**Remember, Remember the Moustaches of Movember**

The results of the moustache growing activity of staff at two clubs during Movember can now be assessed. Staff at the Buchanan Castle Golf Club, near Glasgow, and the Roehampton Club, in London, put away the razors for the month and attempted to cultivate their best moustaches.

The Movember charity, which raises money for testicular cancer, is gaining in popularity despite the number of rugby players, growing moustaches, of varying qualities, throughout 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 Cummins, 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 MOvember,” 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 raising over £700.

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 “natural instinct” 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 — and it is now a recognised generic term in the industry.

The Award was presented, in Richard’s absence, to Campey Turf Care Systems Sales Director, Simon Ganderell, by Richard Walton from category sponsor Everris.

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

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**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 its 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.

“John Deere’s existing irrigation customers will continue to receive our support,” said Gregg Brenningmeyer, John Deere’s Global Golf Segment Manager.

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

**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; Brosnan UK and Les Hoekzuma 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 £45, 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.

**James Snow Retires**

James T. Snow, National Director of the USGA Green Section since 1990, has announced his retirement effective at the end of this year.

He began his career with the USGA Green Section in 1976. He served as an agronomist in the Northeast Region from 1977 to 1982, and then as director of the Northeast Region from 1982 to 1990.

In 1990 he assumed his current role as national director. During his tenure, his numerous responsibilities included overseeing the Turf Advisory Service and a staff of 18 agronomists, the Construction Education Program, the Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program, and the Green Section Education Program.

A prolific writer, he also edited the Green Section Record as its editor.

One of Jim’s strengths is building partnerships. In 1991, he vigorously supported the creation of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Under his direction, the USGA has contributed more than $1.5 million since the program’s creation to assist its growth in becoming an award-winning education and certification program that helps golf courses protect the environment and the natural heritage of the game of golf. He also secured a $1 million grant from the USGA to help fund and support the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) at Michigan State University, the largest turfgrass database in the world. He has also contributed significantly to the creation of turfgrass research issues concerning golf turf. Thanks to Jim’s leadership, since 1983 the USGA has provided more than $15 million to fund turf and environmental research across the country, effectively doubling the world research in the golf courses around the world.
**GiNEWSDeSk**

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“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 green staff to get involved with as we have quite a large membership who are potential sponsors,” said Mark Gumbrill, by Richard Walton in Richard’s absence, to Gumbrill, by Richard Walton in Richard’s absence, to Gumbrill, by Richard Walton in Richard’s absence.

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“Remember, Remember the Moustaches of Movember!” said Mark, who added “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 groundsmen at the time; Archie McTaggart, 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.”

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In addition, Richard’s “natural instinct” 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.

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The Award was presented, in Richard’s absence, to Campey’s sales director, Simon Gundellick, by Richard Walton from category sponsor Everris.

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.

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A prolific writer, he also guided the Green Section Record newsletter as its editor.

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He also secured a $1 million grant from the USGA to help fund and support the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) at Michigan State University, the largest turfgrass database in the world. He has also been a key advocate of turfgrass research issues concerning golf turf. Thanks to Jim’s leadership, since 1983 the USGA has provided more than $31 million to fund turf and environmental research across the country, effectively helping to create more than 600 turfgrass courses around the world.
Golf and Dinner Day for South East Region

The South East Region’s Annual Golf and Dinner Day, at Walton Heath Golf Club, is being held on Friday March 9.

The event includes a four-ball stableford competition, a dinner and drinks, with the proceeds going to the STRI and the Golf Environment Trust.

Volunteers are once again required for the BIGGA Support Team.

For more information please contact Clive Ogugbo, South East Regional Administrator, cliveogugbo@yahoo.co.uk or 07737 819343.
Next year’s Myerscough’s seminars start with a comprehensive programme of technical seminars aimed at professional greenkeepers and groundsman.

With topics covering irrigation, root zone technology and soil science, there is plenty of opportunity for professional development and stretching your sports turf knowledge in 2012.

In January and February the regional seminars will cover the North East, South Yorkshire and the Midlands, with guest speakers from Rainbird, Levitch and Symio there is certain to be excellent presentations on the latest research, technologies and biotechnologies from the sports turf industry. These opportunities for career development, in terms of networking, with peers from across the world and accruing BIGGA CPD points, as all these seminars are a GTC Quality Assured.

For Myerscough College enrolled students all these events are free to attend. Non-students can attend for a fee of £15.00. If you are interested in attending any of the Technical Seminars please book online at www.tinyurl.com/myform2011.

A list of all events can be accessed at www.tinyurl.com/myercal.

A great chance to see at close hand the Course preparation for the European Tour flagship event on the West Course at Wentworth. Volunteers are once again required for the BIGGA Support Team for the BIGGA Support Team

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
- Ornamental, 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-dainty 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 BSPB Trials Co-ordinator.

The new guide will be available online from 24th January 2012 at: www.bspb.co.uk/news.html. Alternatively place your order for a hard copy (priced at £4 per copy) via Robert.Jackson@bspb.co.uk or tel: 01353 655202.

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