In order to strengthen Frilford Heath’s growing reputation, the Directors have recently signed an exclusivity agreement with Toro. This will not just be about equipment purchasing, but will ensure that Frilford Heath will be at the forefront of future industry developments arriving in the UK. Later this month will see the arrival of the PS 6000 site survey machine from the US, which will be a first in Europe.

**RESULTS**

Progress to date in the two years since the program started has been largely positive with encouraging feedback from the members. The OM content is now 8-9% which is a full of 6-7% and only slightly above the target range. Soil moisture content still tends to vary but is leaning more towards the desired range. The reduction in OM content has also led to improved firmness; one noticeable aspect being the reduc-

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Green speed has increased to an average of 9.9-6.6, which is now at the clubs desired level for membership play. Although the Smoothness meter has yet to be used this year for testing, ball roll is more consistent. It is clear that the combination of reduced OM content, increased sanding and the use of a turfing iron have resulted in an overall improvement of the putting surfaces.

So far so good is probably a fair summary. It is also true to say that the approach by Frilford Heath has been steady, well planned and implemented. Another year of this level of intensity is required, probably adding a pass using the Graden Sand Injector or Blec Sand Filler to further reduce the level of thatch. Raising the quantity of sand top dressing to 120 tons per annum is also under consideration as well as moving slightly more towards a feeding program based more on foliar feeds in order to level out periods of growth.

Previous over-seeding has not resulted in any significant change but that is probably due to low mowing heights meaning Bent is unlikely to establish. As the putting surfaces become firmer and the crown of the plant is further pro-
tected by increased dressings, the aim is to raise the mowing height by 1mm and to roll more frequently. This should result in the pace being unaffected but more of the plant remaining, improving the success rate of future over-seeding. Consideration will also be given to slit seeding, thus ensuring good seed to soil contact.

Sid concluded “Without the support and on-going commitment from the club, the improvement to date would not have been possible. It is important that when embark-
ing on such a program, there are clear objectives in place and that the work is agreed, measured and evaluated for any changes that are deemed necessary.

The other key aspect is communica-
tion. Sometimes we forget that it is in the members’ course and that the playing surfaces are of paramount importance at all times. Therefore the members need to know what is happening on their course on a regular basis. Fortunately we have a good system of communica-
tion within the club via a weekly electronic newsletter, along with a clear vision of providing premium quality”.

**Are you a Photographer?**

BIGGA’s Golf Photographic Competition is back for 2012, so if you’re a member with an eye for a shot, read on...

The **BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition, back for its sixth year, creates an opportunity for members to display their artistic flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.**

The winner will receive a full course profile in GI and a special prize, while the 12 best pictures will be selected for the 2012 BIGGA Calendar.

Digital pictures need to be high resolu-
tion, at the largest size capable by the camera, as it may ultimately be scaled up to A3 print size (42cm wide x 29.7cm high).

Please label your entries with captions, the name of the course plus a brief description (around 10 words). It would be great if you could also tell us the spec-
of camera it was taken on too.

Please try to avoid reducing the file size to fit on email as this will reduce the quality of the image.

If the file size is too large to send, we recommend using a compression facility such as winzip or a website such as: www.mailbigfile.com.

Anyone wishing to enter should email them to: tom@bigga.co.uk, entering ‘BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2012’ as the email subject header.

All entries need to be received by July 31, 2012, and only BIGGA members are eligible to enter.

By Adam Grieve. Early morning strimming creates mist in the sunlight, to beautiful effect, on the 3rd green bank (Devonshire Course) at The Royal Eastbourne GC

By Paul Hope. “I was out taking photos of the sunrise one morning when this young stag just wandered right into the shot,” at High Post Golf Club

By Gareth Anwell. Spectacular cloud formations compliment the surface shadows and bunker layout on the 15th at Son Gual Golf SL, Palacio Palma de Mallorca

By Simon Horrocks. “The 3rd green is the best on the course. I just love the way the bunkers cut into it,” at The Royal Eastbourne GC