit to both the club and everyone that plays the course.

“Having the assistance of a construction company that you can trust to act in your best interests ensures that the club and the members get great value from the work. Year after year, the club, committee and members are happy to approve projects because they know that the budgets won’t overrun and they’ll get great results,” added Steve.

Senior Golf Construction started at Beau Desert Golf Club in 2008 undertaking Laser Grading projects and has completed several successful projects since.

This year the Club’s continuing improvement programme will involve lengthening some of the holes to maintain the challenge for all players. To do this seven new tees are being constructed on key holes.

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On a daily basis it can seem that we are bombarded with adverts in golf magazines for golf products that will improve a golfer’s game - clubs that strike better, balls that fly further and putters that are more accurate.

Over the years this has inevitably made golf courses less challenging than the original architects intended them to be, yet all players still want to play on challenging and entertaining courses. This means that all clubs are under pressure to constantly, or at least regularly, improve courses while retaining their original character.

“As a Top 100 golf club in England, it is essential for us to ensure that our course remains an exciting and interesting challenge for all that play it. This is why we have adopted a programme of continuous improvements,” said Steve.

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Beau Desert chose Senior Golf Construction, for whom Stephen Senior, added: “We understand the pressures that golf clubs face, and are happy to work with them to help maximise their budgets and develop a project that will be of great benefit to both the club and everyone that plays the course.”

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This year the Club’s continuing improvement programme will involve lengthening some of the holes to maintain the challenge for all players. To do this seven new tees are being constructed on key holes.

This project indicates the start of the next phase of improvements to our course, and our preferred contractors will continue to be an important part of the further development of our course,” said Steve.

On 14th December 2011 and 15th January 2012 R & K Kensett Ltd undertook Graden Contour Sand & Seed Injection on the 2nd and 15th holes.

Steve Mucklow, Course Manager, at Beau Desert Golf Club.

David Figgins-Barrett is Business Manager of the SGC Group.
Back in time

to this month in...1987

Do you have any old artifacts from days gone-by? Perhaps your grandad was a greenkeeper and has something stored away in the loft? Maybe an Association tie, or a journal? If so we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in the early part of the last century, but anything you have would be worth considering for future editions of this article.

Please contact us on 01347 833800 or email Elliott Small, BIGGA Past Chairman, elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk

The magazine provides a BIGGA update included in which was information on the appointment of a General Administrator (the magazine also contained an advert for the job); where the offices would be located; the sections; subscriptions; National Competitions and the magazine.

The magazine also contained articles by Jim Arthur on moss; Jack McMillan on aeration, "Aeration is not a passing fad but a constant necessity", and a piece by John Campbell on Laurence Pithie, who was Course Manager at Minchinhampton at the time.

Back in time looks back at cuttings of greenkeeping news from days gone-by. 2012 is a landmark year, being the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, as well as 25 years since BIGGA was formed. Each month we will look back at the current month, but in a different year, from over the last hundred.

This month we travel back to January/February 1987, to look at the magazine which was produced, as BIGGA was in the initial stages of its formation...

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Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you’re forced indoors...

**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.

Across
1. Run over (4)
2. Alliance (4)
3. Number of cards in a pack, excluding jokers (5-3)
4. Rotten apple (3,3)
5. Indoor bowls are an Olympic event. True or False
6. Two British Athletes have won the Blue Ribbon 100 metres since 1980. Name them.
7. Ben Ainslie is a three-time Olympic Gold Medalist. In which sport does he compete?
8. How many Olympic Medals has Sir Chris Hoy won?
9. How many Gold Medals did Michael Phelps win in Seoul?

Down
1. Bill Watterson comic strip about a boy and his tiger (6,3,6)
2. Decorative garment, designed to be tightened around the throat (7)
3. Cool (7)
4. Tactical (9)
5. Deal with (3,2)
6. Counterfeit (4,3)
7. “Poor is the ___ who does not surpass his master” - Da Vinci (7)
8. Arm joint located between the shoulder and wrist (5)
9. Say please (3,6)
10. American breed of owl (7)
11. Wheeling and dealing (7)
12. Rarely, if ever (4,2,1,4,4)
13. Channel 4 sitcom featuring Super Hans, Johnson and Dobby (4,4)
14. Run in cricket not scored by a batsman (5)
15. 25th Anniversary Celebratory Evening

**SUDOKU**

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

Puzzle Answers on page 73

Continuous R&D has meant Wiedenmann UK’s innovative fleet has grown steadily since 1981. With ten specialist aerators, the Terra Spike™ is renowned for speed, precision and easy operation. From the extra fast XF to the extra deep XD there is a Terra Spike™ to suit you.

Now consider Wiedenmann UK as the name for artificial surface maintenance, snow and dirt clearance as well as mowing, collecting and surface conditioning. Featuring over 40 different products, you’ll find we have technically excellent machinery for council & amenity clients, contractors, golf courses, and professional and amateur sports clubs.

For your local Wiedenmann UK dealer call 0141 814 3366 or visit www.wiedenmann.co.uk
Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you’re forced indoors...

**Puzzle Answers on page 73**

**QUICK ‘NINE HOLE’ QUIZ**

The much awaited 2012 has now arrived and the Olympics are only a few months rather than years away. In tribute, this month’s quiz is Test your Olympic knowledge

1. How many Olympic Gold Medals did Sir Steve Redgrave win?
2. In which years were the previous London Olympics held?
3. How many sports are represented in the 2012 Olympics?
4. In which two events did Dame Kelly Holmes win Gold?
5. Indoor bowls are an Olympic event. True or False
6. Two British Athletes have won the Blue Ribbon 100 metres since 1980. Name them.
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For your local Wiedenmann UK dealer call 0141 814 3366 or visit www.wiedenmann.co.uk
Since this time Verde have been a leading supplier of artificial grass surfaces and they remain committed to bringing the best turf as the industry moves forward.

Verde are located in the manufacturing area of North West England and are a hands on, loyal and friendly team. Celebrating their 24th year in business, Verde believe that Verde are acknowledged in the industry for their excellent service and allows for instant purchases to be made via its manufacturing base.

Recently, the company re-designed its website to produce an even more informative and customer friendly interface. Verde have been a leading supplier of artificial grass surfaces and they remain committed to bringing the best turf as the industry moves forward.

The short to medium term objective is to produce a wholly new website that can be used to sell all Turf types and Turfronments to Golf and Putting Surfaces.

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VERDE SPORTS LTD

Since this time Verde have been a leading supplier of artificial surfaces to the golf market, producing golf and putting surfaces. Verde are based in the manufacturing area of North West England and are a hands on, loyal and friendly team. Celebrating their 24th year in business, Verde believe that Verde are acknowledged in the industry for their excellent short to medium term objective is to produce a wholly and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry at bigga.org.uk/classifieds
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Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

**Welcome to the March issue of Greenkeeper International**

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

**Location and Size:**

Carlisle, Newcastle, Bishop Auckland, Penrith, Dunbar, Alnwick, Kelso (not Toro).

**Employees and Size of premises:**

20 to 25 on groundcare. Total combined depot size is 120,000sq ft.

**Number of Service vans:**

10

**Brief History of company:**

Founded in 1964 as a single tractor dealership in Carlisle, the Lloyd Group has now grown to over 25 sites across the north of England and the borders for Lloyd Limited and Lloyd Motor Group.

At Lloyd Limited we specialise in agricultural, construction, materials handling and groundcare equipment while Lloyd Motor Group represent leading automotive manufacturers for car sales, servicing and repairs. Lloyd Group is a family run business with Barry Lloyd as managing director of Lloyd Limited and Bryan Lloyd managing director of Lloyd Motors.

The main groundcare depots are Carlisle, Newcastle and Bishop Auckland, with the remaining depots all offering parts and service back up.

Groundcare also contribute heavily to our overall business. We have invested heavily in these services to ensure we give a first-class service to our customers.

What would you like to see changed?

We would still like to see one major annual groundcare show so that all the manufacturers can attend every year.

Do you support customers who have in-house service facilities (i.e., OEM parts supply)?

Yes, we offer parts impressively cheap.

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Key services offered:

Machinery sales, parts sales and a full service support, including cylinder grinding.

Specialist services offered:

Machine demonstrations and short-term and long-term machine hire.

How has the dealership changed over the years?

In the past agriculture was the majority of our business, but now groundcare and construction also contribute heavily to our overall business. We feel investing heavily in these services to ensure we give a first-class service to our customers is important.

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Do you support customers who have in-house service facilities (i.e., OEM parts supply)?
Yes, we offer parts impressively.

For more information please contact your nearest suppliers.

The series aimed at celebrating the great work done by dealerships up and down the country.

Franchises
- Toro, Kobelco, new Holland, Graden, Amazone
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Lloyd Ltd

Location and Size:
Carlisle, Newcastle, Bishop Auckland, Perth, Dundee, Alnwick, Kelso (not Toro).
Employees and Size of premises:
20 to 25 on groundcare.
Total combined depot size is 120,000 sq ft.
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The main groundcare depots are Carlisle, Newcastle and Bishop Auckland, with the remaining depots all offering parts and service back up. The groundcare business has flourished since 1997 when Lloyd Limited was given the Kubota franchise followed shortly after by Toro and many other market-leading brands.

Key Services offered:
- Machinery sales, parts sales and a full service support, including cylinder grinding.

Specialist Services offered:
- Machine demonstrations and short-term and part-term machine hire.

You have the dealership changed over the years?
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The correct use of PPE to prevent health related issues such as occupational deafness, is a pet subject of mine.

The importance of looking after ourselves at work as professional people cannot be overstated.

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 was not designed to cripple industry with unnecessary rules and regulations. It was designed to save us all from injury, from work-related disorders such as sight or hearing impairment, and to make sure that we work in safe environments.

It is of course up to us to cooperate at all times. In fairness, the Act was also introduced to save the Government money — e.g., lost tax revenues from people who became unfit for work due to work-related accidents and injuries.

For example, take deafness, from which I suffer.

This is not something particularly great to put up with on a daily basis, nor easily reversible.

And yet the temptation is always there not to bother with PPE — earmuffs are uncomfortable, but, hey, if you stuff in a pair of Sony Walkman buds you can’t hear the machine (quite as much).

Decibel ratings are clearly displayed on all machines these days.

In doubt — use those ear-defenders! Likewise, always put safety boots on — even just to pop out into the yard.

I knew a greenkeeper in our area who did just that — popped out of the office to help a colleague hitch on a trailer — and the trailer dropped off its hitch onto this guy’s foot.

The trainers he was wearing gave no protection whatsoever and caused six months off work with zero compensation.

Put the eye protection on if there’s any risk.

They knocked on the door and very politely explained who they were, what they were going to do, gave the property a quick once-over, mainly as a disclaimer for hitting pipes or gas mains etc., jointly signed some paperwork so I could claim my green discount, and then commenced work.

I was very impressed at this stage, as had we perhaps been elderly people, we would have fully understood the process.

I was a lot less impressed when I saw the work in progress.

First of all a hefty electric masonry drill was plugged in to my outside power socket.

This drill, which looked like it weighed a ton, produced vibrations fit to shake the foundations of the house and enough noise to wake the dead.

I was therefore horrified to see the guy, who had been so polite and professional only moments before, shimming up an unsupported ladder with this monstrosity of a drill slung over his shoulder.

After a spell of ear-splitting noise he emerged at the top in a huge cloud of dust.

“Put the eye protection on if there’s any risk,” he said, “and just that — popped out of the office to help a colleague hitch on a trailer — and the trailer dropped off its hitch onto this guy’s foot.”

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The company, who were strongly endorsed by our local council, sent two operatives in a lorry.

“Mind that greenkeeper” — he may be deaf

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After a spell of ear-splitting noise he emerged at the top in a huge cloud of dust (which by now coated the windows, the lawn and Next Door’s Mercedes) and not wearing any PPE at all — e.g., no dust mask, no anti-vibration gloves, and no ear defenders.

“Well,” I asked — in a polite sort of way when he’d finished, “So, hey, that drill works well — went through the wall like butter — exactly what is the dba output?”

“The what?” Oh no-one’s ever asked before it says somewhere — here it is — 105.

“Right...” I said carefully “...and what about the vibrations, they must be enough to take most of the enamel off your teeth. I should think — what’s the hand-arm exposure limit?” “Pardon? Oh — I don’t know, but we don’t use it for long so it’s alright.”

I skimmed over the lack of dust mask and the unsupported ladder — (although I’d had to look away when he was dangling over my conservatory roof!) As for the dust — there’s yet another major occupational hazard.

I inhaled some of the dust just watching my cavity-walls from a safe distance — heaven knows what this guy’s respiratory system was going through.

People are still dying from exposure to asbestos dust 40 years previously (credibly over 3000 people a year) — who knows what the dust from my 1920’s house bricks contained, but I bet it wasn’t anything good for lungs! Dust should be in your COSHH assessment — always use a throwaway mask.

To cut a long story short — don’t be tempted.

If you haven’t got the right gear (PPE) don’t do the job, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem.

Sounds obvious; but above everything else our health has to be our primary concern.

If our health fails our quality of life fails also and that’s permanent — so what’s with the temptation to take the short-cuts?

As a footnote, on the feedback form I let the Cavity Wall company know exactly what I thought about their service — excellent paperwork, but unbelievably poor attention to Health & Safety detail.

Funnily enough I’ve yet to receive a response!
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The trainers he was wearing gave no protection whatsoever and caused six months off-work with zero compensation.

Put the protection on if there’s any risk (I once got a face-full of sawdust splinters from a bowsaw cut and had to have them taken out of my eye under anaesthetic).

I was minded to put pen to paper a few days ago, not as the result of watching a greenkeeper acting with total disregard to his occupational health, but actually as the result of watching a contractor working at my home.

We had arranged to have cavity wall insulation put into our three-bed semi.

The company, who were strongly endorsed by our local council, sent two operatives in a keyy.

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After a spell of ear-splitting noise he emerged at the top in a huge cloud of dust (which by now coated the windows, the lawn and Next Door’s Mercedes) and not wearing any PPE at all – e.g. no dust mask, no anti-vibration gloves, and no ear defenders.

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**Paul Worster**

Past Chairman Paul Worster speaks from the heart when it comes to the correct use of PPE
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